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Vermont's Flirtation with Canada

Levi Allen to William Pitt

At Col. Skene's, Chelsea, London, 25 December 1789

Having arrived in this city with a commission from the Governor and Council of the State of Vermont, issued in consequence of an Act of the Legislature thereof, for the Purpose of Negotiating Matters of Trade and Commerce, with special Instructions further to assure Government that Vermont as a People are both from local situation and natural Inclination desirous of sharing in the Blessings of the British Government. This, the Congress of the United States have some Idea of, and have actually made Overtures to said Vermont, therein granting them all the Priviledges of every State in the Union, and not to be accountable for any debt or debts heretofore contracted by the thirteen states or any or either of them and to extend Vermont West till it meets the River St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, on condition they join the Union, and become the 14th state. A particular Account of this, and much more has been secretly transmitted me by my surviving brother in Vermont, which has just come to hand, the whole Information is entirely at your Service but too Prolix to Intrude on you undesired.

Further, as the Posts (called the Upper Posts) in America are demanded by Congress, I beg leave to Proffer my Service to Raise a Regiment of Green Mountain boys for His Majesty's service, in case hostilities should make an Augmentation of Troops in America necessary.

As a duty I owe to the best of sovereigns, and the British Empire at Large I most humbly request the favor of an Audience as soon as convenient; as I think the Good intentions of the Vermonters have not been attended to, perhaps not properly explained.

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