

**John St. Clair to George Washington, April 20, 1758,
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FROM COLONEL SIR JOHN ST. CLAIR.

PHILADA. April 20. 1758.

DEAR SIR,—I received your agreeable letter of the 12th. by the return of the Express sent to Winchester; it is very acceptable news to General Forbes, Major Halkett and myself to hear you was so well as to be able to make the campaign with us.¹

This letter goes by one Riker: I have not time to write to you so fully as I could choose; but Mr. Rutherford is here; I shall write to you more fully as he sets out in a day or two.

Be so good as to tell Mr. Gist that I rec'd. his letter last night, and have received orders from Genl. Forbes to provide every thing the Indians may want. I have sent to Winchester about 60 Fuzees wt. 100 match coats, and am now about collecting 300 arms more with other Indian goods; all which shall be sent from hence as soon as possible. The arms are good.

The bearer is in a great hurry to be gone so that I must conclude with saying that I am, Dr. Sir, Yr. most obedt.

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JOHN ST. CLAIR ²

1 Washington felt “a degree of satisfaction,” as he expressed himself to Major Halket, upon the prospect of again meeting his old companions in arms. And he was happy to find also, writes Sparks, that his early and constant wishes were at last to be realized by a combined expedition to the Ohio. New energy had been recently infused in the British councils by Pitt's accession to the ministry. That statesman, continues the same historian, always guided by an enlarged policy, always friendly to the colonies, resolved on a vigorous prosecution of the war in America. One of his first acts was a plan for the campaign of 1758, in which offensive operations were to be pursued throughout the frontiers. Colonel John Forbes, who had been Lord Loudoun's adjutant, was commissioned a brigadier-general and appointed to succeed him. He was directed to undertake a new expedition against Fort Duquesne. Washington, in a letter of March 10, 1758 [Ford's Writings of Washington, vol. ii. p. 6], had asked to be recommended to General Forbes in favorable terms, “not as a person, who would depend upon him for further recommendations to military preferment, for I have long conquered all such inclinations (and serve this campaign merely for the purpose of affording my best endeavors to bring matters to a conclusion), but as a person who would gladly be distinguished in some measure from the common run of provincial officers, as I understand there will be a motley herd of us.”

2 Sir John St. Clair was quartermaster-general of the combined army.