

Letter Bk. I. his Arrival ever since the 8th Inst. & am desired by a Lett^r which a few Days ago I received from him to continue here till the 2^d of Dec^r when he hopes to have dispatched the Business of the greatest Consequence which he says has inevitably detained him at Albany so long beyond his Intention & Appointment. finding an Attempt on either of the French-Forts on Lake Ontario this year impracticable on Account of the Season's being so far advanced before a sufficient quantity of

p. 177 Provisions & other Necessaries could be got to Oswego, & by reason the French Garrisons both at Cataracui & Niagara were found to be very strong. The General has employed his Troops in strengthening Oswego with other Works & left for the Defence thereof this Winter about 900 Men of his own & S^r W^m Pepperels Regiments under the Command of Lieut^t Col^o Mercer We have at present on the Lake a Sloop & Schooner that carry 6 Carriage & 20 Swivel Guns each but as the French are building Vessels of greater Force at Cataracui to dispute the Navigation of the Lake with us next Summer it is said General Shirley will order some Vessels of more than 100 Ton Burthen to be set on the Stocks immediately & a great Number of Whale Boats to be built this Winter as they are found more proper for the Navigation of the Lake than Battoes or any other small Craft. General Johnson is building a Fort at the place where he was Encamped when the French attacked him the 8th Sept^r it is about 40 Miles on this side Crown Point on an Arm of Lake George & 70 miles from Albany. twas reported that the two British Regiments would relieve the Provincials & garrison the Fort on Lake George this winter but tis now said that a sufficient Number of General Johnson's own Troops will be left there & that the Regiments will take up their Winter Quarters at Albany where Barracks are building for their Reception. I am told the General finds himself impowered & is come to a Resolution to raise two more Regiments in these Colonies, as it is very likely His Majesty has not yet appointed any Colonels to such Regiments

p. 178 & as one of them will probably be ordered to Maryland & Virginia I flatter myself from your Ldp's Kindness last Year in permitting me to accept the Command of such Troops as should then have been raised & to be absent from Your Ldp's Gov^t for a While if His Majesty's Service should so require, that your Ldp will not be averse to my Friends making Application on this Occasion in my favour & if Your Ldp approves of such Request I will presume to hope that I shall not want your Ldps kind Offices to procure me one of the Regiments that are now to be raised. As I desired M^r Tasker to send me an Express Messenger to advise me if any thing extraordinary should happen in your Ldp's Province during my