

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 147, pp. 374-377]⁸⁶

(Copy)

Quebec 1st Oct^r 81:

Sir

The Intelligence for which I have some days detained the Frigate is at length arrived—

My Agents are returned from their Conference with Ira Allen & Major Fay, & I here inclose a Continuation of their Proceedings from No. 22 to 33—These & Conversations (I am forbid to commit to Paper) which passed between those Gent^{rs} have almost, if not entirely removed my Suspicions of Allen's Party—but I see with much Concern that the wished for Revolution very little depends upon their Interest, at least as things are at present circumstanced—The Prejudice of a great Majority in the Populace, & the prevailing Influence of Congress are too powerful to admit of a Change (within any given Time from one to three Years) by Negotiation.

The leading Men in our Interest advise, as a last Resource, my Issuing a Proclamation Confirming to Vermont the late assumed Territory, and other Priviledges / contained in a Letter marked A thinking that from the late refusal of these by Congress, the Populace may be inclined to accept of Terms from Government—

This Proclamation they desire may be followed by a force equal to Support the friends of Government Who wait for an Opportunity to declare themselves and Awe those in opposition—In so Critical a Juncture I most sensibly feel the want of Particular Instructions, fearing on one side to let an opportunity escape—Which may never be recalled, & on the other, taking upon myself a decision of such Importance a Firm disinterested Zeal for the King's Service which has hitherto, will in this Instance Guide my Conduct, and in Acting for the Best, I shall hazard the Consequences with the Generosity of my Royal Master—How far Incroachments by Vermont on New York and N. Hampshire may affect future Politicks I know not—at present I Conceive them indiscriminately engaged in Rebellion, and if by Sacrifying [*sic*] a part of one, to the interest of the other, a Reunion of the most Valuable, with the Mother Country Can be Effected, I think it my Duty to make the Attempt—In this Faith, I shall Issue the Proclamation, worded with as much Caution as is

36. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21807, ff. 300-1.

Consistent with my Hopes of its Success—it is to precede the Detachment, and as the Preparations to Receive it Cannot be made before the 12th or 14th Instant, to which time the meeting of their Assembly is put off—the Troops will necessarily not move so soon as mentioned in my other Letters to Your Excellency; Reports brought by my Agents from good Authority respecting the Enemy having laid aside their Intention against N York, makes this Delay less painfull to me.

Your Ex. will not understand that any offensive Measures against Vermont are to be undertaken by the Detachment from Crown Point, on the Contrary, every appearance of Hostility will be Carefully avoided, while Parties will be sent to Distress the other frontiers it is hoped this Conduct will Convince the People of Vermont that it is the Intention of Government to protect them, and facilitate the Endeavours of the Leading Men in our favor to gain the Populace in the Course of the Winter, to make Preparation for a more Effectual Essay in the Spring, Which if Mutually Carried on, I should hope might prove Successfull.

I have the Honor & c

(Signed) F. H.

His Excy. Genl.

S^r H. Clinton

(*endorsed*) Copy 1781

To

Sir Henry Clinton

of the 1st October

(*enclosures missing*)

[4]

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 147, p. 378]³⁷

(*Copy*)

Quebec 2^d Oct^r 1781

Sir

The Transaction of which the Particulars are here inclosed, was undertaken and is Carrying on upon a Solemn and Mutual Promise of Secrecy, for the Performance of which, as well on my

37. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21807, ff. 302-3.

own part, as in Behalf of the Agents I employ, I have pledged my Honor. The Service we are Mutually Interested for, requires I should impart this Matter to Your Excellency, and I do it in perfect Confidence that you will not entrust it to the Knowledge of any other Person except General Robertson to whom I have in another Letter signified my wishes it should be Communicated

I have the Honor to be & c

(Signed)

Fred : Haldimand

His Excellency

Gen: Sir H. Clinton

(*endorsed*) Copy 1781.

To his Excellcy S^r H: Clinton
of the 2^d October—

(*enclosure missing*)

[5]

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 147, p. 381]²⁸

Sir Henry Clinton with about six thousand Men went on board a fleet of 25 Sail of the line to try to relieve lord Cornwallis—He was forced to surrender on the 19th, the very day our fleet sailed, we have not heard from Sir Henry nor of our fleet. S^r Henry & M^r Digby who is a joint Commissioner—on their Arrival will consider and answer your letters about Vermont—I will willingly give up a very good estate in that Country and every Provincial interest to fix these People in the Interest of the Crown. but I dout this recent event will defeat all your Trouble and pains—General Arnold says pere Floquet is an Inveterate Enemy Jacob rowe no better and indeed the gros of the Boston leaders little better—he had no Friendly aids from any of the Noblesse—Ever yours James Robertson—Oct^r 31. 81—Rec^d 14th May 82

(*endorsed*) From A 1781

Gen^t Robertson

31st Oct^r

Rec^d 14th May 1782 By D—s.

38. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21807, ff. 306-7.

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 147, pp. 385-386]³⁹

I recd. your several dispatches by His Majestys ship Garland, & as there was a Packet upon the point of sailing for Europe when they arrived, I sent a Copy of your Letter of the 1st Oct^r. Of your proc-lama [*sic*] and of the Letter marked *a* to the Minister, not having time to prepare Copies of the Whole, but they shall be sent by the next Opportunity—and also laid before Admiral Darby [Digby], who is a joint Commissioner with me, as soon as he arrives in town—You will not expect more from me by this Conveyance Respecting your measures with the Leaders of Vermont than a general Declaration of my Confidence in Your Endeavours to separate that district from the Revolt, and my wish for its success—The extent of the Expectations of the People, and of your promise to meet them will I apprehend make it necessary for the crown to resort to parliament—for the truth is that the Powers of the present Commissioners extend only to granting pardons and restoring Provinces or Districts to the Kings pya [*sic*] Peace and this alone is the reason of my sending to the Secretary of State these Transactions and I hope you will find no difficulty in preventing our enemies from practising upon the jealousies of the Inhabitants of Vermont before the result of the public deliberations can be transmitted—

H C

General Arnold says Mons^r du Calvert, pere Floquet, Messrs. Hay, Cord, Freeman and Watts were friends to the Rebels—

(*endorsed*) From A 1781.

Sir H. Clinton

12 Nov^r Recd—14th May

82

By D——n

39. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21807, ff. 310-1.

[THE REMEMBRANCER FOR THE YEAR 1782 (London)]⁴⁰*Extract from Gov. Clinton's Message to the
Assembly of New York*

March 21. I cannot forbear recommending to your particular attention, the affidavits and other papers, which prove a treasonable and dangerous intercourse and connexion between the leaders of the revolt in the north-eastern part of the state, and the common enemy. In order that you may form a competent judgment of the matter, such of the original papers respecting it as are in my possession will be delivered to you. Your own prudence will however suggest that these communications, as far as they relate to the names of the persons from whom the intelligence is derived, ought not to be divulged. I have only to observe, that these proofs are corroborated by a variety of circumstances, which equally tend to show, that these criminal transactions are not confined to individuals, but have been conducted under the sanction of that usurped government.

[Here followed the affidavits of John Edgar and David Abeel. Edgar's is missing from the copy in the *Collections of the Vermont Historical Society*; Abeel's (December 20, 1781) speaks of seeing the Canadian and Vermont commissioners meet at Isle aux Noix.] *Extracts of a Letter from ———, dated January 5, 1782.*

A gentleman of intelligence, who left New York on the 23d ult., and in whom I can place full confidence, gave me the following particulars, which I conceived your excellency entitled to; I therefore do myself the honor to transmit them:

That some time since, commissioners had met with persons appointed by Gen. Haldimand, and offered to become subjects to the crown and government of Great Britain, upon the following terms, viz:

First, that the territory as claimed by the Vermonters, be constituted a separate government.

Secondly, that the same form of government be granted unto them, as was formerly enjoyed by Connecticut, excepting that the governor of the province should, from time to time, be nominated and appointed by the crown.

40. From a copy in *Collections of the Vermont Historical Society*, Vol. II (Montpelier, 1871), pp. 256-8.

Thirdly, that they be allowed to remain neuter during the present contest, unless the war is carried within their own territory.

Fourthly, that they would raise two battalions properly officered, for their internal defense. These troops to be in British pay, & c., but not to be called into service, unless in defense of the province.

That they be allowed a free trade to Canada and be protected therein.

These are all the particulars that could be obtained respecting the *terms* held out by said commissioners. The papers were delivered to Gen. Haldimand, who, considering the matter of too important a nature for him to decide upon, transmitted them to Sir Henry Clinton, as one of the king of Great Britain's *commissioners for restoring*, & c., by whom they were laid before Justice Wm. Smith, who gave his opinion, that the powers vested in the king's commissioners did not authorize them to determine a matter of so much consequence, and of so singular a nature; that nothing short of an act of parliament would be sufficient for the purpose; the papers relative to this matter should be laid before the king in council, that the necessary steps may be taken; which was accordingly then done, and the result is expected.

I am also informed that Mr. — of the city of New York, who claims land in Vermont, has it in contemplation to go thither by the way of Connecticut. What commission he may possibly be charged with, is not in my power to determine. This however is certain, that the enemy form great expectations from the apparent temper of Vermont.

The foregoing are true copies of two affidavits, and an extract of a letter, delivered to the legislature of the state of New York, with his excellency the governor's message, at their present meeting, except as to the names of certain persons and places mentioned in the originals, which it would be improper to divulge, and are therefore omitted in the copies. Examined by

Robert Benson, *Sec.*

Pokeepsic, Feb. 2, 1782.

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 148, pp. 8-9]⁴¹

Quadruplicate
of Letter sent in
Cypher over land.

New York February 22^d. 1782.

Sir,

I think it right to send by express to Your Excellency the following Intelligence, which has just been communicated to me by The Honorable William Smith Chief Justice of this Province, exactly as it was given to me by him.

"About a fortnight since an Intelligent person from Connecticut suggested, that tho' the Rebels talked of an Attack in the Spring upon New York, he had strong suspicions of a preparation to invade Canada, and yesterday I learn't by a direct channel, that General Schuyler said to one of his confidants and yet our friend, that "La Fayette went to France to propose that project, and that they "were waiting to know the Result."

The following Intelligence has been received since the above by another channel—

[Here follows a report of a projected attack on Detroit. R.]
Some of the Rebel Officers say that there will be an expedition by the Allied Forces against Canada the ensuing Summer, and its asserted that the Rebels have agreed to give the French Canada in case the Combined Forces of the French and Rebels should be successful enough to reduce it. That this engagement by the Rebels to the French, is asserted by some who have seen the agreement on the proceedings of Congress this Winter.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's
most obedient and
most humble Servant
H Clinton

(*endorsed*) Quad—
From S^r H : Clinton
of feb: 22^d
R^d at Queb: June 14th
Triplicate by Green 6th April

41. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21808, ff. 5-6.

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 179, pp. 234-235]⁴²

(Copy)

Montreal 16th April
82.

Sir

Since my Letter of Yesterday *Davis* delivered to me the inclosed Paper, which he picked up on his way hither—His Excellency has desired me to inclose it to You & Doctor Smyth who will consider it with Attention as it may be necessary, in the Business you are now conferring upon, to see how in vain our Efforts for Secrecy have been, and the dangerous Consequences which may attend the discovery of the Negotiation with Vermont; it is a Matter of infinite concern to his Excellency, as it may frustrate every Hope from it—and He feels for the Consequences to Allen and Fay, should they be more faithful to us than we have considered them, which would really appear from Mr Clintons Speech to the Assembly. Endeavour to conclude, from the Circumstances, who the Person is who communicated the Affair to Edgar—it points strongly at Col. Johnson, but perhaps you Know some other Person who better answers the description—Be so good as send [*sic*] back the Paper, first filling up the Blanks with the Names of Persons and Places according to your Conjectures. It now only rests to do what is possible to remedy the Evil, and to take all the Advantages possible from the Information of this unfortunate Event Say everything upon it that Occurs to You—If it is clearly striking that Johnston is the Man, could he not be easily recaptured by Pritchard? And I should think Edgar might be seized even in Albany—but might not any sudden Attempt of the Kind Millitate against Allen & Fay?

Johnstons Letter is to cover his Villainy, and a Mental Reservation, having, as you may recollect, promised to Communicate the State of Affairs on his Return home

I am & c.

(endorsed)

1782

To Captain Sherwood
16th April

(enclosure missing)

42. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21839, ff. 212-3.

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 177-1, pp. 202-204]⁴³

St. John's
20th April 1782
6 o'clock in the morning

Sir

We have receivd your Letters by Snetzinger Enclosing the Fish Kiln [*sic*] papers & c which we have carefully Examin'd and we are from every circumstance fully of the opinion that Thos: Johnson was Mr. Edgar's informer we find on enquiry that he left Mountreal the 3^d day of October, and that he left S^t Johns to go home on the 7th of the same Month. On examining his letters and papers to his Excellency. it should seem he made them a Colour for his pretence to Edgar that he was one of the Persons on the part of V——t who had been in treaty &c—

From the Preliminarys in Edgars Affidavit it does not appear to us, that his informer had any other acquaintance, or knowledge of the negociation. than his own Conjectures, and those which he might probably gather, from the busy and inquisitive with whom he convers'd. for, every particular mentiond by him, as parts of the Agreement; is Erroneous: and most of them are groundless. in particular those mark'd +. Consequently Johnson's want of knowledge in this affair (of which he will endeavour to avail himself if recaptur'd) Cannot screen him from our Just suspicions.

It is with sorrow and inexpressible concern, Especially for Allen and Fay; that we find the intelligence from New York respecting V——t. invariably true, and must have transpired from some person perfectly acquainted with the whole Affair. and we very much fear this will sour the minds of those two gentlemen who (we are perswaded) from the affidavits and the York intelligence never had any hand in revealing it. and must of necessity, tremble for the consequences as well as be very cautious in their future transactions with us, as nothing could possibly be more solemn than our former promises of secrecy to them.—

We have by notes at the Bottum of the paper pointed out the names of the persons & places which we Judge should have fill'd the Blanks—

43. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21837, ff. 138-9.

We enclose for his Excellency's information our letters to Messrs Allen & Fay I hope they may meet with his approbation.

We have not time to copy this, & therefore beg you'll excuse for its incorrect contents.

We have the honour to be with the greatest respect, & esteem

Sir Your most obedient & most hum^e Servant [*sic*]

J Sherwood
Geo. Smyth

P. S. Your hum^e Servant Sherwood sets out in about an hour for his post.

N B we shall endeavour to get hold of Edgar, but had we not better leave Johnson till we hear from A-n and F-y?

Captain Mathews

(*endorsed*) A 1782

From Captⁿ Sherwood

20th April recd 23^d

(*enclosures missing*)

[11]

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, B Series, Vol. 148, pp. 24-28]⁴⁴

(*Copy*)

In Cypher

Montreal April 28th 1782

Your Ex^{cy}'s Dispatch of the 22^d Feb^y with an Extract of one from Lord George Germain, I Received the 6th instant—And that of the 10th March (Duplicate & Triplicate) the 15th together with Copies of Lord George's to me by the January Pacquet.

The Latitude for Negotiating with Vermont, is so differently Expressed in his Lordship's Letter to me of the 26th July, and his Subsequent Dispatch to Your Excellency (Communicated in Your Letter) that it is difficult to act, with any Prospect of Success, on one hand, without hazarding Blame on the other more particularly as His Lordship has not touched upon that Material Part of the Subject in his Letter to me, and as I am totally uninformed of the Plan of operations for the ensuing Campaign

To Continue an Intercourse &c. with the Vermonters encourag-

44. Original, British Museum Add. Ms. 21808, ff. 20-1.

ing them to Expect that their Interests will be attended to, proved a too general & ineffectual Doctrine before Lord Cornwallis's Misfortune, now it would be matter of Ridicule, which is sufficiently Manifested by their Concession to Congress, and relinquishing their late assumed Jurisdiction (In Which our Hopes were Founded) notwithstanding the Encouragement I gave them of its being Confirmed. To attempt to Treat with them upon Conditions Short of *that*, would be adding to our lost Time, nor will they even be accepted, if not Attended with an Apparent Prospect of Our Affairs on this Continent, taking a prosperous turn—This Crisis is arrived when Coersion Alone must decide the Part Vermont will take, and that Measure should be determined upon from the Moment the Troops, directed by Lord Geo: Germain to appear upon their Frontiers shall take Post, and must be Carried into Execution, as far as possible (after giving them Sufficient Notice) by Laying Waste their Country, if they do not Accept the Terms Offered Otherwise the bare appearance of the Troops, will only Serve to Confirm them in their prevailing and Too Just Idea that we want Abilities to force them to Compliance, and Will enhance their Merit and Influence with Congress. . . .

The Moment I can form any Certain Judgement that this Province is not to be Attempted by the River &c. (agreeably to La Fayette's Proposal, Communicated in Your Letter) I shall not fail appearing with as great a Force as My Strength and Circumstances will admit of, upon the Frontiers for the Purpose expressed in His Lordship's Letter (for Which I have already Made preparations) but the Impossibility of Penetrating far into the Country with So inconsiderable a force as that will be is too evident to require enlarging upon, and our Expectations of Success, Should be proportioned to that disadvantage. . . . This Movement cannot be effected before the Middle of June, not only from the uncertainty of what may happen here, but from a Want of flour. . . .

I with much concern refer Your Excell^{cy} to a late Rebel News Paper Printed at Fish-Kill wherein the Substance of all that has passed in my Negotiation with Vermont, and as communicated to You is related. This proves that our Confidence has been somewhere betrayed, & God Knows what bad effects it may have in that Affair, particularly if Allen & Fay, have been sincere. . . .

(Signed) F: H:

Sir Henry Clinton &c. &c. &c

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, "Wolford" Simcoe Papers, Book 1,
p. 301]⁴⁵

April 3rd, 1790.

These⁴⁶ are in the Secretary of State's office in the correspondence between Sir H. Clinton and the Minister in information relative to Vermont, numbered as follows,—

- No. 112 Dec. 16th 1780—Intercepted Letters.
- No. 125 May 13th 1781—Six papers and a copy of a letter of General Haldimand's, 28th Feb.
- No. 129 May 23rd 1781—Information and references.
- No. 147 May 23rd 1781—Information and references.
- No. 149 Dec. 6th 1781—Voluminous papers and Treaty with General Haldimand.

Mr. Grenville will find in the "Intercepted Letters" that the arguments in the supported claims of Vermont against New York were so strong, so fully and fairly urged that New York avoided the decision. This is Sullivan's opinion.

Among the six papers it will I think appear that the French Ambassador at the instance of the Governor of New York interfered and prevented Vermont from being acknowledged as a separate State. I apprehend in the paper 3rd entitled notes respecting that part of the country called Vermont, drawn up I believe by William Smith, the positions relative to the claims of New York on that State are not true. That Allen intended to preserve Vermont independent of all Colonial claims, that he was an enemy to Great Britain and that he joined in seizing on Ticonderoga Silas Deane, as appears by evidence in my possession, and who himself was employed in the scheme, imputed to the machinations of William Smith, Chief Justice, Livingston, Governor of New Jersey and General Schuyler, etc.

It is apprehended there are in the Secretary of State's office more

45. Original, Wolford Lodge, Devon, England.

46. Probably refers to a series of extracts transcribed on pp. 192-4, Book 1—mostly taken from documents of which there are copies in the B Series.

papers relative to Vermont, and the report of Sir Henry Clinton that his correspondence with Vermont had been destroyed⁴⁷ by Smith, then Chief Justice of New York, to whom it had been solely and confidentially entrusted, and who endeavoured to reconcile Sir H. Clinton to the imputation by saying that he, (laying his hand familiarly on his shoulder, as Sir H. Clinton told me) Smith, expected hourly that the Rebel Governor Clinton would make proposals, and that it was impossible Sir Henry could have both Vermont and New York.

[13]

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, "Cole" Simcoe Papers, Packet A-3]⁴⁸

The material in pointed brackets was cancelled in original copy. Editor.

Sept 22

Sir,

When I had the honor of a conversation with you at Wimbledon, [sic] my time was so short <we were so pressed in point of time>, & in truth, I was so very Ill, in perfect that I had not the opportunity of stating to you, <most> confidentially, The Opinions I wished to deliver <to you & which have arisen from> the perusal of the late dispatches of Lord Dorchester—

[sic] Dispatches

There is no doubt but these Important <Points> must have forcibly [sic] attracted [sic] probably bly <demanded> your Attention; but <perhaps> you may not consider them as points and as necessary results from the general System by which I have invariably conceived the Government of Quebec [sic] have [sic] of late [sic] <hitherto> to been administered; & conceiving so, 'tho' as a military Man nothing but extreme Necessity could possibly justify my offering an[y] Sentiments on Lord Dorchesters

47. "betrayed" in the original document? R.

48. Originals in possession of W. P. Cole, Southampton, England.

Conduct as a General yet I do consider the [*sic*] <Case to be widely
cases of a political or
different [*sic*] whenever the question of the> Civil nature [*sic*]
are solely to be agitated
<Administration of Government be involved, or> be solely, as at
[*sic*] I do conceive
present to be considered, & that I should in some measure betray the
duty I owe to my Country, did I not fairly state to you the Opinions
I entertain, & That extreme dread which I have that there are Cir-
now arising
cumstances <in agitation> which may lead to the Extinction of the
to

British Name in that part of the World which I am about to de-
part [*sic*] <to superintend & Govern> [*sic*]

I conceive Chief Justice Smith to be the Author of the mischiefs
by his Councils, Opinions, & wishes which I most anxiously dread &
deprecate—

This Gentleman was considered & I believe justly to be one
of [*sic*] original fomenters of The Illwill & distrust of Government
which led to The American Revolt [*sic*] previous to this Revolt; the
Injustice of the Govt of New York, [*sic*] <in exacting he> as the
People of Vermont affirm, & I believe, [*sic*] <them,> occasioned dis-
contents that had almost been matured into open hostilities between
that district & the New Yorkers; among the foremost was Mr. Smith,
who had received a Grant of Lands in Vermont under the New
York patent, the Inhabitants of that district, holding Their lands by
tenure from N Hampshire When open hostilities commenced be-
tween the Americans & G Britain Mr Smith sided with the Ameri-
cans until G Britain appeared to be victorious then, & upon the death
of Mr Horsemanden the Chief Justice of N York He came into
to succeed him in

the British Army & was appointed [*sic*] <Chief Justice of> N York.

In an evil hour, Sir Henry Clinton, [*sic*] <as He [*sic*] has often
assured> entrusted Mr Smith with the Offers & consequent negocia-
tion which He was carrying on with Vermont. Chief Justice Smith
betrayed him [*sic*] as he

[*sic*] <as> Sr Henry Clinton has repeatedly told me, & on his
return from America as He [*sic*] <officially> told L'Lansdown, [*sic*]
Sr H Clinton

<betrayed> him; & on [*sic*] <his> taxing him with the result of their

confidential correspondence being published in the Congressional
News

[sic] <Albany> Paper, Mr Smith acknowledged it but said "You'l
[sic] make yourself easy you have lost Vermont

ships
with save New York, but you cannot have both, N York & Ver-
[sic] man

mont"—Gen Haldimand who did not know of this treacherous
in his despatches in your [sic] office expresses his surprize at his most
secret Communications being divulged to the Enemy—

Mr Smith lately has been admitted a Citizen of *New York*, which
confirms what has been [sic] <uniformly> reported that when He
American

by his ^ connections
came into the British Army, It was stipulated that his
Property should not be confiscated — It is this New York System,
Sir, that I dread. The People of Vermont would have joined the
British Army had we not been unsuccessfull to the Southward in
1781—all the dispatches in your office prove this fact—No such
[sic] hopes

Idea was ever entertained in our most sanguine <Ideas> of N York.
[sic] th

In one of L^d Dorchester's <late> dispatches Jan^y <1791> Jan^r 17th
[sic] states that he wrote to an Officer
1791. He <says> on some claims of Jurisdiction on the Fron-
tier "I cannot help doubting the Authenticity of his Information, be-
ing perswaded the state of *Vermont* as well as the United States has
too much good sense to begin a War with Great Britain." This Sir
[sic] the [sic] <who penetrated Vermont on purpose to>
is first instance since the Capture of Gen Burgoynes Army in
which *Vermont* is mentioned in any other [sic] than friendly terms;
& I trace in my Ideas

Smith [sic] interpolation & System—In the dispatch 12th feb ²
1791. L^d Dorchester says There is no Canada Line that was totally
destroyed in the years seventy & seventy six—there is no frontier—
this is apparent to all—if this doctrine be applicable, that there is no
Canada Line because there is no visible boundary, that the Line
of Latitude is insufficient to what inferences may it not lead! & par-
ticularly, Sir, as in your Office, there are documents which prove
that in no part of the British dominions has so much Care been taken
to form a line of demarcation as between Canada & the ancient

Colonies of G Britain When I add to These that Mr Levi Allen
 [sic] abt Lands
 informed me that there was a dispute between Colonel Cold-
 well; & his Brother the uniform steady & political friend of G Britain,
 [sic] here [sic] System
 I cannot but conceive that I descry that same treason
 which originally lost us Vermont, & fail'd in its promise of N. York.
 but Sir I am seriously alarmed, when I am to add to this, that
 [sic] send home plans
 L'Dorchester <recommends> [sic] the repairing of the Old & Estab-
 [sic] because Sir they are
 lishing of New posts on this very frontier! <because, Sir> In case of
 unnecessary if we preserve the state of peace
 War, I affirm they will be as they were heretofore insufficient! &
 as I believe That the [sic] <trifling> expence of repairing the most
 Trifling of them, laid out two years ago, would have saved Vermont
 all
 from [sic] <her unpending or [sic] finished> Connection with Con-
 gress, so I firmly believe that half the sum necessary to build a new
 one would form in that Country a Party sufficient to recover that
 [sic] it appears as if
 interest which <I canot but consider that> we had purposely
 abandoned—/

I am at this point

In stating [sic] these Ideas, [sic] <I have,> Sir, to submit to your
 [sic] decision <my> [sic] that [sic] now again in
 consideration & <whether> if any difficulties <exist between> dispute
 between Ira Allen & Caldwell, under the pretext of settling them,
 whether
 or its reality I might not be directed by Gov Clarke to visit the
 frontier, to meet the Allens & Chittenden to enter into such explana-
 [sic] may induce them
 tion with them, as <in any case,> to support a British Interest in Ver-
 [sic] should be
 mont. If They <are> united to Congress [sic] to direct this Inter-
 [sic] benefit
 est to instruct their Representative to our mutual <Interest.> if they
 shall delay & not have absolutely joined the United States to confirm
 them in their Independency—You will find, Sir, that Gen^l Haldi-
 mand [sic] reports state “that the avowed Language of the Ver-
 montese is We must have The S^t Lawrence open to us as Allies or

foes—& it is the same principle that now actuates the encreasing Colonies on the Waters which flow into the Mississippi. It is the same principle that will actuate all those Settlers who are now crowding to the Banks of the St Lawrence to settle the five millions of Acres which the Province of New York has lately sold to American Speculators.

It is therefore Sir that I urge Alliance with Vermont; & if that be impracticable, to nourish & encrease our Interest in that Country that in the hour of approaching difficulty we may embarrass the Enemy whom we have fatally lost the opportunity of disabling from

[sic] doing us the power of injury—It is on this principle that [sic] <I see [sic] consequent to [sic] having my> general Idea of my duty to my Country represent- [sic] ed

<ing> the necessity of an episcopal Establishment, I aimed to connect with it, the bestowing of the Office of Bishop, & the subordi-

[sic] Loyal [sic] to reunite the old nate benefices on Men taken from Connecticut Parish (the parent of Vermont) & The powerful & ambitious claimant of vast territories which would not militate against our Canadian Prospects that we might form a [sic] <powerful> & increasing Union

[sic] possibility which might prevent all <prospects> of War, from The Southern [sic] offer to you & L'Grenille

States of America—& I still hope, Sir, that in my <Choice> of Mr Peters for this Office, you will believe me to be actuated by worthy motives, & as such, upon due enquiry, ultimately accede to my recommendation—

I should be glad to receive your Instructions to Gen^l Clarke if you think my Ideas of any consequence, should upon the spot, matters appear to That Officer & to myself of the importance that at this distance I consider them to be—

The dissection of the Canadians is also apparent in The reports which L'Dorchester has transmitted relative to his calling out the Militia, to these, must be added, that Our withholding the Six Nations [sic] as stated by Brant

from joining in that General Indian Confederacy which [sic] & perfidy [sic] teach American Avarice has occasioned, must certainly [sic] <occa-

sion> these Tribes of Indians, who solely preserved Canada, as Gen^l Haldimand [*illegible*] in the late war, to consider G Britain with a suspicious if not a hostile Eye. From these Circumstances, I must beg to press upon you, the necessity, at least in the formation of The Government, of establishing a British Reg^t in Upper Canada, un-
[*sic*] <as early> [*sic*] in the connected with the Garrisons, & to be in that Country as early as coming spring together with the new corps [*sic*] materially possible—I do not presume that such a force can <in the least> add to the expences of Government, but I am sure that the appearance
[*sic*] greater of it in that Country will have a tend^y to prevent War, than its being stationed in any other position whatsoever

I have the honor to be with the utmost Respect

Yr most obliged

& most Ob^b Ser

J. G. S.

Draft in
Simcoe's hand

Endorsed Mr Dundas
Confidential

— — —

⁴⁹Confidential
to Mr Dundas
England 1791. [*sic*]

49. In pencil in original.

