

Gen Sir H. Clinton to A.R.H.

(? end of October 1792)

38751-2

In the letter which I had the honour to address to your Royal Highness some weeks since, I gave every information I was then possessed of, from what I had seen and heard while I was on the Continent, and I added a few conjectures of my own. Late events have proved how ill founded these last were. A strange Mystery has hung over Operations in Champagne from the 20th to the 29th Sept. far beyond my comprehension. The Mannheim, the once so strong respectable Fort, has been I understand dismantled. There are however many strong positions between the marshy branches of the Rhine, but tis scarcely possible that Dumourier could have occupied any one that would be deemed secure against such an Army as the King of Prussia's, so soon at least after the very memorable blight of the 14th Sept. With respect to the Force so much speculated upon, I do not see how his Prussian Majesty could expect any advantage from it, or from the delay it might occasion, whatever Dumourier might. All the supplies which H. Pr. had, when he advanced to the Position of Hans (which 4th Oct. will observe placed the two Armies on each other's Communications) were all he could expect, till he had dislodged Dumourier, & Rellermans from Domartre, or had moved himself to Rheims, and opened a new Communication with Grand Dix, and the Alliance by Rheims. Of bad weather, had was likely to brake up the Roads, &c.

(who certainly knew the soil he was entering upon) might naturally
suppose that might happen; and that bad weather, bad Roads
bad Food, and scarcity of forage must finally produce discontent
among his Troops, &c. There is no doubt a most unaccountable
Mystery in this whole business. May not this same Force
have been proposed on another account, the supposed Discontents
at Berlin, to get a pretext for Retreat; It has been insinuated probably
without the least foundation, that H. D. M. is trying to debauch Dupre
has been himself a little biased; and that he may vide towards
a Concession with these People, when they shall have taken a less
questionable shape, for as to weather, Roads, Gardens or insuffi-
ency of supply H. D. M. must have seen, and foreseen all these
before the last Grand Die; and passed the obit. The Showers
of his Retreat from Hans, to the Meuse; the imposing manner
in which that Retreat was made, (and which the Enemy gives credit
and credit for) and if true as reported that he has since given up the Meuse
and Verdun, &c.; all seems to give some suspicion that his Retreat
was not solely an act of necessity. The first attack bro't in too?
at the same time that it will cure all Complaints except Gennine;
will clear all doubts. If the R of D. goes then (or before) convenient
to work to reduce Binville, and Metz, or Landau and Strasburgh; or,
retaining Longwy (which perhaps is no want he can yet give up) he
shall detach to Brabant, and the Duke de Teschen shall then
recommence Operation, I shall be convinced that more necessity

Gen. Sir H. Clinton to A.P.H.

(P. end of October 1792)

38752
coming from adverse elements, and consequent Destitution and Famine;
has been the cause of the Retrograde, which has given a Respite to
Mobocracy; but if there has been no awkward Symptoms at Berlin,
and none of the above operations shall be in proper season take
place; it may be suspected that there will be a change of System in
Prussian Politics, (Altho' H. D. M. may still for a while keep longer.)
what that may be, or how affect this Kingdom by R. H. can
better judge than me be; If there have been mistakes in this
Campaign, I will venture to presume they are out of the V. of Brunswick
in my very humble Opinion, If the R. of P. had not thought it
necessary to act in Person, and to move for that purpose with
50,000 Austrians, 40,000 Prussians, 10,000 Hessians &
20,000 Saxon Troops, H. M. with (I had almost said one half
of that half that number, would probably have advanced to the
imposing position of Killiney St. George between the Marne &
Seine; while G. Clairfait remained at Chabons, or Rheims or
Rhetel in looks of apprehension, or de Ralliment, or if thought practicable
or expedient to take up in proper time the Position between
Charonville Vincennes & St. Denis; by which Positions Davis would
lose her Communications with the Marne and Seine, above & below
to necessary use are total for subsistence; and thus probably would
the fate of that Capital have been decided. Perhaps even now
Triumphant as Chance, or Accident, has made them, If no
Manifestos, or military movements against them take place

Very soon, ^{the gate} of that Capital, nay ^{of this Kingdom}, may
be decided within its walls. In my present Retrenchment I have
no Information in except from the Papers; but as y^r. H^{ty}
Commander me to write I have ventured as Lord Ebauche
I have the Honour to be in your Royal Highness
most Dutifull Serv^t.

J. Clinton

Genl. Clinton

1797