

bogie Sound and Scull Creek into Broad River; and, on their Approach, the Rebels burnt Fort Lyttleton in Port Royal, and abandoned another Fort on St. Helena, leaving it entire. We have taken the Guns out of both, there being no Troops to garrison them, and not caring to leave them in our Rear; lest the Rebels should re-possess them.

Charlestown has offered to capitulate, if they might remain neuter during the War, which was refused: Our Army is in Possession of several Flats and Canoes on Ashley River; they have besides Seven Flat Boats from hence; their Plan is to cross the Harbour, and, if possible, possess Mount Pleasant.

The Rose and Keppel Brig are to sail in Two Days with Two of the Victuallers from York, and One from hence with Rum, which the Army wants; they are ordered to join the Vigilant in Five-fathom Hole.

Four Vessels are just arrived from the West Indies with Rum, which has set us up in that Article.

The Supply of Stores and Slops you have been pleased to send in the Rose is very ample to our Wants:

S I R,  
Your most obedient and  
most humble Servant  
(Signed) John Henry.

*Raisonable, off New-York, June 13, 1779.*

S I R,  
MAJOR General Matthew being the Commanding Officer of the King's Land Forces employed on the Expedition to Virginia, I directed, in consequence of his Requisition, those Troops to be re-embarked in the Transports; previous to which however they demolished the Parapets and Barracks of the Fort, and set Fire to all the remaining Stores, Storehouses, and other Buildings in the Dock-Yard at Gosport, as also to the Vessels on the Stocks, &c. to an immense Amount: The Town and Harbor of Portsmouth was then abandoned by us, and I put to Sea with the Men of War and Transports mentioned in my former Letter, together with Seventeen Prizes, making in the whole Fifty-three Sail, and proceeded back to New-York, where we safely arrived on the 29th of May, after a most favorable Passage of little more than three Days.

I am,  
S I R,  
Your most obedient  
humble Servant,  
GEO. COLLIER.

*Philip Stephens, Esq.*

*Raisonable, off New York, June 14, 1779.*

S I R,  
IN my Letter to you of Yesterday, I mentioned the Men of War and Transports under my Command arriving here on the 29th of last Month from Virginia; you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships that immediately on my anchoring, the Commander in Chief of the Army informed me of his Intention to proceed on an Expedition up the North River to reduce the Works the Rebels had thrown up at Verplanks, and Stoney Points, for the Security of the important Pass of Kings Ferry; the General expressing a Wish for my being present, and to have the Assistance of the Troops returned from Virginia, I directed the Transports to move up-Hudson's River immediately, and accompanied them in the Raisonable, having also with me the

Camilla, Vulture Sloop, Cornwallis, Crane, and Philadelphia Galleys, and Two Gun-Boats. We passed the Chevaux de Frize without any Accident; and came too with the Raisonable, about Eight Miles above Dobbs Ferry; I then went into the Camilla; and, proceeding on with the Transports, anchored just out of Random Shot of Fort la Fayette, which the Rebels had erected on Verplanks Point; Major-General Vaughan, with a Part of the Army, landing on the East Side, and Sir Henry Clinton, with Major-General Pattison, and the Remainder of the Troops, on the opposite Shore, about a Mile and Half from Stoney Point, an exceeding strong Post, where the Rebels were erecting a Block House, and fortifying the Heights. On our Approach they quitted their Works, and set them on Fire, escaping to the Mountains. The Troops soon took Possession, and, with infinite Fatigue and Labour, heavy Cannon were dragged up a steep Precipice from a very bad Landing-place; the Three Gallies being advanced fired upon Fort la Fayette, which was returned by the Rebels. Major-General Pattison, of the Artillery, had, with indefatigable Perseverance, erected Two Batteries (one of which was Mortars) during the Night, and at Dawn of Day began to play upon the Rebel Fort; the Distance across the River being about a Thousand Yards, and was commanded by the high Ground of Stoney Point: The Cannonading continued all Day, during which General Vaughan and his Division marched round, and completely invested the Enemy's Post.

So soon as it was dark, I ordered the Vulture, and Cornwallis Galley, to pass the Fort, and anchor above it, to prevent the Escape of the Rebels by Water; this was done without Damage, and had the intended Effect; the Fire from our Batteries and Gallies being now much superior to that of the Enemy, they beat the Chamade; the Cannonading ceased; a Flag of Truce was sent in to summons them, and they consented to surrender the Fort, and their Arms, and become Prisoners of War. We found the Fort a small complete little Work, with a Block House, double Ditch, Chevaux de Frize, and Abbatis. His Majesty's Troops have taken Possession of it, and are also fortifying the strong Post of Stoney Point, by which we are Masters of King's Ferry, and oblige the Rebels to make a Detour of Ninety Miles across the Mountains to communicate with the Country East of Hudson's River.

I am,  
S I R,  
Your most obedient  
humble Servant,  
GEO. COLLIER.

*Philip Stephens, Esq.*

*Vienna, June 26.* This Capital was greatly alarmed this Morning, about Nine o'Clock, by the Blowing up of a large Powder Magazine in the Out-skirts of one of the Suburbs, in which about Forty Artillery-men were employed in filling Cartridges, whereby many Lives were lost. The Roofs of many Houses in the adjoining Suburb were considerably damaged; and it is feared that Numbers of People may have been maimed or destroyed. Prince Charles Lichtenstein, the Governor of the Town, went immediately to the Spot, and all possible Assistance was given. The Emperor himself arrived from Laxenbourg with the utmost Expedition; and, by his Imperial Majesty's Orders, all Means were used to give the speediest Relief to the surviving Sufferers.