

Adam Stephen to George Washington, December 23, 1755, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COLONEL ADAM STEPHEN.

FORT CUMBERLAND Decr. 23d. 1755

DR SIR

Such a Spirit of Revenge an Indignation prevaild here, upon hearing you were insulted at the Fairfax Election, that we all were ready and violent to run and tear Your Enemies to pieces. As I imagine myself interested in all that Concerns you, I cannot forbear telling you that it would have been far better to have acquainted me with your Intention of Standing Candidate for Frederick, my acquaintance there is very general, and I would touchd on the tender part So gently, that with a Weeks Notice, I am perfectly Sure you would have gone Unanimously, in the mean time I think your Poll was not despicable, as the people were a stranger to your purpose, Untill the Election began.

It is certain there was no declaration of War Octr. 10th. tho' this is Second hand News to you. The Blood & Burning of the Back inhabitants has Effectually rous'd the Pennsylvanians. —

The Commissioners for disposing of the £60,000, and transacting Military affairs, Sit every day Sundays not excepted to Expedite measures for their defence. I was mistaken in my last when I mentioned general Shirley at Lake George, it was at Albany.

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A proposal is on the Carpet, but kept very Secret, that The Jersey & Pennsylvania Troops join ours, and make an Attempt at the Ohio very Early in the Spring.

No accounts from Genl. Johnson latly, the Boston people complain of his Inactivity; as he on the Spot was not the best Judge of what might be done.

By the last Accounts, it was reported in London that the French Gt had made New Overtures of an Accommodation, promising to Relinquish all their Encroachments on the Ohio & Elsewhere, but that our Ministry insisted further that the Marine of both Nations remain on their present footing, without any Augmentation, and that the French should deliver into their Cussody, a Certain Number of their Capital Ships as a Security for their performance of Conventions; But it seems the French Ambassador to this pleaded non Sum Informatus.

They divide the French Federals in the most Convenient manner they Can among the Townships to the northward.

I am well pleasd with the Notion of Hostages—to Judge of their Behaviour from their perfidious Conduct with respect to the Neutral Islands; we have all the reason in the World to believe we would be Cut to pieces when we went to take possession of F Du Quesne or then perhaps be Obligd to Return with our fingers in our Cheeks for This they Could easily blame the Indians.

Mr. Polson has got a Commission in one of the Regiments My Brother lies Sick at New-York and is uncertain whether he is provided for, or Not, It would be a great additions to former favours to keep Mr. Polsons Commission Vacant, untill I hear further from him.

Mr. Calder has bought Ensign Dagworthy's Commission at £200 St and Dagworthy has bought Lt Morgans at £300 St 10 Officers were sent over for the Regiments from home. —

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It is certain G^l. Shirley has orders to Raise two New Regiments I should be glad to know if any Troops &c were esputed in Virginia from England, and the Authority. I am with due Respects,

Sr. Your most Obt. hube Servr. ADAM STEPHEN

I wish you the Complimts. of the Season!

Last night Mr. Campbell¹ Returned from Recruiting on the Branch—without the least Success, and informs me ten of Ashbys men went off Bodily, and told him of it before. As I have reason to believe it is a Scheme to go home & keep the Holly-days—I have sent Majr. Livingston to Examine into the Affair.—Capt. Ashby asked Leave for a good many of them; and for himself, when I was there. —

¹ Deputy Adjutant to Washington.