Copy of a Letter from
Sir H. Clinton 28th June 1781

No. 4

Enc.

New York 28th June 1781.

Dear Sir,

As Admiral Arbuthnot tells me he proposes to send a fast sailing Vessel immediately with Dispatches to Your Excellency, I embrace the same opportunity of writing to You, and enclosing the Duplicate of a Letter I had the honor to send You by Lieutenant Bushel lest the Original should have miscarried

Upon reading the enclosed Extracts from Letters belonging to a Rebel Mail, which we have intercepted, and of the Ministers Letter to me, You will I am persuaded concur with me in Opinion that Le Grasse may be expected on this Coast in the Hurricane Season (if not before)

His Excell.y Adm.l Sir George Brydges Rodney K.B with

with all the Sea and Land Force he can assemble; And as I have it from good Authority that Barras notwithstanding it was his first intention to escape to Boston, is stopped at Rhode Island by some Intelligence (as supposed) from Le Grasse I think there is little doubt the latter will go first thither and form a junction with his Squadron, after which it is probable they will proceed in their Operation against this Post.

Lord Cornwallis's Situation at different Periods, and the Hopes I was flattered with of the early Arrival of the promised Reinforcement to this part of the Army induced me to detach from hence more than I probably ought. However as his

Lordships

Lordships Operations in Chesapeak must now cease from the Inclemency of the Season, I have call'd back a Part of his Force, and have recommended it to him to occupy defensive Stations in York & James River untill the Season for Operation in that Climate should return.

From every Circumstance I am convinced that the Rebels and their Allies mean to make one great Effort to finish this Business by an Attempt against this Post And there is little doubt, that for such an Object under the circumstances they suppose it to be, they can raise a very considerable Number of Men, Washington's Army alone is already nearly 8000 and daily increasing; that of the French 5000

And

and 10,000 more are expected with Le Grasse,
(But should any thing like such a
Force accompany him, I am persuaded
General Vaughan will spare us all
he possibly can) As to the Militia he
knows as well as I do, that Numbers
will be not wanting for so favorite an
attempt, He also knows that the
Militia of these Northern States
(from Jersey to New Hampshire) are by
no means to be despised, whatever
those to the Southward may be.

Let me therefore hope
My Dear Sir George, that if Le Grasse
comes, or even detaches in Force (which
Authentick Intelligence from other
Quarters confirms he will) You will
come here if possible in person, as we
have all confidence in You. Should
Le Grasse come here, he will be
most

most probably encumbered with Transports, on the Contrary it is likely that such Reinforcement as General Vaughan may think proper to send me, will be embarked in Your Fleet, — a fortunate Junction of which with this Squadron may give Your Excellency a decided Superiority and an Opportunity of ending the Affair in that way most gloriously. But, should a Storm, or any unforeseen Circumstance prevent that, I am persuaded that our Combined Efforts will not only render all the Enemys Attempts abortive, but insure Success to such Operations as we may afterwards undertake together. The present Situation of our Country requires more than Common Exertions;

and

and You will ever find me ready to assist Yours to the utmost of my Power. In the firm Hope therefore of Your following Le Grasse, should he pay us a Visit or send a Force hither. I remain,

Your Excellency's
Most faithfull &
Obedient Servant

(Signed) H Clinton

Copy
Thos Hyde

P.S. Lieutenant Sparrow of the 35th Regt will have the honor of delivering this Dispatch to Your Excellency, As I have not had Time to get an other Set of the Intercepted Letters Copied, I beg You will communicate those Enclosed to General Vaughan —