

Chaudiere Pond, 27th Oct 1775
May it Please your Excellency
My last of the 13th Ins^t for
the Portage to the Dead River Advising your
Excellency of our proceedings I make no doubt
you have received. I then expected to have
crossed this Place by the 24th Ins^t, but
the Excessive heavy rains & bad weather
have prevented & I am much retarded in our
march, & I have this minute ^{with 70 men} arrived here
& met, a person ^{on his return} whom I sent down, some
time since to the french Inhabitants, he
Informs me, they appear very friendly
& are in daily expectation being glad
And by the best Information he could get will
very gladly receive our us. He says

Chaudiere Pond, 27th Oct^r 1775
May it Please your Excellency
My last of the 13th Ins^t from
the Portage to the Dead River advising your
Excellency of our proceedings I make no doubt
you have received. I then expected to have
reached this Place by the 24th Ins^t but
the Excessive heavy rains & bad weather
have prevented I am much retarded us in our
march, & I have this minute ^ arrived here
with 70 men
on his return
& met, a person ^ whom I sent down, some
time since to the french Inhabitants, he
Informs me, they appear very Friendly
& are in daily expectation being glad
And by the best Information he could get will
very gladly receive our us, He says

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 7954

Date: October 27, 1775

Description: Letter to George Washington from Benedict Arnold's letterbook, difficulties in travel, ill soldiers, and his expectations for getting to Quebec.

They Informed him Genl Schuyler
had had a ~~skirmish~~ ^{skirmish} with the regular Troops
at or Near S^t Johns, in which the latter
lost, in killed & wounded near 500, (this
acc^t appears vry Imperfect), & that
there was few or none of the King's Troop at
Quebec & no Any expected this way
advise of our coming — three
Days since I left the principal Part of
the Detachment, ab^t 8 leagues below the
Great Carrying Place, & as our Provisions
were short by reason of loosing a number
of loaded Battous at the falls & rapid waters
I order all the Sick & feeble to return, &
wrote Col. Enos, & Given to find to bring
on in this Division no more men than
they could furnish with 15 days Provisions

They Informed him Genl. Schuyler
Battle

had had a skirmish ^ with the regular troops
at or Near S^t Johns, in which the latter
lost, in killed & wounded near 500 (this
acc^t appears vry Imperfect) & that
there was few or none of the King's Troop at
Quebec, & no Any expected this way
advise of our coming — three
Days since I left the principal part of
the Detachment, ab^t 8 leagues below the
Great Carrying Place, & as Our Provisions
were short by reason of looseing a number
of loaded Battous at the falls & rapid waters
I ordered all the Sick & feeble to return, &
wrote Col. Enos & Given to find to bring
on in this Division no more men than
they could furnish with 15 days Provisions

And send back the remainder to the
Commissary, as the Roads Prove much
Worse than expected, & the Season may
Possibly, be severe in a few Days, I am
Determined to set out immediately with 5
Battal & abt 15 men, for Sartigan, ^{which} I
expect to reach in three or four Days. In
Order to Procure a Supply of ~~Food~~
Provisions for & forward ~~up to~~ back to
the Detachment the whole of which I
Dont expect will reach there ~~in less~~
than eight or Ten Days, If I find, the
Enemy are not apprised of our coming &
there is any prospect of surprising the
City I shall attempt it as soon as

And send back the remainder to the
Commissary, as the roads Prove much
worse than I expected & the season may
possibly, be severe in a few Days, I am
Determined to set out immediately with 5
which
Battal & abt 15 men, for Sartigan, ^ when I
expect to reach in three or four days. In
order to Procure a supply of Fowl
Provisions for & forward up to back to
the Detachment the whole of which I
Dont expect will reach there [crossed out] in less
than eight or ten days. If I find, the
Enemy are not apprised of our Coming &
there is any prospect of Surprising the
City I shall attempt it as soon as

I have a proper Number of
men up, If they should be, I should be
Disappointed in my Pursuit that way, I shall
wait the Arrival of the whole & endeavour
to cut of this Communication with
Gov^r. Carleton who I am told is at
Montreal, ~~the Officers & Soldiers~~
~~are~~, Our march has been attended
with an amazing Deal of ~~hardship~~ Fatigue
which the Officers & men have borne with
Cheerfulness, I have been much Dami'd
in every Acct^d of our Route which ^{is longer &}
has been attended with, a Thousand Difficulty
I never apprehend, but if Crowned with
Success & conducive to the Publick Good
I shall think but trifling —

I have a proper number of
men up, If they should be, I should be
Disappointed in my Pursuit that way, I shall
wait the Arrival of the whole & endeavour
to cut of this Communication with
Gov^r Carleton who I am told is at
Montreal. The Officers & soldiers
have, Our march has been attended
with an amazing deal of hardship fatigue
which the officers & men have borne with
Cheerfulness, I have been much Deceived
is longer &
in evry Acct^d of our Route which ^ has
been attended with a thousand difficulty
I never apprehended, but if Crowned with
Success & Conducive to the Publick good
I shall think but trifling — I

I am with the Greatest
Respect & Esteem
Your Excellency's most
Obed^t Hble Serv^t
B. Arnold

PS. As soon as I can
get time shall send
you Excellly a Continuation
of my Journal.
B. A

I am with the Greatest
Respect & esteem
Your Excellency's most
Obed^t Hble Serv^t
B. Arnold

PS. As soon as I can
get time shall send
your Excellly a Continuation
of my Journal.

B A