

Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, January 22, 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 Janry 22d: 1756

SIR

Your two Letters of the 13th: and 14th: I shall answer Paragraphically. The Expedition against the Shawnesse I hope will be attended with Success, as two Women, who were taken Prisoners, made their Escape mention their being in their Towns & did not hear of their intention of moving.

You have done very right in ordering the Men to be train'd in the Indian Method of fighting; but I can give You no express Commands in regard to taking the Field; but during Your absence order them to be employ'd in any Thing that may be necessary to keep them from Idleness. I approve of the Forts You have built, as it encourage the People to return to their Plantations, & will be a Protection to them.

I expect the Govr. of Pennsylvania will send me a Plan of Operations for next Year for my Approbation; & on Your return from General Shirley call on him & desire a Letter to me, I wrote him lately & cannot now write him; therefore Nothing can be determin'd on till Your return. I agree with You, we cannot expect Horses, Waggon &c. till the old Score is paid; I wrote pressingly to Genl. Shirley on that Head, but as yet no Answer; if he shou'd give

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his Orders there is Money here. sufficient to pay them all, but as yet I am not furnish'd with their Demds which they shou'd choose a proper Person to sollicit the Affair for them.

I enclose You a Commission for calling a General Court Martial drawn up by the Atto. Genl. agreeable to the Act of Assembly, which You are to fill up the Blanks. As for Cloathing, You shou'd apply to the Committee, for You know I don't touch their Money; but I expected You wou'd have furnish'd me with an Accot. of the Cloathing issued to the Men by You & Colo. Fairfax, that was at Maj Carlyle's &c that I may be paid for them, & I doubt not You make the proper Stoppages on this Acct.—pray send me a particular Acct. of the Cloathing.

I think Provisions for 1000 Men for one Year is sufficient; & You did well to turn out those Beeves not fit for Slaughter to grazing, which may be of great use next Summer. I agree to Your appointing Mr. Dennis Mc.Carty in the room of Mr. Polson; & I shall be glad the Vacancies that may happen be fill'd up from the Volunteers, giving me previous Notice thereof for my Approbation.

I doubt not Capt. Hogg will comply with Your Orders to account for the Money he has received. Capt. Stewart's purchasing his Horses &c must also remain till You return. I am fully of Opinion, & hereby order Ensign De Keiser ¹ be dismissed the Service; at the same time I expect You will give Orders to discourage Gaming, as it viciates the Mind & occasions Excesses & Quarrels.

It was a great Neglect of Mr. Prentis not to send You the Particulars shipt in the Sloop, I have now order'd him to furnish You therewith.

Yours of the 15th. gives me a good deal of Concern. It is very just that the Maryland & No. Carolina Forces, shou'd furnish their own Provisions, or a particular Accot. kept of the Supplies given them to make a proper Charge to Each Colony—tho' Capt. Dagworthy very unjustly says they have all an equal right as it's in the King's Garrison, tho' purchas'd by

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this Colony—That Fort was built by His Majesty's Money & this Country's; & as a King's Garrison it is not to be esteem'd the Property of the Proprietor of Maryland, as His Majesty has an undoubted Right to build Forts in any of the Colonies, & I order'd it to be built by his Commands. Genl. Braddock appointed Colo. Innes to be Governor, & when he left he directed Colo. Stephens to Command till his return; how Colo. Stephens came to give the Command to Capt. Dagworthy I know not; but this Step is the Origin of the great Dispute subsisting; & I cannot help blaming Stephens for tamely giving up the Command given him by Colo. Innes, which he assured me, when here, was the Case.

As to his detaining our Provisions till he sees proper to deliver them is inconsistent with Reason & Justice; as we are at the Charge of a Commissary to take care of them, & the Fort I judg'd the safest Place to keep them; which You must represent in the strongest Terms when You go to General Shirley—His Answer to my Letter was, that he left the Accomodation of that Affair to Govr. Sharpe; which is what I cou'd not have expected, as I applied to him as Comdr In Chief of the Forces, & he knew the Attachment that Mr. Sharpe had to Capt. Dagworthy; it was giving the Power out of his own Hands, & no Doubt the Govr. press'd this Method of adjusting it. which I do not take kind of Mr. Sharpe.

I agree to Your going to Genl. Shirley; You may present the Memo from the Officers to him, which I have recommended, but I fear Success, because His Majesty sends over Officers to the different Regiments to be rais'd; but You will know his Sentiments thereon—However I again repeat my desire to him, to grant You & the two Field Officers Brevate Commissions to put an End to [obliterated] Dispute; how far he may have Power to put Your Reg [obliterated] Establishmt I know not—but I have earnestly applied for blank Commissions from Home, I wish I may succeed. You have my Letter to the General with a Detail of the whole Affair, but You will be able to represent it more fully when You come to converse with him.

I cannot see Capt. Dagworthy can deduce any right on his former Comission from the King, as that was cancell'd by his receiving a sum of Money in lieu of half-Pay; & that he

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now Command a very small Company of Provincials, himself, & them paid by the Governmt of Maryland—His Majesty's Comission takes place of any Governor's Comission when the Regulars are join'd with the Provincials; but this is not the Case in this Dispute, which You must urge to the General.

I have lately wrote to all the Governors & now I have no Time, or have I any Thing now to write them—Deliver my Letter to the General with Your own Hand, & I hope he will comply with my Request. In Your return see Govr. Morris & make Yourself Master of what Plan that Gent. proposes for next Campaign, which will in some measure make me able to concert a proper Plan for our Forces. You know Dispatch is absolutely necessary. I wish You an agreeable Journey & a safe return.

I remain Sir Your most hble Servt. ROBT. DINWIDDIE. P.S. I think it will be proper You do not divulge Your Intents. in ye. Journey as You pass thro' the different Governmts. P.S. You did very right to threaten the Officers for not compleatg. their Campa. agreeable to their Promise when Comission'd let them know I am greatly uneasy at their Deficiency on their Engagemts & now expect by Yr. Return they will have each Company compleat.

The Skipper of the Sloop must be sent down Prisoner to be tried for the breach of Trust & the Robbery he has committed in stealing some of the Goods sent up—apply to the Magistrate to send him to the Prison here under a proper Guard.

ROBT. DINWIDDIE.

The followg. is Wt. I wrote to G. Shirley yt. You may be govern'd thereby in Yr. Applicatn. to him —

Gr. Sharpe has not answerd. Yr. Ex's. Intents in removg. the Dispute between Co. W. & Ct. D. he has orderd. him to keep the Comd. of the Ft. wch he does in an absolute Manner. We have purchas'd & laid in Proviss. for 1000 for one Year; as the Ft. was the most safe Place they were deposit'd there, & a Comissary appointed at the Charge of

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ye Cotry he will not allow him to discharge his Duty, but refuses any of the Proviss. to be touch'd but by his Orders; & tho' the Proviss. are supplied by ye Cotry he insists on a Right to supply his own Men from our Magazine tho' Myld pays no part of the Charge—he otherways acts in an arbitrary manner, & insists on his Rank—superior to any of our Offs. & he has not above 30 Men Wn Co. W. has upwds of 500. This Ft. was built by Virtue of H My's Instructs. to me, & by my Orders to Co. Innes Yr. in the Pay of ye. Govt. & Wth. a great Charge to ye. Cotry; 'tis true it happens to be in Myld but I presume H My has a Right to build a Ft. where he pleases in any of H Colonies—& the Guns mounted are Guns sent by H My for the Ser. of Virga. it cannot reasonably be suggested yt. H. M. intended 'em for the Proprietor of Myld—G. B—d—k gave a Como to Co. Innes to be Gr. of the Ft. his private Affairs call'd. him to his Estate in No. Caro. he appointed Lt. Co. Stephen to Comd. in his Absence—Ct. D. with his pretended Rank wrested the Comd. from him witth. any Rule but his Como. of Ct. in the Canada Expedtn, tho' not on the half pay List, but recd. a Sum of Mo. in lieu, by his acceptg yt. Mo. I am of Opinion be revok'd the Como.—This Asr.² makes much Noise here yt. I thot. it necessary to send Co. W. to You who can be more particular—If I was to call the Assembly now I know Yr. Asr. has rais'd the rancour of the People so much yt. they Wd. go into Extremes of resentmt. & do no Business for the Sercc.—I am sorry I have occasion to be so long on Yr. Asr. but as it makes much noise here, witth. You interpose Yr. Autho. I do not know Wt. will be the Consequence—As formerly I desire the Favo. of a Brevate Como. to Co. W. & the other two Fd. Offrs & Yt. You Wd. please reinstate Co. Stephens to the Comd. of the Ft. till Gr. Innes retrs—As Comdr in Chief of the Forces yt. is in Yr. Power only & witth. some Regulatn in regd. to ye. unhappy Dispute I shall not be able to do any Thg. with our Assemy. And really Myld has behav'd so very tardy in regd. to the Expedtn yt. they have no Claim to any Favrs I must refer You to Co. W. for any further Particulars. I forgot to mentn. yt. Ft. Cum. being a King's Ft. I cannot see the Propriets. Gove. can have any Right to appt. a Govr.—& more so as it has been built by ye. Govt.—the Right is in You & I doubt not You will assume it in order to restore Peace —

1 Ensign De Keyser had already been suspended for misbehavior and insubordination.

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2 Answer.