

and as the spring vessels are going in two or three days, I take the opportunity of replying. We have long ago been made acquainted with the complete defeat, & as it would seem, dreadful slaughter of the American army<sup>13</sup> (of whom you spoke) by way of New York—and since by way of Canada. For the sake of our interest, but still more for that of humanity, it is to be earnestly wished that this barbarous & destructive war might have an end. Something will probably be done, but what, conjecture has not yet even rumoured. It is said the Americans will *insist* upon the posts as the means of enabling them to chastise with effect the Indians; while on the other hand, there appears no disposition *here* to comply with such a requisition—at the same time a new line has been suggested for a frontier between the Indians & Americans—it is to run from lake Ontario up the Genesee river to its source—thence into the obscure stream from whence the Alleghenny takes its rise, & following the windings of that river till it joins, or more properly acquires the name of the Ohio, is then to follow the course of that noble stream to the Mississippi: this you will perceive to be the old boundary line of Canada<sup>14</sup> somewhat enlarged. Mr Todd & I have had some conversation with Mr Dundas's secretary on this subject, but what will be done, men in office you know are too cautious to say. We were also been with Mr Pitt, together with some other Canada gentlemen, on the subject of making Montreal a port; which probably will be done, in order more effectually to facilitate the communication between the two provinces—the interests of which (particularly the Upper) seem to engross a good deal of ministers care, *at last*. From what has been done in establishing a free government for *Upper Canada*, from the character & interest of our respectable governour, as well as from the executive servants of government now going out, who are *all*, as far as my knowledge extends, men of character, & most of them independent of their appointments—I cannot

<sup>13</sup> The allusion is to the defeat of General St. Clair's army, Nov. 4, 1791.

<sup>14</sup> That is, the boundary line of French Canada, as distinguished from Louisiana prior to the British conquest of that country in the Seven Years' War.