

confiding in the Merit of the Troops I have the Honour to command, in the great Assistance I have from Earl Cornwallis, and the further Cooperation of the Navy, I entertain great Hopes of Success.

I cannot close my Letter without expressing how much I am obliged hitherto to Admiral Arbuthnot for the Assistance given me through Captain Elphinstone, who as yet has been chiefly employed in the Naval Transactions immediately relative to the Army. This Gentleman's unremitted Attention to us from his so ably and successfully conducting the Transports into North Edisto to this Hour, with the great Benefit I have derived from his Knowledge of the Inland Navigation of this Part of the Coast, merit my warmest Thanks.

P. S. Since the above, a Reinforcement is arrived in Charles Town, said to consist of 2000 Men from the Northern Army.

[TRANSLATION.]

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Knyphausen to Lord George Germain, dated New York, March 27, 1780.

I HAVE the Honor to inform your Lordship, that since General Clinton's Departure from hence on the 26th of December last, we have had the longest and most severe Winter that was ever remembered: All was Continent; and Horses with heavy Carriages could go over the Ice into the Jerseys from one Island to another; and it is only since the 20th of February that the Rivers and Straits have been navigable.

The Rebels thought to avail themselves of this easy Communication, and threatened an Attack upon Staten Island, where there were about 1800 Men under the Command of Brigadier-General Sterling, who were pretty well intrenched. For this Purpose General Washington, whose Army was huttet at Morris Town, sent a Detachment of 2700 Men, with Six Pieces of Cannon, Two Mortars, and some Horse, commanded by Lord Sterling, who arrived on the Island early in the Morning of the 15th of January, our advanced Posts having retired upon their Approach. They formed the Line; and having made some Movements in the Course of that Day, withdrew in the Night, after having burnt One House, pillaged some others, and carried off with them about 200 Head of Cattle. The Day of their Arrival on the Island I embarked 600 Men to attempt a Passage, and support General Sterling; but the floating Ice prevented their Success, and obliged them to return. I imagine that the Appearance of these Transports, with Troops on board, which they could see towards the Close of the Day, induced them to make this sudden Retreat, as they could not tell what Success they might have. Some Prisoners were made in their Retreat.

Some Days after, an advanced Post, which they had at Newark, consisting of One Company, was surprized and taken by a Detachment from hence and from Paulus Hook, under the Command of Major Lumm; and the same Day General Sterling sent another Detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Boskirk, who surprized the Piquet Guard at Elizabeth Town, and made 2 Majors, 2 Captains, and 47 Men, Prisoners of War. Both these Enterprizes were effected without any Loss on our Side. Some Time after General Mathew sent a Detachment of Guards and Provincial Horse, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Northon, to attack a Post at John's House upon the White Plains. This did not succeed entirely to his Wishes; but the Rebels who were posted in a House were however attacked and dislodged, with the Loss of 40 Men killed and 97

made Prisoners, among whom were 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, and 5 Inferior Officers. We had 3 killed and 15 wounded.

In the Night of the 22d of this Month we partly surprized and took a Rebel Post in the Jerseys, consisting of 250 Men, of whom we made only 65 Prisoners, owing to Two Embarkations, One from hence under Lieutenant-Colonel Macpherfon, and another from Kingsbridge under Lieutenant-Colonel Howard, not arriving at the appointed Time. Our Loss upon this Occasion was very inconsiderable. Captain Armstrong of the 42d Regiment is wounded. By these little Enterprizes during the Winter, as far as we can ascertain, we have made 320 Prisoners, and killed about 65 of the Enemy.

By the best Intelligence I have been able to get, General Washington's Army at Morris Town consists of about 5000 Men, besides Militia. There has been a great Desertion among them: Tired of the War, and dissatisfied with the depreciated Value of their Money, a general Discontent pervades the whole Army.

Extract of a Letter from Major-General Pattison to Lord George Germain, dated New York, February 22, 1780.

THE intense Frost, accompanied with great Falls of Snow, which began here about the Middle of December, shut up the Navigation of this Port from the Sea, within a few Days after Admiral Arbuthnot's Fleet, with the Troops under the Commander in Chief, had taken its Departure from Sandy Hook. The Severity of the Weather increased to that Degree, that towards the Middle of January all Communications with this City by Water were entirely cut off, and as many new ones opened by the Ice. We could scarcely be said to be in an insulat State. The Passage of the North River, even in the widest Part from hence to Paulus Hook (2000 Yards) was about the 19th practicable for the heaviest Cannon, an Event unknown in the Memory of Man; and very soon after Provisions were transported upon Sleighs, and Detachments of Cavalry marched from New York to Staten Island (11 Miles) upon the Ice. The East River to Brooklyn on Long Island was also, for many Days, blocked up.

Thus circumstanced, My Lord, this City was laid open on many Sides to an Attack from an enterprizing Enemy; and notwithstanding the unsuccessful Attempt they made upon Staten Island on the 14th of January, it was nevertheless strongly reported that General Washington was meditating a great Stroke upon New York, with his whole Force, by different Attacks; and although the Undertaking would perhaps have been too daring and unwarrantable, yet the repeated Intelligence we received of the many Preparations they were making for that Purpose, forbid the absolute Disbelief of such a Plan's being under Contemplation: Therefore, having received in November last an Address, signed by the principal Inhabitants, in Behalf of themselves and Fellow Citizens, to put themselves in Military Array, I thought it a favorable Occasion of putting the Sincerity of their Professions to the Test, and of adding in the present Instance to the Security of the City and Garrison, which the Commander in Chief was pleased to honor me with the Care and Command of, as well as establishing in future such an internal Defence, as to make a Garrison of less Strength sufficient in general for its Protection. I consulted with General Tryon upon the Expediency of this Measure, and, as he entirely concurred in my Opinion, I did not hesitate (having taken the Sense too of some of the principal Citizens) to issue a Proclamation, calling upon all the Male Inhabitants,