

**Henry Knox to George Washington**

Lake George, New York, 17 December 1775.

Autograph letter, 2 pages + docket.

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Fort George Dec<sup>r</sup> 17. 1775 –

May it please your Excellency

I return'd [*struck*: here with the] [*inserted*: to this place] [*inserted*: on the 15] & brought with me the] Cannon [*struck*: on the 15<sup>th</sup>] being nearly the time I conjectur'd it would take us to transport them to here, [*inserted and strikeout*] It is not easy [*struck*: to relate] [*inserted*: conceive] the difficulties we have had [*inserted*: in] getting them [*struck*: here] [*inserted*: over the Lake] owing to the advanc'd Season of the Year & contrary winds, but the danger is now past & [*struck*: what]; three days ago it was very uncertain whether we could have gotten them [*struck*: this Season] untill next spring, but now please God they must go – I have [*struck*: gotten] [*inserted*: had] made forty two exceeding Strong Sleds & have provided eighty Yoke of oxen to drag them as far as Springfield where [*struck*: we will] [*inserted*: I shall] get fresh Cattle to Carry them to Camp – the rout will be from here to Kinderhook from thence into Great Barrington Massachusetts Bay & down to Springfield There will [*inserted*: scarcely] be [*struck*: any] possibility of [*struck*: getting] conveying them from here to Albany or Kinderhook but on sleds the roads being very much gullied, [*struck*: there is good sledding from this] at present the sledding is tolerable to Saratoga about 26 miles; beyond [*inserted*: that] there [*inserted*: is] none – I have sent for the Sleds & teams to come here & expect to [*inserted*: begin] move them to Saratoga on [*inserted*: Wednesday or] Thursday next trusting that between this & then we shall have a [*struck*: good] [*inserted*: fine] fall of snow which will [*inserted*: enable us to proceed further &] make the carriage easy – if that should be the case I hope in 16 or 17 days time to be able to present to your Excellency a noble train of artillery [*struck*: as will appear by] the Inventory [*inserted*: of] which I have Inclos'd – I also send a list of those stores which I desir'd Col M<sup>c</sup>Dougal to send from New York – I did not know then of any 13 Inch mortars which was the reason of my ordering but of few shells of that size I now write to him for 500, [*inserted*: 13 Inch] & also for 200. 5 ¾ & 400 – of 4 ½ [*inserted*: inches for the illegible] – [*struck*: as being]

if these sizes could be [2] had there [*struck*: I should imag] [*inserted*: as I think they can] I should imagine it would save time [*inserted*: & expence] get them from thence rather than cast [*inserted*: them] – if sir you think otherwise or have made provision for them elsewhere you will please to countermand this order – There is no other news of Col<sup>o</sup> Arnold than that from Col<sup>o</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Cleans having burnt the Houses round Quebec Col. Arnold was oblig'd to go to point au tremble about 6 miles from the City – that Gen<sup>l</sup> Montgomery had gone to join him with a Considerble [*sic*] Body of men & a good train of artillery – there are some timid & some malevolent Spirits which make this matter worse – but by the different accounts which I have been able to collect I have very little doubt that General Montgomery has Quebec in his possession

I am with the utmost  
Respect Your Excellency's Most  
Obedt Hble Servant

PS

You will please Sir to observe [*struck*: Sir] that there are no carriages nor Implements to the Cannon nor beds to the Mortars, all of which must be made in Camp

His Excellency General Washington

[*docket*]

Copy Letter to  
General Washington  
Fort George Dec<sup>r</sup> 17  
1775

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Notes: Published in Twohig, Dorothy et. al. The Papers of George Washington. Colonial Series, v. 2, p. 563-565.