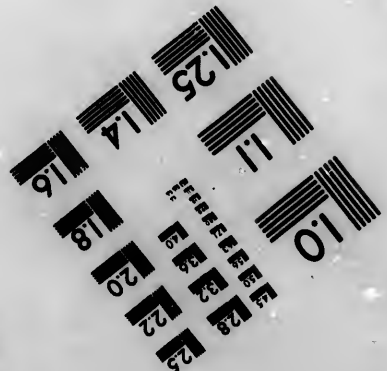
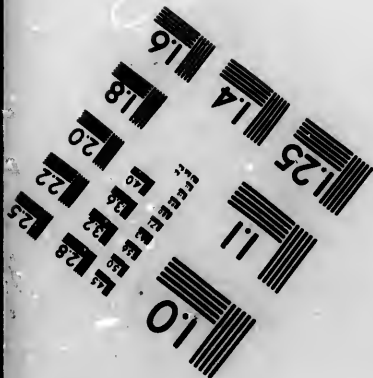
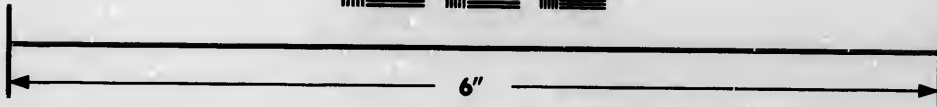
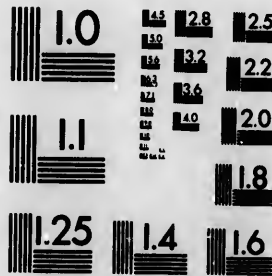


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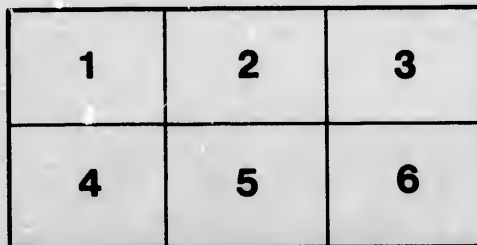
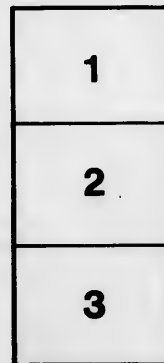
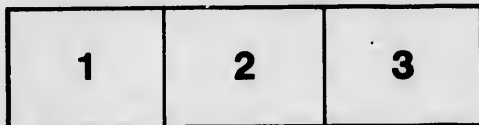
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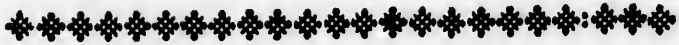
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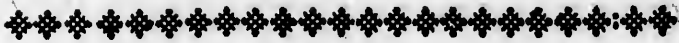
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L E T T E R

T O

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.



[Price One Shilling.]

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

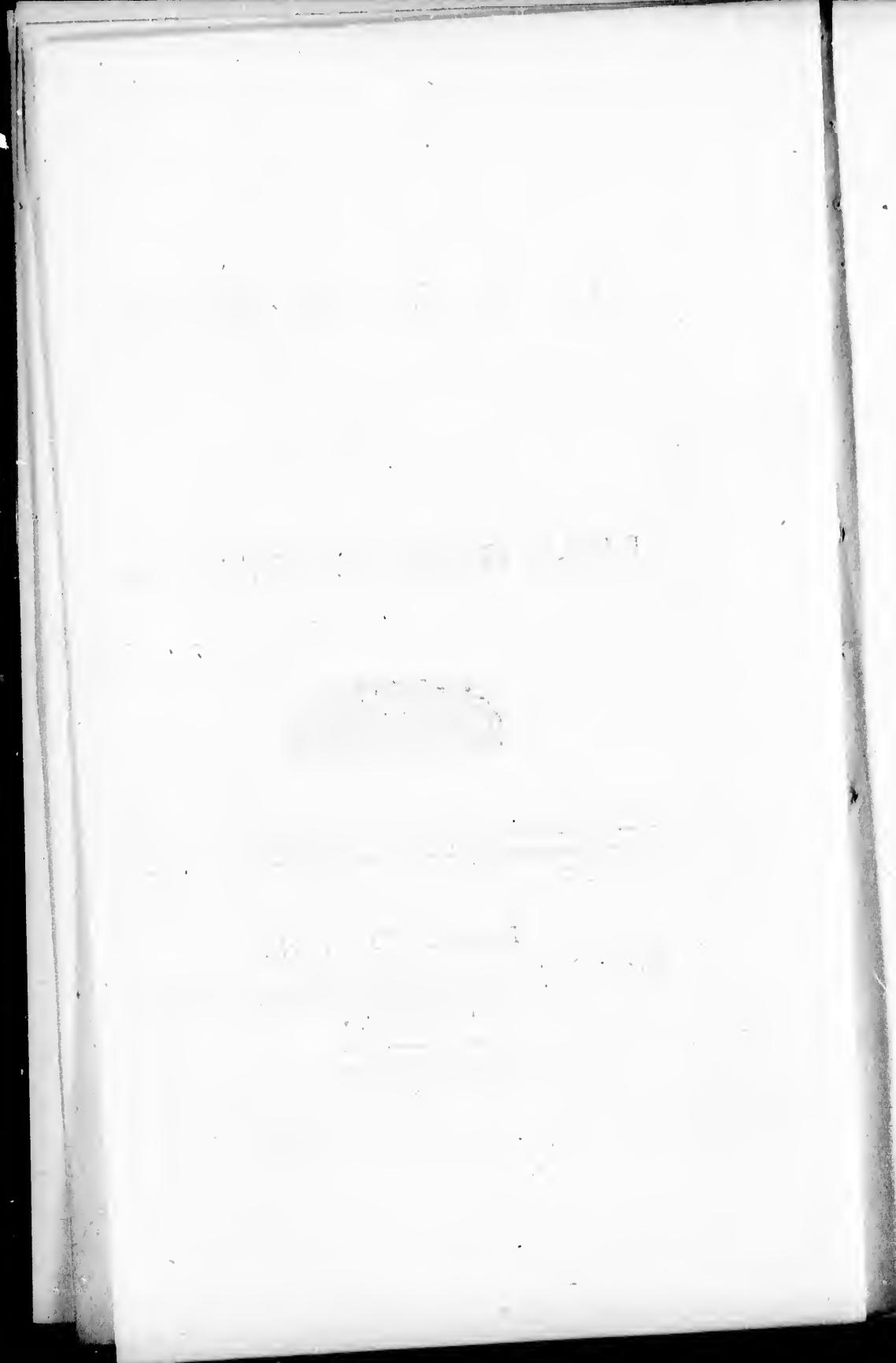
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L E T T E R
T O

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.



L O N D O N :
Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington-House,
in Piccadilly.

MDCCLXXVI.



T O

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

MY LORD,

AS you have undertaken the conduct of the American war, I beg leave to submit to your consideration some circumstances relative to that country, of which perhaps you have not as yet been fully informed: I confess, my Lord, that I am no friend to the cause in which you are engaged, and it is not with a view to facilitate your operations, that I write this letter; it is in hopes to divert you from the most ruinous project (in my humble opinion) that this nation was ever engaged in; I shall not enter upon the subject of ways and means, I am not conver-

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fant

fant in the business of finance, nor do I know all the resources of Britain or America; but I know (what every body knows) that Britain owes 140,000,000 l. and that America owes little or nothing; that the body of the people of England are averse to the American war, a very inconsiderable part only having offered their lives and fortunes (upon paper) in support of it; whilst America is unanimous and determined, *bona fide*, to expend the last farthing of her property, and the last drop of her blood in defence of her liberty. I shall confine myself to the naval and military force of the Colonies, and consider how far they are equal, upon an offensive and a defensive plan, to a contest with the mother country. And first, I think I cannot give you a better idea of
the

the naval force of North America, than by a list of the privateers which the single province of New York fitted out in the last war. At a time too when they had a large body of foldiers in the field, 1000 Battoe men employed upon the rivers and lakes, and carried on an extensive commerce to every part of the world.

Ships Names.	No. of Guns.	No. of Men.
Ships.		
Sturdy Beggar	26	200
Wolfe	24	200
Blakeney	20	150
Hercules	18	140
Colonel Prevost	20	150
Royal Hunter	20	150
King of Prussia	18	140
Duke of Cumberland	16	140
Oliver Cromwell	16	140
St. George	16	140
General Johnson	16	140
Tartar	16	140
<hr/> 12	<hr/> 226	<hr/> 1830
	B 2	Ships

Ships Names.	No. of Guns:		No. of Men.
Snows.			
Brought over	12	226	1830
Boscawen		16	130
Royal Esther		16	130
Cicero		14	120
Prince Ferdinand		14	120
Abercrombie		14	120
Greyhound		14	130
Revenge		14	130
Neptune		14	120
Hornet		14	120
Brigantines.			
Earl of London		14	120
Johnson		14	120
True Briton		14	120
King George		14	120
Hawke		14	120
Prince of Orange		12	110
De Lancey		12	110
Mary.		12	110
Hope		12	110
Charming Sally		12	110
Duke of Marlborough		12	100
George		12	100
Prince George		12	100
Vessels	35	536	4520
			Ships

Ships Names.	No. of Guns.	No. of Men.
Brigantines.		
Brought over	35	536
New York		12
Columbine		12
Schooner, Sampson		11
Barque, Decoy		6
<hr/>		
Sloops.		
Goldfinch		12
Squirrel		12
Fox		14
Catharine		12
Hardy		12
Prince Edward		10
Harlequin		10
Bradstreet		8
Tyger		8
<hr/>		
Vessels	48	G. 675 M. 5530
<hr/>		

From the above state your Lordship will observe, that the single province of New York equipt an armament

ment consisting of 48 vessels, which carried 675 guns, and 5530 seamen. It is near 20 years since they made this figure at sea ; I believe I may venture to assert, that since that period their number of ships and seamen have been nearly doubled, and as their coasting and foreign trade is now restrained by act of parliament, it may be presumed, that they will have a body of 11,060 seamen ready to act against Great Britain : if to these be added the sailors and fishermen of the whole continent, whom our oppressive acts have deprived of employment, and consequently given to the defence of their several provinces ; I believe I speak within compass, when I say, that the number will exceed 40,000. My Lord, I assert, that the Americans can send 40,000 seamen to sea ; but that is
not

not all, they will all be volunteers, and they will fight without pay, or, what is the same thing, they will pay themselves; for those who fit out privateers do it at their own risk, and for their own profit, and those who man them receive no wages; the owners and the crews will be amply rewarded by the prizes they will take. For it cannot be supposed, that a people, whom you have deprived of their trade, will leave your's unmolested; they will attack you in every part of the world, and your whole fleet distributed in convoys, will not secure your commerce. In the West Indies particularly, they will annoy you, where every French and Spanish port will be open to the reception of *their* vessels and *your* spoils. If this war should continue a few years, I should not
be

be surprized if we were obliged to purchase our own rum and sugar from the French and Spaniards. You are not to suppose that your fleet will be masters of all the harbours in North America, and that their cruizers cannot put to sea ; there are many which your ships cannot enter for want of a sufficient depth of water, and many, which have not a natural bar to your entrance, are very sufficiently fortified by art. And here I must observe, that you are under a great error, if you think the Americans want artillery ; they were well provided with great guns even before they took your ordnance store-ships in sight of your fleet ; and they have made a most judicious disposition of them. In several harbours they have batteries of 24 pounders, sufficiently retired from the shore not
to

to be domineered from the tops of your ships, and sufficiently near it to make a cullender of their hulls, Lord Howe himself, brave as he is, has too much judgment to attack such a battery, he knows there is no sort of comparison between an oak plank and an eighteen foot rampart; these batteries are all defended by redoubts infinitely more formidable than that which cost you *only* a thousand men upon Bunker's hill. Upon this sort of fortification I shall say a word or two before I finish this letter, which may possibly deserve your Lordship's attention; in the mean time I would advise you to stop Colonel James and his bomb ketches; they will answer no end, very effectual measures are taken to prevent those vessels from arriving at Philadelphia, or laying before Charles-

C

town

town or New York ; in every place that is accessible to this paltry piece of mischief, the houses that are worth preserving are shoared from the cellar to the garret, covered with dung or earth, and will suffer little damage ; indeed, the owner of every wooden house, which you may possibly destroy, after a whole day's bombardment, would be glad to save you the trouble, and set fire to it himself for one-tenth part of the money it will cost you to burn it ; but I dare say this abominable project will be laid aside ; it would disgrace us, in the eyes of the world, we should be execrated like Lewis XIV. for burning the Palatinate, with this difference, that the Palatines were not his own subjects.

But, whatever may be the plan of your naval operations, it must necessarily

farily be suspended during the winter; in the course of which I conclude, that the Americans will have equipt and sent to sea from different parts above 250 sail of privateers, many of them little inferior to your frigates, and all of them much better manned in proportion to their size; since, then, you have provoked this nest of hornets, be assured, they will commit all sorts of depredations on your trade, and woe be to your merchant ships in every part of the world.—In Africa, in the West Indies, and even in the East, in the Mediterranean, in the Channel, perhaps upon your own coasts, and on the Baltick; you have no fleet in the Baltick, France has once forbid your sending one there, and they will again forbid you; Sweden is the friend of France, and wherever a French, or Spanish,

or a Sweedish port is to be found, the Americans are at home—Will they suffer your Prussian allies to send you naval stores, and will you be able to import any from Sweden, except in Swedish bottoms and at their own price?—So much for the naval armament of the Americans.

Let us examine their strength on shore : I have been favoured, by an American, with the following account of the numbers which each province can furnish, which I believe is by no means exaggerated ; they are effective men with arms in their hands, not in buckram or upon paper, as a certain army I could mention.

Provinces.	Men bearing Arms.
New Hampshire	18,000
Massachusetts	88,000
Rhode Island and Providence	14,000
Connecticut	40,000

New

New York	40,000
The Jerseys	24,000
Pensylvania	100,000
Maryland	34,000
Virginia	34,000
North Carolina	18,000
South Carolina	12,000
Georgia	2,400
Nova Scotia (supposed to be } revolted) about }	4,000
	<hr/>
	428,400

Here then are four hundred and twenty-eight thousand four hundred freemen in arms, united in one great phalanx, to fight *pro aris et focis*. What a tremendous band of yeomanry! Europe, degenerate Europe, nay, I may say the old world cannot exhibit such a spectacle; and shall haughty Britain, the shadow of her former greatness; shall Britain,

tain,

tain, with her mercenaries and her miserable substituted militia, pretend to look this formidable power in the face? But they are an undisciplined rabble, and you'll send 50,000 men to subdue them: that is sooner said than done, my Lord; they are nothing less than an undisciplined rabble, and so far from subduing the continent with your 50,000 men (if you could send that number) you will find sufficient employment for them in the single province of Massachusetts's Bay. You will credit what I say when I assure you, that, exclusive of the lines with which they have invested Boston, the continental army have constructed an octagon at Cambridge, which you would not be able to invest with less than 100,000 men. It is built upon Marshal Saxe's plan; it is fraised
and

and pallisaded, has a ditch, cover'd-way, and glacis, and is well provided with heavy artillery; at the foot of the glacis is an abbatis de bois; the ramparts are casemated with legs; at the distance of a cannon-shot from the cover'd-way is a circle of thirty-six square wooden towers thirty feet diameter, the outward half of which are solid and cannon proof. Between these towers, which are five hundred yards asunder, is another abbatis, and on the top of each are placed five or six rifle barreled ball-pieces, which carry a half pound ball; each of these towers will require a little siege to knock it down, and woe be to those who serve your guns when you approach near them. Your batteries will be plunged, and neither mantelets nor aim frontlets will protect your gunners, and

and yet under these disadvantages you must ruin ten at least of these towers, before you can form a single attack upon the body of the place, which will be defended by ten thousand men, whilst you may expect thirty or forty thousand more in the field ready to fall upon you and raise the siege; but I shall say no more of this fort, except that you will never take it, or, if by a miracle you should, your army will be so weakened, that you will not take another in the same campaign; perhaps there is not in North America another place so strong as this, but there are many that are by no means contemptible. Old Gridley (the same who conducted the siege of Louisburg when the Americans took it in 1745) Old Gridley, I say, has formed a corps of engineers, whom he has instructed

but parti-

particularly in the method of constructing redoubts. There is a chain of these fortifications from one end of the continent to the other ; they are generally a square, capable of containing four thousand men, with four bastions, a ditch, cover'd-way and glacis, fraised, pallisaded, and surrounded by an abbatis and trous de loup. Your Lordship must know the difficulty of taking such a redoubt, but if you don't, ask General Haldimand (one of the bravest and best officers in your army) he commanded the grenadiers at Ticonderoga, and can tell you what it cost to *attack* the breast-work and abbatis at that place ; a German artist at Philadelphia has engraved on a copper plate, a plan and elevation of one of these redoubts, and prints of it are distributed all over the coun-

D

try,

try. To save your army the trouble of looking for them, I will tell you the places where they are already constructed ; the list is taken from a gentleman's journal, who has reconnoitred the whole coast with a military eye, and says these posts are most judiciously disposed. They begin at the north-east part of New England, and end at the south-west end of Georgia.

Norridgwock,

Richmond,

Falmouth,

Wells,

Portsmouth,

Salem,

Providence,

Stonington,

New London,

New Haven,

Rye,

New

New York,
 Elizabeth Town Point,
 Brunswick,
 Prince Town,
 Trenttown,
 Philadelphia,
 Chester,
 Newcastle,
 Gunpowder Ferry,
 Palapsco Ferry,
 Annapalis,
 Port Tobacco,
 Hoes Ferry,
 Moss's Ferry,
 Southern's Ferry,
 Nansemond,
 Bennet's Creek,
 Edentown,
 Bill's Ferry,
 Bath,
 New River,
 White Oak River,

New River Ferry,

Cape Fear River,

Shallot River,

Wingaw Ferry,

Santie Perry,

Sewee Ferry,

Charles Town,

Parisburgh,

Joseph's Town,

Savanna,

Darien.

Here then are forty-four redoubts, will you take them all, or will you let them alone? If you take them, you will not have a man left of all your fifty thousand. The redoubt upon Bunker's hill cost you a thousand, but that was a bicoque in comparison of these — Well then leave them behind you; penetrate into the country; without loxen, without

without horses, drag your cannon, your ammunition, your bread wag-gons, and your baggage through the woods, a cloud of rifle men in your front, in your rear, and upon your flanks, you will make a great progress, every pass, every defile will be a coupe-gorge for you, which ever way you point; they will down with the trees and up with the breast-works, you must win your march by inches, and before you have advanced twenty miles, your whole army will be an hospital. How will you carry your wounded men, how will you send them back? Will you leave them to the mercy of an enraged enemy, whose country you are attempting to destroy with fire and sword, or will you stay to protect them? I should write a volume before I had exhausted the difficulties

you

you will meet with, or the resources of your enemies. In the interior parts of America every man's house is literally his castle. They are built of logs, and are musquet-proof; they have loop holes cut in them, and if they are garrisoned by half a dozen men you cannot take them without artillery. Every village that has a meeting-house and a burying-ground will have a barrack and a fortified post. The minister, with his bible in one hand and his rifle gun in the other, will harrangue and exhort his enthusiastic parishioners; he will tell them there are bishops in your army, and they will die by his side, and be buried under the ruins of his pulpit (by the by you will not persuade the highlanders, as loyal as they are, to meddle with ministers or meeting-houses): as I am speaking

speaking of the difficulties of penetrating into the country, it may not be amiss to observe, that from the river Delaware (the channel of which is sufficiently fortified) to the extremity of New England north-eastward, there is not a single river navigable for a king's frigate; if therefore you mean to make use of the rivers, it can only be by boats and small craft, and with such you will be opposed in the proportion of ten to one, amply provided with wall-pieces and rifle guns, and accompanied with fire stages, to burn and destroy whatever they find afloat; add, that all the grain in the country will be lock'd up in redoubts, that the cattle will be drove off, and that there will be no subsistence left for man or beast: but you will have commissaries, who will contract to
supply

supply your army in all places, with provision and forage, (let me stop a moment at the word forage, and wonder, how any man could ever dream of sending cavalry to America; only conceive, a dragoon with his bags, his bucket, his boots, his belts, his havre-sack, his cloak, his cantine, his broad sword and his carbine, galloping round a tree to catch a rifleman or an Indian, 'tis a cow catching a hare, one might laugh at it, if one was at liberty to laugh at any part of so serious a subject). Whoever makes this contract, let him consider who is to be his paymaster, for sure I am, that neither the civil list, nor four shillings, nor fourteen shillings in the pound, will make good so enormous an expence; I would advise your Lordship to ask General Gage what it is to conduct

an

an army through a wood in America, and what is the consequence of a defeat in a desert: he commanded Braddock's advanced guard, and he well remembers the peal that was rung in his ears upon the banks of the Monangahela; he knows too, that from the moment they were opposed they ceased to advance, that they left their baggage, their cannon, and their wounded behind them; and if they were not exterminated, it was because they were not pursued. But, my Lord, the truth is, that these countries are impracticable to an army; nature, and a combination of circumstances, are against you; *fata obstant votoque tuo Natura repugnat*. Neither the in-tre-dity of an Howe, nor the intelligence of a Burgoyne, nor the perseverance of an Amherst will avail;

E whoever

whoever attempts the conquest of America will lose his legions, his life and reputation, as Crassus, Varus and Braddock have done before him. You will say that your fleets and transports have Chesapeak Bay open to them, and that the southern provinces are accessible from that quarter: my Lord it is still the same thing, the shores of Chesapeak are still a coast, and woe be to your troops if they quit it; they will find obstacles enough in marching in sight of their ships, as long as there are axes and spades, and men and fire-arms in the country; they will not make a move with impunity; attacked in landing, attacked in reembarking, they will fritter away their strength in impotent efforts, and without any advantage beyond that of sometimes burning a house or a tobacco magazine!

zine! The inhabitants, assisted by their slaves, will have constructed a multitude of redoubts, which you must either take or leave behind you; and destruction must follow either measure, whether you carry on the war collectively or detached; you will be opposed in every quarter, and your force will melt away in the southern provinces, no less by sickness than the sword.

My Lord, I repeat it again and again, you cannot conquer the Americans. They have got fast hold of the country, and you will as soon tear up their forrests by the roots, as dispossess them. I have said nothing yet of the Indians. These people in general are attached to the colonists by a continual and friendly intercourse of trade; since the loss of Canada they are absolutely de-

pendent upon them for their guns, their gunpowder, their blankets, their tomahawks, their rum; and their vermilion; and with these guns and these tomahawks in their hands, these blankets upon their shoulders, and this vermilion upon their cheeks, these terrible allies in every province will join the provincial armies. Gentlemen of the guards take care of your toupees; if once your heads should fall under the hands of these merciless hair-dressers, you must never appear in a side box again—

But to be serious, for there is no part of this subject that will admit of a joke, let me once more intreat your Lordship, whilst it is yet time to renounce this Quixotic project; follow Lord Chatham's advice, "*Projice tela manu.*" The spear of Britannia in this contest will be like that of Priam,

telum

telum imballo sine ictu; but if it could
 be thrown with the strength of
 Achilles, it would only recoil with
 a dreadful repercussion upon the
 head of this infatuated country.
 Your Lordship is a young minister,
 and you are not yet callous to the
 feelings of humanity; you are a fa-
 ther and a husband, consider how
 many widows and orphans will be
 left destitute by this destructive war;
 amongst the various wretches it will
 make, I think there are none more
 deserving of compassion than your
 brother soldiers; those brave men who
 have fought and bled for us in every
 part of the world, and till this fatal
 period have only fought for glory.
 Alas! how changed is their con-
 dition! Forced into an unnatural
 war, starved, and slaughtered, and
 ship-wrecked on a distant shore, un-
 thanked

thanked for conquest, unpitied for
defeat.

*Anime viles inhumata infletaque turba
Sternentur campis.*

Once more, my Lord, let me
conjure you, put up your bright
sword, you shall command more with
words than weapons. — Speak reason
to the Americans and they will
hearken. If you prosecute this cruel
and vindictive war, you will banish
peace from your breast, and slum-
bers from your pillow; consult your
reason and your conscience, take their
advice if you will not take mine;
descend gently from that giddy height
to which your ambition has mount-
ed; for if you fall, remember, *nul-
ne tombe innocent d'ou l'on vous voit
montè.* Happy shall I be if any
thing I have said may induce you to
change your opinion. And, in the
name

name of God, why all these efforts, this wanton waste of blood and treasure? The moment you have subdued and enslaved the Americans (was the thing possible) you must knock off their fetters, and restore them to their liberty. Whatever temporary inconvenience Great Britain may suffer, I do insist upon it, that henceforward all her dependencies must be as free as herself, or she will have no dependencies at all.

I cannot finish this letter without saying a word or two about the state of Boston and the army there. I hear, that General Howe cannot muster more than six thousand men fit for duty. The town is full of wooden houses, and has not a single casemate. The provincials are in possession of the proper implements for a bombardment, and they have already

dy

dy annoyed the town from a ricochet battery ; *Creditis avectos hostes ?* Do you think they have raised the blockade ? *Sic notus Ulysses ?* Do you think Lee such a blockhead ? Whether in mercy they may spare their fellow subjects lives, and chuse to preserve the town from destruction, is a question ; that they may destroy the town, and consequently give law to the army, is beyond a doubt. I need not say any thing of Canada, my Lord, but that, like the other provinces, it is lost ; it is no longer between two fires, it is defended by double the numbers that it was in 1759 ; twenty thousand men, and twenty ships of the line will make no impression in that quarter ; and though Saunders and Wolfe should rise reluctant from their graves to assist you, you could not recover it ;
 shall

shall we grieve, or shall we rejoice, that these heroes are no more? We must lament them, but their friends have at least this consolation, that they have died, with all their full blown honours on their heads, and have not survived their own and their country's glory.

Fortunati ambo!

*Nulla dies unquam memori vos
eximet ævo.*

It is scarce worth while to add to this letter the capture of St. John's island and the defection of Nova Scotia, they are circumstances well known; all is lost; but all may be recovered by a single fiat, **PEACE** and **LIBERTY**. That lenient measures may soon produce this happy event;

F

and

and that your Lordship, and every honest man may contribute to it, is the sincere wish of,

My Lord,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

P. S. If the Canadians should accede to the grand alliance of the united colonies (which is more than probable) there will be an accession of forty thousand men to the American cause.

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