

REPORT
ON
CANADIAN ARCHIVES

BY
DOUGLAS BRYMNER, Archivist,

1887.

(Being an Appendix to Report of the Minister of Agriculture.)



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CORRESPONDENCE WITH SIR HENRY CLINTON, SIR GUY CARLETON AND
OTHER OFFICERS.

1777-1783.—VOL. I.

B. 147.

B.M., 21,807.

1777.
November 12,
Quebec.

Carleton to Haldimand. His pleasure at Haldimand's appointment as his successor. Foy has been sent to Britain with information for the Ministry and with instructions to wait on him (Haldimand). Hopes to see the latter in spring.

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1778.
May 3,
Philadelphia.

Sir W. Howe to Carleton. Sir Henry Clinton has been appointed to succeed him (Howe) in the command from Nova Scotia to West Florida. He (Howe) shall probably have left before this reaches Quebec.

3

May 5,
New York.

Clinton to Germaine. Evacuated Philadelphia on the 18th June; proceeded to Gloucester Point, crossed the Delaware in safety. The enemy having abandoned Mount Holly, marched without difficulty, except such as arose from the destruction of bridges, the swampy land and excessive heat. Crossed the creek at Crosswick, the enemy not having had time to destroy the bridge. His reasons for taking the passage by the Raritan; the army led through Freehold to the Navesink; stores, wheeled carriages of every description, horses, &c., placed in charge of Knyphausen, the train extending for twelve miles. The covering force is given in detail. The march of Knyphausen's division at daybreak of the 28th June, followed by the other division at eight o'clock; the regiments mentioned in detail. Skirmish by the Queen's Rangers with the enemy; attack by the enemy in force under Lafayette repulsed and his forces fell back to a strong position above Freehold court house. The first and second divisions gave way and were completely routed when they took a third position, with a marshy hollow in front. The enemy's position occupied after further fighting and marched through the night. The baggage, the object of attack, was saved. The credit of defeating 12,000 troops, whilst the men were so worn with heat and fatigue that many fell dead without a wound. An additional force ordered up, so as to attack Washington should opportunity offer; strong position taken up near Middleton; arrival at Navesink and passage of the whole army to Sandy Hook Island. Return of killed and wounded sent. (It does not accompany this letter). The enemy's loss supposed to be more considerable, especially in killed. Death of Lieut. Col. Monekton. The services of Cornwallis, Major General Grey and Brigadiers Mathieu, Leslie and Erskine. The dispatch sent by Colonel Paterson.

4

July 5,
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton (in French). Announcing his arrival to succeed Carleton. Hopes to receive news of the proceedings of the commissioners and that pacification may have been effected on reasonable terms. All quiet here; a good navy is on Lake Champlain and a reinforcement sent to Niagara.

14

July 25,
Quebec.

Same to Carleton. Asks advice as to discharging bills drawn by Hamilton from Detroit.

18

July 25,
Quebec.

Carleton to Haldimand. That considering the duties of Lieut. Governor Hamilton, the expenses of his post must be very great, and had the bills arrived before the command was out of his (Carleton's) hands he would not have hesitated to discharge them. The Marine Department would, had he remained, have been put under the management of Lieut. Col. Bolton or officer at Niagara.

16

1780.

November 15,
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton. Sends this by Ensign Drummond going to New York, where he has been promoted. Expeditions to the frontiers have been successfully executed. Sir John Johnson in various actions has killed about 100 rebel officers and men, among others, Colonel Brown, an inveterate rebel, and taken 60 prisoners, with little loss. Crops on the Schohary and Mohawk destroyed to the extent of 600,000 bushels, besides cattle, &c.; further destruction on the Connecticut by Major Carleton and others. Has received advice of a projected attack on Carleton Island and of the loss of a new vessel on Lake Ontario, with all the crew, Colonel Bolton, &c. The serious loss of the officers and ship; asks that officers may be sent from New York. Arrival of two small vessels from the fleet of victuallers, but no word of the rest; begins to despair of their arrival. He will be obliged to recall provisions from Montreal and Sorel, where they were stored to be sent to the upper posts. The scarcity caused by the non-arrival of the victuallers may have a fatal effect on the Indians.

Page 272
276November 15,
Quebec.

The same to Clinton. Introduces Ensign Prentice.

November 15,
Quebec.

The same to Robertson. Sends this by a vessel belonging to Mr. Pagan, a merchant who has always been suspected. He has been promised, if the dispatches arrive safe, that the vessel may return in spring, but not to trust anything on board that would be useful to the Americans.

277

November 16,
Quebec.

The same to Clinton. Asks him to obtain from Arnold such information as may lead to positive evidence against Hay, DuCalvet and Cazeau.

278

Intelligence brought by George Harding and Emanuel Ellerbick, that Ethan Allen was expected to be in Canada with 600 Green Mountain boys. Armstrong, sent to Albany, reports that a number of continentals had arrived there, and more were expected to go against Allen. This news confirmed by all friends, and especially by an old Quaker gentleman, 6 miles below Schuyler's House at Saratoga, who said that Philip Schuyler was not a bad friend to King George. Three French generals had been reconnoitring about Lake George; all the inhabitants on the frontiers had been warned to retire to the inhabited parts.

281

No date.

Haldimand to Clinton. Sends intelligence brought in by Thomas Man; is doubtful of its truth, Man being regarded as given to exaggeration. Desires to know if Man was paid, as he asks for his pay from the time he was taken prisoner. Only 18 ships of the trade fleet of 42 ships have arrived; another fleet of victuallers was to follow. Rebels report that a large ordnance ship was sunk in action. A detachment from Detroit has destroyed three forts on the Ohio and taken about 400 prisoners; the fickleness of the Indians prevented something greater. The Six Nations have been very active; the accounts from the Mohawk River and frontier confirm the reports of distress there, and their abhorrence of the oppression they labour under. Albany papers received with reports of the movements of French and Spanish fleets. The French fortifying Rhode Island. The Oneidas have seized the Mohawk lands, and are protecting the harvest for the rebels.

283

No date.

The same to Captain Drummond. That he has permitted his nephew, Ensign Drummond, to go to New York to join the regiment in which he has been promoted.

286

1781.
January 3,
Quebec.

The same to Clinton. Will attempt to defeat the designs of Rochambeau; his greatest difficulty is the want of provisions, not a