

Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, December 15, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.

WILLIAMSBURG Decr. 15th: 1756

SIR

Yours of the 9th: I have recd.—I am glad Ct. Mercer has brought back sixteen of the Deserters, upon Promise of Pardon, which I agree to on Your Recommendation; but I hope You will make them sensible of their Crime & that they are pardon'd on Your Solicitation

You recomend Messrs Carlyle & Ramsay to be Commissaries in the room of Mr. Walker, which I by no means approve of—the first resign'd when formerly appointed, & when most wanted; I do not incline to give him that Oppty again; the other I doubt not is a Gentleman of Capacity, but a Stranger to the Business, & not sufficiently acquainted with the People to make Purchases therefore not eligible.

Mr. Walker has a very good Character for Probity & Capacity, I have therefore order'd him to continue in his Office, & I expect You will give him Your Countenance & Advice; & supply him with the Money, sent up by Capt. Mercer, appropriated for the Purchase of Provisions;—I have order'd him to send Mr. Rutherford with You to Fort Cumberland, & he to remain at Winchester to do the Necessaries there; I therefore expect You will give him all the Assistance in Your Power; it wou'd be cruel to superceed him after he has made

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such large Contracts for supplying Your Regiment, & at this Time of the Year to leave it to those not so well acquainted with the Business.

The villainous Actions of Mc.Carty really surprize me, & I shall take Care to make him repent of it. I really pity the poor Men this cold Weather for want of their Cloathes, they are daily expected & will be sent up as soon as they arrive.

It is reported here that Lord Loudoun may be expected in a Month, when he arrives I shall give You notice of it¹—Having nothing to add to my former Orders I remain

Sir Your most hble Servant ROBT. DINWIDDIE

¹ Lord Loudoun was then in New York. Washington had resolved to await his arrival in Virginia, and to lay before him a general exposition of the state of affairs, and if possible to have the Virginia troops put on the regular establishment under the direction of his lordship, as the only mode by which the command of them could be useful to his country, or honorable to himself.—SPARKS.