

the Mail, I will allow £10 p^r C^t Commission and Charges of expence. It will have this good effect, it will confirm the Property. The Land of mine occupied by Hazell and given by the Indians & confirm'd by Gen^l Haldimand³⁵ has two Houses upon it I built. I meant to return and reside there but a Chancery Suit, not yet totally finish'd in the most material part, at least the Division of a Legacy, has detained me. I mean still to reside finally in America. This Country is too expensive for a large Family (I have 10 Children) with so moderate an Income as 300 a Year. every thing is highly Tax'd. our diversion with a Gun cost £3. a Year. wearing hair powder £1. Wheat even in Wales is 15^s a Bushel, Butchers Meat 6^d a pound, and every necessary of Life in proportion.

I am at present an Invalid my hand and joints swell'd with the Rheumatism. As to Politicks, It is imagined the French will never be able to support their Republican form of Governm^t against the Malecontents of France, if Peace took place immediately. We suppose the King of Prussia will recommence hostilities which he ceased *par Politique* owing [to] the rapidity of French devastation & success.

The Campaign on the part of the Allies especially on the part of the Emperor is about to commence with great Vigour. The French Navy is perfectly crippled, they dare not send a Fleet out. they are content with Frigates and Privateers, which do a confounded deal of Mischief. Their irruption into the Country of the Mynheers has however done us a considerable service, Having totally ruined their Trade, so that they will not be able to rival us in Traffic for this Century to come We (as you must have heard) have the Cape of good Hope, Ceylon and many of their Islands in the E. Indies, and if the French are not wonderfully successful this Campaign they must pay the Piper before they will have these places again. Our National Debt however must become enormous and I fear will one day explode, if great Widsom and prudence forsake our Councils, or indeed cease to preside there. excuse this Scrawl my hand shakes sadly with pain. To resume the subject of the Power of Attorney. If M^r

35 Sir Frederick Haldimand, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 206.