

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, January 26, 1757, fragment missing, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.**

WILLIAMSBURG Jany. 26th. 1757

SIR

Yrs. of the 12th: I recd:<sup>1</sup>—I am very sorry for the Mutiny You mention on the So. Branch, & I greatly approve the Steps You took to stop it; I hope the six Deserters have been apprehended & punish'd;—the Persons under Sentence of Death, I hear some of them are Serjeants & Corporals, it's a most aragant Affair in them to promote & countenance Mutiny for which they deserve the Sentence pass'd on them; however take proper Methods to make them sensible of their atrocious Crime; I desire You may pardon them, but some of them for Example shou'd be reduced & put into the Ranks, & others appointed in their room, but this is left to You.

As Your People are enlist'd with the Money rais'd for His Mty's Service, paid with the same, & incorporated into a Regmt in his Pay, I conceive they are subject to the Articles of War, & every other Regulation as His Mys more immediate Regular Forces, in this Opinion the Attoy. Genl. agrees with me.

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Mr. Walker has broke his Promise to me, but never intimated any ill Usage from You, I cou'd not imagine his Reasons & only suggested that he might have some Hindrance or Disappointmt. in discharge of his Duty; I expect him in Town when shall talk with him fully on the Affair;—he sent me an Acct. of 690 Anual Charges attending his Duty, besides his own Pay which wou'd be a monstrous Charge on the Country; I therefore intend to put the Victualg. in another Channel when the Assembly meets, at present I cannot see any Inconveniency, as Provisions are contracted for to supply You for some Months, which Mr. Walker says were by his Orders to Mr. Rutherford.

As Capt. McNeill is at Winchester it will be too long to wait his coming here to go with the Catabaws;—they are an [mutilated]<sup>2</sup> sett of People; I think You was wrong in giving them all Horses. I fear it will be expected by others, I am much plagued & troubled to please them.

Mr. Mercer tells me he has engag'd a number of Servants;—I wrote You to engage no more till I knew where to get Money to pay them; there is none to be had from the Treasury; however if he can put off the Paying for them till April I hope then to supply him for those he has enlisted, I desire him to purchase no more.

I am sorry that Gentr. cou'd not understand Yr. Directions in regard to the Ambrozures & I [mutilated] no doubt You made a Draught of the Works for his Conduct. —

You have acted properly in evacuating no more Forts than were necessary to reinforce the two Garrisons.—I have the Return of your Strength which shall transmit to Lord Loudoun —Great Clamours here against the many Officers in Commission to comd. so few Men, & I dare say Lord Loudoun will take Notice of it—I wish You had a better supply of Tools.

Yr. Letter of the 14th: I shall answer by Jenkins who I detain till my Express arrives from my Lord I expect him daily as he left N. York the 9th: of this Month, I shall then be more able to write You, in the mean Time I remain

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Sir Your hble Servant ROBT. DINWIDDIE

Capt. Pearis says You have order'd his Men to be continued in Pay—I wrote Majr. Lewis to send them to You to be incorporated into the Regmt.—I know no Service they [mutilated] at prest.—but it seems [mutilated] naked they cd. not march —

1 See Ford's Writings of Washington, vol. i. p. 411.

2 It has been suggested to the Editor to supply these mutilated portions of Governor Dinwiddie's letters from the printed Dinwiddie Papers. The object of this edition, however, is to print the originals as they now exist in the Washington Collection; comparisons may be readily made.