

Robert Stewart to George Washington, November 5, 1762, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART.

CAMP AT STANSTID Novemr. 15th 1762

MY DEAR SIR

Since parting with you I have view'd the Plan I laid before you with the closest attention, and the reasons for attempting the execution of it are so vastly corroborated by your approbation, that I am stimulated with the keenest fervour to essay the Success of the first essential step, previously necessary to my appearing at Head Quarters — In the event of our dissolution as a Corps I am perfectly convinc'd that, that Friendship so often employ'd in my behalf is now exerting it's best endeavours in accomplishing the primary Object, on which the Fate of my ulterior efforts must greatly depend — But should the Regt. be kept up till the King's pleasure relative to our being taken into His more immediate Pay can be known, do you think it impracticable for me to obtain the honr. of bearing the Despatches on that Subject to the Ministry? or if the first proposal is to be made at Head Quarters to go there, near which I think I have a Friend whose great Interest and powerful Connections would render his good offices very prevailing. This expedient has occur'd to me by a proposal made to me by severals of the Regt. for Detailing an Officer to London to prosecute with that assiduity which the pleasing view of Promotion would leave no room to doubt, the most spirited perseverance in representing our Sufferings and Services — Should the War continue the Difficulties in raising new Regts. and Recruitg. those whose Effectives have been so much diminish'd by severe Service will be so great

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and the advantages resulting from taking a Regiment, rais'd tolerably Disciplin'd and already in America, must appear so strikingly obvious, that the Ministry would on a proper Representation probably go into it, as a Measure highly conducive to the Interest of the Service, and at the same Time give an opportunity of obliging perhaps some of the Great Families in Britain by making Field Officers of some of their Sons, Brothers or near Relations who may now be Capts. in the Army, for 'tis certain that no Provincial Officers will at once be exalted to the Rank of Field Officers in the Service —

If Sir Jeffrey should of himself take us into the Pay of the Crown I would immediately rejoin the Regt. — At any rate it seems to be pretty certain that the Colony will not retain us much longer in their Pay But supposing that we are kept up for the Winter I appeal to you or any other Military Judge whether the absence of Lt. Colo. in Winter Quartrs. can be of any prejudice to the Service. If it cannot, if our standing even for that Time is doubtfull, if my going to London properly recommended may be of Service to the Corps in case the war continues and at all Events be of Service to myself, all which is very probable, I would fain hope the Governor may be prevail'd upon to honr. me with his Letters to the Secretary of State; I can assure you that my being absent on this Service would be so infinitely remote from giving any umbrage to the Officers that many of them earnestly desire it — As my going to the Metropolis this Winter (where I think I could thro' the means of the Earles Bute and Loudon and some others of distinction in the army and about Court form a tolerable Interest) is of the utmost Importance to me, I doubt not but you'll be readily induc'd to forgive my anxious sollicitude about this most Interesting and decisive affair on the Success of which, in all human probabily will greatly depend my future welfare or Misery, and will certainly be my derniere resource for making a vigorous push in the Military, on which, my heart is so much set — In the happy Event of your Succeeding I would be extremely glad to receive the Letters open or under flying Seals that the General may be the more easily prevail'd on — and that no Time may be lost McNeil or Weedon will immediately send a Servant or an Express with them —

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May Heaven Bless you my dear Colonel and amply reward you for your steady and vivid
Regard for

Your Truly Gratefull & mo: Affecte. ROBERT STEWART Allow me to remind you of the
Bearer's Affair, as you know him to be ancient & Faithfull Servant to the Colony P. S.
If you can possibly procure the Governrs. Letters I would be glad to receive some kind
of Certificate from you specifying the Time I have been under your Command and my
Behaviour during that Time Be so good as to make my Complemts. to Colo. Byrd for a
Letter of the same kind while he Commanded the Regt. which I cannot imagine he will
deem any great Favour, and am persuaded that Genl. Gage will not hesitate to write nor
will Genl. Monckton I'm pretty certain as well as severals of Rank in America — in fine I
am resolv'd to spare no pains nor leave nothing unessay'd that yield even the most distant
chance of promoting the Success of my Plann —