

John Stanwix to George Washington, September 19, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COLONEL STANWIX.

CAMP NEAR CARLISLE Sepr. 19th. 1757.

DEAR SIR

I am to own the Favour of your letter by Lieut. Campbell. wish he may meet with the Deserters he is in pursuit of, this is a crime grown to so enormous a height on this Continent it will require some adequate remedie from the Commandr. in Chief and fear it will require so severe a one as to make it necessary to put to death every deserter we take. I have lost near fifty of the best men of the five Comps. of the First Battalion, retook twelve and a week ago hang'd four, and am sure it would have been right and for the good of the Service to have hanged the other eight which I pardon'd against my judgment. Lord Loudoun is return'd to N. York with ten Battalions and presume by this time that he is with them gone up to Albany & 'tis said proposes to take post at the ruin'd Fort Willm. Henry and to rebuild the same if time for it, but this [is] conjectural,¹ 'tis talk that eighteen French Ships of the Line [are] in Lewisbourg and that this and the river St. Laurance &c will guard it that most peoples hopes are over for the present from the North. no body believes the Story of the Duke of Cumberland's defeat, some smal Skirmish only with part of a rear guard of no consequence²—one of the ten Battalions return with Lord Loudoun comes here the second of the Royal American's, seven Companys join me, two go's to Reading at Governor Dennys request, half a Company stay's to recruit and Guard our Magazeen

Library of Congress

at Lancaster the Other half to York Town to recruit the Strength of the Companys I don't know yet but believe they'r far from Complete, I beg you will believe that I am with truth

Dr Sir Your most obedt. humble Servt. JOHN STANWIX

1 "My Lord Loudoun has returned to New York, with ten regiments, prevented in his expedition by the arrival of a superior force of twenty-three sail of the line and 15,000 land forces at Louisbourg. His lordship is honest, brave, and wise, and yet there is no character so sacred which envy and malignant obloquy will not attempt, no merit so great which ill-nature will not sacrifice."—Captain Thomas Lloyd to Major James Burd, September 4, 1757.

2 The rumor that the Duke of Cumberland was slain, and his army in Flanders routed.