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A
L E T T E R

FROM
QUEBECK, in CANADA,

T O
M. L'MAINE, A FRENCH OFFICER.

Which contains a particular ACCOUNT of the present designs of the *French* upon the *English* in *North-America*; what force the *French* have collected, their several divisions, and the places destin'd for each. Likewise an Account of the defenceless condition of the *English* provinces and colonies, and the method made use of by the *French* to procure such intelligence.

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M.D.CC.LV.



Quebeck, February 6. 1753.

To Mons. *L' Maine.*

S I R,

THE day of my arrival at this place, I sent dispatches to all the commanding officers in New-France, to meet me within ten days at Montreal : I also immediately sent expressees to all the commanding officers at Mississippi, to muster with all expedition, the natives inlisted in his most Christian majesty's service, to join our troops from *France*, and proceed forthwith to Ohio, there to follow such directions as from time to time they shall receive from us at Canada : and according to time appointed, I met mons. Duverney at Montreal, with our other officers, at which interview, I received a most agreeable account from them, in favour of our royal master's interest, which gives us a glorious prospect of soon adding a kingdom unto our dread sovereign's dominions ; for by their account from north to south, they have inlisted into his majesty's service four or five thousand resolute young natives among the several tribes ; and those have been for some time disciplin'd, and well equipt with all necessaries. They also inform me, that our regulars from *France*, with the natives included, at Mississippi, amount to

near two thousand four hundred, who are to build many strong forts at Ohio and places adjacent, which in a little time we expect will prove impregnable against any force the *English* can raise in those parts. The cannon for said forts is already dispatched.

Our army at Canada, with our regulars included, will amount to near five thousand, which we determine to divide into three main bodies, one to be commanded by count Monterey, the second by monf. Boriel, and the third by monf. Estrides. Count Monterey to proceed to Crown-Point, and divide his squadron into parties on the back of Albany. The second division under monf. Boriel, on the back of Maryland and Pennsylvania; and the third under monf. Estrides, on the back of New-England; which are all to be divided into parties, as the commanding officers shall judge proper. We design only to send small parties of Indians into their back settlements, to bring us fresh supplies of provision, until we are properly fortified. Father Anthony, by an uncommon assiduity and influence, has gained over to our interest, a number of young men of the six nations, who by the *English* are look'd upon as our enemies; let that suspicion remain, and they may keep the old men and women.

" I must not omit to acquaint you, that our new governour is more and more zealous and resolute to be a principal instrument (with the united assistance of the houses of Bourbon) to subdue and extirpate Hereticks out of America. And such a glorious acquisition, will add a kingdom,

dom, which will prove superiour to *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and furnish stores of every kind for his most Christian and catholic majesty's navy; and provisions and other necessaries even to profusion, for the supply of their royal majesty's possessions in the west-indies.

Our young hero, the present governour of Canada, did not take this task upon him, of making a conquest of that part of North-America possess'd by the *English*, only from a motive which makes him ruler thereof, and because he has not a superiour title; but his present disposition animates him to be revenged on the *English* Heretics for the late indignities offer'd his illustrious person and royal predecessors; and is come into these parts, invested with the power and authority of church and state, and supported with money and other assistance, by his most Christian and catholic majesties, and has likewise received the supreme sanction and sovereign benediction of his holiness the Pope, to drive out of America pestilent Heretics, to make room for good Catholics. I have also the satisfaction of acquainting you, that the regiments raised in the Switz cantons some time past, which our governour brought over with him, are in high spirits, zealous to assist us against the *English*, and conceive an infinite satisfaction at our present prospect of possessing those fruitful lands now enjoy'd by the *English*.

I have lately had a conference with M'Laisn, an Irish Jesuit, of the order of St. Patrick, a politic ingenious man, who has been among the several tribes, influencing and inlisting the

natives into his most Christian majesty's service; he gives me a very succinct and satisfactory account of the several tribes of natives near Canada, that upon any emergent occasions, we may command what numbers we shall have occasion for. He gives me also a particular relation of the several provinces inhabited by the *English* on the sea coasts, and appears perfectly acquainted with their manners and customs. He informs me there are many of our hearty friends among them, with whom he has settled a correspondence by letters, by the way of Cape-Breton, and from thence to Quebec. The *English* (he says) are our good friends; that the measures we have concerted, could not be so effectually carried on, were it not that one hundred sail of their vessels yearly arrive at Cape-Breton, with provision and other necessaries from Philadelphia, New-York, Boston, Rhode-Island, &c. which, by a moderate computation, have brought this year 10,000 barrels of flour, 5000 barrels of pork and beef, 1500 tons of bread, and of butter, cheese, hogs, neat cattle, and poultreys, even to profusion; some of which is sent to our southern plantations, and the king's commissioners supply the magazines at Cape-Breton, and send large quantities to our army at Quebec, which elevates the spirits of our soldiers. We have also a good supply of powder by the way of Cape-Breton. M'Laish's sentiments of the *English* bordering on the sea-coast is satisfactory; they having little or no military discipline among them, no arms nor ammunition, neither do they know properly how to
 use

use them, except those Oliverian Heretics who took our Cape-Breton; these cast a damp on our undertakings; they have the same governor Shirley, who is an enterprising, resolute man; and when he, and the puritan ministers, say to the inhabitants, Go, fight for your religion and country, they rush like lions, and had rather die in battle, than submit to the dictates of our holy fathers, Jesuits, Friars, and Monks, and become members of our mother church. They retain the most martial spirit of any in North-America, and have a tincture of Oliver Cromwell's blood remaining; therefore for the present, we shall not erect any forts bordering near them. Should we attempt such a thing, even with ten thousand men, M' Laish is confident we should be prevented, and all our measures disconcerted, by the vigilance of those New-England Heretics; for if they could take Cape-Breton (which we imagin'd to be impregnable) what can we suppose they could not effect, when their indignation and resentment provokes them to oppose our encroachments on their territories? And they are sensible, that when once we become their masters, fire and gibbet will be their portion, if they do not fall down and worship the images we shall set up.

Our design is to get footing in the western provinces. Lord Baltimore was one of our mother church, and a good friend to king James; and in Maryland and Virginia, and those parts, there are many true Catholics that will not fight their brethren. M' Laish acquaints me, the inhabitants of Pennsylvania

are a meek peaceable people, who will neither furnish money, arms, nor ammunition, that if you will take their coat, they will give you their cloak also: these we shall indulge with many privileges, for their not opposing our measures, and quietly surrendering their lands, and submitting to the godly admonitions of our holy fathers.

M^r Laish likewise acquaints me, that from New-York westward, the inhabitants are not such bigots to religion, therefore may more easily be prevailed on to be of our holy religion. The rich traders in those parts, are not concerned at our erecting forts near them, from a view of private gain in the fur trade. And M^r Laish says, the *English* might have demolished Crown-Point, but many in Albany and New-York have receiv'd considerable advantages by our fur trade, by which, we have also been benefited, in receiving ammunition, &c. in exchange.

There is now a dispute between our grand monarch and the *English*, relating to the boundary line in the north, and what are call'd the Neutral Islands, in South-America; but his most Christian majesty is determin'd to decide the controversy very soon: he is now peopling the Neutral Islands, and what cannon will be requisite to fortify the same, is already at Martinico. From Canada and Mississippi we are to have a sufficient number of regular troops to join the natives, so soon as we are prepar'd to receive them, and those to be dispersed on the back of the *English*, between Crown-Point and Ohio. Our officers are directed

rected to send proper persons into the *English* provinces, to make a more perfect discovery of their strength and weakness: those are to deceive the *English* [which *French* Policy has frequently done!] by amusing them, with being deserters.

Our grand monarch's will and pleasure is, that we immediately build strong forts between Crown-Point and Ohio, sufficient to secure fifty thousand men, and so situated, that upon any extraordinary occasion, they may immediately unite and oppose the *English*, if they should attempt to oppose us; but, at present, they appear unconcern'd and secure: however, their numbers cannot terrify us, when they have no discipline or union. Had they as many as Mexico, before the conquest, could boast of, our regulars, headed by our hero, the present governour, would destroy as many thousands as Cortes did of the Mexicans.

I must, with secret pleasure to ourselves, tell you, Sir, that we are pitying, not envying the *English* who are peopling Nova-Scotia: in thus fatiguing themselves in clearing land, and expending considerable sums in building, &c. as his most Christian majesty's pleasure is, to prepare a large Squadron to deprive them of their labour and possessions: then will they cry out, "Who would have imagined this
" would have befallen us, when no more disturbance has been at home?" When this is effected, the *English* may undertake by remonstrances, to complain of a violation and infringement of Treaties. —

I need not inform you, Sir, of our well concerted plan, which is, to keep New-England, South-Carolina and Georgia fully engaged to defend their own territories, in order to prevent their assisting the intervening provinces, which will fall an easy prey, as their ports will be block'd up by our ships, and those of his Catholic majesty's, who have also a sufficient number to divert the *English* squadrons, and keep them at home; at which time, with our numerous Indian allies, we shall enter the *English* provinces of New-York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, &c. Our Indian allies eastward, are to attack the eastward settlements; and his Catholic majesty to transport a number of regulars from the Havanna, who are to attack Georgia and South-Carolina, which will be added to his other dominions of New-Spain; and his most Christian majesty to possess all the land from South-Carolina to Newfoundland.

I need not caution you, Sir, to conceal the contents of this letter, which you must be sensible should remain an entire secret, lest the *English* should discover the measures we have concerted: and while they are amusing themselves with idle disputes and debates, and one province contending, and promoting jealousies, and raising groundless suspicions of each other, without making any preparations for defence, let us unite as one body, as loyal subjects and good catholics, then shall we accomplish our glorious undertaking, and sing *Te Deum*, and celebrate mass in those places which

which have been long defil'd by the breath of
Heretics.

I remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

De Roche.

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By the Honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN, Esq;
One of his Majesty's Council, and Surveyor-Ge-
neral of *New-York*.

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