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Whiteball, March 20.

Extract of a Letter from the Honourable General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain, dated New York, February 12, 1777.

THE Disposition of the Troops in this Quarter having undergone little Alteration since my last Dispatch, I have only to advise your Lordship of the Return of a Brigade of British, and some Companies of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, from Rhode Island, to strengthen Lord Cornwallis's Corps in Jersey, in order to enable his Lordship, with more Security to the Posts of Brunswick and Amboy, to make a Movement when the Weather proves favourable against the Enemy still remaining at Morris Town.

Lieutenant-General Clinton being gone to England, Lord Percy has succeeded to the Command at Rhode Island, and has with him Major-General Prescott, one Troop of the 17th Light Dragoons, one Brigade of British, and two of Hessians.

His Excellency Governor Tryon has offered his Services in the Command of a Corps of Provincials for the ensuing Campaign, and presuming this Measure will be approved by His Majesty, I shall endeavour to place such a Corps under his Command as may be of essential Use in the Prosecution of the War.

Major-General Robertson, who will have the Honour to deliver this Dispatch, can give your Lordship the best Information respecting the present State of this Country.

Major-General Robertson, who left New York the 18th of February, and by whom the Letter of which the above is an Extract has been received, gives an Account of several Advantages gained by Parties composed of British and Hessian Troops, employed in escorting Convoys in the Jerseys, over large Bodies of the Rebels, by which they had been attacked: Particularly, that a Party of the 42d, which was escorting some Forage Waggons from Brunswick, having been attacked by a great Number of the Rebels, Sir William Erskine marched out with a Detachment for their Relief, and taking a Position which placed the Rebels between Two Fires, obliged them to retreat in great Confusion, leaving between Three and Four Hundred dead upon the Spot.

That a considerable Number of the Rebels having appeared on the Heights above the Light-House at Sandy Hook, Major Gordon with 200 Men landed behind them, attacked and defeated them, killing several and taking 74 Prisoners, which had occasioned the Rebels to abandon all that Part of Monmouth County.

That the Hessian Soldiers, that had fought their Way through the Rebels at Trenton, and come to New York, had requested General Howe to send them back into the Jerseys, that they might have a Share in any Service that the Season would admit of; with which the General had complied, and they were sent back accordingly.

That the Rebels on the West Chester Side, had collected all the Militia they could draw together from the New England Provinces and the Western Parts of New York, bringing with them a Number of empty Waggons, in Expectation of plundering the Inhabitants of New York Island, and had appeared before Fort Independence near King's Bridge, which they summoned to surrender; but, upon receiving some Cannon Shot from the Place, and perceiving the Disposition making by General Knyphausen, who commands at King's Bridge,

for attacking them, they withdrew with their Waggons and dispersed.

That General Howe proposed passing over from New York into the Jerseys on the 18th of February, having ordered the Troops which were returned from Rhode Island to disembark at Amboy.

That all His Majesty's Ships fit for Sea were kept out cruising, notwithstanding the Rigor of the Season, and had taken and sent into New York near Two Hundred Sail of Prizes.

That although when the King's Troops took Possession of the City of New York, it was found almost without Inhabitants, the Eagerness of the People to return under His Majesty's Government was such, that the Number of Inhabitants on the 17th of February amounted to upwards of 11000. That they kept constant Watch, and patrolled the City Night and Day, to guard against any further Attempts of Rebel Incendiaries, and that their Zeal and Alertness had prevented any late material Injury to the City or Shipping from Fire.

That the Congress, after declaring General Washington Dictator of the American States for Six Months, had withdrawn to Baltimore in Maryland, leaving a Committee at Philadelphia to assist him with their Advice.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Tryon to Lord George Germain.

MY LORD, *New York, Feb. 11, 1777.*

THE Success that accompanied my Endeavour to unite the Inhabitants of this City, by an Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to His Majesty and His Government has met my warmest Wishes, 2970 of the Inhabitants having qualified thereto in my Presence. The Mayor, Recorder, and Alderman Waddle, were employed in administering the Oath.

I have the Satisfaction to assure your Lordship, as the Invitation to the People to give this voluntary Testimony of their Loyalty to His Majesty and His Government was made even without a Shadow of Compulsion, it gave me peculiar Satisfaction to see the Cheerfulness with which they attended the Summons. I verily believe there are not One Hundred Citizens who have not availed themselves of the Opportunity of thus testifying their Attachment to Government. The Mayor, since I went through the several Wards, has attested 50 more Men, (and is daily adding to the Number) which makes the whole sworn in the City 3020, which added to those attested on Staten Island, in the Three Counties in Long Island, and in West Chester County, (all which amounted to upwards of 2600) makes the Whole amount to 5600 Men.

Thus, my Lord, I have used my best Endeavours to secure the Fidelity of the Inhabitants of this Government, within those Districts through which the King's Troops have moved. I have assured the General that, should he remove all his Troops from this City, there would not be the least Risk of a Revolt from the Inhabitants; but, on the contrary, was confident large Numbers would take a Share in the Defence of the Town against the Rebels.

The loyal Inhabitants of Queen's County received the 800 Stand of Arms, distributed by the General's Permission, with Demonstrations of Joy, and with a professed Resolution to use them in Defence of the Island.

I am anxious that some Grace from Government may speedily be extended to this loyal Quarter of the Province.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

W. TRYON.