

But as Major M'Arthur had joined me with near 300 Foot and 80 Dragoons, I conceived I might, with ut hazarding too far, endeavour to check the Enemy's Operations on the Congaree. On the 14th at Night I marched from Neilson's, and on the Evening of the 15th I reached the Point where the Roads from Congarees and M'Coard's Ferry unite. Various Information was brought to me thither that Greene had passed the Congaree at M'Coard's Ferry, and had pushed down the Orangeburgh Road. The Accounts, though none of them positive or singly satisfactory, corresponded so much, that I was led to believe them, and the Matter was of such Moment, that it would not admit of my pausing for more certain Information; therefore, after giving the Troops a little Rest, I moved back to Eutaws the same Night, but hearing nothing there, I pursued my March hither.

By my present Position I cover those Districts from which Charles-Town draws its principal Supplies, I am in Readiness to improve any favourable Occurrence, and I guard against any untoward Event.

It is a secondary but not a trifling Advantage, that I have been able to supply the Troops with Necessaries; for the Want of which (occasioned by the long Interruption of our Communications) they suffered serious Distress.

I am using every Effort to augment our Cavalry, in Hopes that the Arrival of some Force will speedily enable us to adopt a more active Conduct.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Rawdon to Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis, dated Charles-Town, June 5, 1781.

GENERAL Greene invested Ninety-six on the 22d of May. To my great Satisfaction, however, I learn (by Messages which I have found Means to interchange with Lieutenant-Colonel Cruger) that the new Works were completed before the Enemy's Approach; the Garrison is ample for the Extent; and the Fire of the Enemy had no Effect: Lieutenant-Colonel Cruger, therefore, only apprehends that Relief may not arrive before his Provisions are expended.

Fortunately we are now in a Condition to undertake succouring him without exposing a more valuable Stake; and, from the Report of his Provisions which he sent to me, I trust we shall be fully in Time.

Augusta is likewise besieged; but, I hope in little Danger. Sir James Wright represented so strongly the Want of Troops at Savannah, that I thought it necessary to send the King's American Regiment thither with all Dispatch.

On the 3d Instant the Fleet from Ireland arrived; Having aboard the 3d, 19th, and 30th Regiments, a Detachment from the Guards, and a considerable Body of Recruits; the Whole under the Command of Colonel Gould of the 30th. Lieutenant-Colonel Balfour and I immediately made known to Colonel Gould the Power, which your Lordship had given to us, for detaining such Part of the expected Reinforcement as we might conceive the Service required: And it has been settled that the Three Regiments shall all remain here, until your Lordship signifies your Pleasure respecting them. I shall march on the 7th towards Ninety-six, having been reinforced by the Flank Companies of the Three new Regiments.

I am happy in mentioning to your Lordship a handsome Testimony of Zeal for His Majesty's Interests, which has occurred here: Considerable Difficulty having arisen in the Formation of Cavalry, some of the principal Inhabitants of this Town made a Subscription amounting to near Three Thousand Guineas; which Sum they requested I would apply to the Purpose of equipping a Corps of Dragoons in the Manner I should judge most expedient.—

As I had no Means of forming such a Corps but by Drafts from the Infantry, I thought your Lordship would be pleased that a Compliment should be paid to the Loyalty of the Gentlemen above-mentioned, by fixing upon Men connected with the Province; I have therefore ordered the South Carolina Regiment to be converted into Cavalry; and I have the Prospect of their being mounted and completely appointed in a very few Days

June 6. I have just had the Satisfaction to learn, that the King's American Regiment arrived safe at Savannah.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel Lord Rawdon to Sir Henry Clinton, dated Charles-Town, June 6, 1781.

I Cannot in any Manner give your Excellency a more explicit Account of what has passed in this Province, and of the present State of our Affairs; than by inclosing to your Excellency Copies of the Letters which I have, at different Periods, written to Lord Cornwallis. The Situation of the Province has been critical; yet, I am well convinced, that Numbers have joined the Enemy merely to shield themselves from the atrocious Barbarity of the Rebel Militia, which has been beyond what I ever heard of among the most savage Nations. Should we be successful in our present Enterprize, it will probably be found necessary to make the Santee and Congaree the Boundaries of our Posts, and to invite the Friends of Government to settle upon the Estates of Revolters within the Chain of our Stations. The back Parts of the Province must necessarily depend upon the Country enclosed by those Rivers, as long as we keep Possession of the Chesapeake.

Extract of a Letter from Major-General Leslie to Sir Henry Clinton, dated Portsmouth, June 17, 1781.

I HAVE no Accounts from Lord Cornwallis since he marched from Westover the 26th Ult. When I hear from his Lordship I shall forward the Contents to New York by an Advice Vessel. All is quiet here, the whole Country taking Paroles.

Admiralty-Office, August 3, 1781.

DISPATCHEs were Yesterday received from Admiral Sir George Brydges Rodney, Bart. Knight of the Bath, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands; and from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America; of which the following are Extracts.

Extract of a Duplicate of a Letter from Admiral Sir George Brydges Rodney to Mr. Stephens, dated on Board the Sandwich, at Sea, the 6th of May, 1781.

I MUST desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that on the 4th Instant, His Majesty's Ship the Ruffel joined me, the Captain of which informs me, that Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood had an Action with the French Fleet arrived from Europe, and which consisted of Twenty-one Sail of the Line, and were, during the Action, joined by the Four Ships of the Line that had been blocked up in the Bay of Fort Royal. By Captain Sutherland's Account, the French, as usual, kept at a considerable Distance, and seemed to bend their greatest Force against the Four Van Ships of Sir Samuel Hood's Line, which must have suffered considerably; the Ruffel having several Shot between Wind and Water, was in Danger of sinking, the Water being above the Platform in the Magazine.

Upon receiving the News, I instantly dispatched the Convoys bound for Great Britain, Jamaica and America; in Six Hours repaired the Damages sustained by the Ruffel; sent that Ship to Old Road, St. Christopher's, to complete her Water which was exhausted, with Orders to her Captain to join me without a Moment's Loss of Time; and put to Sea myself, with the Sandwich and Triumph, in order to join the Fleet, with all the Dispatch possible, which I am now endeavouring to do.

N. B. Sir Samuel Hood's Dispatches, giving an Account of his Action with the French Fleet on the 29th of April, which accompanied the original Letter of the Date above-mentioned, were, with that Letter, thrown over-board, when the Snake Sloop, in which they were coming to England, was captured by a Rebel Privateer, and no Duplicate or Copy of those Dispatches have yet come to Hand.

Extract