

Loudoun, or to the Commander in chief of his Majesty's Forces for the time being, an exact and particular Account thereof, with respect to the Colony under your Government, in which you are to express the present actual State and Quantity of the Cannon, small Arms, Ammunition and other Ordnance and military Stores, belonging to the said Colony, either in the public Magazines, or in the Possession of the Militia, or other private persons, together with the true State of all Places, either already fortified, or which you judge forthwith necessary to be fortified, with your opinion at large in what manner his Majesty may further contribute to the Security and Defence of the said Colony, and also as exact an Account as you can obtain, of what Number the Militia is composed, and how armed, mustered, and trained.

P.S. Your Letter of Oct: 8<sup>th</sup> has been received.

Yours most obedient humble servant  
H. M.

New York 23: July 1756.

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to appoint me, by his Commission under the great Seal, to be General and Commander in chief of all his Forces in <sup>North</sup> America: I take this first Opportunity to acquaint you of my Arrival this Morning; As I have been unfortunately so long detained in my Passage I find it indispensably necessary that I go up immediately to the Army, I must proceed accordingly. I herewith send your Honour the Letters of Mr. Fox his Majesty's Secretary of State, and of the Earl of Halifax his Majesty's first Lord Commissioner of the Board of Trade: I do from your Zeal and Attachment to his Majesty's Service, and from the Loyalty and good Dispositions of your People, depend upon all Assistance that the State Circumstances of your Province is able to give me.

I will beg your Honour to assure the good People of your Province, that they may depend upon my Protection, and my utmost Care to avoid and remove, as far as the Circumstances of a Country become the Seat of War will admit, every thing that may any way burthen, or hurt the Interest of any Individual.

I shall on all Occasions, and in every thing relative to the Service and Interest of the Colonies communicate with your Honour, and beg at all times to be favoured from you with all Matters of Advice and Intelligence relative to the same, and shall impatiently expect the Returns you are directed