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Whitehall, August 2, 1781.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Sir Henry Clinton, Knight of the Bath, to Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated at New York the 3d of July, 1781; received by His Majesty's Ship Roebuck.

MY LORD,

BY His Majesty's Ship Warwick, which arrived here the 26th Ult. with the Victuallers and Recruits destined for this Place, I had the Honor to receive the Originals of your Lordship's Dispatches, dated the 31st of January and 12th of February; and the Day following the Carteret and Duke of Cumberland Packet-Boats came together into this Port, with the English Mails for April and May.

As the sudden Departure of Vice Admiral Arbuthnot for Europe, in His Majesty's Ship Roebuck, does not afford me Time to write so fully to your Lordship as I wish to do upon the several Matters contained in your Dispatches; I must therefore defer answering them till the Departure of the next Packet, which I propose to expedite soon: It gives me much Pleasure, however, in the mean Time, to acquaint your Lordship of the safe Arrival of the Three Regiments from Ireland at Charles-Town, together with the Recruits for this Army, all in great Health, on the 3d Ult.

The inclosed Copies of Letters from Lord Rawdon to Lord Cornwallis, and of one to me, which I received by the Warwick, will inform your Lordship as to the Situation of Affairs in the Province of South Carolina at the Time those Letters were written, since which Period I have not heard from since.

I have also the Honor to inclose to your Lordship an Extract of a Letter lately received from Major-General Leslie.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Rawdon to Earl Cornwallis, dated Camp at Monk's Corner, May 24, 1781.

THE Situation of Affairs in this Province has made me judge it necessary for a Time to withdraw my Force from the Back Country, and to assemble what Troops I can collect at this Point. I hope a Recital of the Circumstances which have led to this Determination will satisfy your Lordship as to the Expediency of the Measure.

After the Action of the 25th of April, (an Account of which I had the Honour of transmitting to your Lordship) Major General Greene remained for some Days behind the farthest Branch of Granby's Quarter Creek. A second Attempt upon his Army could not in that Situation be undertaken upon the Principles which advised the former. In the first Instance, I made so short an Excursion from my Works, that I could venture, without Hazard, to leave them very slightly guarded, and I had the Confidence, that had Fortune proved unfavourable, we should easily have made good our Retreat, and our Loss, in all Probability, would not have disabled us from the farther Defence of the Place. To get at General Greene, in his retired Situation, I must have made a very extensive Circuit in order to head the Creek, which would have presented to him the fairest Opportunity of slipping by me to Camden; and he was still so superior to me in Numbers, that had I left such a Garrison at my Post as might enable it to stand an Assault, my Force in the Field would have been totally unequal to cope with the Enemy's Army. I had much to

hope from the Arrival of Reinforcement to me, and little to fear from any probable Addition to my Antagonist's Force.

Whilst upon that Principle I waited for my expected Succours, General Greene retired from our Front, and crossing the Wateree, took a Position behind Twenty-five Mile Creek. On the 7th of May, Lieutenant-Colonel Watson joined me with his Detachment, much reduced in Number, through Casualties, Sickness, and a Reinforcement which he had left to strengthen the Garrison at George Town. He had crossed the Santee near its Mouth, and had recrossed it a little below the Entrance of the Congaree.

On the Night of the 7th I crossed the Wateree at Camden Ferry, proposing to turn the Flank and attack the Rear of Greene's Army, where the Ground was not strong, though it was very much so in Front.

The Troops had scarcely crossed the River, when I received Notice that Greene had moved early in the Evening, upon getting Intimation of my being reinforced; I followed him by the direct Road, and found him posted behind Sawney's Creek.

Having driven in his Picquet, I examined every Point of his Situation. I found it every where so strong, that I could not hope to force it without suffering such Loss as must have crippled my Force for any future Enterprize, and the Retreat lay so open for him, that I could not hope that Victory would give us any Advantage sufficiently decisive to counterbalance the Loss.

The Creek (though slightly marked in the Maps) runs very high into the Country. Had I attempted to get round him he would have evaded me with Ease; for, as his Numbers still exceeded mine, I could not separate my Force to fix him in any Point, and Time (at this Juncture most important to me) would have been thus unprofitably wasted. I therefore returned to Camden the same Afternoon, after having in vain attempted to decoy the Enemy into Action, by affecting to conceal our Retreat.

On the 9th I published to the Troops and to the Militia my Design of evacuating Camden, offering to such of the latter as chose to accompany me every Assistance that we could afford them. During the ensuing Night I sent off all our Baggage, &c. under a strong Escort, and destroyed the Works, remaining at Camden, with the rest of the Troops, till Ten o'Clock the next Day, in order to cover the March.

On the Night of the 13th I began to pass the River at Neilson's Ferry, and by the Evening of the 14th every Thing was safely across. Some mounted Militia had attempted to harass our Rear-Guard on the March, but a Party of them having fallen into an Ambuscade, the rest of them gave us no further Trouble. We brought off all the Sick and Wounded excepting about 30, who were too ill to be moved, and for them I left an equal Number of Continental Prisoners in Exchange. We brought off all the Stores of any Kind of Value, destroying the rest; and we brought off, not only the Militia who had been with us in Camden, but also all the well-affected Neighbours on our Route, together with the Wives, Children, Negroes, and Baggage, of almost all of them.

My first News upon landing at Neilson's, was, that the Post at Motte's House had fallen. It was a simple Redoubt, and had been attacked formally by Sap. Lieutenant M'Pherson had maintained it gallantly till the House in the Center of it was set in Flames by Fire-Arrows, which obliged his Men to throw themselves into the Ditch, and surrender at Discretion.

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