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 15th] 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] un till 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’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 Colº Arnold than that from Colº M’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 Genº 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’ 17
1775