

**William Ramsay to George Washington, August 19,
1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM WILLIAM RAMSAY, ESQ.

CAMP NEAR RAYS TOWN Augt. 19th. 1758

DR. SIR Your requests obliges me. I hope they are intended to do justice to our injur'd Colony, this I have long wish'd for; We have bled freely, yet are made hewers of Wood & drawers of Water —

Colo. Bouquet is gon this day to view the road up the Mountain. The Genl. is expected on Tuesday. 'Tis generally tho't, L Hannin will be the ne plus Ultra of our Operations this Campaign. I shall endeavor to inform myself speedily of the several things you mention, tho; many may be very accurately got from the Philadela Gazette, this I shall take pleasure in & always of Obliging you. The restoration of your health and its continuance, will be among my chief felicitys. My next will give you what facts I can collect & the whole I hope when I have the pleasure of seeing you —

'till then farewell & trust me I am

Dr. Sir Your Affe. & Obliged H Servt. WM.. RAMSAY turn over

20th.

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The Colo. return'd last Night, the road clear'd to the Top of the Mountain & said to be much better than representd. a Letter now in Camp from a Gentn. of Credit. in Lancaster says, we may rest assured, Louisburg was in our possession the 1st Inst. of this I wish you joy¹

I am as before Yrs &c WM.. RAMSAY

¹ "The taking of Louisbourg [July 27, 1758] was an event the most desired by all our colonies; that harbour had always been a receptacle convenient to the enemies privateers, who infested the English trade in North America. It was the most effectual blow which France had received from the commencement of the war. By the taking of Louisbourg, the last the only place from whence she could carry on the cod-fishery; and the only place she had in a convenient situation for the reinforcements that were sent to support the war in the other parts of America; and with Louisbourg fell the island of St. John's and whatever other inferior stations they had for carrying on the fishery towards Gasperie and the bay De Chaleurs, which our ships soon after this event entirely destroyed. It is incredible how much this success in America, joined to the spirit of our other measures, operated to raise our military reputation in Europe, and to sink that of France, and consequently how much it influenced our most essential interests, and those of our allies." — Annual Register, 1758. "The fall of the French stronghold," says Parkman, "was hailed in England with noisy rapture. Addresses of congratulation to the king poured in from all the cities of the kingdom, and the captured flags were hung in St. Paul's amid the roar of cannon and the shouts of the populace. The provinces shared these rejoicings. Sermons of thanksgiving resounded from New England pulpits. At Newport there were fireworks and illuminations. ... At Philadelphia a like display was seen, with music and universal ringing of bells. At Boston 'a stately bonfire like a pyramid was kindled on the top of Fort Hill which made a lofty and prodigious blaze,' though here certain zealous patriots protested against celebrating a victory won by British regulars and not by New England men. At New York there was a grand official dinner at the Province Arms in Broadway, where every loyal toast was echoed by the cannon of Fort George; and illuminations and fireworks closed the day." — Parkman's Montcalm and Wolfe, vol. ii. p. 52.