

[S^t Clair to Sharpe.]

Original.

Albany April the 28th 1756.

Sir

I have just now received your Excellencys Letter of the 6th for which I return you my most hearty thanks, I shall do every thing in my power to obey your Commands in serving M^r Makay but my Interest and Influence with our Commanding Gen^l diminishes daily; in so much that I am the only person in the Army who has nothing to do. I have requested of His Excellency (seeing he has no use for me) to order me home, but that cannot be granted.

I assure you that no trouble or pains shou'd be wanting to give you an account of our situation: All I can say that our Affairs to me have an Evil Aspect, and in place of anoying the Enemy, I wish we may be able to hinder them from anoying us. It is impossible for me to relate facts to you as they are differently reported from the same people, so that what I see I can write but nothing else. I am not even able to tell you the strength of the two American Regiments nor to guess at thier numbers within one thousand. The 2 British Battallions want about 400 of which they may receive 100 in Recruits in a few Days. The Independent Companys have got about half way up to their Establishment. As to our taking the field that must intirely depend on the Military Knowledge and activity of Lieu^t Colonel Bradstreet, he has got the direction of the whole, by a Special Commission and ample Instructions. I wish he may not lead us astray he and Gen^l Shirley I suppose understand one another, I understand neither.

A Detach^t of 70 Men march to morrow from hence to fort William Henry, the Garrison of that fort and fort Edward are in great distress, but when they are relieved they may give it out that their Distress was not real.

I give you Joy with all my heart of your Command, you have it in your power of gaining more Honour by defending your Province, than the ablest General can have in our parts, in acting against the Common Enemy. I am not able to comply with your Request with regard to M^cKellar I shall write to him about it, he is gone towards Oswego but I have not heard of him since the latter End of last Month.

M^cClean the Commissary of Fort Cumberland who arrived here two Days ago tells me that he delivered over to Com^y Walker 12 Dozⁿ of Wine & 4 Casks of Rum of Col^o Innes. As all that Rum & wine was originaly yours I know no one has a better right to it than you have I cannot say that it all belongs to me, but I may venture to make you sure you will be welcome to it tho' part of it may belong to James Innes