

1780.
May 16,
New York.

Knyphausen to Haldimand. Introducing Colonel Loos. Lafayette and several French gentlemen have arrived at Boston in a French frigate. Page 165

May 17,
New York.

General Robertson to the same. Had left Clinton at James' Island, near Charleston, in March, who had instructed him to send the reinforcements that had sailed and put back last fall. Had received news from Germaine of the fitting out of the Brest fleet, report of which was sent to him (Haldimand) by DeVaux. It is only to-day that the scanty convoy to send the troops has been got ready. Returns will give details of the troops. Expects to hear of the taking of Charleston; a reinforcement sent from here on the 7th of April would furnish to the enemy a pretence for the surrender, or would force it. The rebels grow dissatisfied with their present government and seem disposed to return to the former. If Charleston be taken, and no French succour arrive, believes that the people and troops will desert the Congress; their paper money passes at 70 to one, and people do not care to part with their goods for such trash; they are in want and have no hope of a new crop, an insect having destroyed the wheat. From these facts, he believes they do not intend to invade Canada this summer. If France took Canada it would not create jealousy, and a division of Provinces would leave France the ruling power in America; the summons by D'Estaing to Prevost to surrender Savannah to the French King caused great jealousy, and may show the French that they will lose all the rebels if they offer to appropriate one of these Provinces. Franklin, however, directs French measures, so that the attack will be made on New York, or for the relief of Charleston; in that event, runners would be sent, so that he might make a movement on the lakes or attack the frontiers of New York to divide the enemy's force. Should the French force come up the St. Lawrence, a diversion might be made from New York. 167

May 17,
New York.

General Phillips to the same. Has been here since the commissioners met at Amboy to negotiate an exchange of the convention army, which was unsuccessful and never intended to be otherwise. There may be private exchanges and he will wait in the hope that he may be exchanged. Had the army of convention been exchanged, these troops would have been sent to Canada, giving a fine reinforcement of men inured to the climate. Clothing sent from Canada in 1778, was safely received in Virginia. Introduces Lieutenant Smith, Royal Artillery, sent with dispatches; also Mr. Spillard, an assistant commissary, who was taken prisoner early in 1777 and is now exchanged. 171

May 18,
New York:

Robertson to the same. Sends report of the defeat of the French fleet off St. Christopher's. 175

May 30,
New York.

Knyphausen to the same. Letter in cypher (p. 176). There follows the explanation of part of the letter, giving report of the capture of Charleston, and the surrender of the enemy's whole army that defended it; sailing of a reinforcement for Quebec, and report of the naval engagement in the West Indies. 179

June 13,
Quebec.

Haldimand to Robertson. Acknowledges receipt of the dispatch in cypher dated 29th March. 180

June 13,
Quebec.

The same to Knyphausen. Has received letter in cypher dated 13th March. The German troops who wintered on the Island of St. John (P. E. I.) had sustained no injury; a convoy is to be furnished to bring them to the river. 181