

anchored off Staten Island. As it was afterward learned, the vessel had put into the bay to permit him to pay his respects to Governor William Tryon, who was still exercising official authority over the province. The arrival of the British vessel, which was attended by several transports, caused great consternation in the city.

"Rumors magnified Clinton's two or three transports into a British fleet of nineteen sail," and many citizens, overcome by fear, hastened to betake themselves and families to interior farms and villages. Merchandising and kindred occupations lost their activity, and little else than personal safety seemed for the time to concern the greater number of the inhabitants. After a week's stay, Sir Henry Clinton departed and proceeded on his way by water to South Carolina.

In order to increase the number of troops under the command of Major-General Lee, and to prevent the landing of any British force upon the territory of his department, the following order was transmitted by Robert Yates, chairman of the committee of safety of the colony of New York, to Colonel Jacobus Swartwout:

"NEW YORK, February 9, 1776.

"Sir:

"You will see by the inclosed resolution that Major-General Lee, now at New York, is authorized to call in as many of the minute-men of this colony as he may think necessary.

"I am directed by the general to have some regiments of minute-men called here immediately. Your regiment is fixed on by the committee of safety of this colony as proper to be called; you are therefore, on receipt hereof, to march with your regiment to New York, with all possible dispatch. Take care that your men have their knapsacks and blankets with them, and provision for their march. The quarter-master ought, by all means, to come with the regiment.

"It is not doubted but you will give orders that your troops observe the greatest regularity in their march, and if you order the several companies to precede each other a few miles in their march, they will be more easily accommodated. Suffer no delay in bringing in your regiment.

"I am, respectfully, yours.

"R. YATES, chairman.

"To Colonel JACOBUS SWARTWOUT.

"P. S.—It is expected that Colonel Drake will leave a sufficient guard of his regiment at the cannon beyond King's Bridge. He will be a proper judge how many will be necessary for that small service."¹

¹ American archives. Fourth series, vol. iv., p. 966.