

Extract of another Letter from the Honourable General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain, dated New York, July 15, 1777.

VARIOUS Accounts have been lately brought from the Northern Part of this Province, in Regard to the Army from Canada; and I have this Day had the Satisfaction to receive a Letter from Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, with a Confirmation of his being before Ticonderoga; a Copy of which your Lordship has inclosed: Intelligence otherwise received leaves no room to doubt his being in Possession, but it does not come from Authority so certain as to justify me in a positive Declaration of the Fact.

I am extremely concerned, my Lord, to close this Letter with a Circumstance as distressing as it was unexpected. An Express is just arrived from Rhode Island with Intelligence that a small Party of the Rebels made a Descent there on the Night of the 10th Instant, surprized Major-General Prescott in his Quarters, carried him off, and Lieutenant Barrington of the 7th Regiment, with such Dispatch and Secrecy as to frustrate every Attempt to rescue them.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Burgoyne to the Honourable Sir William Howe, dated Camp before Ticonderoga, July 2, 1777.

I Wait only some Necessaries of the heavy Artillery, which have been retarded by contrary Winds upon Lake Champlain, to open Batteries upon Ticonderoga.

The Army is in the fullest Powers of Health and Spirit. I have a large Body of Savages, and shall be joined by a larger in a few Days. Ticonderoga reduced, I shall leave behind me proper Engineers to put it in an impregnable State; and it will be garrisoned from Canada, where all the destined Supplies are safely arrived. My Force therefore will be left complete for future Operations.

Admiralty-Office, August 23, 1777.

Extract of a Letter from Sir George Collier, Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Rainbow, to Mr. Stephens, dated at Halifax, July 12, 1777.

I Sailed from this Port in the Morning of Sunday the 6th Instant, and in the Afternoon discovered Three Sail, to which we immediately gave Chace; but from the Distance I could form no Judgement of their Force, or what they were; the Victor Brig was at this Time in Company Three or Four Miles astern, and as her Rate of Sailing was inferior to that of the Rainbow, I made the Signal for her making more Sail, to avoid separating from her: At Sun-set we had gained so much on the Chace as to discover they were large Ships, standing as we were on the Starboard Tack, with the Wind at W. N. W. I judged from thence, that they were bound to some of the Ports of New England.

I followed them with all the Sail I could crowd, and at Dawn of Day next Morning we saw them again about Three Points on the Weather Bow, with a Sloop in Company; the prest Sail I carried all Night had increased the Distance from the Victor Brig so much, that she was no longer discernable from the Mast-head.

The Ships we were in Chace of were about 5 or 6 Miles distant, and from many Circumstances I had no Doubt were Part of the Rebel Fleet, which had sailed some Time before from Bolton under the Command of Manley; continuing the Chace, and gaining upon them, they quitted the Sloop, and set her on Fire, going off in a regular Line of Battle ahead, and setting Top Gallant Royals, and every Sail that could be useful to them.

A little after Six we discovered another Sail standing towards the Rebel Ships; she crossed us on the

contrary Tack at about Four Miles Distance, and put about when she could fetch their Wakes; from her not making the private Signal to me, I concluded that she was another of the Rebel Frigates, and therefore paid no Regard to an English Red Ensign she hoisted, and two Guns she fired to Leeward.

About Ten in the Morning the Enemy's Ships went away lasking, and Three Quarters of an Hour afterwards I was surprized to see several Shot exchanged between the sternmost of them and the Stranger who had last joined, and whom I had hitherto looked upon as another of their Fleet. I then hoisted my Colours; shortly after which the two sternmost of the Rebel Frigates hawled their Wind, whilst the headmost kept away about two Points from it. This brought the English Ship (which I afterwards found was the Flora) more abreast of them, who passed to windward, exchanging a Broadside with each, and pursuing the Fugitive, who, from the Alteration two or three Times of her Course, seemed uncertain which to steer. The Flora gained fast upon her, which she perceiving hawled her Wind again, and soon afterwards tacked and stood after her Comrades, exchanging a Broadside with the Flora as they passed each other.

I was just putting about after the two Ships, when I observed this unexpected Manoeuvre of the Rebel Frigates, which made me stand on something longer before I tacked, hoping to get her within Reach of my Guns as she passed me: I accordingly did so, but had not the good Fortune to bring down either a Mast or Sail by my Fire.

I tacked immediately after her, and soon afterwards saw the headmost Rebel Frigate put about; she passed me just out of Gunshot to Windward, and appeared a very fine Ship of 34 Guns, with Rebel Colours flying. One of the Gentlemen of my Quarter-Deck had been a Prisoner lately at Bolton, and knew her to be the Hancock, on board of whom Manley commanded; the Sea Officer in whom the Congress place great Confidence, and who is the Second in Rank in their Navy.

The Ship I had fired upon I found outailed me, and soon after my tacking went away lasking, whilst the other Frigate kept her Wind. I then saw with Concern, that one of the three must unavoidably escape, if they thus steered different Courses; I therefore judged it best to put about and follow the Hancock, which appeared the largest Ship: Whilst I was in Stays, the Flora passed me very near in Pursuit of the Ship I had fired upon.

It was about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon of Monday the 7th of July, that I tacked after Mr. Manley, who seemed at first rather to outfail the Rainbow; but I understood afterwards, that to endeavour making his Ship sail better, he started all his Water forward, and by that Means put her out of Trim. An Hour before the Close of Day, he altered his Course, and kept away large; however, we got so near to him before dark, as enabled us, by Means of a Night-glass, to keep Sight of him all Night. At Dawn of Day he was not much more than a Mile a-head of me; soon after which we saw a small Sail to Leeward, which we found to be the Victor Brig, who, as we passed, fired at the Rebel Frigate, and killed one of the Men at the Wheel, but was not able, from bad sailing, to keep up, or come near any more. About Four in the Morning I began firing the Bow-chace upon her, with occasional Broadsides loaded with Round and Grape, as I could bring them to bear, some of which struck her Masts and Sails. At Half an Hour past Eight I was so near as to hail her, and let them know, that if they expected Quarter, they must strike immediately. Manley took a few Minutes to consider; and a fresher Breeze just then springing up, he availed himself of it, by attempting to set some of the Steering Sails on the other Side,