

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3C, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 4

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

October 20, 1780.

[See Circular to the States, October 18, 1780]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters near Passaic, October 21, 1780.

Dear Sir: I do myself the honor to inclose Your Excellency the Copy of a Letter which has just come to hand from Mr Duer.

Although the testimony contained in it does not seem to be so direct as to make Mr. Smith³⁹ obnoxious to a Military process, Yet, agreeable to Mr. Duer's request, I thought it necessary you should be apprized of it, that the State may be enabled to take the proper measures for the public safety.

How far this information ought to co-operate with other circumstances to have Mr Smith removed from the vicinity of our Posts at Kings Ferry, Your Excellency, from a full knowledge of his character and connections, will be better able to determine than I am. I have the honor etc.⁴⁰

To WILLIAM DUER

Head Quarters, Prekaness, October 21, 1780.

Sir: I have transmitted a Copy of your letter of the 11th., which only reached me last evening, to Governor Clinton, as I did not

39. Thomas Smith. He was a brother of Joshua Hett Smith, and was reported to have been seen in New York City.

40. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

think it contained evidence sufficient to support a military trial. It may however, added to other circumstances of a very suspicious nature, furnish the Legislature with good reasons for removing the Gentleman in question from Hayerstraw, which, from its vicinity to our posts, affords him an opportunity of gaining and giving intelligence very material to the enemy and injurious to us. Of his dispositions to do this there is little doubt. I am &c.⁴¹

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Preckaness, October 23, 1780.

Sir: Major General Greene, who goes to take command of the Southern Army, will have the honor of presenting this to Your Excellency. I have advised him to take the several States in his way, which are immediately concerned in furnishing Men and supplies for the department committed to his direction, that he may gain a more accurate knowledge of the forwardness they are in, a tolerable Idea of what may be his future expectations, and endeavour to settle some plans for the regular support and subsistence of the Army in provisions, Forage and transportation.

I am well aware of the embarrassments under which the Southern States labor, and of the many difficulties which are to be

41. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

surmounted. But I have a very full dependance that the most vigorous exertions will be made by them upon the present occasion; and the entire confidence I have in the abilities, fortitude and integrity of General Greene, founded on a long and intimate experience of them, assures me that he will do every thing his means will enable him to do; and I doubt not, candid allowances will be made for the peculiar difficulties he has to encounter.

I recommend him to your State as worthy of its utmost confidence and support, and to your Excellency, personally, as one whom I rank among the number of my Friends. With the greatest Respect and Esteem etc.⁷⁴

[M.D.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters near Passaic Falls, October 28, 1780.

Dear Sir: I am to request your Excellency to direct the salt Beef mentioned in your letter of the 31st: of August, and concerning which

74. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The same letter was sent to Govs. Thomas Jefferson and Abner Nash. It is printed by Sparks under date of Oct. 22, 1780.

I wrote to you from Harford, to be forwarded with as much expedition as possible to Fishkill landing, by the upper route, as that by Crumpond has become dangerous, from the incursions of the Enemy's Refugee Corps. I am the more anxious to have this parcel of salt provision brought speedily to the North River, as I see no other, on which I can depend, for furnishing a Winter supply for the important Garrison of Fort schuyler, and if it is not got up to that post in the month of November, it will be extremely difficult afterwards, from the badness of the Road.

Although the season is already arrived when the Magazines of salt Meat, for the ensuing Winter and Campaign, should be laid in, I cannot learn that the Commissary General has been enabled to put up

a single Barrel; so far from it, it is with difficulty the troops, in any quarter, are subsisted upon fresh Meat from day to day. I have the honor &c.¹¹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON OR IN HIS ABSENCE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR VAN CORTLANDT¹³

Head Quarters, Prackness, October 29, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit your Excellency the proceedings of the Court Martial upon Joshua Smith;¹⁴ by which you will perceive out of four charges exhibited against him the Jurisdiction of the Court was only found competent to one, of which they

11. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

13. Lieut. Gov. Pierre Van Cortlandt.

14. Joshua Hett Smith.

have acquitted him for want of sufficient evidence. As he was brought out of Your State into this¹⁵ for trial, I have thought proper to send him back to West Point. I think it necessary to inform you, that he will be shortly released from confinement unless the Civil Authority should interpose to demand him.¹⁶ I have the honor etc.

P.S. When you have considered the Proceedings you will please to return them.¹⁷

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, October 31, 1780.

Sir: Upon the representation of Mr. Morey that two Negro Men belonging to him, were detained as Soldiers in the Massachusetts Line contrary to his inclination, I gave directions to Brigadier General

Glover to appoint a Board of Officers to enquire into the Justice of his claim and to report the facts with their opinion thereon. A Copy of this Report I now do Myself the honor to inclose to you.

As Mr Morey is a subject of your State, and the question appears to be how far the several circumstances stated in the Report ought to affect his property I have thought proper to refer the matter to Your opinion; having no object in view but

15. New Jersey.

16. Smith was imprisoned by the civil authority of New York, but escaped before he was brought to trial and succeeded in getting into New York City.

17. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat in the *Washington Papers*.

a desire that equal justice may be done to the public and the individual concerned. I have the honor etc.³⁷

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters near Passaic Falls, November 1, 1780.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday honored with your Excellency's favor of the 27th. ulto. The letters inclosed for the president of Congress were immediately forwarded by Express. I am happy in believing that the dispatches for which you are apprehensive were not in the Mail lately lost at Stratford as the new Regulations for the Army were not compleated when that post left Philadelphia. They were finished the 21st ulto. and I hope will reach most of the Legislatures during their Fall Session. I have the honor etc.

P.S. I transmitted Your Excellency some very important dispatches on the 18th: ulto. I hope they have got safe to hand.⁶⁴

37. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

64. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To REVEREND DIRCK ROMEYN⁷⁴

Head Quarters, Colo. Dey's, November 3, 1780.

Sir: His Excellency General Washington has been informed, within two days past, that another embarkation, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton in person, is preparing at New York. Should this be so, it is more than probable that you will have heard something of it, as the Communication between Hackensack and Bergen is frequent. You will be good enough to let me know, by return of the Bearer, whether any thing of the kind has come to your knowledge, with any particulars which you may have collected. Should you at any time in future gain any intelligence, which you may think material, you will oblige His Excellency and render essential public service by communicating it to him. I am etc.⁷⁵

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Prekaness, November 4, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have received information from New York that a person who is called George Fustner,⁷⁸ and who is Brother in law to Rankin⁷⁹ formerly of York County, comes frequently out as a Spy by

74. Of the Dutch Reformed Church, Hackensack, N. J.

75. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T. Tilghman, A. D. C."

78. Of Lancaster, Pa.

79. James and John Rankin, of York County, Pa. Their property was confiscated by the State in 1779.

way of Shark River thro' Jersey and from thence to Lancaster.⁸⁰ He left New York the 27th. ulto. and is probably at this time upon that Business. Your Excellency may perhaps, from the foregoing Clue, have him intercepted upon some of his Visits. There is also another person who goes by the reigned name of John Staria or the Irish Dutchman, because he speaks both languages, who goes constantly between New York and Lancaster, accompanied by a lusty old Man called John Smith, who serves as a guide to him. They lately carried 12 or 14 Recruits from Lancaster. I shall be happy should the above descriptions be sufficient to lead to the discovery of another of the many Engines of this sort, which the enemy have at work against us. I have the honor etc.⁸¹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Prekaness, November 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your several favors of the 18th: 30th: and 31st: ulto. I congratulate you upon your safe return from your late excursion, and upon the success which attended General Ransalaers⁵ attack upon the Enemy in their retreat. It is to be regretted that your Excellency was not near enough with the reinforcement to take advantage of their situation. The damage, which has been done, will I fear be severely felt by the public as well as by individuals. We had the

80. The warning to Washington came from the spy called "Littel D," through Capt. John Hendricks.

81. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

5. Brig. Gen. Robert van Rensselaer, of the New York Militia. A force of British and Indians had raided the settlements on the Mohawk River and in the vicinity of Forts George and Ann, but had been driven off. Want of discipline among Rensselaer's militia prevented a complete victory, and the enemy made good their retreat before Governor Clinton arrived with his troops.

most pleasing prospects of forming considerable Magazines of bread from the Country which has been laid waste, and which from your Excellency's letter is so extensive, that I am apprehensive we shall be obliged to bring Flour from the southward to support the Troops at and near West point. You will be pleased to give me your opinion upon the quantity of Flour that may be yet, with probability, be procured above, in the course of the Winter, that I may form some calculation of the quantity which it will be necessary to draw from Jersey, Penna. and Maryland.

I am very sorry that the troops of your State should look upon it as a hardship to do the Garrison duty of Fort Schuyler. I had always allotted it to them, as thinking it would be agreeable to both Officers and Men to guard their own Frontier, especially when they were not continued an unreasonable time upon the tour. The Frontier posts of Penna. and Virginia have been constantly garrisoned by their own Regs. which have not been relieved these two years. The troops of the line in general are, in point of Cloathing, upon a footing with the rest of the Army, which is very bare, and which has a poor prospect of being well supplied. But as Colo. Weissenfelds Regt. is going to a distance and where he will not have an opportunity of drawing those temporary supplies which the troops with the main Army sometimes do, I have given orders to have it well furnished as our scanty Magazines will admit.

I have appointed Brig. Genl. Clinton to take the command in the Northern department, and have ordered him to repair to Albany for that purpose. I am convinced he will second every measure which may be thought expedient for the security of the Frontier. I am much obliged to your Excellency for the attention which you promise to pay to the provisioning Fort Schuyler. I daily expect four or five hundred Barrels of Salt Beef from Connecticut, as soon as they arrive upon the North River, part of them shall be sent up to Albany for the garrison of Fort Schuyler. I desired Governor Trumbull to hurry them on, that they might be got up in all this month.

I am very happy to find that the Legislature have vested your Excellency with the power of complying with the requisitions of Congress for compleating the new Army. I find that the Resolve of the 3d. of October had only reached you, and that your calculation of the deficiency of 313

Men had been founded upon that. Congress, by a subsequent Act of the 21st., have made some very material and salutary amendments, the principal of which are, giving half pay for life to the Officers, confining the terms of Service expressly to the War, and augmenting the number of Men in each Regt. to 612 Rank and File. I therefore state your exact deficiency at 449 Men, upon the following principles

2 Regiments of Infantry, Rank and F 1224

1 Regt. Artillery non Commd. and private 650

1874

Rank and File for the War by Return transmitted 1121

Already in Lambs Regt. which is the one which will be apportioned to the State 304

1425

deficiency 449

This your Excellency will be pleased to observe is the deficiency in figures; but when we come to take into the computation the casualties that will

happen between this time and the junction of the Recruits, the number of Men sick in Hospitals and upon extra service, many of the first incurables, and of the last so detached that we shall never find them, the deficiency which there ever will be in the number of Recruits voted, and other unforeseen deductions, it will appear plainly that if the assessment is laid at 449 only, the Regiments will want very considerably of that Strength which is absolutely necessary to make our combined Continental force any ways adequate to the probable services of the next Campaign. I would therefore beg leave to recommend to your Excellency to lay your assessment at 100 Men more than the apparent deficiency. I am convinced it will be found cheaper and in every respect more eligible to complete the matter at one stroke, than to have a second tax to lay.

Our Affairs to the southward put on a more pleasing aspect since the defeat of Colo. Ferguson. Lord Cornwallis was retreating precipitately from Charlotte and giving up a fine district of Country which he had in possession. But the diversion which Genl. Leslie will occasion by taking post in Virginia will I fear operate against the formation of the southern Army and will embarrass us on the score of supplies. Another embarkation is preparing at New York, which I have no doubt is also intended for the southward, as without considerable reinforcements, they must abandon their late conquests in that quarter. I have the honor etc.⁶

6. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The original was in the New York State Library.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Prekaness, November 6, 1780.

Dear Sir: The moment I recd. yours of the 3d. I gave orders to Genl. Heath to detach the remaining three Regiments of the York Brigade to Albany there to put themselves under the command of Brig Genl. Clinton who has orders to dispose of them as circumstances may require. Should you receive any information that they are not necessary above, you will be pleased to communicate it to General Heath, that their march may be countermanded.

Your Excellency will perceive by the inclosed to Genl. Schuyler, under flying seal, that I have given discretionary powers to seize and secure a certain person,¹⁵ should it, upon further investigation of circumstances appear necessary. I am etc.¹⁶

To GOVERNOR ABNER NASH

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 6, 1780.

Sir: I had the honor Yesterday to receive Your Excellency's Letter of the 6th of Octobr. and am extremely obliged to you

15. Col. Ethan Allen.

16. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The original was in the New York State Library. for the intelligence contained in it.

It is of so great importance that the earliest and best intelligence of all the great Movements and designs of the Enemy, as well as of the situation of our own affairs, should be obtained, that I must entreat you will be so good as to favor me with such communications as may have any influence on our Military Arrangements and Operations.

While I sincerely lament the distressed and exhausted situation of the Southern States, I cannot but hope the Enemy have committed themselves so far as to be made to repent their temerity; especially since I have received information of a more recent date than Your Letter, of the success of the Militia against Col Ferguson: this I flatter myself will give a better aspect to your affairs, and will awaken more extensively that spirit of bravery and enterprise which displayed itself so conspicuously on the occasion.

The Enemy seem again to have adopted the same system of policy they have before prosecuted with but too much success, of making Detachments to the Southward; at a time when our Army is greatly reduced by the expiration of the service of the Levies who were raised for the Campaign only; besides the Detachment under Genl Leslie, which has landed in Virginia, it is reported another embarkation is taking place at New York. But I have great confidence in the exertion of the Southern States when their all is at Stake, and in the abilities of General Greene to call forth and apply the resources of the Country in the best and most effectual manner to its defence. Major General

the Baron Steuben, who accompanies him, possesses the most distinguished military talents, and has rendered signal service to this Army as Inspector General. Major Lee has also marched to join the southern Army with his Legion. The Arrival of a reinforcement in New York, nearly equal to the late detachment, and the incursion of a large force, (of which I have just recd. intelligence) from

Canada on the Northern and Western Frontiers of the State of New York where great devastation has already been committed, will I fear render it impossible to make any farther Detachments from this Army to the Southward. I have the honor etc.²⁷

To HENRY BABCOCK²⁹

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 7, 1780.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th of October, and have to observe on the Subject, that the plan suggested, for paying and supplying the Army and prosecuting the War with vigor, would undoubtedly be eligible, if practicable; how far this is, or is not the case, I cannot take upon myself to determine.

Should the scheme in contemplation be carried into execution: whether it would be most advantageous to have the Plate coined and thrown into circulation, or made the basis

27. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

29. Of Hartford, Conn.

of a Bank to support our Credit, might be made a question. But that this aid (if well disposed of) with other vigorous and decisive measures for drawing out the resources of the Country, would have a powerful influence, in retrieving our affairs, disconcerting those of the Enemy, and inducing them to wish for a peace: does not admit of a single doubt. [the adoption of the plan spoken of by you might give a credit to the public virtue of this Country at Foreign Courts that would be attended with important advantages to us.] I am etc.³⁰

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 8, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys favors of the 22d: 25th: and 26th: ulto. We have already had reports that the Enemy left Portsmouth precipitately a few days after landing. I shall be happy to hear it confirmed, as well as the cause to which their hurry is attributed; that of the appearance of a French or Spanish fleet upon the Coast of Carolina. Should the account be premature and should they establish a post in Virginia, I think it will be good policy to remove the troops of Convention to a greater distance from them.⁴⁹ General Phillips has applied for passports for a Flag Vessel to proceed to James River, as heretofore, with Cloathing and other

30. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington. "I have ... proposed that the whole Plate of the Continent be surrendered up by it's Inhabitants, and Coined for the Publick Use. ... We by our Census have 38,472½ oz. of Plate."—*Babcock to Washington*, Oct. 24, 1780. Babcock's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

49. The British were removed about two weeks later to Fort Frederick, Md., but the Germans were continued at Charlottesville, as they had shown little disposition to try to escape.

necessaries for those troops. This will be granted, and should they be removed from Charlotteville, your Excellency will be pleased upon the arrival of the Vessel in James River to give directions for her to proceed to the most convenient place of debarkation, relatively to where the troops may be.

I am glad to hear that you have permitted Govr. Hamilton and Major Hayes to go to New York; while they remain there upon parole, they will be less capable of concerting mischief than in Virginia, and it will deprive the enemy of a pretext for complaining that they are treated with rigor.

Another embarkation is said to be preparing at New York, and I think it a very probable circumstance considering the situation of the enemy's affairs in South Carolina, and ours in this. They are well acquainted with the expiration of the times of the better half of our Army, the latter end of December, and they know they may safely detach equal to the number we disband, from this time to the Month of May or June next, which is as soon as we generally get our recruits into the Field. Should the enemy continue in the lower parts of Virginia, they will have every advantage

by being able to move up and down the Rivers in small parties, while it will be out of our power to molest them for want of the means of suddenly transporting ourselves across those Rivers to come at them. This might be in a very great degree obviated and they kept in check, if we had a number of (say) flat boats upon travelling carriages attending the Army collected to watch their motions. We could then move across from

River to River with more rapidity than they could go down one and up another, and none of their detachments would be ever secure by having the Water between them and us. Major Genl. Greene is perfectly acquainted with the kind of Boats I have mentioned, and with the mode of fixing them. He will give the proper directions for having them constructed, should your Excellency approve the plan. New Castle I think from its situation, would be a good and safe place to build the Boats. I have the honor etc.⁵⁰

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES⁵⁹

Head Quarters, Prackness,⁶⁰ November 10, 1780.

Sir: From a collective view of the State of our Cloathing, I find we have not more, in the Public Magazines, than will be sufficient for one half of the men inlisted for the War, or whose term of service will extend beyond the winter. To depend, any longer, upon the supply expected from Europe arriving in time to relieve the wants of the troops, will be leaving the matter upon too precarious a footing. I have therefore thought it a duty incumbent upon me, to give you this information, that you may endeavour to procure and send forward the Articles most essential to the convenience and comfort of the Men. I should have done it sooner, but I still flattered myself with an ample supply from abroad. The Articles most wanted

50. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

59. Sent to New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

60. The draft, which is in die writing of Tench Tilghman, is dated "Passaic Falls."

will be Blankets, Waistcoats, Woolen Overalls, and Stockings; The greater part of the men have Coats that may enable them, with warm under Cloaths, to rub thro' the severity of Winter. I would recommend that the Cloth, with thread, buttons &c. be sent to the Army in the piece; it may be made up there agreeable to the wants of the Men, and quicker than at home, as there are Taylors sufficient in every Corps.

The Return, with which you have lately been furnished, very accurately points out the number of Men intitled to Cloathing from the public. A supply equal to half that Number will be absolutely necessary, and as there is no probable chance, for the reasons I have before mentioned, of obtaining it from the Continental Agents, I must entreat the exertions of each State in behalf of its own Troops, as the only means of preventing a number of them from experiencing extreme distress the ensuing Winter. I have the honor etc.⁶¹

[N.H.H.S.]

61. In the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 14, 1780.

Dear Sir: Since my letter of the 5th., on the subject of the number of Men necessary to compleat the Quota of your State, I have recollected a matter in the composition of Colo. Lambs Regt. which I wish had been attended to at that time. Two independent Companies of Pennsylvania, consisting at present of only 39 Men, have been for some time past annexed to that Regt. and are included in the number of 304 of which the Regt., as it now stands, consists. They have been always returned as part of the quota of Pennsylvania, have been adopted and supplied by that State. They would have been heretofore annexed to Colo. Proctor's Regt. but for some difference between the Officers on account of Rank. There is a necessity for doing it now, as Lambs Reqr. has two Companies

more than the establishment allows, and Proctors wants two to compleat it. The inclosed, which is a Copy of a letter from General Knox on the subject, is more full, and to which I would beg your Excellency's reference.

From the above State, your Excellency will perceive the necessity of your making an addition of 39 Men to your assessment, as Colo. Lambs Regiment will be lessened so many by withdrawing the Companies before mentioned.

I have received your Excellency's favors of the 5th. and 8th. by hearing nothing further from the Northward, I am

in hopes the advance of the Enemy has been checked. I have the honor etc.⁹⁰

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters near Passaic Falls, November 16, 1780.

Sir: I have been informed that a certain George Howell, not long since from the Enemy, is apprehended by the Supreme Authority of the State of Rhode Island: Although such possitive proof of his being an Emissary from the Enemy should not be obtained as might convict him capitally; I have some time ago received such information from confidential Persons, as induces me to believe him to be a dangerous character, and one who ought not to be suffered to go at large.

The purport of my information respecting Howel is, "that no man's character was higher with the Enemy; that he was a particular friend of Tryon; that he kept a regular correspondence with him and Col Birch⁷ while he (Howel) resided at his native place; that he could obtain any indulgence and permission to bring goods to almost any amount from New York, when others could not; that an intimate friend of Howel, within the Enemy's Lines told my informant that Howel had twice been out on the service of Government, and expressed great anxiety for fear he was detected."

I thought proper your Excellency should be informed

90. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The original was in the New York State Library.

7. Lieut. Col. Samuel Birch, of the Seventeenth Light Dragoons, British Army.

of these particulars, as they may tend to corroborate other evidence; notwithstanding my channel of information cannot be given up to be made use of, for very obvious reasons. I have the honor etc.⁸

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: The Bearer is sent by the Quarter Master General purposely to superintend the forwarding a quantity of Cloathing from Springfield to New Burgh, indeed the whole of our dependance in that Article, as far as I can see, for the Winter. The Quarter Master General is in hopes that his deputies will be able to find the means of transportation without applying to your Excellency for assistance, but should they not, I must earnestly entreat you to give them the aid of the State, as the troops will be much distressed for want of the Cloathes before they can arrive, even with every possible exertion.

I am in hopes that the salted Beef which I requested your Excellency to forward, in my letter of the 28th October has been sent on. Our dependance for a Winter Magazine for Fort Schuyler still rests upon that parcel. I have the honor etc.³⁶

8. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

36. The draft in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have been this day honored with Your Excellency's favor of the 15th. You may be assured that I shall pursue the same measures this Winter that I have invariably done heretofore; of sending every Horse that can possibly be spared, to a distance from the part of the Country which has been the seat of the Army during the Campaign, and as there will be fewer troops in Jersey this Winter than usual, I hope the inhabitants will find relief in proportion. The exertions of the State have been great, and it is intitled to every indulgence that the nature of the service will allow.

Your Excellency and the Legislature must be sufficiently acquainted with the state of the Army to know, that our force, after the dismissal of the Levies, will admit but few troops to remain in Jersey. I shall throw all that can be spared, after securing West point from any possible insult, on the communication from Morris Town to Kings Ferry, but as their numbers will be but few, they cannot be cantoned nearer to the sound³⁷ than Morris Town. They will occasionally keep patrols and light parties advanced to give notice of any approach of the Enemy. I am convinced that a force within striking distance of an Enemy, any thing short of a body sufficient to keep them in perfect awe, instead of affording protection to the inhabitants, only serves as an inducement to bring the enemy out upon them. I have the honor etc.³⁸

37. Staten Island Sound.

38. "The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Passaic Falls, November 27, 1780.

Dear Sir: I take the liberty of inclosing your Excellency an extract of a Letter which I have just received from Colo. Hay¹⁴ and of assuring you at the same time that the prospects of the Army, especially of that part which is to winter in the Highlands, were never so alarming in respect to the want of Bread as at this time. We carry with us from this Ground, tomorrow, every pound which the Commy. General is possessed of, and I cannot learn from him that he has a single Barrel in

Magazine in Pennsylvania or Jersey. I shall leave the Pennsylvania and Jersey troops in Jersey to depend upon precarious supplies from that State, and what may, in the course of the Winter, be brought from Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

The mode proposed by Colo. Hay is, I confess, disagreeable, and what ought not to be practised but in extremity. We seem to have arrived at that point, and if Your Excellency views the thing in the same light that I do, I cannot but hope that you will give a sanction to the measure upon the footing which Colo. Hay has placed it, or upon some other which will as effectually answer the end. Did the season admit of waiting till we saw whether a supply of Flour could not be possibly obtained from the Southward, I should not be so solicitous about the matter, but when it is considered that the first spell of bad Weather may render both the Rivers and Mountains

14. Col. Udney Hay's letter of Nov. 23, 1780, is in the *Washington Papers*.

impassable, I think not a moment ought to be lost in adopting and carrying into execution such measures as seem most likely to afford support to the Army in their intended Cantonments. The difficulty which we had to keep them together last Winter, makes me dread a repetition of the same trial, this, if to the want of Cloathing and every comfort, that of provision is added. I have the honor etc.¹⁵

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 8, 1780.

Dear Sir: On my arrival at this place, I met with your Excellency's favor of the 27th November, and immediately gave Orders for the Returns which you request therein. They shall be transmitted to you, as soon as they are brought in. I have given directions to Colonel Sheldon to make the Return of his Regiment immediately to you. I very much regret that the requisition of Congress, for your quota of men, had not reached you in time, to have determined your Legislature upon fixing the period of service for the War. We are deceiving ourselves, and keeping alive the hopes of our

Enemy while we levy an Army for a day short of the period of the dispute. I did not expect that the Recruits would be got into service, at least in any considerable numbers, by the 1st of January.

15. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

And rather than enter again into the fatal error of short enlistments, I would prefer putting matters to some hazard during the Winter, to calling upon the States for a body of men to serve between the 1st of January and the probable time of bringing the Levies into the field; because I am certain it would operate against more permanent engagements. What your Excellency proposes respecting the French Troops cannot be accomplished, (in confidence I say it.) They are thought by the French General and Admiral necessary; circumstanced as Matters are, to the security of their Navy.

As soon as the new Arrangement of the Army is compleated, Your Excellency shall be furnished with a list of the Officers. I have the honor &c.

P.S. I recd Yours pr Mr. Buel and gave the necessary Orders upon the occasion.⁵⁰

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 9, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have been duly honored with Your Excellency's several Letters of the 3d. 10th. and 19th Novembr. with their Inclosures; at the time of their receipt, the Army was preparing for Winter Quarters, and a multiplicity of business preventing my acknowledging them until this moment. I pray you now to be assured, I was extremely obliged by your particular attention, in making those communications, which were so interesting and necessary while the Enemy were

50. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

expected to operate in your State. Since your last, I have heard nothing officially of their movements to the Southward; from whence I shall still be very anxious to have the earliest and most authentic intelligence.

We have nothing new of importance in this quarter. The Troops are disposed of in their Winter Cantonments, the Pennsylvania line near Morris Town; the Jersey Brigade at Pompton to cover the communication with the North River; the York Brigade in the neighbourhood of Albany, furnishing a Garrison for Fort Schuyler. And the remainder of the Army, viz the New Hampshire, Massachusets, Rhode Island and Connecticut Lines at West Point, and its vicinity. The French fleet and Army remain still at Rhode Island. The Enemy's fleet it is thought will winter in Gardners Bay; and their Army occupies its former position on York Island and its dependencies.

It is happy for us, that the season will probably compel both Armies to continue in a state of inactivity; since ours is so much reduced by discharging the Levies, which composed a considerable part of it, even before their time of service expired; this expedient we were forced to adopt from the present total want of flour, and the precarious prospect of a supply of that Article. I cannot but hope, a more vigorous and effectual measures will be pursued for obtaining supplies before another Campaign.

A Flag Vessel has permission to go from New York to the usual place in Virginia to carry supplies and necessaries for the troops of Convention, should any alteration of the disposition of those Troops, make any new directions necessary, I must request your Excellency to give them.

I shall make it a point, to communicate the earliest advices of any movement of the Enemy, which are necessary to be known by You, and in the mean time I have the honor etc.

P.S. Since writing the above I have been favored with Your Letter of 26th Ulto. I will endeavour to obtain a *Model* for the construction of Boats,⁶⁷ and transmit it by an early conveyance. I am

this moment informed from New York another embarkation is taking place consisting of 1 Batt. Grenadiers, 1 Batt. Lt Infantry, 1 Batt. Hessian Grenadiers, Knyphausens Regt., 42d British; a Draft of 5 Men from each Company in the Line and 2 Troops of Lt Dragoons under Genls. Knyphausen and Philips, supposed to be destined Southward.⁶⁸

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES⁷⁵

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 10, 1780.

Sir: You⁷⁶ will, I presume, have received, before this reaches you, an Act of Congress of the 4th. of last Month, calling on the several States for specific quantities of Fresh and Salt provision, Flour, Salt and Rum for the Army and directing all of the above Articles, except the Fresh Meat, to be collected and deposited at such places in each of the States, as should be judged

67. The light, portable boats about which General Greene was to advise.

68. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

75. From New Hampshire to Maryland, inclusive.

76. The draft at this point has: “(or your Excellency as the stile may be).”

most convenient by me. This communication I should have done myself the honor of making somewhat earlier, had not the greater part of my time, since the receipt of the Act, been taking up in arranging and⁷⁷ visiting the Hospitals and Winter Cantonments of the Army.

Upon considering the point with respect to the supplies required of your State, I beg leave to inform you (or your Excellency) that it appears to me they should be deposited at the following places and proportions. (Vide the inclosed paper fixing the places of deposit and proportions and insert them accordingly)

The Commy. General, as he is directed, will inform you from time to time of the Quantities of live Cattle which will be necessary and where they are to be delivered. I have the honor etc.⁷⁸

77. The words “arranging and” appear in the circular to some of the States and not

78. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Photostats of the circulars sent to New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maryland are in the Library of Congress.

The draft of the “paper fixing the places of deposit and proportions” of the supplies is in the *Washington Papers* in the writing of Tilghman. It is as follows:

“New Hampshire: 1st. 2d. and 3d. deposits of Rum to be at Charles town No. 4. The last deposit to remain at Portsmouth for further Orders. The Salt Meat to be deposited at Portsmouth and Charlestown No. 4, in the following proportions all on the East side of Merimack River to be carried to Portsmouth, and all on the west side to Charles town No: 4.

“Massachusetts: To deposit their Salt Provision and Salt at Springfield and Great Barrington in equal proportions, except the last delivery of Salt which may wait the Commissary's order at Boston.

“The 1st: 2d. and 3d. delivery of Rum, two thirds at Great Barrington, one third at Springfield. The last delivery of this Article to remain at Boston for further orders.

“Rhode Island: The whole to be delivered at Providence, except the Fresh Meat.

“Connecticut: The Salt provisions and Salt to be delivered at or near Bulls Iron Works and Harford in equal proportions. The 1st. 2d. and 3d. deliveries of Rum at or near Bulls Iron Works. The last at Harford.

“New York: 700 Barrels of Flour, 350 do. Beef or pork, at Fort Schuyler. The remainder of the Salt Meat and Flour at West Point, Fishkill, New Windsor and Albany.

“New Jersey: The whole of the Salt, salt Meat and Flour at Morris Town, Pitts Town, Sussex Court House and Ringwood as may suit the State, as to the quantities at each.

“Pennsylvania: Fort Pitt—2400 Bbls Flour. 1000 Bbls Salt Meat or salt equivalent to put up that quantity upon the spot. 7000 Gallons Spirits.

“Carlisle—800 Bbls Flour. 3000 Gallons Spirits. 250 Bbls salt Meat or salt equivalent to put up that quantity on the spot.

“Wyoming—200 Bbls Flour. 1000 Gallons Spirits. 100 Bushels Salt.

“Lancaster—1000 Bbls Flour. 3000 Gallons Spirits. 500 Bushels Salt.

“Easton—10,000 Bbls Flour.

“Philada.—All the remainder of Salt; salt Meat, Flour and Rum.

“Delaware: The whole of the Salt; Salt Meat, Flour and Rum at Christiana Bridge. “Maryland: # of Salt; Salt Meat, Flour and Rum at the Head of Elk. The remaining #ds. which are intended for the southern Army at Baltimore and George Town in such proportions as may suit the State.

“Virginia and North Carolina: General Greene or Commanding Officer in southern department to fix the places of deposit.”

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 10, 1780.

Sir: The specific supplies required of your State, by the Act of Congress of the 4th. of last Month, being all allotted to the use of the southern Army, I must beg leave to refer your Excellency to Major

General Greene or Officer commanding in that department for the places of deposit. These, by the Resolve, are left to my determination, but as the commanding Officer to the southward will be so much better enabled to judge of the proper places, from circumstances, I hope your Excellency will think I am justifiable in referring the matter to him. I have the honors &c.⁷⁴

[V. S. L.]

74. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The draft contains the following note in the writing of David Humphreys: "Information given of an embarkation getting in readiness to sail from New York."

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 10, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to inclose to Your Excellency a Letter this moment received from Mr Stevens the Commissary of Issues at Fish Kill: I must submit to you the propriety of suffering this flour to be exported, or the necessity of detaining it, under the present circumstances of the Army.

It is with the utmost regret I am compelled to represent to you, the distressed situation of the Troops on this River for want of bread, and the disagreeable prospects before us. The Army has been served for several days past, with but a small pittance of their Rations, there is no flour in the Magazines, and I cannot learn from whence the next supply is to be derived. Under these circumstances it is impossible for me to be responsible for the important Posts on this River, or even to assure myself the Troops can be kept together from one day to another.

I have therefore to entreat Your Excellency that the most vigorous and effectual measures may be instantly adopted for procuring relief. I will not presume to recommend the mode, but only to observe, that unless some spirited exertions, or coercive means are immediately made use of, for obtaining a supply; I can see nothing but ruin stare us in the face. I have the honor etc.⁸¹

81. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

New Windsor, December 10, 1780.

Dr Sir: I thank you for the perusal of the inclosed proceedings of the Convention at Hartford.⁷⁹

The letter herewith, left open for your perusal to Genl. Clinton, calls for Majr. Davis,⁸⁰ and such Officers as you may want, and he can spare, for the purpose of Recruiting Men for the York Battalions. You will be so good therefore as to act in this matter as you shall think best. With much esteem etc.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 13, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have this day forwarded a passport to New York for the Brig Jenny to proceed from thence to New London as a Flag of truce with Cloathing for the Prisoners at Rutland, and to carry back such of them as have been lately exchanged.⁹⁴ An Officer has permission to go with the Cloathing to Rutland and return. The Vessel is directed to lay in such part of the Port as the commanding Officer there shall think proper. If you have any particular instructions

79. Of the four New England States and New York, which met in Hartford, Conn., in November, 1780, and recommended to the several States to vest the military with civil powers of an extraordinary kind.

80. Maj. John Davis, of the Fourth New York Regiment. He was retired in January, 1781.

94. A draft of this passport, in the writing of Tench Tilghman, is in the *Washington Papers*. It is similar in form to that for the ship *General de Reidesel*. (See Marine Passport, Dec. 9, 1780, q. v.) The *Jenny* was commanded by William Fleming, master, and William Alson, mate. Captain

Bartling, of the Brunswick troops, went in this boat to convey the clothing from New London to Rutland.

to give on the subject, you will be pleased to lodge them at New London. I have the honor, etc.

P.S. I have just recd. information from New York, that a considerable embarkation is taking place; supposed for the Southwd. but it does not come through such a channel as to demand entire credit.⁹⁵

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 17, 1780.

Sir: I submitted to the interference of the State of Connecticut last Year with respect to the Cantonment of the Horse, without any animadversion or remark, because I was hopeful that the impropriety of it would appear to them, and prevent the like in future. I shall, (as it is the request of the State, and because it is my wish to harmonize, as much as possible, with the Civil Authority, in the prosecution of a cause, in which we are all equally interested) send Sheldon's Regiment, this Winter to the State of Massachusetts, but I cannot help remonstrating very pointedly against a repetition of the practice in future, for the following reasons.

Four things have always influenced me in the distribution of the Troops to their Winter Cantonments. Security of our Capital Posts, which makes it necessary that they should have such a relative situation to each other as to afford the necessary succour.

95. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman; the P. S. is in that of David Humphreys.

Cover to the Country. Their own convenience. And the convenience of the Inhabitants; where the two last, were not incompatible with the two first.

It is unnecessary, I am persuaded, for me to remark, that if any one State can, or will undertake to point out a Cantonment for one part of the Army, another may with equal propriety, do it

for another part, and that upon the same principle, and by the same parity of reasoning, that Connecticut undertakes to advise or direct Sheldon's Horse to Massachusetts; Massachusetts may Order them to New Hampshire, and New Hampshire to some other State. In a word, it is striking at the most essential priviledge of the Commander in Chief, and is pregnant with every Mischeif that can be conceived. I have the honor etc.³²

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have this morning received Your Excellency's favor of the 15th: I have likewise had information from New York, that the enemy were preparing to make a move of some kind, but all my intelligences suppose that it will be a further detachment to the southward. Indeed, the situation of their affairs in that quarter seem to require a reinforcement. Should they however turn their views towards the Western parts of your State, I shall throw in

32. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. By a clerical error this letter is addressed to Gov. George Clinton.

as much Continental force as can be spared, consistent with the safety of these posts, to aid the Militia.

The scarcity of provision, [(especially of Flour of which we were sometimes without and frequently upon half and quarter allowance)] and the miserable condition which most of the Levies were in for want of Cloathing, have obliged me already to discharge the [greatest]³³ part of them, and your Excellency must know that the terms of service of the whole will expire the last of this month. We shall then be reduced to the bare Garrison of West point and its dependencies, and the number of Men requisite to cover our communication, from the Southward, thro' Jersey. Thus Your Excellency must perceive, that should the Enemy move out while this River continues open, it will be in my

power to afford but [very little] assistance, without putting these valuable posts to a most imminent Risque.

The principal inducement with me in wishing to have Sheldons Regiment cantoned in the neighbourhood of Colchester was, that they might be at hand, should such an event, as you now apprehend, take place. Should I hear that the enemy have embarked, I shall communicate the intelligence to Your Excellency, that you may as soon as possible get rid of the inconvenience and expence of the Militia. I have the honor etc.³⁴

33. In the letter sent this word is “greater.”

34. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. The words in brackets in the draft, which is also by Tilghman, are in the writing of Washington.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 19, 1780.

Dr. Sir: We have an Armoury at Albany at which all the Arms in this quarter have been constantly repaired to a very large amount, several of the Workmen are Citizens and as they are liable to be called out into the Militia service, they are every now and then taken off and the public Work thereby impeded. As they are so usefully employed, I would request your Excellency, if it can be done consistently, to grant those who are with Mr. Shephard³⁵ the principal Armourer an exemption from Military duty while in his service. I have the honor etc.³⁶

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 20, 1780.

Dear Sir: Inclosed are the Returns called for in your Excellency's letter of the 27th: ulto. Colo. Sheldon is directed to make that of his Regiment immediately to you. That, with those now

transmitted, will, I believe, include all the Men belonging to the State of Connecticut, who are serving in any department of the Continental Army. I have the honor etc.⁵²

35. William Shepherd (Shephard). He was manager of the Continental Armory at Albany, N. Y.

36. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

52. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD⁵

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 22, 1780.

Sir: I have received the Proceedings of the Convention at Hartford,⁶ which you did me the honor to inclose. It is but just to acknowledge, that I was much pleased with the salutary measures recommended, and cannot but flatter myself, if carried into execution, they will be attended with very happy consequences. I have the honor etc.⁷

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 22, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 15th: did not reach me 'till this morning. I immediately dispatched an extract from it to Congress, and very warmly recommended to them the necessity of supporting Colo. Hay in the performance of his Contracts. I most sincerely hope we may find him successful in the impress, for I see no dependance upon any other quarter.

I had, two days ago, directed a very liberal allowance of all kind of Cloathing (except Coats, of which he got about 200

5. Of Rhode Island.

6. The convention of delegates from the New England States, in November, 1780, which considered measures to obtain men and supplies for the war.

7. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

very good) to be delivered to your State Cloathier, for the four Regiments near Albany. Weissenfeldts had a compleat supply previous to going to Fort Schuyler. We shall fall very short of the necessary quantity of Coats; few of the troops have had any delivered to them this season. We expect about two thousand from Boston, and unless we should have an arrival from France, that will be our whole stock. I have the honor etc.⁸

To MRS. SUSAN BLAIR⁹

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 22, 1780.

Madam: I had the pleasure, a few days ago, of receiving your favor of the 8th: inst. I am to thank you, in behalf of the Army, for the trouble you have taken in prosecuting the very benevolent business begun by the late worthy and amiable Mrs. Reed. You will be good enough to deliver the shirts which are made to Colo. Miles Dy. Qt. M. Genl. in Philada. who will have my [particular orders to forwd. them on to the Pensa. line (at Mors: Town) and to this place]. I have a sum of money which was sent to me by the Ladies of Trenton, and which I shall take the liberty of forwarding to you by the first safe opportunity, with a request to dispose of it in the same manner as the [donation of the Ladies of Pensylvania.]

8. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photograph of the original in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

9. Mrs. Samuel Blair (née Shippen).

My Compliments to Mr. Blair, whose indisposition I hope will be but of short continuance. I am,
etc.¹⁰

To THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TOWNS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS²³

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 25, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have received the representations signed by you, in behalf of your respective towns, by Brigadier General Bayley, to whom I have communicated my situation in regard to Troops, and consequently of my inability to send any part of the Continental force to the assistance of your Frontier. This being a matter of too delicate a nature to commit it to paper, in detail, I must refer you to him generally. I have given an order for some ammunition to be delivered to General Bayley for the Use of the Militia, which is all that is in my power to do just now. The collection of small private Magazines of Flour at different places, and as far as convenience will admit from the reach of the Enemy, is what I would by all means recommend to you. They will be essentially necessary for the support of your own Militia should circumstances require you to embody them,²⁴ and should you not have occasion, they may be always readily disposed of.

It would give me the greatest pleasure, were I

10. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

23. Towns of Newbury, Norwich, Hanover, Dresden, and Cornish. The town of Newbury's representation is dated December 8: that of Norwich, Hanover, and Dresden, December 11; and that of Cornish, December 12.— *Washington Papers*.

24. At this point in the draft following is crossed off: “and should the state of the Continental Army, the next Campaign, admit of our either carrying on offensive operations in that quarter, or of sending up Men merely to act on the defensive, such Magazines will be of the greatest service.”

furnished with the Means, to afford succour and support to every part of our extended Frontier, but you will be convinced, from the representation which I have made to General Bayley and which he will communicate to you, that I am not able at this time to detach a Man for the purposes which you desire. I have the honor etc.²⁵

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 27, 1780.

Dear Sir: The inclosed are the dimensions of the most convenient Flat Boats, either for transportation upon carriages, or for transporting Men. The plan was given to me by an Officer who has made experiments with those of different kinds.

The Transports, with the embarkation which I mentioned in mine of the 9th., fell down to the Hook on the 19th. instant, and as the Wind was fair, it is supposed they went to sea the same day. The British Grenadiers and Infantry had been under orders to embark, but for some reason they were countermanded and other Corps substituted. I have little doubt of their having gone to the southward. I have the honor etc.³⁶

25. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

36. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 28, 1780.

Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 13th: reached me this day. I have ever been of opinion, that the reduction of the post of Detroit would be the only certain mean of giving peace and security to the whole Western Frontier, and I have constantly kept my Eye upon that object; but such has been the reduced state of our Continental Force, and such the low ebb of our Funds, more especially of late,

that I have never had it in my power to make the attempt. I shall think it a most happy circumstance, should your State, with the aid of Continental Stores which you require, be able to accomplish it. I am so well convinced of the general public utility with which the expedition, if successful, will be attended, that I do not hesitate a moment in giving directions to the Commandant at Fort Pitt, to deliver to Colo. Clarke the Articles which you request, or so many of them as he may be able to furnish. I have also directed him to form such a detachment of Continental Troops, as he can safely spare, and put them under the command of Colo. Clarke. There is a Continental Company of Artillery at Fort Pitt, which I have likewise ordered upon the Expedition, should it be prosecuted. The Officers of this Company will be competent to the management of the Mortars and Howitzers.

I dont know for what particular purpose Colo. Clarke may want the Six pound Cannon; but if he expects to derive

advantage from them, in the reduction of Works of any strength, he will find himself disappointed. They are not equal to battering a common Log Block house, at the shortest Range. This we have found upon experience. I would therefore advise him to consider this point, and leave them behind, except he sees a probability of wanting them in the Field.

I have inclosed the letter for Colo. Brodhad Commanding at Fort Pitt, which Colo. Clarke may deliver whenever he sees fit. It is possible, that some advantage may arise from keeping the true destination of the Expedition a secret, as long as circumstances will admit. If so, the fewer who are intrusted the better.

Since I began this letter, I have been furnished by General Knox commanding Officer of the Artillery, and by the Qr. Mr. General with Returns of the Stores, in their several departments, which are at Fort Pitt, and I find they fall very far Short of your Excellency's requisition. I have therefore formed my order to Colo. Brodhead in proportion to the stock in his Hands.³⁹ There is no Mortar at Fort Pitt, but the 8 Inch Howitzer will answer the purpose, and is more convenient for transportation. The Field pieces are Sixes and Threes; two of each.

The matter which the Honble. the House of Delegates have referred to my determination stands thus. A Board of General Officers, in the year 1778, determined: That Officers bearing Continental Commissions should take rank of those having State only, while their regiments continued upon State establishment; but that when such Regiments

39. Sec Washington's letter to Col. Daniel Brodhead, Dec. 29, 1780, post.

became Continental, the Officers should be entitled to receive Continental Commissions, from the date of their State appointments. Thus you see it is not in my power to recommend them to Congress for Continental Commissions, while in State Regiments, without infringing an established Rule.

As to the second point “whether such Officers shall take promotion in the line or be confined to the said two Regiments” I think they had best, for the sake of peace and harmony, be confined to the two Regiments. For, many of those Officers left the Continental Line in very low Ranks, and obtained very high in that of the State. This created much uneasiness when the troops came together in service, and it was with difficulty, that many of the Continental Officers could be made to brook being commanded by those, who had been their inferiors the preceding Campaign. I am therefore of opinion, that an attempt to introduce those Gentlemen, now, into the Continental Line, would create a source of infinite discontent and uneasiness, more especially, as you have a sufficient number of Officers at home and in Captivity (and Vacancies ought in justice to be reserved for such of the latter as wish to serve again) for the Quota of Continental troops assigned to the State, by the last Establishment. I have the Honor etc.

PS. The number of Shot, Shells, and Intrenching Tools ordered, tho' far short of your request, is fully competent to the pieces of ordnance, and any Works Colo Clarke may want to throw up for offense or defence.⁴⁰

[V. S. L.]

40. In the writing of Tench Tilghman, The P.S. is in the writing of Washington and is not in the draft.

***To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED**

New Windsor, December 28, 1780.

Sir: Previous to the receipt of your Excellency's favor of the 19th. Instt. (which only came to my hands this day) I had been honored with the Resolve of Congress of the 12th. preceeding.

In consequence, a detachment belonging neither to the Troops of Pensylvania or Connecticut; Nor Citizens of either, were ordered to relieve the Garrison at Wyoming.

The places for the depositing of Provision pointed out by my letter of the 10th. Instt., was consequent of the resolve of Congress of the 4th Ulto., they were the best that my judgment at that time, or now, can fix, and I can assure you that, in determining upon them, I had no regard to the views or interests of any particular States. I am etc.

To JOHN FRANKLIN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 28, 1780.

Sir: Sir Henry Clinton has at length consented to the mutual establishment of Agents for prisoners, who are to reside at

New York and at Lancaster in Pennsylvania or at such other place as the Bulk of the British prisoners may be. Mr. Pintard, who formerly acted as Agent for us in New York, has declined returning in that Capacity; as his family have come out of the City, and he has made arrangements for settling himself in Jersey. Thinking that he, from his general acquaintance, would be able to recommend a proper person for his successor, I applied to him for that purpose. He mentioned you, and altho' I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you, yet, from the favorable report of all our prisoners, independent of Mr. Pintards recommendation, I should esteem it a happy

event, if you would undertake the business in question. You will go in, in an official Character, and consequently not liable to any ill usage or insults. What Mr. Pintard received for transacting the business I really do not know, but you will be entitled to the same. I shall be glad of your Answer as soon as possible, that if you incline to accept I may propose you to Sir Henry Clinton.⁴¹ I am &c.⁴²

To THOMAS JOHNSON⁴³

Head Quarters, New Windsor, December 28, 1780.

Dear Sir: Mrs. Bainbridge the Wife of Peter Bainbridge has laid before me some papers respecting the proceedings of Capt.

41. Franklin accepted the appointment in a letter of Jan. 4, 1781, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

42. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

43. Member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Eggleston⁴⁴ of Colo. Lee's Legion on the case of their Son Peter Bainbridge, which carry the face of a most extraordinary and parte, I have, by the inclosed referred the Matter to Major General Greene commanding the southern Army, and I shall be much obliged to you to procure authenticated Copies of the inclosed papers or any others that you may find necessary and transmit them to General Greene, with my letter. This is a matter which I would wish to have fully investigated, not only as it concerns the rights of a Citizen, but because Capt. Eggleston may, if innocent, have an opportunity of acquitting himself of so gross a charge, or, if guilty, meet the punishment of which such conduct is deserving. The Motives by which I am actuated, will I am sure be a sufficient excuse, for the trouble which I am giving you. I have the Honor etc.⁴⁵

44. Capt. Joseph Eggleston, jr. (Egleston), of Lee's Legion. He served to the close of the war.

45. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to inform your Excellency of the sailing of the Embarkation, which I mentioned in my Letter of the 13th of December. The Fleet consisting of thirty two Sail, left the Hook on the 22nd Ulto. with a Detachment of about Sixteen hundred Troops on Board, under the command of Arnold. It is conjectured they are designed as a further reinforcement to the Southern Army, which is said to be greatly weakened, by the severity of the service and climate. I have the honor &c.⁸²

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 2, 1781.

Dear Sir: Since I had last the honor of addressing Your Excellency, the Embarkation which had been some time preparing [and wch. had under gone several changes] has sailed from New York. The fleet, including the Convoys consisted of 32 Sail, and left the Hook the 22 Ulto. By the best information I have been able to obtain; the Light Infantry and Grenadiers, with some other Corps, which were at first under embarking Orders, were afterwards countermanded and the

82. In the writing of David Humphreys From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

Detachment finally amounted to about 1600 Men, of which Simcoe's is the only entire Corps, that we know with certainty has embarked; the remainder is said to be principally composed of Drafts from the Line. The whole under the command of Arnold, and still conjectured to be destined to the Southward. I have the honor etc.⁸⁶

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 4, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I am extremely sorry to acquaint your Excellency that an event of the most alarming nature, but which I have long apprehended, would happen in some part of the Army, has taken place in the Pennsylvania line, cantoned near Morris town. General Wayne informs me that on the night of the 1st. instant a mutiny was excited among the non Commd. Officers and privates; several Officers were killed and wounded in endeavouring to quell it in the first instance, but resistance was soon found vain. The troops paraded with their Arms; seized the Artillery of the division, and marched off in a body towards Philadelphia. declaring their resolution to proceed to that City and lay their grievances before Congress. Genl. Wayne, Colo. Butler and Colo. Stewart will endeavour to remain with them, to keep them from committing excesses upon the Country, and in

86. The draft in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

hopes that some favorable opening may be found to bring them to reason. What will be the event of this affair I do not know, or whether the spirit of defection will be confined to that line. The Officers have been apprehensive of something of a like nature among the troops at these posts, who have the same causes of complaint. Should this unfortunately be the case, we have no resource left for the security of the posts but the Militia, who would with difficulty be got in sufficient numbers before the enemy might take advantage of the Revolt. for I have not the least doubt, but they will hope to see the same spirit prevail among the troops here as among those at Morris town and will be prepared for such an event. The River is intirely open and so far favorable. Under these circumstances, I think it indispensably necessary that your Excellency should be as near the posts as possible. Your influence with the Militia would give a spring to their exertions, and your advice upon such an occasion would be of infinite service to me. If the session can be carried on by the Lieutenant Governor, I shall be glad to see you as soon as possible. But should any favorable accounts from below, or an assurance of the affections of the troops here, make your presence unnecessary, I shall dispatch an Express to you by the Road on the East side of the River. I imagine

the foregoing will have reached Albany, but not perhaps circumstantially; Your Excellency will therefore communicate so much of it as you may think expedient. I have the honor etc.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 5, 1781.

Sir: It is with extreme anxiety, and pain of mind, I find myself constrained to inform Your Excellency that the event I have long apprehended would be the consequence of the complicated distresses of the Army, has at length taken place. On the night of the 1st instant a mutiny was excited by the Non Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Pennsylvania Line, which soon became so universal as to defy all opposition; in attempting to quell this tumult, in the first instance, some Officers were killed, others wounded, and the lives of several common Soldiers lost. Deaf to the arguments, entreaties, and utmost efforts of *all their Officers* to stop them, the Men moved off from Morris Town, the place of their Cantonment, with their Arms, and six pieces of Artillery: and from Accounts just received by Genl. Wayne's Aid De Camp, they were still in a body, on their March to Philadelphia, to demand a redress of their grievances. At what point this defection will stop, or how extensive it may prove God only knows; at present the Troops at the important Posts in this vicinity remain quiet, not being acquainted with this unhappy and alarming affair; but how long they will continue so cannot be ascertained, as they labor under some of the pressing hardships, with the Troops who have revolted.

The aggravated calamities and distresses that have resulted, from the total want of pay for nearly twelve Months,

for want of cloathing, at a severe season, and not unfrequently the want of provisions; are beyond description. The circumstances will now point out much more forcibly what ought to be done, than any thing that can possibly be said by me, on the subject.

It is not within the sphere of my duty to make requisitions, without the Authority of Congress, from individual States: but at such a crisis, and circumstanced as we are, my own heart will acquit me; and Congress, and the States (eastward of this) whom for the sake of dispatch, I address, I am persuaded will excuse me, when once for all I give it decidedly as my opinion, that it is in vain to think an Army can be kept together much longer, under such a variety of sufferings as ours has experienced: and that unless some immediate and spirited measures are adopted to furnish at least three Months pay to the Troops, in Money that will be of some value to them; And at the same time ways and means are devised to cloath and feed them better (more regularly I mean) than they have been, the worst that can befall us may be expected.

I have transmitted Congress a Copy of this Letter,² and have in the most pressing manner requested them to adopt the measure which I have above recommended, or something similar to it, and as I will not doubt of their compliance, I have thought proper to give you this previous notice, that you may be prepared to answer the requisition.

As I have used every endeavour in my power to avert the evil that has come upon us, so will I continue to exert every means I am possessed of to prevent an extension of the Mischief, but I can

2. See Washington's letter to Congress, Jan. 6, 1781, *post*.

neither foretell, or be answerable for the issue.

That you may have every information that an officer of rank and abilities can give of the true situation of our affairs, and the condition and temper of the Troops I have prevailed upon Brigadier Genl Knox to be the bearer of this Letter, to him I beg leave to refer your Excellency for many Matters which would be too tedious for a Letter. I have the honor etc.³

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 9, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favors of the 17th. of November and 22d. December. The first, by some accident, had gone forward to Philada., and only reached me by the post from thence the 7th. inst. Your Excellency will have had good reason to suppose me guilty of neglect in not sooner answering so polite a renewal, on your part, of the correspondence which had

3. The text is from a photostat of the circular sent Gov. William Greene of Rhode Island kindly furnished by William Ely, of Providence, R. I.

been maintained between us while you presided in Congress. Independent of personal regard, I am extremely happy in seeing you elected to your present dignified station, as, from my knowledge of your attention to public business, I am assured that every measure which is committed to your care will be zealously promoted and pointedly executed.

I am at a loss in what manner to comply with the Act of the Honble. the House of Representatives of the 16th. Novemr.²³ calling for a return of all the Arms and Accoutrements that have been taken from the Men of the State of Massachusetts and no compensation made therefore. I know of the detention of no Arms since the dissolution of the first Army in 1775 and they were paid for. There may have been partial stoppages since, but so great has been the change of Officers that I doubt whether it will be possible to ascertain facts with any degree of accuracy. I will however make inquiry among the Officers who have been longest and most constantly with the Army, and see whether a return can now be obtained, by which justice may be done to the public as well as to individuals. I have the honor etc.²⁴

To MISS MARY DAGWORTHY¹⁹

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 9, 1781.

Madam: I have had the pleasure to receive Your favor of the 29th. of Decr. and have given directions to Colonel Nelson²⁰ to deliver

23. A copy of the resolve of Nov. 16, 1780, of the Massachusetts Legislature is in the the *Washington Papers*.

24. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

19. Of Trenton, N. J.

20. Col. John Nelson (Nelson). He was deputy quartermaster general of New Jersey.

the three hundred and eighty pr of Stockings for the use of the Troops of the State of New Jersey.

This Gratuity of the Ladies, I am persuaded, will be very acceptable at this season: and will produce every expression of gratitude to the generous Donors, from those who are the immediate sharers in their liberality. I am etc.²¹

To JOHN FRANKLIN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 10, 1781.

Sir: I am pleased to find by your favor of the 4th. instant that you are willing to accept of the Agency for prisoners provided Sir Henry Clinton makes no objection to you returning to New York. I shall immediately propose you to him, and will acquaint you with his answer as soon as I receive it. I am etc.³¹

21. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

31. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 12, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 20th of Deer enclosing the Act for More effectually preventing illicit trade &c; and also with your favor of the 5th Inst. covering the Act for recruiting the Regts of New Jersey. When the present urgent business is dispatched, I shall attend to the several Matters contained in them; in the Mean time I have the honor etc.⁴⁰

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: Since the information Col Humphrys gave Your Excellency by my direction, some circumstances have been communicated by Gen Wayne (a Copy of whose Letter is inclosed) which give a very different complexion to the affair. Instead of delivering up the Emissaries from the Enemy, as I had been prematurely advised, the Mutineers had only reported them to Genl Wayne, still keeping them in their own hands; this conduct instead of shutting the doors to negotiation with the Enemy, seems to carry a threat that if we do not comply with their terms, they know from what quarter they can obtain protection and redress.

40. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Previous to the receipt of this last intelligence, I had ordered a detachment to be in readiness to March from the Troops in this Vicinity, which is still held under Marching Orders. But I am extremely embarrassed, and waiting with the utmost anxiety for further Advices. Under these circumstances, I need not enumerate my choice of difficulties from every quarter, among which, the perplexities arising on the score of Provision are not the most inconsiderable. Should it become absolutely necessary for the Detachment to March, the Garrison of West Point, you must be sensible will be left in a very weak situation. I wish therefore to be informed, by your Excellency, whether any force of Militia, could be thrown into the Garrison, in what time it could be done upon such an emergency, and what Number might be depended upon; I should be much obliged by having Your Answer as soon as is convenient. I have the honor etc.⁴⁵

To MRS. SARAH BACHE⁵³

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 15, 1781.

Dear Madam: I should have done myself the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the Letter you did me the favor to write on the 26th of Deer:⁵⁴ at the moment of its receipt; had not some affairs of a very unusual nature, (which are too recent and notorious to require explanation)

45. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

53. Wife of Richard Bache and daughter of Benjamin Franklin.

54. Not now found in the *Washington Papers* Sparks, however, quotes from it: "We packed up the shirts in three boxes, and delivered them to Colonel Miles, with a request that he would send them to Trenton immediately, lest the river should close; where they now wait your Excellency's orders. There are two thousand and five in number. They would have been at camp long before this, had not the general sickness prevented. We wish them to be worn with as much pleasure as they were made."

engaged my whole attention. I pray you now to be persuaded, that a sense of the Patriotic Exertions of yourself and the Ladies who have furnished so handsome and useful a gratuity for the Army, at so critical and severe a season, will not easily be effaced, and that the value of the donation will be greatly enhanced by a consideration of the hands by which it was made and presented.

Amidst all the distresses and sufferings of the Army, from whatever sources they have arisen, it must be a consolation to our *Virtuous Country Women* that they have never been accused of with holding their most zealous efforts to support the cause we are engaged in, and encourage those who are defending them in the Field. The Army do not want gratitude, nor do they Misplace it in this instance.

Although the friendship of your Father may oblige him to see some things through too partial a Medium, Yet the indulgent manner in which he is pleased to express himself respecting me, is indeed very pleasing.⁵⁵ For nothing in human life, can afford a liberal Mind, more rational and exquisite satisfaction, than the approbation of a Wise, a great and virtuous Man.

Mrs Washington requests me to present her Compliments to Mr Bache and yourself, with which you will be pleased to accept of mine and believe me to be etc.⁵⁶

55. Franklin had written to Mrs. Bache (June 3, 1779): “If you happen again to see General Washington, assure him of my very great and sincere respect, and tell him, that all the old Generals here amuse themselves in studying the accounts of his operations, and approve highly of his conduct.”

56. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: I had the honor last night to receive Your Excellency's Letter of the same date, and am happy to inform you that there probably will be no occasion to march the Detachment, nor consequently to call the Militia to our aid.

By the inclosed Letter from the Committee of Congress, which came to hand last evening, Your Excellency will perceive the favorable train matters were in, and the ground to expect an immediate accomodation. I have the honor etc.⁶⁸

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 18, 1781.

Sir: Under the circumstances, Your Excellency states in your letter of the 12th., there is to me no doubt that Wilson⁶⁹ may be detained and punished, notwithstanding the sanction of a flag. But there is a fact alleged by the enemy, which would intirely change the nature of the case. They pretend, that Wilson came out under a passport or permit from Col Wells⁷⁰ of your Militia, while

68. In the writing of George Augustine Washington. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.

69. James Wilson, a Connecticut soldier, who was condemned to death for traitorous conduct, escaped to the British and came to the American lanes under a flag of truce to obtain his family and effects.

70. Col. Levi Wells.

Commanding Officer at Horseneck or in that vicinity. If this is true, however censurable Col Wells might be, in giving the permit I should advise to respect it and release Wilson. This is a point, if possible, necessary to be ascertained, previous to an application to General Clinton. If upon investigation, Your Excellency finds the pretended passport to be false, I will make a demand as you request of Capt. Marsh;⁷¹ unless Your Excellency should prefer doing it yourself as the whole affair has been hitherto without my participation.

I am happy to be able to inform your Excellency agreeable to the resolve of Congress, that a detachment of the Jersey troops has been already marched to Wyoming. With the warmest sentiments of respect etc.⁷²

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 19, 1781.

Dear Sir: I should not trouble your Excellency, with such reiterated applications on the score of supplies, if any objects less than the safety of these Posts on this River, and indeed the existence of the Army, were at stake. By the enclosed Extracts of a Letter, of Yesterday, from Major Genl. Heath, you will see our present situation, and future prospects.⁷⁷

71. Capt. Samuel Marsh, of the Connecticut Militia.

72. In the writing of Alexander Hamilton. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

77. Heath's letter of Jan, 18, 1781, in the *Washington Papers*, described, the desperate situation of the beef supply at West Point.

If therefore the supply of Beef Cattle demanded by the requisitions of Congress from Your State, is not regularly forwarded to the Army, I cannot consider myself as responsible for the maintenance of the Garrisons below, or the continuance of a single Regiment in the Field. I have the honor etc⁷⁸

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, January 19, 1781.

Dear Sir: My Aide de Camp Col. Laurens is charged with a commission of the most critical importance from Congress to the Court of Versailles. The Alliance Frigate is ordered to convey him to France, but from the exhausted state of our continental resources in every department, delays which would be fatal to the objects of his mission are to be apprehended, unless the [influence of yr. Exy or] assistance of your state can be obtained in manning and fitting the Vessel for Sea. In these circumstances there is new reason to rejoice, that your Excellency fills a station which gives efficacy to your constant desire of promoting the general interest. The urgency of the present business demands every effort of influence and authority, and gives yr. Excellency an opportunity of rendering the most

78. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. The same letter was sent to Gov. John Hancock.

essential service to the United States, by interposing [as far as may be consistent] such measures as will give instant dispatch to the Frigate. Persuaded that it is sufficient to apprise yr Excellency of the occasion, to engage you to correspondent exertions, will only add the assurances of esteem and respect [with which I am etc.]⁷⁵

To OLIVER PHELPS AND SAMUEL OSGOOD

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 20, 1781.

Gentlemen: Since my Letter to you of the 28th. of Decr the supply of Beef Cattle has been so inconsiderable, that we have been compelled to break in upon the salted Provisions, which were designed as a reserve against the distresses of unforeseen or unavoidable contingencies.

You will observe, from the inclosed extracts of a Letter from Major General Heath the terrible prospects now before us; and Nothing, I am persuaded can prevent the most tremendous consequences, but an immediate and regular supply of the Beef Cattle demanded by the requisitions of Congress from your State. I have advised His Excellency Governor Hancock of this; and have further informed him, that unless we may depend upon this supply; I cannot consider myself responsible for the safety of

75. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

the important Posts on this River, or even, the continuance of a single Regiment in the field. I am etc.⁸⁶

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 21, 1781.

Dr Sir: I have just received a letter from Mr. Des-touche, commandant of the French fleet, of which the inclosed is a translation. I am persuaded Your Excellency will do every thing for the accomodation of our allies, which the extreme necessities of our own army will permit. I shall be obliged to you to inform me how the matter Mr Des-touche mentions may stand, and how far it will be in your power to comply with his request. I wish you to write to him on the subject as soon as possible.⁹⁵ I have the honor etc.⁹⁶

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES AND NEW YORK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 22, 1781.

Sir: I have received the disagreeable intelligence that a part of the Jersey Line had followed the example of that of

86. The draft is in the waiting of David Humphreys.

95. Destouches had complained the wheat anti flour purchased for the French Navy had been seized on impress warrant of Governor Clinton.

96. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Pennsylvania; and when the advices came away it was expected the revolt would be general. The precise intention of the Mutineers was not known, but their complaints and demands were similar to those, of the Pennsylvanians.

Persuaded that without some decisive effort, at all hazards to suppress this dangerous spirit it would speedily infect the whole Army. I have ordered as large a Detachment as we could spare from these Posts to march under Major General Howe with Orders to compel the Mutineers to unconditional submission; to listen to no terms while they were in a state of resistance, and on their reduction to

execute instantly a few of the most active, and most incendiary Leaders. I am not certain what part the Troops detached for this purpose will act, but I flatter myself they will do their duty. I prefer any extremity to which the Jersey Troops may be driven, to a compromise.

The weakness of the Garrison but still more its embarrassing distress for want of Provisions made it impossible to prosecute such measures with the Pennsylvanians, as the nature of the case demanded, and while we were making arrangements, as far as practicable to supply these defects, an accommodation took place, which will not only subvert the Pennsylvania Line, but have a very pernicious influence on the whole Army. I mean however by these remarks only to give an idea of the miserable situation we are in, not to blame a measure which perhaps in our circumstances was the best that could have been adopted.

The same embarrassments operate against coercion at this moment, but not in so great a degree; the Jersey Troops not being from their numbers so formidable as were the Pennsylvanians.¹

I dare not detail the risks we run from the present scantiness of supplies.² We have received few or no Cattle for some time past, nor do we know of any shortly to be expected. The salted Meat we ought to have reserved in the Garrison, is now nearly exhausted. I cannot but renew my solicitations with Your State, to exert every expedient for contributing to our immediate relief.

With perfect Respect I have the honor etc.³

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 23, 1781.

Dear Sir: Having recd. information from Col Shreve of the

1. The draft at this point has the following crossed out: "From these events one inference is to be drawn which every state in the union cannot too seriously realize; that unless effectual measures are taken to place the army upon a more satisfactory footing, its dissolution and the utter ruin of

our cause, will be the inevitable consequences. I have long foreseen the terrible crises to which our affairs were tending and I have not been remiss in apprising the states of the danger.”

2. At this point in the circular to New York the following was added: “With flour we are fed only from day to day.”

3. The text is from the circular, in the writing of David Humphreys, sent to Governor Greene of Rhode Island, from a photostat kindly furnished by William Ely, of Providence, R. I.

defection of the Jersey Line, and apprehending the most dangerous consequences may ensue, unless an immediate stop shall be put to such horrid proceedings; I am now taking the most vigorous coercive measures for that purpose. I thought it necessary your Excellency should be apprised of my intention in order to prevent any compromise being made with the Mutineers, as well as to have the Militia of the State in readiness to Co-operate with the Detachmt. I have ordered under Major Genl Howe to quell the insurrection.

I doubt not we shall derive every aid from the good People of Your State, in suppressing this Mutiny, not only from a conviction of the dangerous tendency of such proceedings to effect the entire dissolution of the Army, but [as it may affect Civil as well as Mily. authority. to have a redress of grievances demanded with Arms, and] also from a sense of the unreasonable conduct of the Jersey Troops in Revolting at a time when the state was exerting itself to redress all their real grievances.

It will be necessary to take your Measures with secrecy and advise [Genl Howe] the commanding Officer of the Detachment of them [who will march (if the heavy fall of Snow last night does not prevt. it) by the rout of Ringwood, Pompton &ca. I have the honor etc.]⁶

6. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To GOVERNOR ABNER NASH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 23, 1781.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 14th of Decr; that of a prior date which you mention to have written in answer to mine by Major General Greene, I have not had the pleasure to receive; but such misfortunes are not to be wondered at, when we consider the distance of the conveyance, and the negligence of those who are frequently concerned in it.

It is extremely to be regretted, that the States have delayed so long to raise an Army for the War. I am pleased to find my opinion on that subject coincides so exactly with that of your Excellency; and hope it is not yet too late to attempt so salutary a measure.

The spirit of Enterprise which seems to prevail so conspicuously among the troops at the Southward, gives me great satisfaction. It will be a happy circumstance if the Militia and other Troops now in the field should be able to hold the Enemy in check, untill a greater and better supplied regular force can be established.

In a Postscript to my Letter of 10th. Decr. I did myself the honor to advise you, that an Embarkation was then preparing at New York, which was conjectured to be destined Southward. The Detachment for that service, after undergoing several changes, and being reduced to nearly 1600 men under the Command

of Arnold, sail'd about the 22d Ulto. Upon my obtaining intelligence of this, I gave information to General Greene, by whom I presumed the communication would be made to your Excellency.

Since the departure of this Fleet, I have had no official accounts, but from a variety of reports the Troops have landed near Richmond in Virginia, the particulars could undoubtedly be communicated to you more accurately and expeditiously from that Quarter, than they could from this, even though we were well acquainted with them.

No event of any magnitude has taken place since my last, except an unhappy affair in the Pennsylvania Line. On the 1st of Janry a Mutiny was excited among the Non Commissioned

Officers and Privates, in which some lives were lost. The Troops marched in a body from Morris Town to Prince Town, where they remained some days, and from thence to Trenton; where a compromise has taken place, and Commissioners appointed by the Committee of Congress are sitting to examine into their Complaints, redress their real grievances and effect a settlement. It is worthy of remark that the Mutineers have given the Enemy sufficient proof of their attachment to the Country, by delivering up the Emissaries who were sent with very advantageous Offers to allure them within the British Lines. They also refused a reward for giving them up. The British Agents have been executed as Spies.

Some disturbance, I am just informed has happened among the Troops of Jersey, but I do not learn of what nature

or how extensive the defection is likely to prove among them, as they are at a distance from me. While every thing from abroad wears a favorable aspect, our internal affairs, especially those of finance appear but too much the reverse. The want of Pay, Cloathing, and Provisions is productive of evils, from which we scarcely know how we shall be able to extricate ourselves. And to add to our calamities, we are sensible the Troops in the southern Department participate in all our embarrassments and distresses. I have the honor etc.⁷

To JOHN BAILEY, JUNIOR, LEWIS DUBOYS, AND JOHN VAN KLEECK²⁶

New Windsor, January 25, 1781.

Gentlemen: I last evening received the letter which you were pleased to write me of the 20th. instant requesting my opinion of Col Hay's conduct in his former and present station.

I can only answer in general that from the character given me of him while serving in the Northern army, from the information I received of his conduct while acting in this department, and from my own observations upon it, I have always considered Col Hay as a capable useful diligent active and upright servant

7. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

26. A committee appointed at a town meeting of Poughkeepsie. They signed themselves Col. John Bailey, Col. Lewis Duboys, and Capt. John Van Kleeck. Their letter of January 20 and the resolves of the town meeting are in the *Washington Papers*.

of the public. My situation however did not enable me to look into the interior of his transactions in business, of course from my own knowledge I could only judge of the results to the service and on these are founded the opinion I have given. I have the honor etc.²⁷

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Ringwood, January 27, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency, that the measures concerted for quelling the mutiny in the Jersey line were this morning carried into full execution. The mutineers were unexpectedly surrounded and awed into an unconditional surrender with little hesitation and no resistance. Two of the principal actors were executed on the spot, the rest pardoned. The spirit of mutiny seems now to have completely subsided and to have given place to a genuine repentance. This was very far from being the case previous to this step, notwithstanding the apparent submission which the assurances of redress had produced; they still continued insolent and refractory and disobedient to the commands of their officers.

A general pardon was promised by Colonel Dayton, on condition of an immediate and full return to duty. This

27. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

condition was not performed on the part of the mutineers and of course they were not entitled to the benefit of the promise; besides which the existence of the Army called for an example. I have the honor etc.³²

To THE COMMISSIONERS FOR REDRESSING THE GRIEVANCES OF THE NEW JERSEY LINE

Ringwood, January 27, 1781.

Gentlemen: The fatal tendency of that spirit which has shown itself in the Pennsylvania and Jersey lines, and which derived so much encouragement from impunity in the case of the former determined me at all events to pursue a different conduct with respect to the latter. For this purpose I detached a body of troops under Major Genl. Howe with orders to compel the mutineers to unconditional submission and execute on the spot a few of the principal incendiaries. This has been effected this morning; and we have reason to believe the mutinous disposition of the troops is now completely subdued and succeeded by a genuine penitence.

But having punished guilt and supported authority, it now becomes proper to do justice. I therefore wish the Commissioners, as soon as convenient to enter upon the objects for which

32. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

they have been appointed. But I think it my duty to observe to them the necessity of the greatest caution in discussing one article, the terms of the enlistments of the troops. In transacting this with the Pennsylvanians for want of proper care, the greatest part of the line has been dismissed, though only a small proportion was intitled to a dismissal. Authentic and unequivocal proofs have been since found, that a majority of the discharged men were fairly and explicitly enlisted for the war. This evil arose from admitting the oaths of the individuals themselves, before the vouchers could be assembled. From the temper of the soldiery who will scruple no means of getting rid of the service it becomes necessary to admit none but the most unsuspecting evidence in their favour. Generally

on investigation the complaints on this head have appeared ill founded, and as the presumption is strong against the soldier, the proofs of an unfair detention ought to be equally strong. Men are extremely wanted, it is at an infinite expence they are procured and they ought not lightly to be released from their engagements.

Whenever a complaint has been made to me, I have invariably directed an inquiry, for I have ever considered it as not less impolitic than unjust in our service to use fraud in engaging or retaining men; but as I mentioned above, the complaint has much oftner. been found to originate in the levity of the soldier than in truth. I have the honor etc.³¹

31. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES⁴⁶

Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 29, 1781.

Sir: In the letter which I did myself the honor of writing you the 22nd. instant; I informed you of the revolt of the Jersey Troops, and of the measures I intended to pursue in consequence. I have now the pleasure to inform you that Major General Howe, with the detachment under his command, surrounded the Mutineers in their quarters on the morning of the 27th. brought them without difficulty to an unconditional surrender, and had two of the most active instigators, immediately tried and executed. It was judged unnecessary to extend the example further, as there was every appearance of genuine contrition. I hope this will completely extinguish the spirit of Mutiny, if effectual measures are taken to prevent its revival, by rendering the situation of the soldiery more tolerable than it has heretofore been.⁴⁷ It is not to be expected that an Army can be permanently held together by those ties on which we have too long depended.

I cannot omit doing justice to the detachment which was sent on this service. There was in its behaviour every mark of fidelity, Obedience, disapprobation of the conduct of the Mutineers, and

a conviction of the necessity of bringing them to submission and punishment. They made a long march over Mountainous roads

46. And New York.

47. In the letter to New York, at this point, the following was added: "Without this, it may be smothered for a while, but it must again break out with greater violence."

and through a deep snow with the greatest patience, and obeyed every order with alacrity. I have the honor etc.⁴⁸

[N.H.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 4, 1781.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 31st of January by General Knox. The exertions the Eastern States are making afford me great satisfaction.

I am sorry there should be so much justice in Your Excellency's observation respecting the irregularity of supply, and consequent waste of the live Cattle sometimes sent to the Army. It is easy to trace this Misfortune to its source: Each State is called upon for the Weekly or Monthly proportion of the supplies demanded by Congress. A failure in any One, involves the Army in

48. In the writing of George Augustine Washington.

distressing want; to relieve this, the most pressing representations are made, which in some instances are attended with such efficacy, as to bring on the supplies that have been retained, and produce such a temporary redundance, as is attended with the loss and waste which your Excellency mentions. To depend upon a daily supply of live Cattle, as has been the case hitherto, under these circumstances, must produce one of the disagreeable alternatives before recited. The negligence of

the Purchaser, or the Driver, the badness of the roads, or interruption of water, inevitably bring on a scarcity, which threatens the Army with dissolution. While on the contrary, a large stock in hand, produced by whatever contingency, is attended with waste, as neither the Commissary or Quarter Mastr. have the Means of disposing of the Cattle immediately, or supporting them alive in Camp. I have not the least doubt, but the Army might be fed at half the present expence, by having proper Magazines laid in, And arrangements made for the Department. At the same time I do not see but two ways to remedy the evil complained of; either to furnish the Commissy Genl with Money to purchase, and make him accountable for the supplies of the Army, which mode, I conceive would be far preferable, or, to oblige the State Agents, or Contractors to comply punctually with the requisitions made upon them.

In determining the places of Deposit for the specific supplies required of the States, it was necessary I should have regard to the subsequent transportation to the probable theatre of

action, and to the difficulty of performing this by land carriage, from the want of Money and Means in the Quarter Master Department. I will candidly acknowledge, it was from these considerations, I was induced to fix one of the Magazines of the State of Connecticut at Hartford, from whence Water transportation might eventually [be] had. And the other at Bulls Falls, as being the nearest Point to the North River, and our present principal force, where the deposit could safely be made. From the Western Part of the State, and the Places contiguous to the Sound, which may be as near to West Point as Bulls Iron Works, it will certainly be eligible to have the Provisions forwarded directly to the former:

I thank you for the Books sent and will return them after perusal.⁸⁶ With the greatest consideration and Esteem etc.⁸⁷

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 6, 1781.

Sir: I am much obliged to your Excellency for your letter of the 10th. of January, giving me an account of the enemy's incursion into your state. Baron De Steuben has informed me of their successive operations to five miles below Hoods. It is mortifying to see so inconsiderable a party committing such extensive

86. The books were two volumes of political pamphlets from London.

87. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. The word in brackets is supplied from the draft, which is also in the writing of Humphreys.

depredations with impunity: but considering the situation of your state, it is to be wondered you have hitherto suffered so little molestation. I am apprehensive you will experience more in future: nor should I be surprised if the enemy were to establish a Post in Virginia till the season for opening the Campaign here. But as the evils you have to apprehend from these predatory incursions are not to be compared with the injury to the common cause and with the danger to your state in particular, from the conquest of those states southward of you, I am persuaded the attention to your immediate safety will not divert you from the measures intended to reinforce the Southern Army and put it in a condition to stop the progress of the enemy in that Quarter. The late accession of force makes them very formidable in Carolina, too formidable to be resisted without powerful succours from Virginia: and it is certainly her policy as well as the interest of America to keep the weight of the War at a distance from her. There is no doubt that a principal object of Arnolds operations is to make a diversion in favour of Cornwallis, and to remove this motive by disappointing the intention, will be one of the surest ways to remove the enemy.

We have just received an account that the enemy's fleet employed in blocking that of our allies at Rhode Island has lately suffered severely by a storm. One seventy four is said to have been stranded and intirely lost on the East End of Long Island, another (some accounts say two others) dismasted and towed into Gardners Bay, and a ninety driven to sea in great distress. I expect every

moment a confirmation and the particulars of this agreeable intelligence. I have the honor, etc.⁹⁴

[V.S.L.]

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 8, 1781.

Sir: I have received the Letter which you did me the favor to write on the 20th Ulto. and am pleased to find the State of New Hampshire is determined to make such exertions in favor of its Troops. If this spirit is not suffered to relax, we may expect the happiest consequences from it. Justice on the part of the Country will produce satisfaction in the Army; and contentment there, will promote the recruiting service more effectually than any bounty or encouragement. It is of such infinite consequence, that the Regiments should be compleated before the opening of the Campaign that I cannot forbear to continue to recommend it in the strongest terms.

Should the Army be complete on the present establishment, the force will be but moderate; as there are so many Men belonging to one State, who are in the service of another, and consequently credited to both. This is the case with the Men you Mention, in the Regts of Col Jackson &c. None of these Men are by the Resolution of

94. In the writing of George Augustine Washington.

Congress to join the Regiments of their own State, except such as were in the Independent Corps, which have been reduced. I am, etc.⁸

[N.H.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been duly honored with Your Excellency's favor of the 31st of January. I have also conversed with your Brother, on the temper and disposition of the Troops of New York, and from

his representation, am led to expect the discontents among them, which were so happily suppressed, will not revive again.

With respect to the mode your Excellency recommends for employing the Invalids of the New York line, I have the honor to observe, that altho the forming these Men into a Compy under Supernumerary Officers might be attended with some good consequences, Yet I conceive (besides being contrary to the spirit of the late establishment of the Army, by which all Independt Corps are reduced) it would not, on every consideration, be an eligible Measure.

If the Men are proper subjects for the Corps of Invalids they are not to be discharged on any pretext whatever. If they are so entirely useless as to be discharged, and are reenlisted by any Recruiting Officer; by the pointed orders on that subject, he will

8. In the writing of David Humphreys.

inevitably incur the loss of all the expence and bounty paid to such Recruits. I will only add, that from long experience, I have almost invariably found Independent Corps to be such an imposition upon, and moth to the Public, that I cannot consent to give any countenance to the revival of them. I have the honor etc.⁹

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 13, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I have received your letters of the 15th. of December and 4th. of February.

I have been expecting The Commy. of Prisoners at Head Quarters for some time past. but he only arrived yesterday. I shall speak to him on the subject of your Excellency's letter and shall do every thing in my power to have justice done to the state. It is no doubt reasonable that the state should be informed of the steps taken with respect to its prisoners, and I shall endeavour to settle a plan for this purpose.

With regard to the Militia taken in arms, they have at all times had the same privileges of exchange as the Continental troops and the invariable rule which has governed these has been priority of capture. This being the case it is but just that all persons taken by the Militia in arms also, should fall into a common

9. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

stock, to be disposed of agreeable to the forementioned rule; for without this there would be an evident disadvantage to the Continental troops, as the captures made by them go equally to the relief of the Militia as of themselves, while the captures made by the militia would be confined to their own benefit.

With respect to those who are mere citizens on both sides, not taken in arms, it is certainly just and agreeable to rule that those belonging to the state should have an absolute preference in the exchange of those captured by the state, to all others. With the greatest respect etc.⁴⁰

To MRS. ANNE FRANCIS,³³ MRS. HENRIETTA HILLEGAS,³⁴ MRS. MARY CLARKSON,³⁵ MRS. SARAH BACHE,³⁶ AND MRS. SUSAN BLAIR:³⁷

[New Windsor, February 13, 1781.]

[Ladies:] The benevolent office, which added lustre to the qualities that ornamented your deceased friend³⁸ could not have descended to more zealous or more deserving successors.

The contributions of the association you represent have exceeded what could have been expected, and the spirit that animated the members of it, intitles them to an equal place with any who have preceded them in the walk of female patriotism. It

40. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

33. Wife of Trench Francis.
34. Wife of Michael Hillegas
35. Wife of Maj. Matthew Clarkton.
36. Wife of Richard Bache.
37. Wife of Rev. Samuel Blair.
38. Mrs. Esther Reed, wife of President Joseph Reed.

embellishes the American character with a new trait; by proving that the love of country is blended with those softer domestic virtues, which have always been allowed to be more peculiarly *your own*.

You have not acquired admiration in your own country only; it is paid you abroad; and you will learn with pleasure by a part of your own sex, where female accomplishments have attained their highest perfection, and who from the commencement have been the patronesses of American liberty.

The army ought not to regret its sacrifices or its sufferings when they meet with so flattering a reward as in the sympathy of your sex; nor can it fear that its interests will be neglected, while espoused by advocates as powerful as they are amiable.

I can only answer to the sentiments which you do me the honor to express for me personally, that they would more than repay a life devoted to the service of the public and to testimonies of gratitude to yourselves.

Accept the assurances of the perfect respect and esteem, with which I am etc.³⁹

To JOHN FRANKLIN

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 14, 1781.

Sir: I am sorry to inform you that Sir Henry

39. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

Clinton refuses to admit you into New York in the character of Agent for American prisoners. I hope, that the suspense which you have been held in, since my first application to you on the subject, has been attended with no inconvenience to your private concerns. I am etc.⁴⁹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 19, 1781.

Sir: I am honored with Your Excellencys letter of the 14th. instant in behalf of the legislature with the copy of one of the 5th. to Congress. I beg leave to assure the Legislature of the high sense I entertain of the honor they do me by their confidence in this communication, while I deplore the melancholy picture given of the distress of the state, which I have every reason to believe from the facts that have fallen within my own observation is not exaggerated.

I sincerely wish it were in my power to comply with the request of the state for leaving its two regiments for the defence of the frontier next campaign; but I should not merit its confidence, if I were to flatter it with an expectation which may probably be disappointed. The reduction of the number of our regiments, if they were completed would scarcely give us a force adequate to a vigorous

49. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

offensive campaign which it is to be hoped will take place; towards which proposals have been made and engagements entered into on my part. But we have too much room to fear the Regiments

of several of the States will be far from complete, which will in the case I have mentioned render the collection of our whole force the more indispensable.

Situated as I am, I can only say that I anxiously wish it were in my power to give security to the frontier of all the states; that I sensibly feel for the peculiar circumstances of this; that I shall be happy if practicable to give it effectual protection and relief; but cannot promise the practicability of it. Much will depend upon the operations of the campaign; if they have for object any decisive enterprise, we shall be obliged to employ all our force in it. If they are of a defensive kind, the protection of the frontiers, will be attended to in a manner equal to their importance, and I hope successfully.

Our stock of ammunition is more scanty than Your Excellency can have any idea of; but of this stock small as it is, I shall order a part of it to be deposited at Albany for the purposes you mention.

At present the regiments of Artillery are extremely reduced, and without knowing what will be their state at the opening of the campaign, I can give no positive answer to the application on this head; but I think it probable it will be in my power to comply with it.

The want of provision is unfortunately an evil which every part of the army experiences and must have fatal

consequences, unless the states can hereafter generally comply better with the requisitions of Congress, or some other more competent mode can be adopted than has hitherto obtained. But with respect to the garrison of Fort Schuyler, 'till your letter arrived I had reason to suppose it had had a supply which would suffice till May. The Commissary General shall be directed to apply to the Magazine at Richmond, or any other where relief is to be procured.

I beg Your Excellency to assure the Legislature of the high respect I entertain for them and of the gratitude I feel for the support I have upon all occasions experienced from the state. With every sentiment of personal respect etc.⁸⁴

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 21, 1781.

Sir: I had the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of the 5th. by General Warner, to whom I gave every advice and assistance relative to the distribution of the generous donation of the State to their old Soldiers. This well timed gratuity has had, I am informed, a most happy effect, and I have not the least doubt, but if the future supplies of pay, Cloathing and provision, the two last in particular, are more regular than they have been for some time past, that the troops,

84. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

instead of exhibiting those marks of discontent which had in a manner pervaded the whole Army, will re assume their wonted good temper and cheerfully perform those duties, which can only be expected or exacted from Men, who have no just cause of complaint.

Give me leave to congratulate your Excellency upon the late brilliant success of our Arms to the Southward, and to hope that your next will afford me the pleasure of hearing of your perfect recovery. I have the honor etc.⁹⁸

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 21, 1781.

Dear sir: Having been obliged to make a very considerable temporary detachment from the Army, I am under the necessity of immediately calling in what Recruits may be raised in the neighbouring States to replace it. I have directed the superintending Officers at the different places of rendezvous to do this, but I must request Your Excellency, if it possibly can be done, to furnish them in whole or in part with Cloathing, as I do not believe our whole stock on hand consists of more than Waistcoats and Breeches for 2000 Men. If the Recruits could be made tolerably comfortable they might do Garrison duty, which is what they will be employed in, untill the spring.

98. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I cannot avoid mentioning a matter to Your Excellency which is well worth your attention and that of the Legislature. It is the shameful neglect, not to call it worse, of those persons appointed by law to muster and pass the Recruits. General Parsons informs that the first which came from your state, seven in number, were all totally unfit for service, he has sent them to Hartford that the Legislature may themselves be witnesses of the imposition which has been put upon the public, and which will be practiced in numberless instances, while any but Military Men, interested in having healthy sound soldiers, are to be judges of the sufficiency of the Recruit. To endeavour to remedy this evil, I have ordered a good Field Officer to be stationed at each place of rendezvous, and if any man is brought in, not qualified for the service, he is to refuse receiving him and to send him immediately back to the Town which furnished him.

I had the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of the 5th. by the Duke de Lauzun. The Corps of invalids are stationed, by order of Congress, at Philadelphia and Boston, and it is not therefore in my power to send the invalids of the Army to any other places except by the Authority of Congress. I have the honor etc.⁹⁹

99. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 21, 1781.

Sir: I do myself the honor to communicate, to your Excellency, a circumstance which I hope will be followed by the most salutary consequences to the State of Virginia in particular, and which may ultimately have the happiest effect upon the interests of America in general. The Chevalier des Touche, commanding His most Christian Majestys Squadron in the harbour of New port, finding himself enabled, since the late misfortune which happened to the British Fleet in Gardner's Bay, to make a detachment, has dispatched a Ship of the Line of 64 Guns and three Frigates to Chesapeak,

in hopes of finding there and distroying the Fleet under the direction of Arnold. The French Ships sailed the 9th inst. from New port with a fair Wind. They have taken on board a quantity of Arms and Cloathing which had arrived there on account of the State of Virginia.

It is more than probable, that these Ships will have arrived in the Chesapeak, before my letter reaches you, but should they be retarded by adverse Winds or other accidents, your Excellency need not be told that the most profound secrecy will be necessary on such an occasion, for should the least hint escape, and Arnold come to the knowledge of it, he would not hesitate to take the opportunity of pushing out of the Bay. The Ships once arrived at their Stations, The matter becomes of public notoriety without any disadvantage.

From an apprehension that the enemy may take such a position as will enable them to defend themselves and their shipping without a land cooperation, and knowing that Militia cannot be depended on for the vigorous measures that it may be necessary to pursue, I have put a respectable detachment from this Army in motion. It is commanded by Major Genl. the Marquis de la Fayette. It will proceed by land to the Head of Elk, at which I calculate it will arrive by the 6th. of March at farthest, and will fall down the Chesapeak in Transports.

I have written to the Baron de Steuben by this conveyance, giving him the foregoing intelligence, and some directions relative to the position which he is to take with the Militia, collecting Magazines &c. It will be highly necessary that an immediate, safe and expeditious communication should be opened between the Commanding Officer of the French Squadron and the Commanding Officer on shore. In this, and every other measure tending to promote the public good, I am confident of your Excellency's assistance, and I have desired the Baron to make application to you in every case where your countenance may be wanting. The Marquis de la Fayette, who is the senior Officer, will take the command upon his arrival. I recollect but one thing further, which will require your Excellency's more immediate attention, and that is, the business of providing the most experienced and trusty Bay and River Pilots (should it not have been done before this reaches you) and sending them to the commanding Officer to be forwarded to the Fleet. This trouble must

necessarily devolve upon your Excellency or some Gentlemen appointed by you, because our Officers,

being Strangers, might be imposed upon in this most material point. With the highest Sentiments of Respect etc.

P.S. Should you have occasion to write to the Marquis de la Fayette, let your first letter go by land under cover to the Qr. Mr. to the Head of Elk. Any subsequent ones by Boats to the same place, because they will meet the transports in the Bay.¹

[V.S.L.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, February 24, 1781.

Sir: In answer to your Excellency's letter of the 14th: I wrote fully on the 19th. since which, I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 20th. The reiterated request of both Houses of Assembly to leave the two Regiments of the State in the quarter where they now are, places me in a delicate and painful situation.

I have already assured your Excellency and, through you, the Legislature of my perfect disposition to comply with the wishes of the State, as far as I have the means, to which indeed its exertions intitle it; but as an Officer intrusted with the general interest of the Confederacy, in expectation of an active Campaign, under engagements which I shall, at any rate, find it difficult to fulfil, I cannot, in policy, in justice to the United States, in good faith to our Allies consent to divest myself of so

1. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

considerable a part of my efficient force, as the two Regiments in question. The good of the service, joined to my regard for the State, will always prompt me, as it has heretofore done, to every effort in my power to prevent or repel attacks upon it, but to give an assurance, that its troops shall remain

as a cover to its Northern and Western frontier from an apprehended invasion, is more than I could answer, while our views extend beyond a mere defensive.

Other applications, similar to that from this State, have been made to me, a compliance with which would leave us without a competent Garrison for the defence of West point.

A heavy detachment from this part of the Army, for an important service, has obliged me to draw in all my out posts, and to call six Companies of the York line from Albany, as the smallest possible number necessary for the security of West point.

While I am compelled to deliver these Sentiments, I entreat your Excellency to assure the Assembly, that it is impossible to feel more than I do for the distresses of the State, and that, as far as it can be made consistent with my general duty, no person will do more to serve it. I have the honor etc.²⁷

27. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 1, 1781.

Dear Sir: Having been informed by Major Genl. Dickinson that he was vested with powers during the recess of the Legislature to order out the Militia of the State. I have thought it expedient to desire him, at this juncture, to order the whole to be held in readiness and to direct the Beacons and other signals of alarm to be put in condition to afford the readiest communication to the Country of an incursion of the Enemy. My reason for doing this, is not from intelligence that the Enemy mean any thing offensive; but having lately been under the necessity of making a very considerable temporary detachment from the Army in this vicinity and from the Jersey line, I think it not improbable that the enemy may endeavour to take advantage of our weakness and enterprise something against these posts or Jersey. It is therefore necessary to be in readiness to receive them.

I assure myself of every assistance from the countenance and advice of your Excellency should there be occasion. I have the honor etc.⁸²

82. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Newport, March 12, 1781.

Sir: Having lately been obliged to make a very considerable detachment from the troops in the vicinity of West point, I have been under the necessity of calling upon the neighbouring States to send forward the new Levies which have been raised, and of urging them to compleat their Quotas as expeditiously as possible. The same reasons urge me to make the same requests of your State, and to desire that the Recruits may, if possible, be sent forward cloathed; for such have been our repeated disappointments in the Cloathing expected from Europe, that our Magazines are nearly exhausted. If the proper Uniform for the troops of the State could be procured, it would be a very desirable circumstance, for we are more deficient in Coats than any other Article. I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject of the foregoing. Your letter will find me at New Windsor, for which I set out tomorrow. I have the honor etc.¹

***To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE**

Newport, March 12, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's polite

1. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnishd by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

fav'r of the 8th. It would have given me singular pleasure had circumstances admitted of my making a visit to Providence upon my return to the Army, but the very interesting intelligence which we

may now daily expect from the Southward make it necessary for me to return by the route on which the chain of Expresses are stationed; lest I should miss the dispatches which they may bring.

His Excellency the Count De Rochambeau informs me that there are some heavy Cannon at Providence which do not appear to be of any great use there, but would be of particular service to him, in the defense of this Post, he being obliged to strip a Frigate of her Guns and to Mount some of his heavy field Artillery for want of the number required for the Works. When it is considered that this place effectually covers Providence, I flatter myself your Excellency will find no difficulty with the Legislature in granting the Counts request, should you not have the power to lend the Guns in question.

The detachment which I a little time ago made from the Troups in the vicinity of West-point, obliged me to call upon the neighbouring states to send in the recruits which were raised. I directed my order to Lt. Colo. Olney for those of Rhode Island, and I have not the least doubt of that Gentlemns. punctuality in the execution of it, so far as respects the men who have been delivered to him; but I must entreat your Excellency's exertions to procure the deficiency of your quota, if any yet remains, that they may arrive at the Army time enough to receive the necessary discipline before they are carried into Service.

I have the honor to be etc.

P S. Since writing the foregoing letter, I have, for particular reasons determined to return by the way of Providence; and shall set out in the morning for that place.⁴

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Hartford, March 17, 1781.

Sir: It would have afforded me the greatest pleasure had I been able to have extended my late Visit to New Port or as far as Boston, but the important operations which may be expected to the Southward, made it necessary for me to return as soon as possible to the North River that I might

be more immediately in the way of receiving intelligence, and communicating any which might be essential to the common interest, to the Count de Rochambeau. The present is a most important moment. The success of the expedition now in agitation seems to depend upon a naval superiority, and the force of the two Fleets is so equal, that we must rather hope for than entertain an assurance of Victory. The attempt however made by our Allies to dislodge the Enemy in Virginia is certainly a bold one, and should it fail, will nevertheless entitle them to the thanks of the Public.

The Army under my immediate command, is so much reduced by the detachment which I have made to co-operate

4. The text is from a photostat of the original kindly furnished by William Ely, of Providence, R. I.

with the French troops in Virginia, that I have been under the necessity of calling for the Recruits which are raised in the neighbouring States. Few have yet come in, and I plainly perceive that unless very vigorous exertions are made, the quotas of the several States will be not only short but exceedingly late in the Field. I must therefore intreat the interference of your Excellency's countenance and Authority with the persons in the different Townships, whose business it may be to procure the Levies, not only to send forward those to the places of rendezvous, which have been raised, but to attend to completing the deficiencies where any may have happened. There is the greater necessity for a strict compliance with the number of men required by Congress, as the Pennsylvania line, which was to have Composed part of the Northern Army, has lately been ordered to the Southward. A regular and full compliance with the specific requisition of Provision, is a matter of equal importance with the foregoing and to which I beg leave to call your Excellency's attention also. I have the honor etc.⁸

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED AND BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES POTTER

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 21, 1781.

Gentlemen: I returned yesterday to this place from Rhode Island, and now take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge the receipt

8. The text is from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

of your favor of the 19th. Ult. which was put into my hands on my arrival.

I am extremely obliged to you, Gentlemen, for this communication of the Proceedings with respect to the late unhappy affair, which has taken place in the Pennsylvania Line. Sensible that the circumstances were indeed critical, and that the greatest prudence and address were necessary on the occasion, I was happy to learn you were employed in settling those disturbances. I have now to thank you for the trouble you have taken in the affair; in the situation matters then were, I am persuaded, what was then done was for the best, and nothing now remains but to use every exertion to replace the Men who were discharged and compleat the Regts. as early as possible.

Unless there are vacant Lieutenancies in the Regt. to which the Ensigns belong who are desirous of promotion; I do not see how it can take place without counteracting the principles of promotion, and affecting (as you justly observe) the whole Army. I am etc.¹⁸

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: I should have done myself the honor to have acknowledged your Excellency's Letters of the 8th, 12th, 17th, 26th of February and 8th of March,

18. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

at the time they were severally received; had I not been absent from this place on a journey to the French Army at New Port, from whence I have but just now returned.

The transactions and movements you have made me acquainted with in the course of these Letters, were not only important to the Southern States, but even to the whole confederation. And the scene becomes now every day more interesting; before this time I cannot but hope our friends have arrived safely in your Bay, I am sure they will meet with every aid and assistance from your State; And I already anticipate the happiest consequences from this co-operation.

I shall remain in the most anxious expectation, until I hear farther respecting the operations in your quarter. I have the honor etc.¹⁹

[v. s. L.]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 22, 1781.

Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 18th ulto. came to Head Quarters during my visit to Count de Rochambeau at Newport from whence I only returned two days ago. You may be assured that every attention shall be paid to the Exchange of Colo. Marbury²⁴ in his due turn, more than that I cannot promise without deviating from

19. In the writing of David Humphreys.

24. Col. Luke Marbury, of the Maryland Militia.

a rule of conduct which I myself had ever observed and which has lately been confirmed by an order of Congress. I have however the pleasure to learn that Colo. Marbury is admitted to parole and as he is, I believe, the oldest Officer of his rank unexchanged, I hope his final release will ere long be accomplished. I do not know what Officers were taken at Kings Mountain or in any part of the southern Quarter, but should a general exchange take place, due consideration will be had to the remaining prisoners at New York. I am etc.²⁵

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 23, 1781.

Dear Sir: I was honored, on my return from Rhode Island, with your Excellency's Letter of the 1st. Inst. together with Enclosures.

Altho the discharging a single man from the service, is a very inconsiderable diminution of our force. Yet when the innumerable applications on this subject are taken into consideration, the unavoidable decrease of the Army if discharges are granted, the amazing difficulty of procuring men for the War, and the heavy expence attending the recruiting service; it cannot certainly be considered as a hardship, to retain those in service, who were fairly enlisted, and with a large bounty, unless able bodied substitutes are procured

25. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

in their room. Under this condition, I would consent to the dismissal of Robert Skekit, otherwise, it would be opening a door of uneasiness to Others, and doing an essential injury to the Public.

If the presence of Skekit is so necessary with his Tribe,⁴¹ upon providing a Substitute [for the War] the Commanding Officer of the Regt. may make the exchange. I have the honor etc.⁴²

To REVEREND JACOB JOHNSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 23, 1781.

Sir: Your Memorial of the 24th of Feby addressed to me, was lodged at Head Quarters, while I was absent on a Journey to Rhode Island, from which place I have but lately arrived.

In answer to your request to be appointed Chaplain of the Garrison at Wyoming I have to observe; that there is no provision made by Congress for such an establishment; without which, I should not

be at liberty to make any appointment of the kind, however necessary or expedient (in my opinion) or however I might be disposed to give every species of countenance and encouragement to the cultivation of Virtue, Morality and Religion. I am etc.⁴⁸

41. The Muncy(?) Tribe.

42. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

48. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

**To THE MAGISTRATES OF ORANGE, ULSTER, DUTCHESS, AND WESTCHESTER
COUNTIES⁸⁷**

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 30, 1781.

Gentlemen: Upon the representation of the Acting Quarter Master with the Army, that public Teams cannot be furnished to bring forward the Provisions necessary for the immediate subsistence of the Troops, that private ones cannot be procured upon hire, and that application hath been made in vain to the neighbouring Justices for their impress Warrants; I have thought proper to state the circumstances, and to request your interposition and assistance on the Occasion.

It is necessary to be known in the first place, that there is but a small quantity of flour at present in the Magazines of the Army; Our whole dependence is therefore placed on the supplies now on the Communication, and which cannot be brought forward in season to relieve our Wants, without a general and speedy exertion of the substantial Farmers of the Country, who are possessed of the means of transportation. In addition to the distresses in which the Army will be involved in the course of a few days, if the flour in question is not conveyed to this place; the danger to which the important Posts on this River, will be exposed under these circumstances; and the hazard of loosing some part of the flour itself, which is now deposited within the reach of a Stroke from the Enemy, are objects of the most interesting consequence, which ought to be taken into consideration.

87. Of New York State.

I have therefore to solicit and request in the most earnest manner, that the Justices in their several Districts will issue their impress Warrants for the Number of Teams required by the Quarter Master for the beforementioned purposes.⁸⁸ Ever averse to all coercive Measures, which may seem to interfere with the rights of the Civil Authority, I cannot but flatter myself this application will be attended with the desired success, and supersede the necessity of having recourse to a Military impress. But if it should prove otherwise. While the existence of the Army and the preservation of the key to the Country, depend on the measure. After this candid stating of the matter; What friend to his Country is there, who would not approve of its being carried into execution by Military coercion? I am etc.⁸⁹

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 4, 1781.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the honor of your Excellency's favors of the 19th. and 21st. ulto. and again to thank you for your uniform and speedy communication of every southern event which comes to your knowledge. I have the pleasure to find from General Greenes official letter, that Lord Cornwallis is not likely to reap any great benefits from his late victory;³¹ indeed, were we certain that he would

88. At this point the following is crossed off "and for transporting a small quantity of Cloathing to Morris Town to be forwarded to the Troops ordered to the Southward."

89. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

31. The battle of Guilford Court House.

not soon receive fresh succours, we might hope that he would ultimately be obliged to quit his present ground in consequence of the incumbrance which his wounded must be to him. But I very much fear, we shall soon hear that General Phillips, who sailed from New York about a fortnight ago with a detachment said to be 1500 Men, is bending his course towards his Lordship.

You have been, by this time, made acquainted with the unfortunate event which prevented the execution of the plan against Arnold. Had the French fleet luckily gained the Chesapeak before they were overtaken by the British, I think we could not have failed to success.

The pennsylvania line will be pushed forward by detachment, as fast as they can be reassembled or recruited. I hope the 1st. division will consist of five or six hundred and that they will be soon upon their march. Having heard nothing from them very lately I cannot ascertain the time, but I am certain that Genl. Wayne, who will go forward with the first, will be active on the occasion. I have the honor etc.³²

To GOVERNOR ABNER NASH

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 4, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor of your Excellency's favr. of the 19th. ulto and am glad to find that the State have at length adopted

32. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

measures for filling their Battalions which you think will prove effectual. You may be assured that every exertion not only of the States immediately interested but of those more at a distance will be necessary to prevent the progress of the Enemys Arms in the quarter where they are now operating, and to which I doubt not but they will transfer the weight of the War. General Phillips has probably before this time made his appearance some where to the southward, he sailed from New York about a fortnight ago with a detachment said to consist of 1500 men.

Should I be furnished with the means I shall not fail to give you every support in my power, but I am sorry to say my prospects of reinforcement to this part of the Army are not flattering. I have only yet recd. about 400 Recruits from all the States to the Eastward of New Jersey. I have the honor etc.³³

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I do myself the honor to enclose to Your Excellency the Extract of a Letter from General Heath respecting Capt Simmons⁴³ if there is not something particular in the circumstances, it appears to be improper that he should continue in the

33. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

43. Capt. Robert(?) Simmons, of Delancey's Corps, British Provincial Troops.

vicinity of the Enemy; and even perilous to himself, if he is not acting a double part. I wish to know Your sentiments on the subject. With the highest esteem and respect I have the honor etc.⁴⁴

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: Intelligence has been sent to me by a Gentleman living near the enemy's lines and who has an opportunity of knowing what passes among them, that four parties had been sent out with orders to take or Assasinate Your Excellency, Governor Clinton, Me and a fourth person name not known. I cannot say that I am under apprehensions on account of the latter, but I have no doubt they would execute the former could they find an opportunity. I shall take such precautions on the

occasion as appear to me necessary, and I have thought it proper to advise your Excellency of what has come to my knowledge that you may do the same.

That they may fail of success if they have any such plan in contemplation is the earnest wish of,
Dear Sir etc.⁶⁶

44. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

66. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: By an almost total failure of the Supplies of Beef Cattle, demanded by Congress of the Eastern States; I find we are again reduced to the very verge of Distress. (Our little Magazines, which were laid up for an emergency being entirely exhausted) and that there is no prospect of immediate relief, but from the salted provisions of Connecticut.

I have therefore to request in the most earnest manner, that Your Excellency will interpose Your influence and authority to aid the Quarter Master in forwarding these Provisions, and that a sufficient number of Teams may be procured in the several Towns westward of Connecticut River, to take up at once the whole of the salted Meat in those Towns, and transport it directly to Fishkill, or the nearest landing on the North River where it can safely be deposited: Or that some other speedy and effectual means may be devised for the transportation. Mr Pomeroy the Dep. Quartr. Mastr. of your State having informed Mr Stevens the Acting Commissary with the Army, that there were some embarrassments which prevented the forwarding of these Provisions; I have already written to the former, expressing my idea of his misapprehension of this Matter, and directing him (if there still remained any difficulties) to make application to your Excellency for their removal.

Convinced that nothing but an immediate Supply thro this channel, can avert the most imminent and fatal misfortunes, I have been thus explicit and pointed in my representation; and cannot but flatter myself, that, on such an occasion, the substantial Farmers will furnish their Teams with great alacrity, upon your requisition: especially as the roads are now good, and as the whole business may be performed, without interfering much with the planting season. I have the honor etc.⁷¹

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have duly received the Letter which you did me the honor to write on the 2nd Instant, and also the Act for raising the quota of Troops assigned to your State. As every thing depends upon having our Regiments compleated to the Establishment; I hope this mode will be efficacious, and that the exertions of the State will not be remitted untill the full compliment of Men is raised, and forwarded. We have not as yet received a single recruit from New Hampshire, altho the season is so far advanced; and if the States which are now enjoying almost all the blessings of Peace, far removed front the ravages of War, will not seriously and strenuously exert themselves, and strain every Nerve to afford Men and Supplies, I know not from what quarter

71. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

On April 10 Humphreys, by direction of Washington, issued an impress warrant for teams to be gathered by the Marechaussée corps under the orders of the Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, to transport flour from Ringwood to the Army, and inclosed it in a brief note to Maj. Richard Platt. Drafts of the warrant and Humphreys's note are in the *Washington Papers*.

we may rationally expect the Means of defending ourselves, repelling the Enemy, and establishing the Independence of the Country.

The efforts that New Hampshire made in the course of the last year to supply the Army, were truly laudable, since the close of that Campaign, the rigor of the season, the badness of the

roads, and the distance of the State from the Troops, have prevented our making those frequent representations, and pressing requisitions, which have been so often repeated to the States that were more contiguous; upon the success of which, alone, we have subsisted the Army. But the time is now come when we must look to New Hampshire for a pointed and exact compliance with the requisitions of Congress, especially in the Article of Beef Cattle. All the little Magazines which we had laid up, against an emergency, in the Garrison of West Point, and its dependencies, are entirely consumed. The States of Massachusetts and Connecticut have been frequently called upon, and I cannot now flatter myself that our prospects from them are by any Means equal to our Necessities; indeed I fear they will relax still more, if the other States do not furnish as great a proportion of the Supplies required of them. Let me entreat, therefore, that speedy and effectual Measures may be taken by the State to avert the distresses which now threaten the Army, by complying as fully and regularly as possible with the requisitions of Congress.

The Articles of Cloathing which will be the most essential at the present period, are, shirts, linnen Overalls, Shoes &c. I could wish to have the Summer Cloathing sent on without delay. With great regard and esteem etc.⁹⁸

[N.H.H.S.]

98. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 15, 1781.

Dr. Sir: The bearer Mr. Fish of Saratoga district came to me this morning with the intelligence of which the inclosed is a Copy. How he obtained it from one Harris⁹⁹ he will inform your Excellency. Harris whose character perhaps your Excellency may be acquainted with, is to meet the party under the command of Ensign Smith the 20th. of this month; is to convey a packet to Albany and to carry another back to them. He proposed to Fish to seize him at a place to be agreed upon

and to take the letters from him. But I think a better way would be, to let him carry the letters and answers to Genl. Schuyler in the first instance, who might contrive means of opening them without breaking the seals, take Copies of the Contents and then let them go on. By these means we should become masters of the whole plot, whereas were we to seize Harris upon his first tour we should break up the chain of communication which seems so providentially thrown into our hands. Should your Excellency approve of the measure which I have suggested you will be pleased to write to Genl. Schuyler upon the subject and desire him, should business call him from Albany to leave the conduct of the affair in proper hands in his Absence. I have promised Fish that both he and Harris shall be handsomely rewarded if they execute the Business with fidelity.

I have received your Excellency's favs. of the 30th ulto. and 8th. Inst.

99. Moses(?) Harris.

Every thing in my power shall be done to keep up the supply of provision to the Northward, but our great difficulty now lies in getting it from the Magazines in the neighbouring States. The Quarter Master is moneyless and the people refuse to work longer upon Certificates. I have the honor etc.¹

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 17, 1781.

Dear Sir: By the Letter from the Quarter Master General, transmitted herewith, You will be pleased to observe the necessity of furnishing the Camp Equipage specified in the Estimate for the Troops of your State, as also the reasons why the application was not made at an earlier period.

Every other effort for a supply having failed of success, this is the last resource now remaining. And I have only to add my earnest wishes, that this may not disappoint our expectations. I have the honor etc.¹⁷

[N.H.H.S.]

1. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On April 15 Washington wrote also to Major General Heath that Knox would concert measures with him respecting the artillery and stores, and that there was no objection to Heath's building a provost upon Polopels Island, which Humphreys spelled "Pollipus." This letter is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

17. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 18, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am glad to learn from the Letter of General Greene, a Copy of which Your Excellency did me the honor to enclose on the 28th Ult. that the Action of the 15th. had been severely felt by the Enemy, that their retreat bore evident marks of distress, and that our Army in good spirits, were advancing upon them.

From Virginia I have nothing later than Your Letter, and the enclosure from the Baron Steuben. Nor do I know where General Philips is, with his Detachment, at this time.

We have Advices from New York, thro' different channels, that preparation is now making to embark a considerable Corps of Troops, and that Sir Henry Clinton himself is to go with them; if this information is true, the weight of the War is undoubtedly to be transferred to the Southward; and our exertions, ought to be proportionably great in that quarter. Previous to this intelligence, I had ordered the Detachment under the Marquis De la Fayette to be marched to the South, and put under the Orders of Major General Greene, to act in Virginia or under his immediate command, as the circumstances might require.

Since my last of the 4th. in which I informed Your Excellency, that I was in hopes the first Division of Pennsylvanians would consist of five or six hundred Men; I am advised by Major General St Clair, that Nine hundred and sixty Rank and File properly Officered, would march,

together with a Detachment of Proctor's Regt. and four Pieces of Artillery, on the 16th Inst. from York Town in Pennsylvania. General St Clair had expectations that three or four hundred more of the Line might be collected, but in what time was not certain; neither could he tell what further to expect from the success of recruiting. I have the honor etc.²¹

[V.S.L.]

To JOHN HURLBUTT

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 19, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 12th. Congress have not to my knowledge come to any determination upon the matter respecting the Wyoming Companies which has been referred to them by the Assembly of Connecticut. I can therefore do no more at present than to permit those Men who are peculiarly circumstanced as to their families to remain where they are untill the final pleasure of Congress shall be known. I have written to this effect to Colo. Butler. I am etc.²⁸

21. In the writing of David Humphreys.

28. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, April 29, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received Your Excellency's favor of Yesterday with the inclosures, by Col Nicoll.⁹ An order for the Ammunition has been previously given, in consequence of your first application.

With respect to provision, of the Meat kind, I confess I am entirely at a loss by what means it can be supplied to the Troops on the Frontier: the whole dependance of the Army for this Article is upon the Eastern States; the unfavorable season for obtaining Beef Cattle between this time and grass and especially the want of means for purchasing will prevent the supply which was expected: and the difficulty of transporting the salted Provisions has already reduced us to the last Mouthfull. General Heath informed me yesterday, that there was but one day's allowance of the Irish Beef left in the store, and that not a barrel had arrived at the Garrison from the Eastward. Thus unpromising, your Excellency sees, our prospects of supplies and transportation are! I have ordered a quantity of Fish to be contracted for, on this River. And will still persist in using my best endeavors to keep the Army together, and to afford as much protection to the Country, as the means intrusted to me shall enable me to do. I have the honor etc.¹⁰

9. Col Isaac Nicoll, of the Orange County (N.Y.) militia.

10. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 5[-7], 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 24th. of April inclosing a remonstrance of Colonel Procter and the Officers of his Regt. against the promotion of Captain Eustace⁷⁰ to a Majority in it, and the late annexation of Capt. Simonds. I am not a little surprised to see Field Officers, who certainly are acquainted with the principles of promotion which have been understood and practiced upon for more than two years, in the lines of Artillery and Cavalry joining their subordinate Officers in complaints, which, upon investigation, will be found groundless: But I am happy in addressing myself upon this occasion to your Excellency, who having been upon the several Committees of Arrangement in the year 1778, must recollect the various modes of promotion which were then talked of, and the reasons which led to the final adoption of the present System at the White plains.

The Error, which Colo. procter and his Officers is in, lies in supposing that their Regiment, previous to the arrangement of October the 3d. 1780, belonged to any particular State. It is true pennsylvania had credit for them as part of her quota, but was not considered as having a right to interpose in making new appointments or promotions after they were annexed to the Continent in 1777.

The Resolves of Sept. 16th. 1776 and November 24th 1778

70. Maj. Benjamin Eustis (Eustace), of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He died in October, 1781.

which they quote relate merely to the lines of Infantry belonging to the several States, and as an indubitable proof of this, the several States, tho' extremely tenacious of their rights of making new appointments and conferring promotions in their lines of Infantry, have never in one single instance attempted an interference in those of Artillery or Cavalry, which have been understood to be lines belonging to the Continent at large.

If your Excellency will be pleased, for your further satisfaction, to refer to the Resolve of the 24th. Novem. 1778 founded upon the report of the Committee of Arrangement at White plains, you will find throughout the whole of it, a distinction made between the Lines of States which were the Infantry and the Lines of Cavalry and Artillery.

The Gentlemen are pleased to observe that the promotion of Captain Eustace to the Majority of their Regiment was partial and the only instance which has happened in the line of Artillery during the War. They will, upon reflection, find that it is the only instance which could possibly have happened. Major Forrest succeeded to the Lieutenant Colonelcy by the death of Colo. Stroboch⁷¹ and Capt. Eustace as eldest Captain in the line of Artillery to the vacant Majority. There have been no other occasions for promotions of Field Officers in the line of Artillery or they would have taken place in the same way, upon the same principles. This Rule has been so invariably pursued in the line of Cavalry, which is upon the same footing with that of Artillery, that the Officers succeeding to Vacancies have come and gone from one extremity of the Continent to the other to take their new Commands.

The annexation of Capt. Simonds with his Company

71. Lieut. Col. John Martin Strobagh (Stroboch), of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He died in December, 1778.

and Capt. Porter with his to Colo. procters Regiment was a matter of necessity, and done in consequence of the new arrangement of the Army by the Resolve of the 3d. October 1780. Those Companies, tho' originally raised in Pennsylvania, had been annexed to Colo. Lambs Battalion, and Captain Simonds had, in course of promotion, succeeded to the Vacancy occasioned by the Resignation of Capt. Lee.⁷² Lambs Regiment had by these means two Companies more than the arrangement allowed and procters two less, it was certainly then proper to transfer Porter and Simonds to the latter, more especially as their Companies had been, as I before mentioned, raised in Pennsylvania. But it could not be supposed that Capt. Simonds was to be deprived of his rank because he was not a Pennsylvanian. The Officers of Colo. Lambs Battalion who are New Yorkers might with equal justice say that all those of Connecticut were *thrust* in upon them (to use the remonstrants own Word) when that Regiment was allotted to the state of New York.

After the Regiments of Cavalry and Artillery had been by the Resolve of the 3d. of October last allotted to particular States, it became a doubt whether the Rules of promotion which had before governed could with propriety be longer practiced under. I therefore wrote to Congress upon the subject, and that, with several other Regulations respecting Rank, is now under their consideration; but whatever may be their determination it cannot effect former promotions.

I cannot conclude this subject, without remarking that Colo. procter, upon the 9th. of April, sent in his resignation to me, alledging that the situation of his private Affairs obliged him to quit

72. Capt. James Lee, of the Second Continental Artillery. He had resigned in December, 1779.

the service. He need not then upon the 19th. have signed a remonstrance and accompanied it with a threat that he would resign if the prayer of it was not granted.

The representation which Colo. Blaine made to me of the Council having ordered the state Agent to send no more supplies to the Army, was founded upon a letter which he had received from his deputy in Philada. That I might not misapprehended a matter which appeared to me of a very singular nature, I called upon Colo. Blaine for an official account in writing, with which he furnished me, and which I transmitted to Congress; I also transmitted the accounts respecting Fort Pitt as I received them from Colo. Brodhead, and cannot therefore be answerable for any misrepresentations of his. Now I am upon the subject of provisions I beg leave to address myself most seriously to your Excellency and the Council upon our present situation in respect to Flour, and to point out the consequences which must ensue if we are not liberally supplied by the state with that Article, I must take the liberty of premising, that by the information I have received from the Commissary General, there is a very great deficiency of the quotas required by the requisitions of 1779 and 1780. There are, by accounts, about two thousand Barrels between this place and Trenton. I do not learn that there are any quantities at the places of deposits within the State. By the transference of so considerable a part of the War to the southward, the supplies of Maryland and Virginia must be turned towards that quarter. Jersey which has been the principle residence of the Army for several Campaigns has furnished such

quantities of Hay and Grain Forage and oftentimes Meat in the Hour of distress, that we cannot expect a regular supply of the specific Articles demanded of her in addition to what is taken by impress and other Means. New York, I may say with truth, hath exhausted her Credit and resources, not that there is not Flour yet remaining, but Government has strained their exertions to that height, that the people have been almost driven to open resistance: Indeed they are under very peculiar circumstances; totally deprived of Commerce, and the most valuable parts of their state in the hands of the enemy. Had it not been for a most vigorous step which Governor Clinton ventured to take in the fore part of the Winter, the Army must have disbanded for want of Bread, as our Magazines were exhausted and transportation by land was impracticable had there been any thing to act upon. He seized several hundred Barrels in the hands of private Merchants which they had purchased up to exchange for other Articles. The New England States as they do not produce Flour are called upon for none. Our dependance must then be upon Delaware and Pennsylvania. Their supplies are

ample and means must be found to draw them out, or the Army must disband, as there is no other Resource. In the present embarrassed state of Finance little can be expected from the operation of paper Money. Specific demands should therefore, in my opinion, be made upon the people, and if they do not comply with them, they cannot complain of compulsory measures. I would not be understood to dictate to your Excellency and the Council the means they ought to pursue; but I think it a duty which I owe the public and it is a

liberty which I daily take with the States which furnish the different kinds of supplies for the Army to call upon them in the most pointed manner for the Articles in which they are deficient, and to tell them without reserve what must be the consequence of a non compliance with the requisitions made upon them. I have the honor etc.

P S 7th. By Letters just received from Brig. Genl. Clinton who commands at Albany I am very apprehensive that the important post of Fort Schuyler will be abandoned for want of provision. To prevent this if possible I have sent off every Barrel of Beef in the Magazines, (being only 34) and shall trust to contingencies for a supply here. Of 131 Barrels of Flour I am sending off 100. I mention these things to your Excellency, to convince you of the necessity of making the exertions I have recommended, and to shew the dreadful consequences which must follow a non compliance. I have written as pressingly to the Eastern States for a supply of Meat as I have done to you for that of Flour⁷³

73. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 7, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I had the honor to receive last night your Excellency's letter of the same date.

In consequence of Brigadr. General Clinton's information of the 30th. Ulto. I instantly ordered 50 Barrels of flour, and 34 of Meat (being every barrel of the latter we had on hand) to be sent to

Albany; for a partial relief of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler. I know it was very inadequate, but it was our all. Since which not a Barrel of Salted Provision has arrived.

I have now directed 100 Barrels of flour, (out of 131 which is our whole Magazine) to be immediately transported to Albany. This supply, shall be followed by another of Meat, if any quantity should come in from the Eastward; in the mean time I have written, some days since to Genl Clinton to draw (by Military coercion if necessary) whatever supplies have been collected for the Continent, from

all the Counties of Massachusetts most contiguous to him. I have also empowered him to procure fish by exchanging salt for them. Whatever more within the limits of my ability can be suggested or done for the security of Fort Schuyler and the protection of the frontier, shall be most seriously attended to, and strenuously attempted by, Your etc.

P.S. I shall be extremely happy to see you; in order to converse freely on the subject of the Troops and Frontiers of this State.⁸¹

To EBENEZER HAZARD⁸⁹

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 9, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th. of April. I immediately after the accident happened to the post in the Clove, I changed the Route, and he now travels by the way of Warwick to Morris Town, which is but a few Miles further about, and upon a Road which is as safe as any in this part of the Country can be.

It would be impossible for me, was the occasion ever so urgent, to send escorts of Horse with the Mails as you propose. In the first place, I have not the Horse, and if I had, I could not find them subsistence. It is with difficulty I keep two orderly Dragoons at Head Quarters. I am etc.⁹⁰

81. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

89. Postmaster General of the United States, then at Jamaica Plains, near Boston.

90. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 10, 1781.

Sir: Major General Heath, [second in Command, and an Officer] whose [high rank] and consideration entitle him to very particular notice and attention, is prevailed upon to proceed to the several Eastern States, to represent the present distresses of the Army for want of provision, and the consequences which must inevitably ensue, unless a more regular system, and more vigorous measures for affording supplies are speedily adopted.

From the Post of Saratoga to that of Dobbs Ferry inclusive, I believe there is not (by the Returns and Reports I have received) at this moment, one day's supply of Meat on hand. Our whole dependence for this Article is on the Eastern States: their resources of it, I am persuaded are ample, to request and urge that they may be drawn forth regularly, and to be informed with precision and certainty what may absolutely be depended upon thro' the Campaign, are the object of this application.

I have already made representations to the States of the want of Provisions, the distress of the Army, and the innumerable embarrassments we have suffered in consequence, not merely once or twice, but have reiterated them over and over again. I have struggled to the utmost of my ability, to keep the Army together; but all will be in vain, without the effectual assistance of the States. I have now only

to repeat the alternative, which has been so often urged: that Supplies, particularly of *Beef Cattle* must be speedily and regularly provided, or our Posts cannot be maintained or the Army kept in the Field much longer.

[I intreat that this representation may be received in the serious light it is meant and deserves, or that I may stand exculpated from the dreadful consequences which must otherwise inevitably follow in a very short time.]

I enter not into the detail of matters, as General Heath, will be able to give Your Excellency every necessary information, as well as lay the proper Estimates of supplies for the Campaign before you.

I have the honor etc.⁹³

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 23d. ulto. I have since seen by the prints, that the enemy had reached

93. In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original in the William Ely collection, Providence, R. I. The portions in brackets in the draft, which is also by Humphreys, are in the writing of Washington.

Petersburgh after being opposed in a spirited manner by the Militia under the command of The Baron Steuben. I hope the advance of the Marquis de la Fayette with the choice Body of Continental troops under his command will check the progress of General Phillips.

A variety of circumstances retarded the march of the 1st. division of the Pennsylvania line much beyond the time expected; I however hope that they have moved from the place of rendezvous before this day.

I have very good reason to believe, that another detachment of between 1500 and 2000 Men sailed from New York last Week; their particular destination I have not yet learned. I should suppose it is for Virginia or Carolina, tho' they have industriously reported in New York that it is for Delaware.

I shall set out in a day or two to meet Count de Rochambeau who has received late dispatches from the Court of France. At that interview I shall be informed of the expectations from Europe, and we shall then probably settle a plan of Campaign. I can only assure you at present that every attention shall be paid to the relief and support of the southern States. I have the honor etc.³⁹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 18, 1781.

Dr Sr: Just as I was preparing to set out to meet the

39. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Count De Rochambeau at Weathersfield I recd Your Excy favor of Yesterday.

I am extremely unhappy at the intelligence from Ft Schuyler. What I have thought adviseable to be done at this moment, Your Excellency will see by my letter to Gen Clinton, which I have left unsealed for your perusal.⁵⁵ I have etc.⁵⁶

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Weathersfield, May 22, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a Resolution of Congress respecting mounting and equipping the Corps of Dragoons raised by the State of Connecticut.⁵⁸ I am the more induced to wish that this may be done, as Colonel Sheldon's, is now the only Regiment of Cavalry destined to act with the Army under my immediate command, and as the number of men in that

Regiment now mounted, are totally unequal to the services which must be expected and required of them. Being impressed with the importance of the subject, I take the liberty therefore to recommend it to the earliest and most effectual attention of your State. I have the honor etc.⁵⁹

55. The barracks at Fort Schuyler had been destroyed by fire and the fortifications greatly damaged by a subsequent rainstorm. The Governor suggested that the post be abandoned and one established at German Flatts.

56. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On May 18 Washington set out for Wethersfield. He reached Morgan's Tavern, 43 miles from Fishkill Landing, after dining at Vanderburg's. Tench Tilghman's memorandum of expenses on this trip to Wethersfield shows the route to have been from New Windsor to Vanderburgs, Washington, Litchfield, Farmington, and Weathersfield. On the return the only names mentioned are Farmington, Cogswells, and Vanderburgs. This memorandum is in the *Washington Papers*. Washington's diary states that he lodged at Joseph Webb's in Wethersfield. The conference with Rochambeau was held May 22. The Comte set out on his return to Newport on May 23, and Washington started for New Windsor on May 24. He dined that day at Farmington and lodged at Litchfield; breakfasted at Squire Cogswell's and dined at Vanderburg's on May 25. He reached New Windsor about sunset the same day. In the *Washington Papers*, under date of March 10, 1783, is a receipt by Jonathan Trumbull, jr. for Mr. Sheldon, of Litchfield, to Gen. Washington for "Entertainment for yourself, Suite and Attendants" in May, 1781, for £ 6: 7: 6, equalling 21 ¼ dollars.

This same day (May 18) Washington also wrote briefly to Brig. Gen. John Paterson, who commanded at West Point, that Major General St. Clair would command the Army in Washington's absence at Wethersfield; "Your reports consequently will be made to him." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

58. May 8, 1781.

59. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Wethersfield, May 24, 1781.

Sir: By the plan of operations settled between His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau and myself, the French Army, except a Guard over the Stores at providence, is to march as soon as circumstances will admit and form a junction with the American upon the North River: But as it has been deemed of importance to keep possession of the valuable Works which have been thrown up upon Rhode Island for the security of the Harbour and Road of Newport, I have stipulated to furnish 500 Militia for that service. The exact time at which the French Army will march cannot be fixed and consequently the Militia cannot be called in by any certain day. I must therefore request that the first tour of duty which will probably be short may be performed by Men intirely from the State of Rhode Island and that they may assemble whenever called for by the Count de Rochambeau, from whom the Commanding Officer will take his orders as to the particular distribution of them to the several posts. I shall in due time write to the State of Massachusetts to send a proper relief. I could wish that care might by taken to make choice of an Officer of intelligence and spirit. I have the honor &c.

P.S. As the deposit of French Stores at providence is extremely valuable it is hoped that every assistance will be afforded by the Militia of the Country, should the Enemy make any attempt to destroy them.⁶⁶

66. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES

Weathersfield, May 24, 1781.

Sir: In consequence of a conference held between His Excellency the Count De Rochambeau and myself, at this place, the French Army will march, as soon as circumstances will admit, and form a junction with the American upon the North River.

The accomplishment of the object which we have in contemplation, is of the utmost importance to America, and will, in all probability be attained, unless there should be a failure on our part, in the number of men which will be required for the operation, or the Enemy should withdraw a considerable part of their force from the southward. It is in our own power, by proper exertions, to prevent the first, and should the last take place, we shall be amply repaid our expences, by liberating the southern States, where we have found by experience we are only vulnerable.

Upon the Calculations, that I have been able, in concert with some of the most experienced French and American Officers to form, the operation in view will require, in addition to the French Army all the Continental Battalions from New Hampshire to New Jersey inclusive to be completed to their full establishment. You must be sensible that the measures taken for that purpose, in consequence of the last requisition of Congress, have been very far from answering the end, as few Recruits, (comparatively speaking) have

yet been sent forward, and of those many have been discharged, on account of inability. You must also take into consideration, that a number of those men, who were returned when the requisition was made, have since been taken off by the Casualties incident to an Army. I estimate about one sixth of the number, and therefore provision must at this time be made to replace them.

From what has been premised, you will perceive without my urging further reasons, the necessity I am under of calling upon you, in the most earnest manner, to devise means to send into the field without delay the number of Men which have been already voted for the completion of the Battalions of your State, and the further deficiency of one sixth just mentioned. The term of three Years, or for the War would undoubtedly be preferable to any shorter period, but if they cannot be obtained on those conditions, necessity must oblige us to take them for the Campaign only, which ought to be reckoned to the last day of December.

I should hope, that by proper exertions in collecting and sending forward the men who have been already raised, and compelling by vigorous and decisive methods the delinquent Towns to furnish their quotas, the greater part of the men may be collected by the first of July.

Arguments surely cannot be wanting to impress the Legislatures with a due sense of the obligation which they are under of furnishing the means now called for. The Enemy counting upon our want of ability, or upon our want of Energy, have, by repeated

Detachments to the southward, reduced themselves in New York to a situation, which invites us to take advantage of it. And should the lucky moment be lost, it is to be feared, that they will, after subduing the southern States, raise a force in them sufficient to hold them, and return again to the Northward with such a number of men as will render New York secure against any force which we can, at this time of day raise or maintain. Our Allies in this Country expect, and depend upon being supported by us in the attempt we are about to make, and those in Europe will be astonished should we neglect the favourable opportunity which is now before us.

As it is probable that some Militia, in addition to the full complement of Continental Troops, may be necessary to support communications and for other purposes, you will be pleased to direct 400 Men to be held in readiness to march within one Week after I shall call for them, to serve three Months after they have joined the Army. And I would take the liberty of requesting that the *Executive*, may be vested with full powers, during the recess, to comply with any further requisition I may make for Men, Provision, or for the Means of transportation, which last may be most essential in the course of our operations, should it become necessary to bring Provisions or Stores from a distance.

I shall be glad to be favored with an answer as soon as possible, with an assurance of what I may depend upon, that if I do not clearly see a prospect of being supported, I may turn my views to a defensive instead of an offensive plan, and save the States, and our allies

the Expence which would be needlessly incurred by any but an ample and effectual preparation. I have the honor etc.⁶⁷

[N.H. H. S.]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Weathersfield [New Windsor], May 25, 1781.

Sir: The great demand we shall have for Powder in the proposed operations of the campaign constrains me to request a loan of that article of the States who are possessed of it, to supply the deficiencies of the Continental magazines. I therefore earnestly

67. In the writing of David Humphreys.

A note on the draft by Tilghman gives the other requisitions of militia as follows: Massachusetts, 2,200, and Connecticut, 1,500. Pennsylvania is listed as 1,600 and New Jersey 500, though the above circular was not sent to these two States. A P.S. was added to the circular sent Rhode Island, as follows: "As the defence of the Island of Newport may be assigned to the Militia of the State I shall not for that reason call upon any from thence to join the Army."

request as great a loan of Powder of the State of Massachusetts as can possibly be spared, and that the State would take most speedy and effectual measures to transport it to Fishkill.

If the measures which have been taken to procure an ample supply of Powder from Europe shall prove successful, the Continent will soon have ability to repay any loan which may be furnished on this occasion. I beg a speedy and explicit answer on this subject. I have the honor etc.⁷⁰

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Weathersfield [New Windsor], May 25, 1781.

Sir: It having been represented to me that some powder has been made by your Excellency's directions, at Glassenbury⁷⁴ and New Haven in this State, of materials belonging to the Continent, I take the liberty earnestly to request that such measures may be taken by the State as will transport it to Fishkill with the utmost expedition; great care being had that it should not be injured by the weather on its route.

The great demand we shall have for powder in the proposed operations of the campaign obliges me to apply to the respective States who have any for a loan to supply our deficiency.

70. From a contemporary copy in the writing of Henry Knox.

74. Glastonbury.

I therefore request of your Excellency as great a loan of that necessary article as the State of Connecticut can possibly spare, and that it be transported by the State to Fishkill. If the measures...⁷⁵ I have the honor etc.⁷⁶

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 27, 1781.

Sir: Last night I return'd from Weathers field, where I have had an interview with His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau; in consequence of which, the French Army will commence its march, to form a junction with ours on the North River, as soon as circumstances will admit.

The accomplishment of the object...⁷⁷

75. The omitted portion is the same as the last paragraph in the preceding letter to Governor Hancock.

76. In the writing of Henry Knox. From the original in the Connecticut State Library. On May 26 Washington received a letter from Lieut. Col. John Laurens, in Paris, that a French fleet under De Grasse was coming to America from the West Indies; that 6,000,000 livres had been donated by France to America, and that Laurens's "only hope of obtaining additional succor is founded on the exalted opinion which the Ministers have of your Excellency and every thing which comes from you." Laurens's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

77. The omitted portion is the same as that found in the Circular to the New England States, May 24, 1781, *q.v.*

taken off by the various casualties incident to an Army, besides such as have been discharged in consequence of the investigation made into the term of enlistment by the Committee appointed by your Assembly for that purpose. By this diminution and the want of success in recruiting; I find from the last Return there are 455 men now wanting to complete the two Regts of your State.

From what has been premised...⁷⁷

77. The omitted portion is the same as that found in the Circular to the New England States, May 24, 1781, *q.v.*

which ought to be reckoned to the last of December.

On so great an occasion, I should hope that the Estimate would be made sufficiently large, and that the exertion in the several Counties would be so very vigorous and energetic as to give us every man we stand in need of, by the 1st. of July at farthest.

Arguments surely cannot be wanting...⁷⁷

77. The omitted portion is the same as that found in the Circular to the New England States, May 24, 1781, *q.v.*

have the honor etc.⁷⁸

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, May 27, 1781.

Sir: I beg leave to inform your Excellency, that at a late conference between His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau and myself it has been agreed, that the principal part of the French Force shall

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

march as soon as circumstances will admit, and form a junction with me upon the North River. The enemy have so exceedingly weakened themselves by repeated detachments to support the War to the southward, that a favourable opportunity seems to present itself of expelling them from New York, or obliging them to recall part of their force to defend the extensive posts dependant upon that Garrison. Could this last be effected, it would essentially relieve the southern States.

Upon the most accurate calculation that I have been able to make, an operation against New York with its present Garrison will require all the Continental Battalions from New Jersey to New Hampshire inclusive fully compleated and the French Force now at Rhode Island. But as we cannot count upon the Battalions being full and as a Body of Militia will moreover be necessary for the investment of New York and its out posts, I have called upon the several States, from Pennsylvania to New Hampshire, to hold certain numbers in readiness to move within a week of the time at which I may require them, and to serve three months from the time they join the Army. The number allotted to Pennsylvania is 1600, which is in proportion to the Continental Battalions which she furnishes. Your Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary orders and to direct the necessary preparations of Arms and Camp Equipage.

I think it essential that the Legislature, at their present Session, should vest the Executive, during their recess, with powers of complying with such further requisitions of Men as I may be under the necessity of making, or of provisions and the means of transportation.

Your Excellency must be sensible that our principal difficulty will lie in subsisting so great a number of Men as we shall be obliged to draw together, and as our dependance for Bread must be in a great measure upon the State of Pennsylvania, I must take the liberty to refer you to my letter of the 5th. instant, which will give you a true idea of our prospects unless very decisive measures are speedily taken. I shall be obliged by your letting me hear from you as soon as possible upon the quantity of Flour which we may with a tolerable degree of certainty, expect from the State. The importance of the object which we have in contemplation ought and I hope will induce Government to exert their utmost powers to procure a supply.

Applications for reinforcement to the southern Army no doubt have reached you thro' another Channel, but I cannot help mentioning the critical situation to which our affairs in that quarter are reduced for want of a permanent force, and expressing my earnest wishes that measures may be fallen upon to make up the deficiency of the Pennsylvania line. I have the honor etc.⁷⁹

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

New Windsor, June 2, 1781.

Sir: The proposed operations of the campaign will occasion

79. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

such a demand for heavy cannon and military stores, as to exceed the number and quantity of these articles immediately in possession of the Continent. This insufficiency obliges me to apply to such of the neighbouring States as can afford us any assistance, with a full confidence that the

importance of the object and the apparent probability of success will induce a ready compliance, according to their respective abilities.

If the States do not give the assistance requested, the most favorable moment that has happened during the war will be lost, and our weakness be too conspicuous, as well to our Allies as to our enemies.

Upon these principles I apply to the State of Massachusetts for the loan, for the campaign, of 8 pieces of heavy cannon with travelling carriages, either 24 or 18 pounders as may be most convenient and for the delivery of two 13 inch sea mortars which the enemy left at Boston when they evacuated it in 1776. Col. Crane, who is in Boston, will receive and endeavour to transport them to this river. The situation of the Quarter Master's department, for want of money, also constrains me to request the State to give the Dy. Q. Master, and Col. Crane the necessary assistance to forward these and other essential articles.

The urgency of knowing as soon as possible what we shall have to depend upon, induces me to request an immediate answer to this, and my letter of the 25th ulto from Weathers field, respecting the loan of Powder. I have the honor etc.²⁴

24. From a contemporary copy in the writing of Henry Knox.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

New Windsor, June 2, 1781.

Sir: There are certain heavy cannon in the State of Rhode Island which are exceedingly wanted in the proposed operations of the campaign. These have been returned as belonging to the Continent, but it is said some of them are claimed as the property of the State. Your Excellency can determine this matter, and if they are proven the property of the State I must request the loan of as many as will make up the number eight, of those which are not disputed, if there are any of that discription, if not, the whole of the above number.

The importance of the object in view, and the apparent probability of success, will, I am persuaded, induce the State of Rhode Island to comply with this request, especially when it shall be considered that our non success may be attributed to the withholding the means in our possession.

Major Perkins of the artillery, who is at Providence, will receive the cannon and superintend the transportation of them to camp. The situation of the Q. M. General's department, for want of money, will probably oblige him to apply to the State for assistance, which I hope will be given to him, to ensure the transportation of these and other articles which Major Perkins will have orders to bring on from Rhode Island. I have the honor etc.²³

23. From a contemporary copy in the writing of Henry Knox. The original is in the Frederick S. Peck collection, Providence, R. I.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: One thousand Militia in addition to four hundred Troops having been deemed necessary to the security of the Fleet in Harbour of Newport after the departure of the Land Forces, I am to request Your Excellency to give orders for Five hundred from the State of Massachusetts to repair to Rhode Island as soon as they shall be demanded by His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau. The State of Rhode Island is to furnish 500 more. They will be put under the command of Brigadier Genl. de Choissy, who will remain in command at Newport. Should any attempt of the Enemy make an additional number of Men necessary, Monsr. de Choissy will call for them and it is my request that his requisition may be complied with. It is uncertain for what time the Militia will be wanted; you will therefore be pleased to have them regularly releived should the time exceed the term which your law enables you to draw them out for. I have the honor &c.³³

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 4, 1781.

Sir: In my letter of the 24th. of May from Weathersfield

33. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I requested your Excellency to furnish 500 Militia upon the requisition of His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau for the security of the Harbour of Newport. I now confirm that request with this addition: That should Brigadier General de Choissy, who will be left in command at Newport, find, from any movements of the Enemy, a further number of Men necessary, and call upon your Excellency for them, you would be pleased to comply with his requisition. I have the honor etc.³⁶

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 7, 1781.

Sir: By a Resolution of Congress of the 31st. of May, 4 Battalions of Infantry, one Company of Artillery consisting of 32 Matrosses and a Corps of Horse consisting of sixty four Dragoons are required of the State of Pennsylvania to serve for three Months from the time of their respectively rendezvousing at the Place or Places directed by me. You[r Excellency] has, no Doubt, been made acquainted that the foregoing Requisition is founded on the alarming Progress which the Enemy are making in Virginia. You will [be pleased] therefore [to] give Orders to the Officers commanding the respective Corps to march by Detachment as they are raised and equipped to whatever Place may be the Head Quarters of the American Army in Virginia or in Maryland

36. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

(should the Enemy have advanced into that State) and take their further Commands from the General or other commanding Officer. I need but refer You[r Excellency] to the Circular Letter of

the President of Congress of the 1st. instant for the Reasons which ought to influence the Exertions [of your State] most particularly at this Moment. I have the Honor etc.⁴⁵

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Dr. Sr: I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 1st Inst. Upon examining the state of Ammunition, with reference to the proposed Operations, it is found impossible to furnish more than 15000 Musket Cartridges for the use of the State of New Jersey; especially at a time, when we are obliged to solicit a loan of Powder from the Eastern States, and when the supply of lead in possession of the Public is very incompetent to our wants.

It is unnecessary to mention to your Excellency,

45. In the writing of Richard Varick. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington.

The same letter was sent to President Caesar Rodney, of Delaware, calling for 1 battalion and 32 dragoons, and to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee, of Maryland, calling for 2 battalions and 64 dragoons. These drafts are in the Washington Papers.

that the strictest œconomy should be enforced, in the distribution and expenditure of so essential an Article. With great respect etc.

P.S. An Order for the Cartridges is inclosed.⁶⁷

To REVEREND JOHN WHEELOCK⁷¹

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 9, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 25th. of May, and have paid due attention to the business recommended therein.⁷²

Pleased with the specimen you have given in Mr Vincent,⁷³ of the improvement and cultivation which are derived from an education in your Seminary of Literature, I cannot but hope the Institution will become more flourishing and extensively useful. With due respect etc.⁷⁴

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Favor of the 4th instant. In the Calculation which I made at Wethersfield, of the Aid of Militia

67. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

71. President of Dartmouth College.

72. See Washington's letter to Brig. Gen. Jacob Bayley, June 9, 1781, *post*.

73. Lewis Vincent, a Canadian Indian of the Lowtso Tribe.

74. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

which would be necessary to support the Operation which we have in View, I included sixteen hundred from Pennsylvania, but that State having been since called upon to embody and march two thousand four hundred Men immediately to the Assistance of Virginia, I am obliged to add the Number which I shall be disappointed in from Pennsylvania, to the Quota required from the other

States; your Proportion of them will be two hundred and fifty which with the Requisition of the 24th. of May will make in the whole six hundred and fifty.⁹

I need not enter into a Repetition of the Arguments which were made Use of in my Letter of the 24th. of May to induce the most strenuous Exertions to fill up the Continental Battalions. I will only say, that our Success will depend upon that being done. Without it, there is not a Chance, and with it We have the fairest Prospect. these Men must be sent forward as fast as they are raised.

I am in Hopes that the Assembly will, at their present Meeting, take effectual Measures for supplying the Quota of Beef called for in the Requisitions which were laid before You by Major General Heath. You must be fully sensible that our whole Dependence for Provisions is up the Exertions of the States, and that without their punctual Compliance with the Demands made upon them, the Force which will be collected must soon disband. Whereby the immense

9. At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "From circumstances, I have reason to expect that our operations will commence somewhat earlier than I at first expected. You will therefore be pleased to give orders for the Militia to march in such time that they may punctually join the Army by the 15th. of July next."

Expencc which we are now incurring will be so much dead Loss, and the Consequences, in a political View, of a most serious and alarming Nature. I have the Honor etc.

PS. By a general Return of the 9th instant the total Amount of your two Regiments was 598. in wch. are included 98 Recruits; being all which had joined up to the 1st Instant.¹⁰

[N.H.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I flatter myself that proper measures have been before this time taken to procure the number of Men, for Continental and Militia service, required by my letter of the 24th. of May from Weathersfield. In the calculation which I then made of the aid of Militia which would be necessary to support the operation....¹¹ Your proportion of them will be 500, which with the requisition of the 24th of May will make in the whole 2700. Your Excellency will be pleased to consider this number as independant of the 500 which I desired by my letter of the 4th. of June, might be ordered to Rhode Island.

10. In the writing of Richard Varick; the P.S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

11. The omitted portions duplicate parts of Washington's letter to President Meshech Weare, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

From circumstances, I have reason to expect that our operations will commence somewhat earlier than I at first expected. Your Excellency will therefore be pleased to give orders for the 2700 Militia intended for this service to march in such time that they may punctually join the Army by the 15th. of July next.

I am convinced that I need not enter into a repetition of the arguments....¹¹ I have the honor etc.

11. The omitted portions duplicate parts of Washington's letter to President Meshech Weare, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

P.S. I must particularly intreat your Excellency's attention to my requests of the 25th. ulto. and 2d. instant for Powder and Cannon. If, as I have been informed, the State is possessed of large quantities of materials for making powder, which can with facility be worked up at the Mills of Stoughton and Andover, they can with more safety and convenience afford to make a loan to the continent, at this important moment, as they may replenish their Magazines by working up the materials. I have some reason to expect to obtain twenty 18 pound Cannon from the Navy Board at Boston, should I succeed, there will be no occasion of borrowing any from the State. Of this Colo.

Crane will inform your Excellency. We shall I imagine at any rate be under the necessity of craving assistance for so heavy a transportation, and I shall therefore esteem it an additional obligation, if thro' your Excellency's influence the Quarter Master can derive some aid.

By a General Return of the 9th Inst. the total Amount of your ten Regiments of Infantry was 2827. in which are included 1417 Recruits which were all that had joined up to the 1st. Instant, 114 Recruits had joined the Regt. of Artillery.¹²

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I flatter myself

12. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

... Your Proportion of them will be six hundred, which with the Requisition of the 24th. of May will make in the whole two thousand one hundred.

From Circumstances...

I have the Honor etc.

PS. By a general Return of the 9th. instant, the total Amount of your five Regiments of Infantry was 1668. in which are included 563. Recruits, being all that had joined up to the 1st Instant.¹³

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Sir: I flatter myself...

13. In the writing of Richard Varick; the P.S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

Your proportion of them will be 250, which with the requisition of the 27th of May will make in the whole 750.

From circumstances...

The Officer commanding may be directed to give me notice when he is ready to march from his place of rendezvous that I may halt him upon the West Side of the Hudson or order him over as the situation of affairs may require.

I am convinced ...

Of all the difficulties which surround me I fear none more than a want of subsistence for the number of Men which will be shortly drawn together. My whole dependance is upon the supplies demanded from the several States, and if they fail in a regular and efficient compliance, We must disband. Our immense expence ...¹⁴ The State of New Jersey

14. The omitted portions in this and the preceding letter duplicate a part of Washington's letter to Governor John Hancock, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

having been, for the several late Campaigns, in a manner the Theatre of War, has been under the necessity of furnishing very great supplies to the Army, altho' they have not been exactly in the Articles specifically required by Congress, and as that will probably be the case in the present, I have made my principal requisitions for Flour and Meat upon Pennsylvania and the Eastern States. But as I still am very apprehensive of a deficiency, I must intreat your Excellency to endeavour to prevail upon the Legislature to make provision for procuring as much as they possibly can of their quota of those Articles. Nothing in nature can be more repugnant to my inclination than to be obliged to have recourse to military coercion for subsistence, it being not only highly disgusting and oppressive to the inhabitants, but ruinous of the discipline of an Army. The more therefore that can

be regularly obtained, the less occasion will there be for measures of a disagreeable kind. I have the honor etc.¹⁵

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Favors of the 17th. of May and 6th. of this Month, the first did not reach me until the 7th. inst. By the Rules of Promotion which existed previous [to the resolve

15. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of Congress of] the 25th. of May, Lieut Colo. Carrington of the 1st. Regiment of Artillery will succeed to the Command of the 4th. Vice Procter and Lieut Colo. Forrest, if he remains in Service, must be removed to the 1st. Your Excellency has therefore only to call upon Lieut Colo. Carrington or commanding Officer, for an accurate Return of the Officers of the Regimt. and I make no doubt but it will be immediately furnished.

The Proceedings of the Court Martial on the Case of Lieut Bigham¹⁶ were transmitted to me from Philadelphia and the Sentence, by which he was cashierd, has been approved. The Court unanimously recommended a Restoration of his Rank, but I could not think myself justifiable in doing it.

In Consideration of the Number of Militia which have been required from the State, for the Assistance of Virginia, I have thought it but equitable to withdraw my request for the sixteen hundred Men which were intended to act with the Army. This I hope will enable Your Excellency with the more Ease to procure the Means of raising and equipping those for the Southern Service.

I must confess to You that I am not a little alarmed at the Complexion of Your Excellency's Letter of the 17th. of May, as I cannot find that You are able to give me the least Assurance of a further

Supply of Flour, and there is no other Quarter from whence it can be drawn in sufficient Quantities, by any Means within our Power. While I regret that internal Disputes and Divisions have for some Time past deprived us of the Resources of one of the most powerful States in the Union, I cannot but hope that Unanimity will take

16. Bingham.

Place at the present Crisis, which is perhaps the most important of any which America has yet experienced. From your Excellency's Zeal and Inclinations I have every Thing to expect, and I shall anxiously wait to hear how your Recommendations have been received and seconded by the Legislature. I have the Honor etc.¹⁷

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: Mr Pierce, Pay Master General of the Army will have the honor of delivering this Letter; he waits upon your Excellency to see, whether any ways and means can be devised to procure Money for the payment of the Troops of the New York Line. It is a matter of such interesting importance, that I cannot forbear recommending it to the earliest and most serious attention of the State. I have the honor &c.²¹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: This will be delivered your Excellency by Lt. Colo.

17. In the writing of Richard Varick. The words in brackets in the draft, which is in the writing of Tilghman, are in the writing of Washington.

21. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Stevens, at present commanding officer of Colo. Lambs Regiment of Artillery. His Business is to lay before you a particular State of the Regiment, by which it will appear that it is yet very deficient of its establishment and that there is little or no prospect of compleating it by any measures at present in agitation. I have desired Colo. Stevens to make your Excellency acquainted with the number of Recruits who have joined, as I am apt to think that they have been estimated at more than they are in reality.

The operations of this Campaign will probably occasion an uncommon demand for Artillery Men. If they can be obtained for three years or the War, it will be undoubtedly preferable, but if not, it will be better to take them for the Campaign only, than be under the necessity of drafting from the Infantry. This we shall be obliged to do, to the great weakening of Corps already too weak, if proper Artillery Men are not raised. I have the Honor etc.²²

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: In my letter of this date by Colo. Stevens I only mentioned the necessity of filling Colo. Lambs Regiment of Artillery. There are the same reasons for compleating the two Regiments of

22. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Infantry. Let me entreat your Excellency to press the Legislature to devise means of procuring the deficiency for the Campaign only, if they cannot be obtained upon better terms. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Every exertion should be made to fill the three years and eight Months State Regiments, as our operations in this quarter may probably require the Continental Regt. at present at the Northward.²⁵

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 21, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have just received a Letter from Brigadr Genl Clinton of the 15th. inclosing the examination of two Prisoners who were taken lately by one of his scouts; from whence it appears the Enemy in Canada have not made any movements in force, or preparations for an incursion; and indeed this intelligence corresponds so exactly with that, which has been received thro other channels, that I can not but regret having sent the Reinforcement to the Northward, at a time when the aid of every Man was so essential to the success of the operations in contemplation.

As it will be indispensably necessary, when we advance towards the Enemy's Lines, to withdraw the regular force from the Northward,

25. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I have thought proper to advise General. Clinton and Your Excellency of it, that provision might be made as far as practicable, to replace these Troops with the Men engaged for the Campaign and the three Years service. At the same time that I express my unhappiness at being forced to the measure, and assure your Excellency, that nothing but necessity could induce me to recall the Continental Troops, I wish it may be understood, that When the Moment of operating arrives, there is not any consideration which can persuade me to counteract the plan that has been concerted between the Count de Rochambeau and myself. But, lest the Enemy should attempt to take advantage of their absence to make inroads on the frontier in order to distract our attention, and cause a diversion in favor of their Most important Post, I beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms, that every means in your pow'r should be made use of to guard against such an event. I will also take the liberty to suggest, whether an additional security might not be afforded to those Posts which are

exposed to the ravages of the Enemy, by my sending a Continental Officer to assist in rousing and assembling the force of the Country and to put himself at the head of such Militia and Volunteers as might be drawn together on an emergency from the district of Country called Vermont; and whether in that case, Brigadier General Stark would not be a proper Character to employ on this service, especially as he has already obtained a reputation from his successes in that quarter, as he is undoubtedly a Man of bravery and has been accustomed to command irregular Troops in action. It appears to me a popular Officer, in that situation would be extremely advantageous

on many accounts. Whether there may be reasons of state against it, I know not, I have therefore submitted it to your consideration. [I beg your opinion freely on the subject] and have the honor to be etc.⁴⁸

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am honored with Your Excellency's Letter of the 30th Inst. together with the several Enclosures.

The measures which have been taken by your Legislature to produce a prompt compliance with the requisitions upon the State, are of a good complexion, and afford me great satisfaction. I flatter myself the ample powers with which your Excellency and your Council are invested, will be strenuously exerted to carry those salutary Measures into execution.

I shall be extremely happy to see you at the Army, and am With the highest sentiments of esteem etc.⁷⁰

48. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

70. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 24, 1781.

Dear Sir: In the course of our expected operations we shall stand in need of a species of troops, which are not at present to be procured either in this Army or in any of the States to the Northward of Pennsylvania. They are expert Rifle Men. The use of these Men will be to fire into the embrazures and to drive the enemy from their parapets when our approaches are carried very near their Works. Without this can be done, our loss will be immense when we shall come within Musket Shot. General Lincoln informs me that the enemy made use of this mode at the Siege of Charlestown, and that his Batteries were in a manner silenced, untill he opposed the same kind of troops and made it as dangerous for the enemy to shew their Men as it had been before for him to expose his. The number which we shall want will be about three hundred, and I shall be exceedingly obliged to your Excellency, if you will endeavour to procure so many from the Frontier of Pennsylvania.

Had the quota of Militia from your State come to this Army, I should have endeavoured to have selected the required number from among them. But that not being the case, I think it but reasonable, that the expence of raising the Rifle Men should be Continental. I have written to this effect to Congress and have requested the president to signify their approbation to your Excellency if they think proper to accede

to it. I would wish the Corps to be formed into six Companies of 50 each, under the command of a Captain and two subs, the whole to be commanded by a Major. The term of service to the 1st. day of January next. The choice of the Officers I shall leave to your Excellency. If Major Parr formerly of the 7th. Penna. Regt. would engage in such a service, a better Officer could not be found for the purpose. The Bounty cannot now be determined, and therefore it will be with you to procure them on as low terms as possible. But that the business may not be retarded for want of proper encouragement, I would wish you to make yourself acquainted with the Sum which will most probably engage them and offer that, whatever it may be. One of the terms should be that they

are to find their own Rifles, as we have none in Store. I shall be glad to hear as soon as possible what probability there will be of succeeding in this undertaking. The greater part of the Men, must be with the Army by the 1st. of Augt. or their services will be useless afterwards. I have the honor etc.⁶⁶

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Sir: I find I shall be under the necessity of drawing down all the Continental troops which are at present upon the Northern

66. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Frontier, and as there is very great reason to apprehend an incursion of the enemy from Canada I shall be obliged to keep a respectable force of Militia in that quarter, in addition to the State Troops of New York. I have therefore taken the liberty to order the quotas from Berkshire and Hampshire Counties immediately to Albany where they will be disposed of agreeable to the directions of Brigadier Genl. Stark who will take the general command to the Northward. The numbers of Massachusetts Militia destined for Northern service will be 600. If therefore the two before mentioned Counties should not furnish so many, I must make up the deficiency from the others.

The Militia which will be furnished by New York upon the present occasion will be principally drawn from the lower parts and from their perfect knowledge of the Country which will be the scene of our operations will be particularly useful to me. I have for that reason preferred keeping them with the Army to sending them to the defence of their own Frontier. I have the honor etc.⁷⁸

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, June 25, 1781.

Sir: As an attempt is determined on to reduce New York to our power, I am under the necessity of calling on your State

78. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

for an aid of Militia, especially as I cannot dispense with recalling the regular Troops now on the Frontiers, wishing to ease a state so harrassed as yours has been as much as possible consistent with the importance of the intended operation, I can only request 800 men. But as on some critical emergency I may be driven to intreat a farther aid permit me to recommend It to Your Excellency to request of Your legislature, to invest you with adequate powers for the purpose should You not already have them. I am &c.⁷⁷

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, June 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: Inclosed your Excellency will receive Copy of a Letter addressed to me from General Parsons, representing the Situation of the Troops of your Line of the Army.

I feel myself so distressed at this Representation, not only as it affects the Troops themselves, but from the Apprehension I have of the Consequences which may, from their feelings, be produced to the general Service; that, altho it is not within my Province to interfere with the Internal Resolutions or the Determinations of the States, I did not think it amiss to transmitt this Letter to your Excellency, and to beg the most serious Attention of the State to its Subject.⁹¹ Permit me Sir! to add, that Policy

77. From a copy in the writing of Philip Schuyler.

91. At this point in the draft, which is also in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., the following is crossed out: "the Subject is so fully displayed therein, that it is needless for me to be particular.

How far the State have complied to the strict Rule of Justice, in their Resolutions, is not for me to determine.”

alone, in our present Circumstances, seem to demand that every Satisfaction which can reasonably be requested, should be given to those Veteran Troops who, 'thro almost every Distress, have been so long and so faithfully serving the States; as from every Representation, I have but too much Reason to suppose, that the most fatal Consequences to your Line will ensue upon the total Loss of any further Expectations than they at present have, of Relief from the State; and how serious will be the Consequence to our present meditated Operations, should any Disturbance arise in so respectable a Body of the Troops composing this Army, as that from the State of Connecticut, I leave the State to reflect; for myself, I lament the Prospect, in its most distant Idea.

If your Legislature should not be sitting, (as I suppose they are not), I leave it to your Excellency to determine whether it is necessary imediately to convene them on this Subject. I have only to wish, that it might have as early a Consideration as may be found convenient, or consistent with other Circumstances, which must be best known to your Excellency. I have the Honor etc.⁹²

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, near Peekskill, June 30, 1781.

Dear Sir: In fullest confidence I inform you that I intend to make an attempt by surprise upon the Enemys posts on the North

92. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

End of York Island on Monday night. Should we be happy enough to succeed and be able to hold our conquest the advantages will be greater than can be well imagined. But I cannot flatter myself that the Enemy will permit the latter, except I am suddenly and considerably reinforced. I shall march down the remainder of this Army, and have hopes that the French force will be near at hand by that time. But I shall, notwithstanding, direct the Alarm Guns and Beacons to be fired in case

of success, and I have to request that your Excellency will, upon such signals, communicate the meaning of them to the Militia and put yourself at the head of them and march with the utmost expedition towards Kingsbridge, bringing with you three or four days provision at least. In that time, I think we shall have so arranged matters as to have little need of the Militia called out upon the moment.

I have, upon a hope that we shall succeed, ordered Brigr. Genl. Clinton to send down the regular troops immediately. Should circumstances make it necessary, I can countermand the order. I have the honor etc.¹⁶

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

Sir: I have not been favored with any Letter from you since General Heath went to the Eastward; from his account and

16. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Gen Cornell's I have reason to believe your Excellency's Dispatches for me have Miscarried.

General Cornell informed me the State of Rhode Island has contracted for 30,000 lb of Beef, to be forwarded to the Army in the Month of June and the same quantity in the Month of July; that half the Money was advanced to the Contractor, and that he was laid under heavy Bonds to comply effectually with the terms of the contract. I have now to acquaint your Excellency, that not a pound of Beef has arrived from Your State, and that the Army cannot be subsisted unless the Requisitions upon the States are punctually complied with.

Let me entreat your Excellency that the supply of Beef Cattle may instantly be forwarded from Rhode Island. I have the honor etc.²⁶

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Peekskill, July 1, 1781.

My Dear Sir: I am obliged again to trouble your Excellency with the Distress we are in for Want of Provisions to feed the Troops; by a Return from the Corny Genl. of Issues, we have received from the 12th of May to this Day only 312 Head of Cattle, and those in the followg Proportions Vizt:

N Hampshire 30

Massachusetts Bay 230

Connecticut 52

312,

26. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

from this Supply, with the Help of the Salted Provisions, we have barely subsisted from Hand to Mouth. the Army is now Augmenting, and in the Field; and yet our Prospects of Provisions rather seem on the decline, than otherwise, if we may judge from its actual Arrival; very little having come on lately, and no Knowledge being had of any Supply on the Roads; thus circumstanced, I am obliged to declare, that unless more strenuous Exertions are made by the States to feed their few Troops in the Field, we shall be reduced to the Necessity not only to relinquish our intended Operations, but shall be obliged absolutely to disband for Want of Subsistence; or, which is almost equally to be lamented, the Troops will be obliged to seek it for themselves wherever it is to be found; either of these Circumstances takg Place, will put us into a most distressing Situation on our own Acc. and at the same Time place us in a most shameful Point of View in the Eyes of our French Allies; and unhappily reduce them to a most disagreeable Dilema. Our Expectations lookg altogether to the Eastern States for a Supply of the Meat kind, I must intreat your Excellency, that every possible Measure may be exerted, that your State may furnish its Quota of fresh Beef and

that we may have a speedy Earnest of their Intentions. I am informed that the Salted Provisions begins to fail comg on. I hope your Quantity is not yet exhausted. That I may obtain a thorough Knowledge of what is now on Hand, on the Road and in the State, and that I may thereby be enabled to judge what our Dependance may be on that Article; I have desired Colo Stewart the C. Gen of Issues

to send on the Road, into the State, one of his most active and intelligent People, to make strict Enquiry, and to obtain a real Return of all he can find, and to urge the Necessity of immediate forwardg. If he should have Occasion to apply to your Excellency, I dare say you will give him every Assistance and Information in your Power. I have the Honor etc.

P.S. Mr. Stevens will mention the Necessity of Rum, and the Deficiency from your State, of that Article.²⁷

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been informed by Colonel Dearborn and some others, that the State of New Hampshire has procured and put up the greater part of the salted Provisions required by Congress of that State for the use of the Army. Altho I have been so unfortunate as not to have received any exact account or official Return of the quantity that may be expected from thence, yet I will presume upon a considerable supply, as the exertions of the State seem principally to have been confined to that Article. Not more than thirty fat Cattle having been received from your State since the close of last Campaign.

It has now become extremely important that all these salted Provisions (except those on the Connecticut River) should be forwarded as expeditiously as possible to some place within reach

27. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

On July 1 Washington wrote to Capt. John Pray: "You will be pleased to put a Sub or Sergt. with two Boats properly manned under the Command of Capt. Lawrence." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

of the Army. As it is impracticable to have this speedily effected by land transportation; I must therefore entreat most earnestly that you will be pleased to have Transports provided, and send on the whole of the aforesaid salted meat by Water to Providence in the State of Rhode Island. Let me impress upon you the necessity of this business, of giving every necessary in should be deposited at Providence in the charge of the Comter Master of the State, and taking every possible precaution to prevent its falling into the hands of the Enemy. The provision should be deposited at Providence in the charge of the Commissy, of Issues, State Agent, or some careful Person who must be accountable for it. I wish all the Rum which has been purchased by the State for the Continent may be forwarded in the same manner and to the same place.

The french Army has now formed a junction with us. We have advanced to this place; suffer me to add, that we must depend upon the exertions of the eastern States to furnish the supply of Beef Cattle, that has been called for, in order to enable us to keep the field.

I think it will be adviseable, to transport the Provisions and Rum, in small swift sailing Coasters, the chance of loss by capture will not be so great. The matter ought also to be kept as much a secret as may be.

I shall anxiously expect your answer by the earliest Opportunity. I have the honor etc.⁵³

[N.H.H.S.]

53. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters near Dobbs's ferry, July 8, 1781.

Sir: I have not been honored with an answer to my several letters of the 24th. and 25th of May and of the 2d. 4th. 15th. and 25th. of last Month, and am of course unable to form any certain estimate of what may be expected in consequence of my requisitions. This puts me in rather an awkward situation, as I cannot give His Excellency Count Rochambeau, who has formed a junction with me, that official assurance of support which I had promised upon the faith of the States, when I had an interview with him at Weathers field. It is true General Heath has given me general information of the steps which have been taken to raise Men and supplies and which appear energetic and liberal, but still I cannot with propriety expose those letters to public view.

In my Letter of the 25th. of June I informed your Excellency that I had written to General Fellows to forward 600 Militia from the Counties of Hampshire and Berkshire to Albany. By an answer from him of the 1st Inst. I find that he is out of Commission and that no order for Militia had then been given. I however hope your Excellency will upon the Receipt of my Letter have dispatched the necessary orders, as, depending upon the Militia, I have called down the Continental troops. I am etc.⁵⁴

54. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GEORGE PLATER AND WILLIAM BRUFF⁶⁴

Head Quarters near Dobbs's Ferry, July 9, 1781.

Gentlemen: I am honoured with your favour of the 27th Ulto. As the troops of Maryland compose part of the southern Army now under the immediate command of Major Genl. Greene, I [think there wd. be an impropriety] (as it may interfere with the arrangements of that Army) to give General Smallwood directions to remain in Maryland for the purposes you mention; [but if his doing this is not incompatible with the orders or views of Genl. Greene, I have no objection to his remaining in that State till application can be made to Genl. Greene who] I make no doubt will acquiesce in a

measure which seems calculated for the public good, if General Smallwood's service with the Army can be dispensed with. I have the Honor etc.⁶⁵

[MD.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 11, 1781.

Sir: On Delivery of this Letter it is probable the Count de Barras with the Squadron under his Comand, will have sailed from

64. President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates, respectively, of Maryland.

65. In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh. The portions in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling, etc., are followed.

Newport on an Expedition of much importance. And as our Enemies may possibly think of Improving [*sic*] this Opportunity to strike some Blow upon the Stores of our Allies deposited in your State, I have to request from your Excellency, that for the security of the Transports, Stores &c you will be pleased to suffer the French Major of Artillery left with you to have the use of the heavy Cannon of your State, to be disposed of in such manner as he shall think most conducive to his Security on this Occasion.

I could Wish also (if it is not already done) that you will be pleased to establish some mode of communicating Signals by Beacons or other ways as you think best, to the adjacent Country so that in Case of Necessity, the Force of the Country in your and the adjoining States, on any Sudden Occasion, may be most expeditiously collected. I have the honor etc.⁷⁷

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters near Dobb's ferry, July 10, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellencys favor of the 19th. June.

It is with very great satisfaction I observe the proceedings of the General Assembly of your state which you have been pleased to communicate to me. The exertions of that Legislature have heretofore been laudable and I am exceeding glad to see the

77. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

same spirit still prevailing. For my own part I have not a doubt but that if the states were to exert themselves with that spirit and vigor which might reasonably be expected at this favorable period they might not only drive from the Continent the remains of the british force now among us but obtain to themselves their Independence with the enjoyment of Peace Liberty and happiness to their numerous Inhabitants, an event which you will be assured I most ardently wish. I have the honor etc.⁶⁸

[MD.H.S.]

To SAMUEL LOUDON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Sir: For the Benefit of the Army, and the Encouragement of the Inhabitants, you will be pleased to publish the inclosed Proclamation in your useful Paper. I am etc.

PROCLAMATION

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 10, 1781.

Be it known: That Every Day, during the Time the Army remains

68. In the writing of Peregrine Fitzhugh.

in its present Position, from Day Break till Noon, Two Markett Places will be open for the Supply of the Army. One near His Excellency's Head Quarters, in the Field just back of the House, and near the Quarters of the Adjutant and Quarter Masters General. The other in the French Camp, near the House of Henry Taylor, which is the Head Quarters of His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau. All Persons, who will bring any Articles of Provisions and Small Supplies for the Use of the Army, may Depend on being protected in their Persons and Property, and shall have full and free Liberty to dispose of their Produce, without Molestation or Imposition, and will receive no Hindrance from the Guards of the Army on their passing to or repassing from the Sd Markett Places. No Person will be permitted to take any Article, without the full Consent of the Owner. It is expected however and will be required that every Person on his or her first coming to the above Markets will be furnished with a Certificate of Recommendation shewg their Attachment to the American Cause and Interest, signed by two civil Magistrates, or two other reputable Persons of known and Approved Characters: that no Injury may arrive to the Army from the Arts of Designing and evil minded Persons.

If the Army should take a different Position, other Places will be named, where the like Liberty and Protection will be given.⁶⁹

69. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This same letter was sent with a copy of the text of the Proclamation to [Ebenezer] Watson, at Hartford; [Thomas] Green, at New Haven, and [Isaac] Collins, at Chatham, N. J. Watson, however, had died in 1777, and his newspaper in 1781 was published by Barzillai Hudson and George Goodwin.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters near Dobbs ferry, July 11, 1781.

Sir: I had the Honor to address your Excellency the 1st. instant, at which time I had heard Nothing from you since mine of the 24th of May last. I have now to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favor of the 7th. June which came to Hand thro' the Channel of the southern Post.

I observe with Satisfaction, the Proceedings of your Legislature, respecting their Troops, Cloathing and Supplies, and most sincerely Hope the Execution of their Measures, may be equal to their Resolutions.

I am just informed from the Comy Gen. I of Issues that 50 Head of Cattle are lately arrived from your State; in Consequence, I suppose of the Contracts mentioned in your Excellencys Letter of the 7th Ultimo. Sensible of the Necessity of an additional Body of Militia for the Security of your State, more than those requested from you, I did in my Letter of ⁸⁰ to Govr Hancock, request 500 Men to be sent from the State of Masstts. for your Assistance. That Body I hope are arrived before this Time. I have the Honor etc.⁸¹

80. June 4, 1781, *q.v.*

81. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 13, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am just now honored with your Excellencys Favor of the 8th instant informing me of the Offer of a Number of Volunteer Horse Men from your State.

I applaud Sir! this Spirit, which gives me much Pleasure in the Contemplation; the Gentlemen deserve my best Thanks for their Tenders of Service; which I beg leave to present them thro the Hands of your Excellency.

We are so much superior at present in Cavalry, by the Arrival of the Legion of Lauzun, a very good Corps under Colo Sheldon, that I have not Need of any more Troops of that Establishment, and it being also probable that the Gentlemen, in the Course of our Operations, may be very usefull, by joining some Body of Troops which it may be found expedient to form in your State; I think it not best to draw them on this Side of the River; but hope they will be so good as to reserve themselves for any Operations which may be found necessary to commence on your Side.

I will be obliged if your Excellency will be pleased to inform me of the Progress that is made under your late Law, in filling your Continental Battalions. I am anxious on this Head, as I view it an Object of the greatest Importance; an object which if compleated, would in a great Measure prevent the Necessity of Calling for other Assistance. I am &c.⁹⁵

95. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry, July 14, 1781

Sir: General Heath, in a letter of the 4th of July, informs me that the State have about 50 pipes of Teneriffe Wine, which they are willing, if it will answer as well, to send forward to the Army in lieu of Rum. As he thought it more than probable that he would have left Boston before my answer could arrive, he desired me to make it to your Excellency.

Wine can not be distributed to the soldiers instead of Rum, except the quantity is much increased. I very much doubt, whether a Gill of Rum would not be preferred to a pint of small Wine. The cost would therefore be much greater, and the difference of transportation immense; as I imagine 12 or 15 Hands of Rum would go as far as 50 pipes of Wine. If 5 or 6 pipes only can be sent on, they will be agreeable and essentially useful to the patients in the Hospital, who are suffering extreme distress for stores of every kind.

I must request the favor of your Excellency to forward the packet of letters herewith by the first good opportunity to any port of France. I have the honor etc.¹⁴

14. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To CLARK & NIGHTINGALE

Head Quarters, July 14, 1781.

Gentlemen: Your agreeable Favor of the 19th ulto. per Gen. Viominil, with its very pleasing Attendant, is come safe to Hand, for which you will please to accept my warmest Thanks.

That our Enemies Consignments are so often diverted from the Point of their Intention, is matter of very pleasing satisfaction to me; and you may be assured Gentlemen that I am particularly rejoiced that Fortune had so often cast her favors into your Lap. With very particular Respect I have the honor etc.¹⁸

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Dobb's Ferry, July 15, 1781.

Dr. St: One Losee,²⁸ formerly an Inhabitant of this State, now a Deserter from the Enemy, is sent to your Excellency's disposal. It is asserted by a certain Berrian²⁹ (immediately from the Enemy) that Losee was an Emissary charged with Dispatches for the Enemy at the Northward; I am also told Col. Dayton has received similar information of him. I have the honor etc.³⁰

18. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

28. Simon(?) Losee, of Long Island.

29. Abraham(?) Benien, of Queen's County, N. Y.

30. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, July 16, 1781.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's Favor of the 7th. I am exceedingly happy to find that the mode of procuring the specific supplies demanded of the state is now upon such a footing that we may hope for a full and regular Compliance in future: and I doubt not but if the other States will follow the example, and appropriate a proportion of their revenue to the Disposal of the Superintendent of Finance, we shall soon see our Affairs assume a new and pleasing appearance. I am convinced that the sole hope of the Enemy has long rested upon the deranged State of our Finance. Indeed all our late Difficulties and Distresses have proceeded from that Source; for I believe it will be confessed, that the Country, since the Commencement of the War, never abounded so much in resources as at present.

The Resolve of Congress of 25th of May having no retrospect, I can put no other than my former Construction upon it, which was, that all Promotions in the Artillery and Cavalry, were to be made up to that Date upon the Principles which had governed for three Years in. those Corps. Is it not strange that the Officers of the Regiment, late Proctor's, should be the only ones who claim a Right to an Exemption from what they very well know has been the Rule of Service? It is but a few days ago, that a Memorial from them to Congress upon the same Subject was handed to me by the Board of War, when I answered it in

the same Manner that I had before done to the Council.

Your Excellency cannot oblige me more, than by interesting yourself in raising the Rifle Corps. We experienced the Want of such a Body of Men in a little Affair near Kings bridge the Beginning.

of this Month, in which our Troops were galled considerably by the Hessian Jagers, who did Execution at a Distance to which our Musquetry could not reach.

The Proceedings upon Lt. Bingham.³⁷ are transmitted by this Conveyance to the Board of War. Your Excellency can therefore call upon them for a Copy of the whole, or such Extracts as may be necessary. I have the Honor etc.³⁸

[H.S.P.]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 28, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 18th inst., and observe with much Pleasure the Train into which the recruiting the proposed Rifle Corps is thrown, and hope they will soon be obtained. As this Body of Men will be exceedingly essential to our Designs, and may be very usefully employed in Detachments, I have to beg of your Excellency that you will be pleased to give Orders, that as fast as they are recruited, they may be marched off for this Camp

37. Bingham.

38. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

in small Parties from twenty to thirty in a Party, as they are collected, with proper Officers to conduct the Parties: in this Mode our Operations may not be delayed by waiting for the whole Corps to be completed before we receive the Benefits of their Services.

I am rejoiced to be informed the Prospects you have for filling the Line of your Continental Troops, and most sincerely hope your Success may be equal to your most sanguine Expectations.

The inclosed Letter for Majr Parr, is left open for your Excellency's Observation, and is recommended to your particular Care to be forwarded. I have the Honor etc.⁹⁵

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, July 30, 1781.

Sir: I did myself the honour to address your Excellency under the 25th June last, requesting that you would be pleased to order 600, of the Militia of your State, which I supposed to be raising under a former Requisition, to be sent to Albany for the Protection of the Northern and Western Frontier of the State of N York; to this Letter (as indeed to several others of much earlier Date) I have not had the Honor of a Reply, so that I am to this Day uninformed if those Orders are yet given. What leads me to fear they are not, is a Letter I have Yesterday received from Govr Clinton, informng that no Militia from your State had arrived

95. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

at Albany, and inclosing a Copy of a Letter dated 23d instant from Genl. Fellows to Colo Willet, commanding on the Frontiers in which he mentions that the Orders for raising your Militia were but recently received in that Part of the State; and that no Orders had been received for any Part to march to Albany; under these Circumstances, and from a Consideration of the great Importance of supporting the Frontier by the Aid of Militia, upon the Withdraw of the Regular Troops, (which has in a great Measure taken place) I am induced again to trouble your Excellency with my most earnest Request, that if your Orders in Consequence of my Requisition of the 25th June, have not yet issued, that they may immediately be sent forward. I am etc.⁵

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 30, 1781.

Sir: Yesterday I was honored by the Receipt of your Excellencys Favor of the 28th. Sensible of the importance of supporting the Northern and Western Frontier of your State, Measures were taken for that Purpose, by calling for the Militia of the State of Massa., as early as the Resolution for drawing off the Regular Troops, was adopted, and my letter of the 25th June requesting Governor Hancock to Order 600 Militia from the Western Counties of that State to march to Albany,

5. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

was forwarded to him without Delay. This Requisition I had Reason to suppose had been early complied with, untill your Favor informed the Contrary. In confidence however that the Orders have been given; but yet that no further Delay may happen, I have this day addressed Governor Hancock again on the Subject, requesting that the Requisition may be fully and punctually complied with.

I am Happy in being well assured of your Zeal and Activity in forwarding the Levies of this State for the Public Service and trust they will be ready by the Time you mention. I assure your Excellency of a most hearty Welcome on my Part, whenever your Convenience will admit your paying a Visit at Camp. I am etc.²

TO CALEB DAVIS¹¹

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 1, 1781.

Sir: With Pleasure I do myself the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favor of 5th of June last, with the two Cheeses and Cask of Porter which accompanied it. Will you Sir, be pleased to do me the Favor to convey to the Commonwealth of Massa. Bay and to Capt. Sampson, my sincere and respectable Thanks for this generous and very acceptable Present. I have the Honor etc.¹²

2. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

11. Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

12. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

CIRCULAR TO NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT, AND NEW JERSEY

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 2, 1781.

Sir: I regret being obliged to inform you that I find myself at this late period very little stronger than I was when the Army first moved out of their Quarters. Of the Militia which were required of the State of New Hampshire and which were to have joined me by the 15th of last Month, none have come in, and of the Levies for the Continental Battalions only thirteen in the course of the last Month. The reinforcements from the other States have been very inconsiderable.

I leave you to judge of the delicate and embarrassed situation in which I stand at this moment. Unable to advance with prudence beyond my present position, while perhaps in the general opinion my force is equal to the commencement of operations against New York, my conduct must appear, if not blameable, highly mysterious at least. Our Allies, with whom a junction has been formed upwards of three weeks, and who were made to expect, from the engagements which I entered into with them at Weathersfield in May last, a very considerable augmentation of our force by this time, instead of seeing a prospect of advancing, must conjecture, upon good grounds, that the Campaign will waste fruitlessly away. I shall just remark that it will be no small degree of triumph to our enemies, and will have a very pernicious influence upon our friends in Europe,

should they find such a failure of resource, or such a want of enegy to draw it out, that our boasted and expensive preparations end only in idle parade.

I cannot yet but persuade myself, and I do not discontinue to encourage our Allies with a hope that our force will still be sufficient to carry our intended operation into effect, or if we cannot fully accomplish that, to oblige the Enemy to withdraw part of their force from the Southward to support New York, and which, as I informed you in my Letter from Weathersfield, was part of our plan.

You must be sensible, Sir, that the fullfilment of my engagements must depend upon the degree of vigor with which the Executives of the several States exercise the powers with which they have been vested, and inforce the Laws lately passed for filling up, and supplying the Army. In full confidence that the means which have been voted will be obtained I shall continue my preparations: But I must take the liberty of informing you that it is essentially necessary I should be made acquainted immediately on the receipt of this, of the number of Continental Levies and Militia which have been forwarded and what are the prospects of obtaining the remainder.

I will further add, that it will be equally necessary to see that the Monthly Quota of Provision stipulated at the Meeting of the Commissioners at Providence is regularly complied with. I am etc.¹⁹

[N.H.H.S.]

19. In the writing of David Humphreys. The draft, which is in the writing of Tench Tilghman, varies in a minor detail and has the following note:

“Fill up the Blanks as follows. Militia Levies

New Hampshire 013

Massachusetts 0294

Connecticut 176221

New Jersey 03”

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 3, 1781.

Sir: I this day received a Letter from Count Rochambeau, a copy of which is in closed, respecting the Militia from the State of Massachusetts, that were some time since requested for the Rhode Island department; as they have not arrived agreeable to my expectations I have to request your Excellency to forward them with the utmost dispatch, as it is of the greatest importance that that post is properly secured. I have the honor etc.²³

TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 3, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Favor of the 31st ulto. I most ardently wish that your Orders for reinforcing and supplying the Army, may be carried into execution

23. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

with a Zeal and Ardor equal to that which, I am persuaded, they are given.

Money for the Pay of the Troops of your Line will be exceedingly welcome, the sooner it arrives the more salutary will be its Consequences.

It will be very difficult for the Q M G unfurnished as he is with Money, or the Means of Transportation, to get on the Cloathing which you are so good as to mention; if the States could find Means to hand it on to us, it would prove a very agreeable Circumstance.

Your Excellency, I fancy, must be better able to judge of the Security of some Place for yourself and Council to sit at in the Western Part of your State than I am; I imagine however that you may be quite secure at Danbury, unless you fear the designs of your own internal disaffected people; from the Enemy at N York or on Long Island, there can be, I think, little or no danger; against the

disaffected in the vicinity of Danbury, a small guard will give you Protection. On your coming this way, I flatter myself you will be so good as to do me the Honor of a Visit at Camp; be assured Sir I shall esteem myself peculiarly happy in such an event and I will make it my care to render your stay with me as agreeable as circumstances will permit. I have the Honor etc.²⁶

26. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Sir: I have been honored by your Favor of the 23rd ulto. Upon your Representation of the Danger of Water Transportation, I have written to Mr. Morris the Financier Genl., and desired him to dispose of the 311 Barrels of salted Beef lying in Portsmouth, and to vest the Amount of Sales in the like kind of Provisions in Philadelphia, which I trust may be done to Advantage of the Public. The 40 Barrels, or whatever Quantity may be in the Western parts of the State, may remain to be forwarded to Albany for the Use of the Troops in that Quarter, if it shall be thot best.

We begin to feel the happy Effect of the Exertions of the States in the Supply of Fresh Beef, and hope this may prove an Earnest of their punctual Continuance of this most necessary Support.

No Rum from your State, has at this Time reached us, and but very little from any other State; there is not now in Camp, I believe, so much as One Cask. This Article is so necessary for the Health as well as comfort of the Soldiery at this Season, that I wish it might be particularly attended to, especially as at this Moment, I fancy, it is uncommonly plenty in almost every State.

I am sensible of and sincerely lament our Embarrassments arising from the State of our paper Currency. I hope we are beginning to emerge from this Difficulty, and were we to divest ourselves as much as possible of all paper, we should perhaps find the Hard Money in much greater plenty than is at present imagined. I have the Honor etc.⁴²

[N.H.H.S.]

42. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 5, 1781.

Sir: Your Favor of the 1st instt inclosing the Letter of General Schuyler and others, is this Moment come to Hand.

It is not a little distressing to find that the States will not or cannot fill their Continental Battalions or afford the Aids of Militia required from them; but that instead thereof they are expecting from me the few Operating Troops which I have to depend on; the Consequences of this Conduct is too obvious to need any Comment; instead of offensive Measures, a defensive Plan must be adopted; instead of an active and decisive Campaign, which I hoped to have made, we must end our Operations in Langour and disgrace, and perhaps protract the War to the Hazzard of our final Ruin.

In Consequence of your Excellency's former Letter, I dispatched an Express to Governor Hancock, with a reiterated Request that he would Order on the Militia of Berkshire and the other Western Counties, immediately to Albany, and have also addressed the Commanding Officer of the Militia in those Counties Requesting him to march forward to the Orders of General Clinton; what Effect these Requisitions may have, it is impossible for me to say. In the Mean Time I will leave the Remains of Courtlandts Regt. at Albany, trusting that the State will by its own Exertions, enable me to call them down when necessary, by substituting 9 Months Men, if those for three Years cannot be obtained.

In hopes that no farther Delay of the Militia from the Western Part of Massa. may happen for Want of any Exertions on my Part, I have desired General Lincoln, an Officer of that State to proceed to the County of Berkshire, for the Express Purpose of hastening them forward; how little Effect my

written Applications have had, I hope his personal Attendance will produce the Aid we expect from those Counties. I have the Honor etc.⁴⁶

To JOSEPH WOODBRIDGE⁴³

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, August 5, 1781.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 24th. of last Month⁴⁴ and am obliged by the offer which you have made of the Cannon saved out of the Wreck of the Culloden. Such Guns would be valuable to the Continent, but you must know our difficulties in regard to making payment. If you will however let me know your lowest price and longest Credit, I will endeavour to make a Contract with you on terms which will be certainly complied with and in a manner that will not make you liable to loss by depreciation. I am etc.⁴⁵

46. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

43. Of Groton, Conn.

44. Woodbridge's letter of July 24, in the *Washington Papers*, offered to furnish 16 of the H. M. S. *Collodon's* upper tier guns, which were 32 pounders.

45. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, August 7, 1781.

Sir: His Excellency Count de Rochambeau informs me that he has received letters from Brigr. General de Choissy acquainting him that the tour of duty of that Class of your Militia which was sent upon the Island has either expired or is very near expiring, and that he understands no others are to be furnished to replace them. I cannot but think that Mr. de Choissy has been misinformed as

to the latter circumstance, but lest such an Idea may have been entertained, I beg leave to represent to your Excellency the dangerous consequences which might ensue from an adherence to it.

The very valuable Fleet of our Allies has been left by them in an exposed situation upon a promise made on our part that we would keep up one thousand Militia at least to act in conjunction with the French Forces under the command of Mr. de Choissy. One half of this number I allotted to you and the other to Massachusetts, and I imagined your quota would have been readily and cheerfully furnished, as they were,⁵³ in consequence of their being employed at home, relieved from the Expence, fatigue and other inconveniences of marching to join this Army.

It is reported in New York, perhaps not without foundation, that Rodney's fleet may be expected upon this Coast. In such case we

53. At this point the draft has the following, which did not appear in the letter sent: "to act in defence of their own state, and as they were."

may suppose that the Count de Grasse would follow him: But can we say which would arrive first. If it should be Rodney, and he should learn that Count de Barras is not covered by a force upon land, would he not probably make use of his superiority to demolish him. The consequences of such a stroke your Excellency can better conceive than I can describe.

In addition to the above I would further inform you that the Enemy are about recalling part of their troops from Virginia. Their general intention is, I make little doubt, to reinforce New York; but they might be used to improve the opportunity of striking at the Fleet in the Harbour of New port, should we give them an opening.

I am convinced I need bring no further arguments to convince your Excellency that we are bound by Interest and Honor to keep up the stipulated number of Men, more especially at this critical moment, and I have a full dependance that you will not only take measures to relieve the first Class by an equal number, but that you will hold the remainder ready should circumstances render them

necessary. I have lately written to Govr. Hancock upon the subject of keeping up the Massachusetts quota. I have the honor etc.⁵⁴

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 10, 1781.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of 30th

54. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Ely Collection, Providence, R. I.

July. The Reason of my mentioning in my first Requisition, a short Period for the Service of your State Militia, was my Expectation at the Time, that the Count de Barras would soon leave Newport with his fleet. But as this Event has not, and may not yet take place, the Service of the Militia for the Security of the Fleet, will be essentially necessary, so long as the Count de Barras shall remain in his present Situation, and it is expected that your 500 Men will be still continued, notwithstanding the Arrival of those Expected from Massa. On this Subject I have already written to Gov. Greene, previous to the Receipt of yours, to which Letter I beg leave to refer you for further particulars. I am etc.⁷²

TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Dobbs's ferry, August 10, 1781.

Dear Sir: An anxiety for your Excellency's safety induces me to transmit a report I lately received from New York, though it may not in really have a sufficient foundation, still caution on the subject may not be improper.

I am informed that George Harden, James Kilty, one Bice of Dutchess County and a fourth person whose name is not noted, are promised a very considerable reward if they will seize your person and conduct you to New York. The places to which these fellows resort,

72. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

(together with Richard Smith (son of Claudius Smith) and Isaac Sissio, a Molatto, who are both traversing the Country are at Patrick McDonalds above the High Lands, Galloway's son in law to Austin Smith, at Fletcher Matthews's and his fathers, at Coleman's Uncle to Richard Smith; and at the Rumneys one or both whom are brothers by Law to Claudius Smith.

Your Excellency will judge of the propriety of having those places watched, as also John Heffering at Murders Creek who it is said serves as a pilot to convey people from McDonalds through the Mountains below Sovereigns Tavern⁷³ on their way to New York. With wishes for your personal Safety I am etc.⁷⁴

To JOHN CLEVES SYMMES

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, August 14, 1781.

Sir: I have reed. your Letter of this date⁹⁵ respecting Mr. Coldebrugh a forage Master belonging to the Army.

The circumstances of the affair in question, I am totally unacquainted with; but you may be assured, that at the same time I am very unhappy, that any differences should arise between Citizens and Persons belonging to the Army. It is not my wish that any who have been guilty of Crimes properly cognizable by the Laws of the Land should be exculpated, or schreened from justice.

At this stage of the Campaign, however, it

73. Suffern's Tavern.

74. In the writing of William Stephens Smith. From the original in Washington's Headquarters and Museum, Newburgh, N.Y.

95. Symmes's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

would be very inexpedient to direct a Person to be taken from the Execution of his duty, whose services could not possibly be so essential at any other period as at the present. I am etc.⁹⁶

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, August 16, 1781.

Sir: I am persuaded you will excuse the liberty I am about to take, when I assure you that the execution of the business which I shall wish you to undertake, is of the utmost importance. It is to ship and put under the convoy of the Count de Barras all the public salted provision at Providence and thirty Hhds of Rum if so many should be left. The Vessels must go prepared for a Voyage of perhaps a Fortnight or three Weeks and if they cannot be procured upon the Credit of the State (which I must again entreat to be pledged upon this occasion) I hope that measures will be taken by Government to procure them by impress. A disappointment in the Provision may frustrate an enterprise of as much importance to these States as has perhaps been ever undertaken. I am in hopes the business may be accomplished before the sailing of Mr. de Barras, if it should not, the Vessels must not be risqued without Convoy; but I trust that every exertion will be used to have them ready. I have the honor etc.²

96. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

2. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Dobb's Ferry, August 16, 1781.

Dear Sir: It being of the utmost importance that a quantity of salted Provision, not less than 1000 Barrels should be immediately shipped from Connecticut River to Rhode Island. The Quartermaster

General has dispatched Mr. Mix⁶ an Officer in his Department (who will have the honor of delivering this Letter to your Excellency) to see that business carried instantly into execution. I pray your Excellency therefore to give every aid and assistance in your power to enable him to expedite the transportation of this provision with all possible dispatch; and that you will *issue Your Impress Warrant* to obtain Vessels for the purpose, if they cannot otherwise be procured.⁷

This Warrant to be made use of, in case the other Measures which your Excellency shall be pleased to suggest, do not instantly meet with success. I have the honor etc.⁸

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES⁴⁶

Head Quarters, Kings Ferry, August 21, 1781.

Sir: I feel myself unhappy in being obliged to inform you, that the Circumstances in which I find myself at this late

6. Lieut. and Adj. John Mix, of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He was an assistant quartermaster general and served to June, 1783.

7. At this point the following is crossed out in the draft: "The indispensable necessity of transporting this provision in the shortest possible time to Rhode Island will excuse the Liberty I have taken, and will, I am persuaded sufficiently interest your Excellency. I flatter myself your Excellency and your Executive Council will devise effectual Measures to supply the few transports which will be necessary."

8. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

46. Of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

Period, have induced me to make an Alteration of the main Object which was at first adopted, and has hitherto been held in View, for the Operations of this Campaign. It gives me pain to say,

that the Delay in the several States to comply with my Requisitions of the 24th of May last, on which in a great Measure depended the Hopes of our Success in that Attempt, has been one great and operative Reason to lead to this Alteration. Other Circumstances, it is true, have had their Weight in this Determination, and it may in the Course of Events, prove happy to the States, that this Deviation from our main Design has been adopted.

The Fleet of the Count de Grasse, with a Body of French Troops on Board, will make its first Appearance in the Chesapeak; which, should the Time of the Fleets Arrival prove favorable, and should the Enemy under Lord Cornwallis hold their present Position in Virginia, will give us the fairest Opportunity to reduce the whole British Force in the South, and to ruin their boasted Expectations in that Quarter: to effect this desirable Object, it has been judged expedient, taking into Consideration our own present Circumstances, with the Scituation of the Enemy in New York and at the Southward, to abandon the Seige of the former, and to march a Body of Troops, consisting of a Detachment from the American Army, with the whole of the French Troops, immediately to Virginia. With this Detachment, which will be very considerable, I have determined to march myself. The American Troops are already on the West Side of the Hudson, and the French Army will arrive at Kings Ferry this Day. When the whole are crossed, our March will be continued with as much Dispatch as Circumstances will admit. The American Army which will remain in this Department, excepting two light

Companys and some few Detachments, consists of the two New Hampshire Regiments, Ten of Massachusetts five of Connecticut Infantry, with Sheldons Legion, Cranes Artillery, the State Troops and Militia, which with proper Exertions of the States, will it is expected, be sufficient to hold the Enemy in Check at New York and prevent their Ravages on the Frontier. The Command, during my Absence is given to Major General Heath, who will have the Honor to communicate with the States, on every Occasion which may require their Attention.

As the Enemys Force in New York has been for some Time past very considerable, and it is reported with a good Degree of Certainty, that they have lately received a very respectable Reinforcement of German Recruits from Europe, it will be necessary still to send forward a great

Part, if not the whole of the Militia requested from your State, in the same Manner as 'tho no Alteration had taken Place in our Measures. You will therefore continue to send on at least 400 Men from your State to the Order of Genl Heath, with as much Dispatch as possible, unless you should be informed from him that this Number need not be compleated.

On this Occasion, I cannot omit to repeat to you my Opinion, of the absolute Importance of filling your Continental Battalions to their compleat Numbers, for the War, or three Years. Not only our past Experience for a Course of Years, but our present Scituation should strongly inforce the Necessity of this Measure. Every Campaign teaches us the increasing Difficulty and Expence of procuring short-termed Levies, and their decreasing Utility in the Field. The large Reinforcements which the Enemy have this Campaign sent to America, strongly indicates their Expectations of the

Continuance of the War; should that be the Case, the best Way to meet them is certainly with a permanent Force. but, should the War be drawing towards a Close, a permanent and respectable Army will give us the happiest Prospects of a favorable Peace. In every View, a permanent Army, should be the great Object of the States to obtain, as they regard sound Policy, Prudence or Economy. I have the Honor etc.

P.S. August 24, 1781.

By your Letter of 13th inst. which is just come to hand, it seems that mine of the 15th June last, has not reach'd you; from that Letter, had it come to your hand, you wou'd have been acquainted with the time of the March of your Militia to Camp, and an additional number of 250 Men, requested as your Quota, to supply the Deficiency from the State of Pennsylvania, their Militia being ordered to go Southward.⁴⁷

[N.H.H.S.]

47. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.; the P.S. is in that of David Cobb. From the circular sent to New Hampshire, which evidently was not sent until August 24. Those sent to the other States did not, of course, contain the P.S., and according to the indorsement on the draft the number

of men called for was, from Massachusetts, 1,800; Connecticut, 1,400; and New Jersey, 500. The Connecticut circular (in the Connecticut State Library) shows a few verbal variations from the above and adds at the end: “or in a Word, as they wish to see a happy Establishment to their Independence.” The circular to Connecticut was dated Aug. 22, 1781.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Kings Ferry, August 22 [—24], 1781.

Sir: The failure of the necessary Aids requested from the several States, together with some other Circumstances, have determined me to abandon what was held as our first Object in the Operations of the Campaign, and obliged me to an Alteration of my Measures.

A Detachment from the American Troops, with the whole of the French Army, are now on their March to Virginia: I expect to find the French Fleet under Command of the Count De Grasse in the Chesapeak. If the Arrival of the Fleet should prove seasonable, and the British Troops under Lord Cornwallis should continue to hold their present Position, our Expectations of Success against the Enemy, are very promising.

The American Troops which remain in this Department, consist of the two Regiments of New Hampshire, ten of Massa., five of Connecticut Infantry, Sheldons Legion, Cranes Artillery, with the State Troops and militia. the Command of whom, during my Absence, is committed to Majr. General Heath; who will have the Honor to -correspond with the States on every Occasion which may require their Attention.

How far this Alteration in our main Designs may affect the Security of your State, your Excellency will be best able to determine; the other States are requested to send forward to the Orders of M Genl. Heath at least two thirds of their Number of Militia, which have

been called for by former Requisition, to come on as tho no Alteration had taken Place in our Operations.

So long as the Count De Barras, with his Squadron, remains in your Harbour of Newport, it will be expected that the Militia will be kept up for his Aid and Security. If those Ships should leave the Island, I submit to your judgment the Expediency of keeping up the Post on Butts Hill, for the Protection of Rhode Island. I confess to you, that in my Opinion, it is an adviseable Step. In Case of an Attempt from the Enemy, a Force of Militia may probably be drawn together in Season for the Security of Providence, as Occasion may require. I have the Honor etc.

P.S. August 24, 1781. Your Excellency's Fav. of 13th inst. is just come to Hand. When I made my first Requisition for 500 Militia from your State to be placed on Rhode Island, it was expected, the Fleet of our Allies would have soon gone to Boston; that Event, had it taken place, would have relieved your Militia from their Tour of Service. The Fleet, contrary to our first Expectation, remaing. at Newport, has been the Reason of the Alteration in my Requisition, desiring the Continuance of your Militia; the same Reason operated to calling on the additional 500 from Massa., it being judged necessary to keep up a Body of 1000 Men, so long as the Fleet of our Allies continued in their present Situation. I can only say, that I am very sorry for the neglect or Inattention of your Sister State, who have been repeatedly requested to send on their Quota.

The State of Rhode Island, I think will be reconciled

to my Requisitions, when they consider, that had not this Service turned up within their own State, their Proportion of Militia, with the other States, would have been called for to operate with me in the Field.

PS. Your letter of the 21st. is also this Moment received; should the Fleet have sailed, without your Vessel with the Salted Provisions, you'll please to reland it and put it [sic] Store for further Orders.⁷¹

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Chatham, August 27, 1781.

Sir: Official Accounts which I have received, giving me reason to expect the Arrival of a powerful Fleet of our Allies very soon in Chesapeak, if not already Arrived; this Expectation, together with some other Circumstances not necessary at present to detail to you, have induced me to make a total Alteration in the concerted measures of this Campaign. In consequence, I am now marchg. a very considerable Detachment from the American Army, with the whole of the French Troops, immediately to Virginia. As our Hopes of Success against Ld Cornwallis in a great Measure depend on the Dispatch and Celerity of our Movements, I have to request in the most earnest Manner all the Aid and Assistance from your Excellency that we may have Occasion for and have Reason to expect from your State; among these, the Means of Transportation from the Head of Elk, to the Point of our operations, will be among the most Essential; all the Water Craft, that can be procured suitable for the Carriage of an Army, with their Artillery, Baggage, Stores &c. will be needed, and should be ready at the Head of Elk by the 8th. of Septr. A quantity of Forage will also be necessary for the Cattle

71. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photostat kindly furnished by Mr. and Mrs. William Ely, of Providence, R. I.

which will unavoidably attend the Army. As I shall probably be disappointed of a Quantity of salted Provisions, which cannot with safety be transported from the Eastern States, I must beg your Excellency to pay particular Attention to that Article, if any is to be obtained within your State. Other Aids as well in Provisions as other Articles, will probably be needed, which cannot at this moment be particularly specified. I communicate My Intentions to you, and have Confidence, that I shall receive every Aid and Assistance that is in your Power, towards their Execution. I expect to have no Occasion to call on you for the Aid of Men, further than your State Troops which are ordered to be raised, and which I hope you have already compleated.

Mr Robert Morriss will have the principal Agency in procuring the Water Transportation mentioned in this Letter; perhaps nothing more will be expected from your Excellency in that Article, than to afford Mr. Morriss every Aid of Government which he may stand in need of in the Procurement of the Craft, which I am persuaded you will do with the utmost Readiness and Decision. The

Moment is critical, the Opportunity is precious, the Prospects most happily favorable. I hope that no Supineness, or Want of Exertions on our part may prove the Means of our Disappointment. I am &c.

P.S. Our Forage will be principally wanted at the Head of Elk, and from thence on the Route to George Town.⁸⁵

85. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON

Head Quarters, Chatham, New Jersey, August 27, 1781.

Dear Sir: At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your first favour since you was appointed to the Scat of Government, suffer me to congratulate your Excellency on that appointment; and to anticipate the pleasure and advantage of your future official Correspondence and assistance.

A variety of Circumstances having concur'd to induce me to change the plan of operation, which had been concerted for this Campaign; and to strike a blow at the Enemy in Virginia, I am now on my march for that purpose, with the whole of the French and a considerable Detachment of the American Army; The Arrival of the Count De Grasse with a formidable Fleet and Corps of land forces in the Chesapeak (which may every moment be expected) will I flatter myself (with proper exertions on our part) give a moral Certainty of succeeding in the great Object now in contemplation. On so important and interesting an occasion I cannot entertain a doubt of receiving every possible aid and assistance from the State of Virginia; The great Articles of Supplies which will be principally wanted are Salted Provision, Beef Cattle, Forage and the means of transportation; especially we shall be most in want of a Supply of the meat kind, as I fear we shall be disappointed of 1500 Barrels of Salted Provision which I had Order'd to be ship'd at Rhode Island under convoy of the Count De Barras,

but am apprehensive the order and Provision arrived too late; in case this has failed, something of necessity must be substituted in the room of it; Let me entreat your Excellency that every exertion may be made to feed and supply our Army, while we have occasion to continue in the State. It is almost unnecessary to suggest that the greatest advantages will, in all human probability result from the Vigor of our present exertions; or an evil proportionably great from the want of it. Supplies, will be the principle thing that is necessary; as I am in hopes, the Regular forces destined for the expedition in addition to the Troops with the Marquis De Lafayette, will be competent to the Object in View without any considerable aid from the Militia.

I wish your Excellency to inform me by the earliest opportunity, what number of Teams and Wagons can be furnishd with the Army of the Marquis, for the use of the troops now on their March from the Northward; and also as it will be necessary to take a Number of Teams on with the detachment of our Army, that magazines of Forage may, be laid in on the route from George Town, above Alexandria, to whatever place the junction is to be formed with the Army of the Marquis. I am etc.⁸⁴

[M.L.]

To THE CHIEFS OF THE STOCKBRIDGE INDIANS

Philadelphia, September 2, 1781.

Brothers: I have received your Letter by your Captain with

84. In the writing of William Stephens Smith.

your kind Tenders of a months Service if needed. In Answer I inform you that the Circumstances of the Campaign are such, that at present I have no Occasion for your Aid; but should Genl Heath find Need of your Assistance, I will be glad you will do him the like Service, as you have offered to me; if he should write to you for that Purpose.

In Answer to your Petition in Behalf of the Young Man, I can only say that his being held in Service will depend on the Terms of his Inlistment, which at this Distance I can have no Knowledge of, and therefore referred it to Genl Heath, who will take Measures to have the Matter inquired into from the Officers, who are now in his Camp. With Thanks for your Offers of Service, I am Brothers &c.²¹

CIRCULAR TO NEW JERSEY, DELAWARE, AND MARYLAND

Philadelphia, September 3, 1781.

Sir: I have the Honor to inform your Excellency, that the Operations of the present Campaign are tending very seriously to the Southward, and that a large Detachment of the American Army, with the whole of the French Troops, are now on their march for Virginia. As the Article of Supplies for the Army which is collectg., and which will probably be large, will be a Matter of the last Importance in our Operations, I cannot omit to address your Excellency

21. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

on that Subject.

Mr. Morris the Financier having been kind enough to give me a Copy of a Letter which he had written on this Subject to the several States, requestg. in the most earnest Manner their several Quotas of specific Supplies called for by Congress; It is needless for me to trouble your Excellency any further than to enforce in the warmest Terms, the Application of Mr. Morris, which I now take the Liberty to do, and to entreat your Excellency, that it may meet with all that effectual Attention, which the Importance of the Matter requires, and the urgent Importunity of Mr. Morris can expect or wish.

I will only add that as I am fully persuaded that your Excellency will anticipate the fatal Consequences to the Interest of the States, which must arise from a failure in our Operations; so you will as fully accord with me in Sentiment, that, a Reflection on the Cause of Failure, should it prove

to be the one in which I have my strongest Fears, the Article of Supplies, will not fail to fill us with the most mortifying Regret, when we consider that the bountifull hand of Heaven is holding out to us a Plenty of every Article, and the only Cause of Want, must be placed to the Acco. of our Want of Exertion to collect them.

Your Excellency will be pleased to give me the earliest and most decided Information, how far I may rely on your State for the Supplies requested and expected from it, since on that and the like Information from other States, I must ground my Judgment of the Practicability of carrying into Execution the Operations I have concerted. It will be to little Purpose, other than to create an endless and unnecessary Expence, to pursue my Intentions, further than the Aids we can promise ourselves, without fail, to receive from the States, will give us the fairest Prospects to proceed. With great Regards &c.²²

[M.L]

CIRCULAR TO GENTLEMEN ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND⁴⁹

Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

[Sir:] I have the pleasure to announce to you the arrival of the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty in Chesapeak consisting of twenty Eight ships of the line and a number of smaller vessels of war that they brought a large and have already thrown on shore a very considerable body of troops. The fleet from Rhode Island is hourly expected to join them. These are events interesting indeed to America and ought to be improved, for we may not again expect such a concurrence of

22. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the letter sent to Gov. Caesar Rodney, of Delaware. The draft, which is also in the writing of Trumbull, shows the following P.S. was added to the letter sent to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee, of Maryland: "Since writing the foregoing I have been honored with your Favor of [August 30] in Answer to mine of [August 27] I assure you Sir, I am

exceedingly pleased with the Decision of your Resolutions. It gives me the happiest Presage of the most effectual Support from your State.” The dates within the brackets were left blank in the draft.

49. This circular was sent to Nicholas Thomas, Richard Barnaby., Col. James Hind man, James Lloyd Chamberlain, Robert Goldsborough, John Braceo, and Christopher Birthead.

circumstances as are now combined and give the most rational hopes, if the country are not wanting to themselves that the British force now in Virginia will fall into our hands.

I have therefore to solicit in the most pressing manner your aid and influence with the people of your County that they immediately send to Baltimore all their craft and vessels of different kinds in order to transport the troops down the Bay. The time it will take to march them by land is more than can be spared. So that on the single circumstance of having Vessels or not may depend the success or failure of the present expedition, which though calculated for the general good, must operate, if successful more particularly to the interest of this State and the State of Virginia. I am &c.⁵⁰

50. The draft is in the writing of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Mount Vernon, September 11, 1781.

Sir: I intended on passing thro' Maryland, to have done myself the Pleasure to have seen your Excellency; but circumstances pressing upon me as I advanced on my March, and Time slipping from me too fast, I found a Necessity of getting on with such Rapidity that I have been obliged to proceed without calling at Anapolis.

I am exceedingly pleased, to find, as I passed thro your State, that a Spirit of Exertion prevails universally in such Manner as gives me the happy Prospect of receiving very effectual Supports from you.

Great Attention is Necessary to be given to the Article of Supplies. I mention this Circumstance, as I am just informed from below that the Army is in Distress at this Moment for Want of Provisions, particularly Flour; let me intreat your Excellency to give every the most expeditious Relief on this Head that is in your Power. With great Regard etc.⁸⁰

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Williamsburg, September 15, 1781.

Sir: Your Excellency has been acquainted, that on

80. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Information of the Sailg of the Fleet from the Capes, I had given Orders to the Troops which were embarked to stop their Proceeding. I am happy now to inform your Excellency, that the Count De Grasse is returned to his former Station, having driven the British fleet from the Coasts, formed a Junction with the Squadron of Count De Barras, and captured two British frigates; the Bay being thus secure, I have given Orders for the Troops to proceed with all possible Dispatch to the Point of Operations.

I am Distressed my Dear Sir, to find on my Arrival, that the Supplies for the Army collectg here, are not in that desirable Train, that could be wished; they have already experienced a Want of Provisions, and are greatly apprehensive in future, particularly in the Article of Bread. All the Flour within your Reach, should be immediately forwarded down, which may I think be speedily done, now that the Navigation of the Bay is secured. I beg Sir, that not a Moment may be lost in furnishg us with every Supply within your Power; happily our Prospects of Success are most promising, [if the Fleet will remain with us;] if we are not Wanting in our own Exertions. An Army cannot be kept together without Supplies; if these fail us, our Operations must Cease, and all our high Hopes Will Vanish into Disappointment and Disgrace. I am &c.

P.S. If your Excellency can assist us in procuring some Axes or Hatchets and Intrenching Tools of all kinds, it will be a great Advantage. We shall have much occasion for tools of this sort, and I find almost a Total want here, it will be difficult to make a Collection from a small Compass.⁸²

To THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF WAR

[September 16, 1781.]

Gentn: Upon viewing the troops of the Virginia Line

82. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. The P.S. is not in the draft, but is supplied from a printed copy of the letter sent, in the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, vol. 47 (1914), P. 465.

this morning I find they are almost totally destitute of Cloathing that is even necessary for the present season in consequence of which upwards of one third⁹³ of them are rendered at present unfit for service.

The importance of present exertions need not be pen'd as I flatter myself you must already be convinced of the necessity of them. You will therefore Gent. oblige me by forwarding to your troops every supply that is within your power to command. I am informed you have in store a Quantity of Cloathing at Richmond or elsewhere; it answers no valuable end to retain them for troops you expect to be raised and let those in actual service suffer.

By forwarding them to the men at present in the field you will comfort the distress'd and Virtuous Soldier and oblige Gent. Your etc.⁹⁴

***To PRESIDENT THOMAS McKEAN**

(Private)

Camp before York, October 6, 1781.

Sir: I feel myself peculiarly obliged and honored by your Excellency's interesting communication of the 26th Ulto. That America must place her principal dependence upon her own exertions I have always foreseen and have ever endeavoured to inculcate, and I flatter myself that from the wise system of policy which has been of late adopted and which Congress seem determined to pursue our internal

93. "Two thirds" was first written and afterwards changed to "one third."

94. The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

means will be so improved and applied, that with the assistance of our most generous Allies, tho' not operating immediately with us hereafter we shall be enabled to bring matters to a happy and glorious conclusion.

I am not apt to be sanguine, but I think in all human probability Lord Cornwallis must fall into our hands. The smallness of Digby's reinforcement and the deduction from the enemy's former naval strength by the loss of the Terrible and the condemnation of two other Ships of the line leaves them so vastly inferior that I think they will not venture upon a relief.

It is to be wished that your Excellency's plan could be adopted, but there are reasons which operate forcibly against Count de Grasse's dividing his fleet. By grasping at too much we might loose a stake which nothing but the most adverse stroke of fortune can take out of our hands, and which if we attain will give a most fatal stab to the power of Great Britain in America.

I hope your Excellency will excuse my short and imperfect answers to your very full letters. The variety of matter which engages my attention must be my apology. My public dispatch will inform your Excellency of our progress up to this date. With the greatest esteem and respect etc.

***To EDWARD RUTLEDGE**

Camp before York, October 6, 1781.

My dear Sir: I am fully impressed with the justice and truth of every remark contained in your letter of the 12th Ulto. and you may be assured were the means of carrying your wishes into effect under my controul and direction, that they should be applied as soon as circumstances would admit to the end which you propose. I have not time, neither could I with prudence enter into the reasons which I think will operate against carrying your very desirable plan fully into execution. If I mistake not, it was hinted to you in a personal conversation at Philadelphia, but your good sense will naturally suggest what the principal one is if it was not. of this however you may be assured, that after the present operation is closed, and I hope it will terminate well, that every thing which depends upon me, and all the influence I can exert, shall be used towards exterminating the British from the Southern States. If we cannot do it entirely we will at least endeavr. to confine them to so narrow limits that they shall scarcely have enough a claim of possession upon.

We have been hitherto employed in constructing some nec essary advanced Works, in preparing fascines, Gabions &ca and bringing our heavy Artillery and Stores from the landing place on James River. This last has been carried on slowly till within a few days past, when our Waggons arrived from the Northward. The Engineers now think we have a sufficient stock to commence serious operations,

and we open Trenches this Evening.

Be so good as to present my compliments to Mrs. Rutlidge and do me the justice to believe that with much attachment, and sincere Affection I am etc.

PS. I most sincerely congratulate you on the late important victory of the American Troops in South Carolina.

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Before York, October 12, 1781.

Sir: I was yesterday honored with your Excellency's favor of the 3d. Give me leave to return you my sincerest thanks for your exertions on the present occasion. The supplies granted by the State are so liberal, that they remove every apprehension of Want. Colo. Blaine has gone himself over to the Eastern shore to see that the Cattle from thence are brought down to the proper landings where they will be slaughtered, and the Meat sufficiently salted to be transported by Water; proper measures have been taken by the Commissaries to receive the Cattle of the Western Shore, and to have them driven by Land. Arrangements have also been made to send up the Craft for Flour as fast as they discharged their lading of Stores.

I will desire Colo. Stewart to send up all the empty Flour Barrells that can be made of further use.

We opened our first parallel on the night of the 6th. and established it compleatly with a loss too trifling to mention. Our Shells have done considerable damage in the Town, and our fire from the Cannon has been so heavy and well directed against the embrazures of the Enemy's Works, that they have been obliged, during the day, to

withdraw their Cannon and place them behind their Merlens. The Charon of 44 Guns and two large Transports have been burnt by hot Balls. The Guns and Stores had been previously taken out of the Frigate.

We last night advanced our second parallel within 300 yards of the Enemy's Works, without the least annoyance from them. Lord Cornwallis's conduct has hitherto been passive beyond conception; he either has not the means of defence, or he intends to reserve himself untill we approach very near him. A few days must determine whether he will or will not give us much trouble. I have the honor etc.⁷

[MD. H. S.]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON

Head Quarters, October 14, 1781.

Sir: From a representation made to me by Colo. White of the miserable condition of the Men of the 4th. Regt. of Dragoons for want of Cloathing, I am constrained to apply to your Excellency to know whether it will be possible to procure any for them, even of the commonest kind, as Doctr. Rose,²⁰ the Regimental Surgeon, assures me one hundred of the Men are literally naked at this advanced season. Could they be cloathed properly, above 150, who are mounted and tolerably equipped, might march immediately to the southward. A detachment of 100 have moved from Ruffins²¹ to Richmond; they

7. In the writing of David Cobb.

20. Robert Rose, surgeon of the First Continental Dragoons. He was retained in Baylor's Dragoons in November, 1782, and served to November, 1783.

21. Between Colonel Bassett's and Todd's Bridge, in New Kent County.

have nothing but stable Jackets, Shirts and a few Caps, and consequently want Breeches, Boots, Stockings Hats or Caps and either Cloaks or Blankets; perhaps Mr. Ross²² might, by an exertion procure the most necessary Articles if not the whole, for it will be in a manner impossible to move them further than Richmond in their present condition. I have the honor etc.²³

To JOHN BLAIR³⁷

Camp before York, October 17, 1781.

Sir: Your Letter of the 15th. has been received. You may be assured Sir, that nothing but absolute necessity could induce me to desire to occupy the College with its adjoining Buildings for Military

Purposes. I am very sorry to say that the Number of our Sick and Wounded are increasing so fast that Room cannot be found for their Cover and Convenience. In these Circumstances I am persuaded, that Mr. Bellini³⁸ will be ready to give up the House you mention, especially as I observe many of the Articles are easily removeable, and some of the most Lumbersome may be secured abroad. I flatter myself also that the good People of this Part of the Country will the more readily submit to a partial and temporary Inconvenience, when they have Reason to hope, that the Close of our present Operations will place them in a State of Quiet and Security, which I trust will be lasting. I am &c.³⁹

22. David Ross, Commissioner of Trade for Virginia.

23. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

37. The Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress gives Blair the title of rector of William and Mary College.

38. Charles (or Carlo) Bellini, a professor at William and Mary.

39. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MRS. BETTY RANDOLPH⁸⁹

Camp near York, October 25, 1781.

Dear Madam: I have been favored with your polite Note of yesterday, and beg leave to assure you, that your obliging Congratulations are very acceptable to me.

I have also the pleasure to inform you, that measures [are adopting] for making an equitable compensation to the Inhabitants for such *Articles* as have been taken for the use of the Allied Army. The Governor has engaged to have a valuation made of them. In consequence of which, the Quarter Master Genl. of the American Army [or the State Agent] will be accountable for whatever has been

made use of by our Troops; and His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau has been so obliging as to assure me, that payment will be made for that proportion of Forage &c. which has been furnished for the Troops of His Most Christian Majesties [or if a discrimination cannot be made that it shall be done conjointly in proportion to the numbers of the two Armies.] With great respect etc.⁹⁰

To GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON

Head Quarters near York, Virginia, October 27, 1781.

Dear Sir: As the Assembly of Your State are now sitting,

89. Mrs. Edmund Randolph (née Nicholas).

90. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

I cannot omit so favorable an occasion to suggest to your Excellency some measures, which I conceive our present circumstances and prospects require should be immediately adopted.

To recruit the Regiments assigned as the quota of this State, to their full establishment, and put them on a respectable footing, is in my opinion, the first great object, which demands the attention of your Legislature. The Arguments, which have formerly been so frequently urged to enforce the expediency of this Measure, must I presume, have carried conviction with them; but unhappily for us, the situation of affairs, especially in the States which were the immediate seat of War, was so perplexed; and the embarrassments of Government so numerous and great, that there could be hitherto but a partial compliance with the Requisitions of Congress on this subject. Many of these difficulties are now removed, and the present moment, which is certainly very favorable to the recruiting service, ought to be eagerly embraced for the purpose.

I will candidly confess to Your Excellency, that my only apprehension (which I wish may be groundless) is, lest the late important success, instead of exciting our exertions, as it ought to do,

should produce such a relaxation in the prosecution of the War, as will prolong the calamities of it. While on the other hand, it appears to me to be our only sound policy (let that of the Enemy be what it will) to keep a well-appointed, formidable Army in the field, as long as the War shall continue. For should, the British Cabinet still persevere in their hostile designs [and the powers of Europe interpose in their⁹⁸ behalf] this is a measure of absolute necessity; or should a negotiation soon take place, the small expence

98. Washington wrote “her,” but Humphreys changed it to “their.”

which will be incurred by raising and keeping up a respectable force, for a short time, will be more than compensated by the advantages to be derived from it, at the pacification.

Since this State, is at present, intirely liberated from the ravages of War, I must take the liberty of recommending, in the most earnest manner, that every possible aid and assistance may be given by it, to the Southern States which are yet invaded, and that General Greene may meet, with that effectual support, from its resources, which he will now have a right to expect.

Had I not considered the present period, too precious to be suffered to pass unimproved for the public good; and that vigorous and decisive efforts ought to be made without a moment's loss of time, for augmenting our force and reducing the power of the Enemy in the Southern States, I should rather have delayed this address, until the sentiments of Congress could have been communicated to you; but the importance of the occasion, will I flatter myself be a sufficient apology to them and your Excellency, for the liberty I am now taking. I have the honor etc.⁹⁹

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Camp near York, October 29, 1781.

Sir: During the operations against York, Capt. Thomas

99. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

Shilds²⁶ was sent to the Eastern shore of Maryland, in order to procure plank for the artillery and engineering departments. The exigency was so pressing, that he was directed to spare no measures for procuring it. Part of it he obtained by contract, and the remainder 13,540 feet of inch pine plank he was under the necessity of taking by impress. It was the property of Wm. Adams Esqr. of Somerset County, who has since commenced an action against Capt. Shilds, in consequence of which he is much embarrassed. I have therefore to request the favour of your Excellency to take such steps as you shall think most fit for the relief of Capt. Shilds, he having acted only in conformity to his instructions. I have the honor etc.²⁷

To ACTING GOVERNOR ALEXANDER MARTIN²⁸

Camp near York in Virginia, October 29, 1781.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the , and am happy that the late acquisition of arms we have received, by the surrender of the Enemy in this quarter, has put it in my power to supply the State of North Carolina with a number, which cannot fail of being very useful. Inclosed is an order on Mr. Jones²⁹ D. F. C. M. Stores, for one thousand arms and accoutrements complete, which he will deliver to your order at Richmond in this State, on the application of a person properly authorized

26. Capt. Thomas Shilds (Shields, Childs).

27. A contemporary copy is in the writing of Maj. Samuel Shaw.

28. Acting Governor of North Carolina. He was elected Governor this same year.

29. Thomas Jones, deputy field commissary of military stores, Southern Department.

On October 29 Washington also wrote to Jones, authorizing him to deliver the above arms. A copy of this note, in the writing of Peter Hughes, one of Varick's transcribers, is in the *Washington Papers*.

to receive them. As we have not the means of transportation for these arms, it will be necessary for your State to make the arrangements for that purpose. I have the honor etc.

P.S. It is to be understood that this Quantity of Arms is not designed to be indiscriminately placed in the Hands of the Militia at large; but is to be considered as a Deposit in the Hands of Government, to be made use of on particular Occasions, and for which the State is to be responsible.³⁰

***To THE MAGISTRATES OF ESSEX COUNTY²⁵**

Camp near York, October 29, 1781.

Gentn.: It is of essential importance to the public, that the British sick and wounded should be removed from York and Gloucester to the places of their destination, as soon as possible. To do it wholly by Land (in our circumstances) is impracticable, and the means of removing them by Water is not in my power. The best expedient I can devise is to send them up York river to the nearest point to Urbanna, remove them thence by Land, to the latter place, and afterwards by Water to Fredericksburg, where the Govt. has directed provision to be made for them.

I must rely upon the Magistracy of Essex, and the

30. A contemporary copy is in the writing of Maj. Samuel Shaw; the P.S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

25. In Virginia.

principle Gentn. of Urbanna, for aid to carry this measure into execution, and to this end is my address to them. The approaching cold season is [not?] among the least important reasons for my wishing to see this business executed with dispatch. I have the honr. etc.

To ACTING GOVERNOR ALEXANDER MARTIN

Head Quarters, October 30, 1781.

Sir: I have received your Favor of the 10th Octo. accompanied with your Letter addressed to Earl Cornwallis. Before the Receipt of which his Lordship had surrendered himself and Army prisoners of War to the United States, in Consequence of which, it is not in that Gentleman's Power to give you any Relief in Behalf of Govr Burke.

I am very sorry for the unhappy Situation and ill treatment of the Govr. and recommend, that an Application be made to Genl Greene on the subject of His enlargement, perhaps it may be in his power to give him an early Release, or at least to procure him more respectful and convenient Treatment than he now experiences.

If the Legislature of your state is sitting, I beg sir! that you will take the earliest Opportunity to impress on them the absolute importance, of their Improving the present Moment, for the most strenuous Military preparations. The late Success in this State, I fear, will with some, if not too many, be urged as an Excuse for their Relaxation, hoping that its Consequences will extend to a favorable Negotiation. At best this Hope, is but a distant Contingence, and the present Occasion should in my Opinion, be seized with eagerness to push our Advantages at a Time when our Enemy is much pressed by a Reduction of their Force, which gives us the prospect of operating against them with great Advantage. Let me urge you therefore to fill your Continental Battalions, for which I think the present Moment is a favorable Opportunity, and to give Majr Genl Greene every Aid in your Power, either in Continental Force, or Militia, as Circumstances and his Requisitions may demand.

I have addressed the State of Virginia on the same Subject, and pressed them to afford their most Strenuous Exertions in Aid of the Southern War. And I hope that I shall not be disappointed, when I flatter myself with Genl Greenes receiving the most effectual Aid from these two States, in prosecution of his future Operations. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁰

***To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE**

Camp near York, October [30,]⁵¹ 1781.

Dear Sir: Inclosed I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency the terms upon which Lord Cornwallis has surrendered the

50. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

51. The day of the month was inadvertently omitted.

Garrisons of York and Gloucester.

We have not been able yet, to get an Acct. of Prisoners, Ordnance or Stores in the different departments; but from the best general report there will be (officers included) upwards of seven thousand Men besides Seamen; More than 70 pieces of Brass Ordnance, and a hundred of Iron, with their Stores, as also other valuable articles.

My present engagements will not allow me to add more than my congratulations on this happy event, and to express the high sense I have of the powerful Aid which I have derived from the State of Maryland, in complying with my every request to the Executive of it. The Prisoners will be divided between Winchester in Virginia, and Fort Frederick in Maryland. With every sentimt. of the most perfect esteem etc.⁵²

To GOVERNOR JOHN RUTLEDGE

Head Quarters near York, October 31, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge your Excellency's two favors of Septemr and 5th instant, and am not surprised at the Urgency with which you express your Sentiments on a Subject of so much Importance to yourself in particular, and to the general Interest of the United States. I have only to Lament that it is not in my Power to give you that Satisfactory Reply, which your fond Hopes would lead you to expect.

52. From the original in the State House, Annapolis, Md.

I can assure your Excellency that every Argument has been used with the Count de Grasse to induce him to continue his Stay on these Coasts, and to aid with his Fleet, the combined Army, in an operation against Charlestown; but without Success. The Advanced Season; the Orders of his Court, and his own Engagements to be punctual to a certain Time fixed upon for his ulterior Operations, forbid a Compliance on his Part, And I am obliged to Submit.

An Attempt to beseige Charlestown, without the Aid of a superior Naval Force, being utterly impracticable; a very respectable Reinforcement of Continental Troops is ordered for the Support of Genl Greene; with which I flatter myself, he will be able to command the Country of So Carolina, and confine the Enemy to the Town of Charlestown, and I fancy to myself a future Day, not far Distant, when they shall be obliged to abandon that place.

As you will, before this can reach you, be fully informed of our Success against Earl Cornwallis, I omit to add any thing on that Subject; but to beg your Excellency to accept my sincere Congratulations on that favorable Event. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁶

To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE⁷⁴

Head Quarters near York, November 3, 1781.

Sir: Colo Moylans Regt. of Cavalry, assigned to the State of

56. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

74. Of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania, being Ordered to join the Southern Army under the Command of Majr Genl Greene, many of the Men are reported to me unfit to move for Want of Horses, Arms, Accoutrements and Cloathing. It being of Importance to have those Troops fit for the Service to which they are destined, I have permitted Colo Moylan to return to Phila. to use his Endeavours to have them put upon a better Establishment; And I take this Occasion by him to request that the Legislature of your State will give him every Assistance that he may require for the Purpose mentioned, and that as early as possible.

Permit me to add, that to me it appears impolitic and unœconomical, to have Men raised at great Expencc and kept on public Pay, who for want of proper Equipment, are unable to render any effectual Service, when called to the field. I am etc.⁷⁵

**To GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAVID
JAMISON⁷⁶**

Camp near York, November 3, 1781.

Sir: I have the honor to inform your Excellency that 467⁷⁷ of the British and German convalescents marched this day from York under the Escort of Cortlands New York Regiment, which will conduct them as far as Fredericksburg; of this I have apprised General Weedon, and directed him to prepare a sufficient Guard of

75. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

76. Spelled also Jimason and Jameson.

77. The draft has "460."

Militia for the purpose of relieving the Regiment above mentioned, and relieving the prisoners under their care, until they are in condition to join the Corps to which they belong, when it will be necessary to forward them under Militia Escorts to the respective places of their destination.

There remain in the Hospitals of Gloucester about 1300 Sick and wounded unable to march, the dispositions of the French Winter Cantonments however render it indispensably necessary to have them removed immediately; in these circumstances it appears to me most advisable to have them transported in the first instance to Tods Bridge by water and from thence either altogether by land to Fredericksburg, or across to Hobbs-hole, to be embarked there on board of such small Craft as can be provided, and sent the remainder of the way by water; they must in either case be deposited as those abovementioned at Fredericksburg until they are sufficiently recovered, to be marched to their Regiments under proper Militia Escorts.

Your Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary orders for collecting Waggon's at Tods Bridge for the reception of the said Prisoners. A Guard of Maryland Continental Troops will [aid in] assisting them from hence to Fredericksburg. I have the honor etc.

PS. The Maryland Troops destined for this Service, will not exceed 300. Men whose terms of Service will expire about the first of Next Month. I mention these circumstances for your Excellency's information.⁷⁸

[M.H]

78. In the writing of William Stephens Smith. The words in brackets and the P.S. are in the writing of Washington.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON

Head Quarters near York, November 4, 1781.

Sir: I have to inform your Excellency, that it is concluded to form a Deposit of all the Arms and Ammunition for Musquetry, bro't with me from the Northward and taken from the Enemy, at Westham in this State, or in its Neighbourhood, from whence Supplies may be formed for the Southern Army, or issued to the State, in Case of another Invasion. If proper Deposits for establishing this Magazine can be found at the place mentioned, I beg your Excellency will have them provided, takg particular Care to avoid the Salt Houses, which will be detrimental to Our Purpose. If Westham will not afford the proper Accommodation, Richmond may be destined for the Reception of the Stores for the present.

A Guard of Twenty four Men will be necessary for the Security of this Magazine; they may be formed from the State Troops or Recruits and will be put under the Orders of Capt. Singleton of Colo Harrison's Regt of Artillery, who is to take the general Charge of the Stores.

A Laboratory is also to be established at the Deposit of the Stores. Capt Irish⁸⁸ with his Compy. of Laboratory Men and Artificers will stand in Need of some Assistance to remove them to the Place fixed upon. Your Excellency will be pleased to order them the Means of Transportation.

In Case of Danger from the Enemy, or any other Exigence, I must beg your Excellency to give every needful Assistance for

88. Capt. Nathaniel Irish, of Flower's Artillery Artificer regiment.

the Security or Removal of the Stores, that may be tho't proper; the Expences of which will be refunded by the United States.

The Importance of this Deposit to this State and the United States, will impress itself so deeply on your Excellencys Mind, that it will be needless for me to urge, that every measure may be taken by the Legislature of your State, for its perfect Security and Preservation.

Permit me also to remind your Exclly. that in Case of Invasion, or other Exigence if it should be found Necessary for the State to draw upon the Magazine, it will be proper for your Excellency to grant your particular Warrant for the Purpose, by wch. Means the regular Issues may be made, and the State will be responsible for the Articles taken.

Colo Carrington will deliver this and will have the Honor to confer with your Excellency on the necessary Arrangements to be made to fulfill my Intentions. I have the Honor etc.⁸⁹

To JOSEPH REED

Mount Vernon, November 15, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have the Honor to thank you most sincerely for your Congratulations conveyed in your Favor of the 7th Ulto.

That our Success against the Enemy in the

89. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

State of Virginia has been so happily effected and with so little Loss, and that it promises such favorable Consequences (if properly improved) to the Welfare and Independence of the United States, is matter of very pleasing Reflection. I beg you will be assured that I am etc.¹

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

November 16, 1781.

Sir: I had the Honor to receive your Excellencys last Favor, a few Days before I left my Quarters below. I immediately caused the Enquiries you mentioned, to be made, but with very little Success. Of the Refugees named, none were to be found in the Returns made to me. The Commissy. of Prisoners could only collect, that a Mr *French* had been with the Enemy at Portsmouth, and had

left that place to go to Charlestown, So Carolina. The Case of Mr Middleton,⁹ I mentioned to the Admiral de Grasse, who promised to do what was in his power for his Relief.

I beg your Excellency will do me the Favor to forward the inclosed Letter for Colo Tilghman by the first Opportunity that may present to Rock Hall.

I promise myself the pleasure to see¹⁰ your Excellency at Anapolis or Baltimore, which ever place you may be at, on my

1. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

9. Capt. William Middleton, of the Maryland State navy boat *Dolphin*. He had been captured by the British in Chesapeake Bay when, at the insistence of the French officer whom he was conveying with a message from Lafayette to De Grasse, he ran alongside of H. M. S. *Royal Oak*.

10. The draft, which is also by Trumbull, has “*of seeing.*”

Way to Philadelphia, for which place I shall leave this in three or four Days Be pleased Sir! to believe that I am, with very particular Sentiments of Esteem etc.¹¹

[MD.H.S.]

***To WILLIAM RAMSAY, JOHN FITZGERALD, ROBERT HOOE, AND THE OTHER INHABITANTS OF ALEXANDRIA**

November 19, 1781.

Gentn: I accept with peculiar Satisfaction the very kind and affectionate Address of the Citizens of Alexandria; the long acquaintance which in former times I have had of their sincerity and cordiality, stamps it with particular value, and permit me to say, that to make a peaceful return to this agreeable society of my fellow Citizens, is among the most ardent of my wishes, and would

prove my greatest comfort for all the toils and vicissitudes which I have experienced during my absence.

The great Director of events has carried us thro' a variety of Scenes during this long and bloody contest in which we have been for Seven Campaigns, most nobly struggling. The present prospect is pleasing, the late success at York Town is very promising, but on our own Improvement depend its future good consequences, a vigorous prosecution of this Success, will in all probability, procure us

11. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

what we have so long wished to secure, an establishment of Peace, liberty and Independence. A Relaxation of our Exertions at this moment may cost us many more toilsome Campaigns, and be attended with the most unhappy consequences.

Your condolence for the loss of that amiable youth Mr. Custis, affects me most tenderly. His loss I trust will be compensated to you, in some other worthy Representative.

Amidst all the Vecessitudes of Time or Fortune be assured Gentlemen, that I shall ever regard with particular Affection the Citizens and Inhabitants of Alexandria. I am, etc.²¹

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Philadelphia, November 28, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have the Honor to acknowledge your Favor of the 6th Instant, and to thank your Excellency with great Sincerity, for the very cordial and affectionate Congratulations which you are pleased to express on our late Success in Virginia.

I most earnestly hope that this Event may be productive of the happy Consequences your Excellency mentions, and I think that its good Effects cannot fail to be very extensive, unless from a mistaken Idea of the Magnitude of this Success, unhappily a Spirit of

21. From the original in the possession of Mrs. Robert M. Reese, of Alexandria, Va., who kindly permitted a copy to be made. The draft, in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., is dated November 20.

Remissness should seize the Minds of the States, and they should sitt themselves down in quiet, with a Delusive Hope of the Contest being bro't to its Close. I hope this may not be the Case; to prevent so great an Evil, shall be the Study of my Winters Endeavour, and I cannot but flatter myself that the States, rather than relax in their Exertions, will be stimulate to the most vigorous preparations, for another Active, glorious and Decisive Campaign, which if properly prosecuted, will I trust under the Smiles of Heaven, lead us to the End of this long and tedious War, and sitt us Down in the full Security of the great Object of our Toils, the Establishment of Peace, Liberty and Independence.

Whatever may be the Policy of European Courts during this Winter, their Negotiations will prove too precarious a Dependence for us to trust to. Our Wisdom should dictate a serious Preparation for War, and in that State we shall find ourselves in a Situation secure against every Event.

Your Excellency's Wish for some Ships of our Ally to be stationed at N London, I should have been happy to have promoted, would Circumstances have permitted; but the Admiral De Grasse has taken almost all his Ships of War with him, and except a frigate or two left in York River for the Security and Aid of the French Troops who will have their Winter Quarters in the Vicinity of York Town, not a Ship of Force is left upon the American Station. The Supply of Fresh Beef to the Island of Martinico, is certainly a desirable Object to our Allies, and is worthy of Attention; but no Security can be given to its Transportation from the Quarter you mention. I have the Honor etc.²⁵

25. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Philadelphia, November 30, 1781.

Sir: Your very agreeable Favor of the 28th ulto. which I have had the pleasure to receive, and which is filled with such sincere Marks of Cordiality and Affection, could not fail to be very acceptable to me.

I thank you Sir! for your Congratulations on the late Success in Virginia; a Success which must be productive of happy Relief to that State in particular; and I trust if properly improved, will be conducive of very extensive good Consequences to the united States. The very important Share which our great Allies have taken in this Event, ought to endear them to every American, and their Assistance should be remembered with perpetual Gratitude.

I am most sincerely sorry for the Misfortune which prevented me the pleasure of seeing you in Virginia; among the Number of my Friends, who made me happy in their Company while I was in that State, it would have afforded me a peculiar Satisfaction to have added you in the List. With very great Regard etc.³³

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Philadelphia, December 3, 1781.

Sir: I am informed by the Director Genl. that there will

33. From the original in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

be a necessity of establishing a temporary Hospital at Wilmington for the accommodation of a number of Soldiers returning from Virginia whose cases will not admit of their being brought further at this advanced season. Doctor Latimer,⁴³ the Bearer, is appointed to establish this Hospital, and I must request the favor of your Excellency to furnish him with the proper powers or means to procure a Building or Buildings suitable for the purpose and Carriages for the transportation of the Patients from the Head of Elk. Your Excellency must be sensible that from the

nature of the Business upon which I have taken the liberty to trouble you, its execution can admit of no delay without endangering the loss of many brave and good Men. I have the honor etc.⁴⁴

43. Dr. Henry Latimer, Hospital Physician and Surgeon. He served to the close of the war.

44. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To JAMES McHENRY⁶⁸

Philadelphia, December 11, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 3d. Inst. inclosing your Resignation which I have delivered in to the Secy. at War. I am convinced your transition from the Military to the Civil Line will be attended with good consequences, as you will be able to communicate that kind of information to the Body of which you are now a Member which they often stand in need of in times like the present; And as you seem of opinion that my sentiments on public affairs will give weight to your endeavours, I with great pleasure open a correspondence on that subject.

You know it is an old and true Maxim that to make a good peace, you ought to be well prepared to carry on the War. This, the sentiment of our Ally, is not only strongly pressed upon Congress by his Minister here, but by the Gentlemen at the heads of our three great departments, Finance, Foreign Affairs and War. My stay in Town is merely to assist in and forward the several arrangements which are upon the Carpet, and I believe you are sufficiently acquainted with me to suppose that I do not fail to urge vigorous measures. I am happy in finding no want of disposition in Congress to adopt the measures recommended by their Committees and their executive Officers. The requisitions which they have made and which they will shortly make upon the States will evince this. It will afterwards lay with the States to determine whether

68. McHenry had been elected to the Maryland Senate. His letter of resignation to Washington, dated Dec. 3, 1781, is in the *Washington Papers*.

we are, early in the next Campaign, to take advantage of what we have gained this, or whether we are as usual to suffer the enemy to bring their reinforcements from Europe before we draw ours from the neighbourhood of the Army as it were.

I need not say more to you at this time, indeed I hope you will have no occasion to make use of the hints I have given.⁶⁹ For I have the highest opinion of the good will and Vigor of your Legislature. I am etc.⁷⁰

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Philadelphia, December 15, 1781.

Sir: I was in hopes I should not again have had occasion to have troubled your Excellency on the subject of the Hospital at Wilmington; but our distress on the score of Money renders it absolutely necessary. The sick are suffering; indeed perishing for want of Wood and Straw, which have as yet been partially furnished by the exertions of Doctor Latimer and the humanity of individuals. As your Excellency was kind enough, in your letter of the 4th. to promise any assistance of the State which might be necessary, I must request you will furnish Doer. Cochran with the proper orders for the Articles abovementioned, who will transmit them to Docr. Latimer. I am &c.⁸⁸

69. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "Should you find any inclination in your legislature either to delay or to relax."

70. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

88. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR JOHN RUTLEDGE

Phila., December 15, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I have particular pleasure in putting the inclosed letter under cover to you and adding, that Mrs. Rutledge and your family are perfectly well. I shall not attempt to give you the politicks of this place, or say any thing of the disposition of Congress; you will get these thro' better Channels. I shall only add, that few people can subscribe themselves with more truth. Yr. most Obedt. etc.

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES⁹⁹

Philadelphia December 19, 1781.

Sir: You will have been furnished by His Excellency the President of Congress with the Resolve of the 10th instant calling upon the several States to compleat their respective Quotas of Troops by the 1st. of March next. In order to ascertain the deficiencies, I am directed to transmit to the Executives of the States, Returns, under particular descriptions, of the number of Men each has in service. The Troops of your State composing part of the Southern Army, it would occasion an immense loss Of time were I first to call for the Returns and then transmit them

99. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

back from hence or wherever I may happen to be. I have for that reason directed Major General Greene to furnish your Excellency with the state of your Line and give you credit for any Men you may have serving in the Legionary Corps or Artillery, deducting that amount from the Quota assigned to you by the arrangement of the 3d. and 21st. of October 1780, will point out exactly your deficiency.

I flatter myself it is unnecessary to impress upon your Excellency the necessity of complying as fully as possible with the requisition of Congress above mentioned. It is a well known fact, that the critical and dangerous situation to which all the southern States were reduced, was owing to the want of a sufficient regular force to oppose to that of the enemy, who, taking advantage of the frequent dissolutions of our temporary Armies, had gained such footing in the four most southern that their Governments were totally subverted or so debilitated, that they were not capable of

exerting sufficient authority to bring a regular Army into the Field. Happily the Scene is changed, and a moment is allowed us to rectify our past errors, and, if rightly improved, to put ourselves in such a situation that we need not be apprehensive of the force which Great Britain has remaining upon the Continent, or which she can probably hereafter bring: But the greatest encouragement to a vigorous preparation is, that it will be the most likely method of gaining new Allies and forcing Great Britain into a negotiation, which we have every reason to suppose would end in a peace, honorable to the interests and views of America.

I will take the liberty of recommending a

matter to your Excellency, which I must solicit you to urge to the Legislature as absolutely necessary to the filling your Regiments with proper Men, more especially if the mode of drafting should be adopted. It is stationing Continental Officers of the Rank of Field Officers at least at the different places of rendezvous, who shall judge of the ability of the Recruit, and pass him or reject him as circumstances may require. For want of a regulation of this kind, we have had hundreds of old Men, mere Children, disordered and decrepid persons passed by Civil Characters appointed for Muster Masters, and have been under the necessity of discharging them the moment they have joined the Army: whereby, the State has been put to a vast expence for an useless Man, and the service has lost a Man for the Campaign, as the districts from whence such have been sent have scarcely ever replaced them. [The Secretary at War will address your Excellency upon this subject, which I can assure you is of the utmost importance to the constitution of the Army.] I have the honor etc.¹

1. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the circular sent to President John Dickinson, of Delaware, which is in the collection of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J., who kindly furnished a photostat. The sentence in brackets is not in the circular sent to Dickinson, but is in the draft, and the circulars to Maryland and Virginia, photostats of which are in the Library of Congress.

To GEORGE CAMPBELL¹⁰

Philadelphia, December 24, 1781.

Sir: I accept with singular pleasure the Ensign¹¹ of so worthy a fraternity as that of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in this City. A society distinguished for the firm adherence of its members to the glorious Cause in which we are embarked.

Give me leave to assure you, Sir, that I shall never cast my Eyes upon the Badge with which I am honored, but with a grateful remembrance of the polite and affectionate manner in which it was presented. I am etc.¹²

***To DOCTOR THOMAS BOND¹⁹**

Philadelphia, December 28, 1781.

Sir: Permit me, through you, to return my warmest thanks to the American Philosophical Society, for this very polite mark of their attention and esteems²⁰

I have ever set the highest value upon the honor

10. President of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Philadelphia.

11. The gold medal, which was the badge of the society. It was of the value of guineas. On the obverse was the figure of Hibernia, at the right; on the left, America; in the center, Liberty joining the hands of Hibernia and America. Hibernia was supported by a harp, and America was depicted as an Indian. Underneath was the word "Unite." On the reverse was St. Patrick, cross in hand, trampling upon a snake. The motto was "Hiar."

12. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

19. Vice president of the American Philosophical Society.

20. Their address of December 27, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

which was conferred on me, when admitted into a Society instituted for the noblest of all purposes that of “promoting useful knowledge,” and have long wished for an opportunity of rendering myself, in some degree, worthy of my election. Happy am I, therefore, in receiving this public assurance from my Fellow Members, that my Services, upon a late important occasion, have contributed to give them “an additional security in their pursuits of Science.”

It is peculiarly pleasing to me to observe, how universally, how justly, and with how much gratitude we acknowledge the obligations we are under to the Navy and Army of ours illustrious Ally, for their noble and generous exertions. It will not fail to cement the growing Union between the two Nations, and will be a proof to the Generals, the Officers, and the Men who have so bravely fought and bled in our cause that we are not forgetful of their Merits and Services. I have the honor etc.

[H.S.P.]

To JOSEPH GILPIN²⁶

Philadelphia, December 30, 1781.

Sir: I am exceedingly sorry for the accident²⁷ of which you inform me in yours of the 25th. The only reparation I can make, is to order the Soldier to be immediately given up to the Civil authority,

26. Justice of the Peace of Cecil County, Md.

27. The accident was a killing of an inhabitant by a Negro soldier.

for which purpose I inclose a letter to the commanding Officer to the Head of Elk.

I take it extremely kind of you, Sir, to have made an application to me upon the present occasion. You undoubtedly had a right by Law to have secured the Offender by virtue of your own authority. I am &c.²⁸

To BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, New Windsor, March 27, 1781.

Dear Sir: On my return from Newport, I found your favor of the 16th: February, with its inclosures, at Head Quarters. I exceedingly regret that I could not have the pleasure of seeing you, not only from personal motives, but because I could have entered upon the subject of your mission in a much more and full free manner, than is proper to be committed to paper.

I very early saw the difficulties and dangers to which the southern States would be exposed for want of resources of Cloathing, Arms, and Ammunition, and recommended Magazines to be established as ample as their circumstances would admit. It is true they are not so full of Men as the Northern States; but they ought, for that reason, to have been more assiduous in raising

28. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

a permanent force, to have been always ready, because they cannot draw a head of Men together as suddenly as their exigencies may require. That policy has, unhappily, not been pursued either here or there, and we are now suffering, from a remnant of a British Army, what they could not, in the beginning, accomplish with their force at the highest.

As your requisitions go to Men, Arms, Ammunition and Cloathing, I shall give you a short detail of our situation and prospects as to the first, and of our supplies and expectations as to the three last.

By the expiration of the times of service of the old troops, by the discharge of the Levies engaged for the Campaign only, and by the unfortunate dissolution of the pennsylvania line, I was left, previous to the late detachment under the Marquis de la Fayette, with a Garrison barely sufficient

for the security of West point, and two Regiments in Jersey to support the communication between the Delaware and North River. The York troops I had been obliged to send up for the security of the Frontier of that State. Weak however as we were, I determined to attempt the dislodgement of Arnold in conjunction with the French Fleet and Army, and made the detachment to which I have alluded. In my late tour to the Eastward, I found the accounts, I had received of the progress of recruiting in those States, had been much exaggerated, and I fear we shall, in the end, be obliged again to take a great *proportion* of their quotas in levies for the Campaign, instead of Soldiers for three years or for the War. The Regiments of New York having been reduced to two; They have

but few Infantry to raise. Jersey depends upon voluntary enlistments, upon a contracted Bounty, and I cannot therefore promise myself much success from the mode. The Pennsylvania line, you know, is ordered to compose part of the southern Army. General Wayne is so sanguine as to suppose he will be soon able to move on with 1000 or 1200 Men, but I fancy he rather overrates the matter. You will readily perceive from the foregoing state, that there is little probability of adding to the force already ordered to the southward. For should the Battalions, from New Hampshire to New Jersey inclusive, be completed, (a thing not to be expected) we shall, after the necessary detachments for the Frontiers and other purposes are made, have an Army barely sufficient to keep the enemy in check at New York. Except this is done, they will have nothing to hinder them from throwing further reinforcements to the Southward; and to be obliged to follow, by land, every detachment of their Army, which they always make by sea, will only end in a fruitless dissipation of what may be now called the Northern Army. You may be assured that the most powerful diversion that can be made in favor of the southern States, will be a respectable force in the neighbourhood of New York. I have hitherto been speaking of our own resources, should a reinforcement arrive to the French Fleet and Army, the face of matters may be entirely changed.

I do not find that we can, at any rate, have more than two thousand Stand of Arms to spare, perhaps not so many; for should the Battalions, which are to compose this Army, be complet

or nearly so, they will take all that are in repair or repairable. The two thousand stand came in the Alliance from France, and I have kept them apart for an exigency.

Our Stock of Ammunition, tho' competent to the defensive, is, by a late estimate of the commanding Officer of Artillery, vastly short of an offensive operation of any consequence. Should circumstances put it in our power to attempt such an one, we must depend upon the private Magazines of the States and upon our Allies. On the contrary, should the defensive plan be determined upon, what ammunition can be spared, will be undoubtedly sent to the Southward.

Of Cloathing we are in a manner exhausted. We have not enough for the few Recruits which may be expected, and except that, which has been so long looked for and talked of from France, should arrive, the troops must, next Winter, go naked, unless their States can supply them.

From the foregoing representation, you will perceive that the proportion of the Continental Army already allotted to southern service is as much as, from present appearances, can be spared for that purpose. And that a supply of Arms, Ammunition or Cloathing of any consequence must depend, in a great measure, upon future purchases or importations.

Nothing which is within the compass of my power shall be wanting to give support to the southern States, but you may readily conceive, how irksome a thing it must be to me to be called upon for assistance, when I have not the means of affording it. I am etc.

Duplicate. It is feared that the original miscarried with last Weeks Mail, which is missing and is supposed to have been taken and carried into New York.⁷¹

[V.S.L.]

71. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. (See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons, May 3, 1781, *post.*)

***To THE INHABITANTS OF PROVIDENCE⁵**

[Providence, R. I., March 14, 1781.]

Gentn: I am happy in the opportunity which your address affords me of testifying to you how deeply I am penetrated with those demonstrations of attachment which I have experienced from the Inhabitants of this Town. The confidence and affection of his fellow Citizens is the most valuable and agreeable reward a Citizen can receive. Next to the happiness of my Country, this is the most powerful inducement I can have to exert my self in its Service. Conscious of a sincere desire to promote that great object, however short of my wishes the success of my endeavours may fall I console myself with a perswasion that the goodness of my intentions in some measure justifies your approbation.

The determination you are pleased to express of making every effort for giving vigour to our military operations is consonant with the Spirit that has uniformly actuated this State. It is by this disposition alone we can hope, under the protection of Heaven, to secure the important blessings for which we contend.

With sincere gratitude for your sentiments and wishes towards me, I beg you to accept the assurances of that perfect esteem and regard with which I have the honor etc.

5. Addressed by Washington to “The Honble Jabez Bowen &ca” and also indorsed by him: “Answer to the Address from The T'own of Providence.”

To THE INHABITANTS OF NEWPORT⁹³

[March 8, 1781.]

Gentlemen: Among the distinguished honors which have a claim to my gratitude since my arrival, I have seen with peculiar satisfaction those effusions of esteem and attachment which have manifested themselves in the citizens of this [antient] town. My happiness is complete in a moment that unites the expressions of their sentiments for me with their suffrages in favour of our allies. The conduct of the French army and fleet, of which the inhabitants testify so grateful and so affectionate a sense, at the same time that it evinces the wisdom of the commanders and the discipline of

the troops, is a new proof of the magnanimity of the nation. It is a further demonstration of that generous zeal and concern for the happiness of America which brought them to our assistance; a happy presage of future harmony; a pleasing evidence that an intercourse between the two nations will more and more cement the union, by the solid and lasting ties of mutual affection.

I sincerely sympathize with you Gentlemen, in lamenting the depredations suffered by the Town while in possession of the enemy and heartily join you in those liberal wishes the accomplishment of which would soon more than restore it to its former flourishing condition.

93. Addressed to Christopher Ellery, William Channing, William Taggart, and Solomon Southwick, committee of the town.

Accept my acknowledgements for the polite and obliging manner in which you have been pleased to communicate to me the sentiments of your fellow citizens and the assurances of my warmest esteem for them and for you personally.⁹⁴

To THE PRESIDENT AND PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WILLIAM AND MARY

October 27, 1781.

Gentlemen: I accept very kindly the Address of the President and Professors of the University of William and Mary.⁷

The Reduction of the British Force in this State, for which I feel myself highly indebted to the Noble Exertions of our Brave and Generous Allies, is a Circumstance which gives me great pleasure, not only as it affords a Return of peaceful Security to many of my fellow Citizens; but as it will, I hope, in its event be productive of more extensive good Consequences.

The Seat of Literature at Williamsburg, has ever in my View, been an Object of Veneration. As an Institution, important for its Communication of useful Learning, and conducive to the Diffusion of

the true principles of rational Liberty, you may be assured, that it shall receive every encouragement and Benefaction

94. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The word in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

7. This address is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Oct. 23, 1781.

in my Power towards its Re-Establishment.

The Sick and wounded of the Army, which my Necessities have compelled me to trouble you with, shall be removed as soon as Circumstances will permit, An Event which will be as pleasing to me, as agreeable to you.⁸

To MAYOR JOHN BULLEN

November 21, 1781.

Sir: I am obliged by the polite and affectionate address of the Citizens of Annapolis. Nothing can be more flattering to me than to know that my general conduct has met the approbation of my Countrymen; it is the most grateful reward of those services which I have ever in the course of my command endeavoured to render them, but which their too great partiality has oftentimes overrated.

That the State in general and this City in particular may long enjoy the benefits which they have a right to expect from their very spirited exertions in the prosecution of this just War is the sincere Wish of Sir Your etc.²³

8. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

23. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

***To GEORGE PLATER AND THOMAS COCKEY DEY²⁴**

Annapolis, November 23, 1781.

Gentlemen: I very sensibly feel the honor which has this day been conferred upon me by the vote of thanks of so respectable a Body as that of the General Assembly of the State of Maryland. The regard which they have been pleased to express for me personally; the delicate manner in which they have recalled to view those distant events which, in some degree, led to our present happy situation, and the general approbation which they have generously bestowed upon the whole of my conduct, must ever secure to them my warmest esteem and must at the same time operate as fresh incentives to merit their future good opinion.

It is with the highest degree of pleasure I observe that, a proper allowance has been made for the capital share which the Land and Sea forces of our great and good Ally had in the reduction of the common enemy at York in Virginia. I should deem myself unpardonable were I not upon every occasion, more especially upon such an one as the present, to declare, that to the sound Councils and vigorous exertions of their Excellencies the Counts de Rochambeau and de Grasse much, very much of our success was owing.

While I agree in Sentiment with the Honorable Body over whom you preside that we may entertain a rational

24. President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates, respectively, of Maryland.

ground of belief, that under the favor of divine providence the Freedom, Independence and happiness of America will shortly be established upon the surest foundation; I think it a duty incumbent upon me to observe, that those most desirable objects are not to be fully attained but by a continuance of those exertions which have already so greatly humbled the power of our inveterate enemies. Relaxation upon our parts will give them time to recollect and recover themselves,

whereas a vigorous prosecution of the War, must inevitably crush their remaining force in these States or put them to the shameful necessity of intirely withdrawing themselves.

I cannot conclude without expressing my warmest wishes for the prosperity of a State which has ever stood among the foremost in her support of the common Cause. I confess myself under particular obligations for the ready attention which I have experienced to those requisitions which, in the course of my duty, I have occasionally been under the necessity of making. I have the honor etc.

[MD.H.S.]

***To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE AND THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL³¹**

November 29, 1781.

Sir: I consider this very polite Address of the

31. Of Pennsylvania.

Supreme Executive Council, as a fresh mark of that attention which I have ever experienced from them.

My Services I consider as my Country's due, and when they meet the approbation of my fellow Citizens I shall ever esteem myself happy in so agreeable a reward.

The late success of the American arms at York Town in Virginia, so vigorously aided by the noble exertions of our generous Ally, if properly improved, will, I doubt not, be attended with the happiest consequences.

I most sincerely thank you Sir for your kind wishes for my personal prosperity, and beg you to be assured, that a full establishment of Peace, Liberty and Independence to this, and the other United States of America, is the most ardent wish of Sir, Yr Most Obedt.

To FREDERICK A. MUHLENBERG AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 29, 1781.

Gentlemen: I esteem myself highly honored by the address of so respectable a Body as the Representatives of the Freemen of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met. While I confess that it is extremely pleasing to me to know that my conduct in the late

successful enterprise against the enemy in Virginia meets the approbation of my Fellow Citizens, I think it a duty incumbent upon me to declare that great part of the merit of that important event was owing to the assistance I derived from the good conduct and bravery of the Officers and Men under my command. The powerful succour which we received from the land and sea forces of our great, good and generous Ally ought to, and I am sure does, make the most grateful impression upon the Hearts of every true American.

In return for your warm expressions of personal regard, permit me most sincerely to assure you that I wish nothing more ardently than the peace and prosperity of the State which you represent.³²

To THE MAGISTRATES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

December 17, 1781.

Gentn: I return you my thanks for this very polite and affectionate address.⁹²

As I have ever considered a due support of Civil Authority, essential to the preservation of that liberty for which we are contending, I have from duty as well as from inclination endeavoured as far as possible, to avoid the least violation of it; and I am happy to

32. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

92. This address, signed “Plunkt. Fleeson Prest.,” in behalf of the Magistrates, is in the *Washington Papers*.

find that my conduct has met the approbation of those who are appointed Guardians of the Rights of a free people.

I feel myself highly obliged by your assurance that it will be the pleasing employment of the Citizens to render my residence among them agreeable. It shall be my study to merit so kind a mark of their attention.⁹¹

To JOHN HURLBUT, HUGH FORSEMON, JOHN HURLBUT, AND JABEZ SILL

Head Quarters, Dobbs's Ferry, July 25, 1781.

Gentlemen: I have recd. your favor of the 5th.⁷⁹ with Copies of letters from Governor Reed to Colonel Hunter⁸⁰ Lieutenant of Northumberland County and to the Commissioner of purchases for the same County. These letters contain no orders of any kind whatever to Capt. Mitchell,⁸¹ but barely relate to supplying the present Garrison with provisions, which by arrangements made by me are to be furnished out of the supplies demanded by the Continent from the State of Penna. Capt. Mitchell cannot therefore with propriety draw any thing from Mr. Seward.⁸²

You may be assured Gentlemen that it is my inclination as well as my duty to carry the intent of Congress fully into

91. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

79. In the *Washington Papers*. It is signed in the same hand by John Hurlbut and Hugh Forsemon as “Authority,” and by Hurlburt and Jabez Sill, as “Selectmen” of Wyoming, Pa.

80. Col. Samuel Hunter, county lieutenant of Northumberland.

81. Capt. Alexander Mitchell, of the First New Jersey Regiment. He served to April, 1783.

82. —Seward. He was assistant commissary of issues at Connecticut.

execution and that I should not scruple to remove an Officer from Command were I to find proof of his having acted with partiality either towards the State of Pennsylvania or that of Connecticut, but as it does not appear, by the testimony which has been produced by you, that Capt. Mitchell has yet conducted himself in a manner to deserve censure, I cannot consistent with military Rule remove him from his present command. I am &c.⁸³

83. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To THOMAS CHITTENDEN³⁷

Philadelphia, January 1, 1782.

Sir: I received your favor of the 14th November by Mr. Brownson.³⁸ You cannot be at a loss to know why I have not heretofore, and why I cannot now, address you in your public Character, or answer you in mine. But the confidence which you have been pleased to repose in me, gives me an opportunity of offering you my sentiments, as an individual wishing most ardently to see the peace and Union of this Country preserved, and the just rights of the people of every part fully established.³⁹

It is not my business, neither do I think it necessary, now to discuss the origin of the right of a number of Inhabitants, to that tract of Country formerly distinguished by the name of the New Hampshire Grants, and now known by that of Vermont. I will take it for granted that their right was good, because Congress by their resolve of the 7th August imply it, and by that of the 21st. are willing fully to confirm it: provided the new state is confined to certain described boundaries. It appears therefore to me, that the dispute of boundary is the only one that exists and that that being removed, all further difficulties would be removed also, and the matter terminated to the

satisfaction of all parties. Now I would ask you candidly, whether the Claim of the people of Vermont, was not for a long time confined solely, or very nearly, to that tract of Country which is described in

37. Chittenden had been elected Governor of Vermont by the people in February, 1778, but Washington scrupulously avoided recognizing the title.

38. Eli Brownson, of Sunderland County, Vt.

39. The Varick transcript, which was made from the draft (not now found in the *Washington Papers*), has “the people of every part of it fully and firmly established.”

the Resolve of Congress of the 21st. of August last, and whether agreeable to the tenor of your own letter to me, the late extension of your Claim upon New Hampshire and New York, was not a more political Manœuvre, than one in which you conceived yourselves justifiable. If my first question be answered in the affirmative, it certainly bars your new Claim, and if my Second be well founded, your end is answered, and you have nothing to do but withdraw your Jurisdiction to the confines of your old limits, and obtain an acknowledgement of Independance and Sovereignty, under the Resolve of the 21st. of August for so much Territory as does not interfere with the ancient established Bounds of New York New Hampshire and Massachusetts. I persuade myself you will see and acquiesce in the reason, the Justice and indeed the necessity of such a decision.

You must consider, sir, that the point now in dispute, is of the utmost political importance to the future Union and peace of this great Country. The state of Vermont, if acknowledged, will be the first new one admitted into the Confederacy, and if sufferd to encroach upon the Ancient established Boundaries of the adjacent ones, will serve as a precedent for others, which it may hereafter be expedient to set off, to make the same unjustifiable demands. Thus, in my private Opinion, while it behoves the Delegates of the states now confederated, to do ample justice to a Body of people, sufficiently respectable by their numbers, and entitled by other Claims

to be admitted into that Confederation, it becomes them also to attend to the interests of their Constituents, and see, that under the appearance

of Justice to one, they do not materially injure the rights of others. I am apt to think this is the prevailing opinion of Congress, and that your late extension of Claim, has, upon the principles I have above mentioned, rather diminished than increased your Friends; and that if such extension should be persisted in, it will be made a common cause, and not considered as only affecting the rights of those States immediately interested in the loss of Territory, a loss of too serious a nature not to claim the attention of any people.

There is no calamity within the compass of my foresight, which is more to be dreaded, than a necessity of coercion on the part of Congress, and consequently every endeavour should be used to prevent the execution of so disagreeable a measure. It must involve the ruin of that State against which the resentment of the others is pointed.

I will only add a few Words, upon the subject of the negotiations which have been carried on between you and the Enemy in Canada and in New York. I will take it for granted, as you assert it, that they were so far innocent that there never was any serious intention of joining Great Britain in their attempts to subjugate your Country; but it has had this certain bad tendency, it has served to give some ground to that delusive opinion of the Enemy, and upon which they in great measure found their hopes of success, that they have numerous Friends among us, who only want a proper opportunity to shew themselves openly, and that internal disputes and Feuds will soon break us in pieces; at the same time

the seeds of distrust and Jealousy are scattered among ourselves by a conduct of this kind. If you are sincere in your professions, these will be additional motives for accepting the terms which have been offered (and which appear to me equitable) and thereby convincing the common Enemy, that all their expectations of disunion are vain, and that they have been worsted at their Weapon, deception.

As you unbosomed yourself to me, I thought I had the greater right of speaking my sentiments openly and candidly to you, I have done so, and if they should produce the effects which I most sincerely wish, that of an honorable and amicable adjustment of a matter which if carried to hostile lengths may destroy the future happiness of my Country, I shall have attained my end, while the Enemy will be defeated of theirs. Believe me to be with great respect Sir Your etc.⁴⁰

[N.Y.P.L.]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Philadelphia, January 8, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have lately been informed, that a number of Soldiers, belonging to the Army which had served in Virginia, were, on their return from thence, left sick in Annapolis, and that they are now in a very distressed situation for the want of Cloathing, and other necessaries. I shall direct the Clothier to send

40. A copy is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. A copy of this letter was requested by Joseph Jones, a Delegate to Congress from Virginia, and forwarded by Washington to him in a brief note, dated Mar. 10, 1782. This note was sold at auction in 1907–8.

On January 1 Washington signed a certificate of service to Lieut. Archibald McCallister, of the First Maryland Regiment. The draft, in the writing of William Stephens Smith, is in the *Washington Papers*.

such Articles as are most necessary, as soon as may be; and in the mean time will pray your Excellency that any assistance in the power of the State, may be granted to them; and which I am confident will be done, on account of their meritorious services, as well as for the sake of humanity itself which is particularly interested, in the preservation and relief of those pining under the pressure of want and disease. I have the honor etc.⁶³

[MD.H.S.]

To JOHN TYLER⁶⁴

Philadelphia, January 8, 1782.

Sir: I have been this day honored, thro' the hands of the Delegates of your State in Congress, with your favor of the 21st December inclosing a Vote of the House of Delegates of the 17th. For so singular and honorable a mark of their attention and Esteem I beg leave through you, Sir, to present my humble thanks; and for the polite manner in which the Resolve was transmitted, I intreat you to accept my warmest acknowledgements.⁶⁵ I have the honor etc.⁶⁶

63. In the writing of David Humphreys.

64. Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates.

65. On the same day (January 8) Washington forwarded this letter to Edmund Randolph, requesting him to transmit it to Speaker Tyler. He added: "I am happy in having so good an opportunity, as that which now offers by Capt. la Touche, of forwarding the letter to the Marquis de la Fayette. I am not a judge of the Etiquette upon these occasions, but it really does seem odd to me to present a man with his own likeness." This note is in the *Washington Papers*.

66. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Philadelphia, January 10, 1782.

Sir: I am under the disagreeable necessity of inclosing you the Copy of the representation signed by several Officers of the Virginia Line, in behalf of the whole assembled at Cumberland Court, and

addressed to Colonel Febiger, on giving them orders to prepare to march with a detachment to join Genl. St. Clair. This was transmitted by Colo. Febiger to Genl. St Clair, in excuse for not sending on the detachment agreeable to orders.

Although it must be confessed that the Officers have reason to complain of the great arrearages of pay, yet it does not follow, that they can be justified in prescribing terms to their Country at a very critical moment. I shall myself write to Colo. Febiger and give him my opinion fully and freely upon the impropriety of their conduct: But I muse at the same time hope, that, as I shall give very peremptory orders to have a detachment formed and marched, the State will make every possible exertion so to equip and provide for the Officers and Men going upon service, that they will have no reasonable ground of complaint. I particularly mention the Officers and Men going upon service; because of the means which may be at the time in hand are applied to those who more immediately want them, a part may be tolerably provided for and sent off, whereas a general distribution would give but a very ineffectual relief to the whole.

I am convinced your Excellency is so fully impressed with the importance of pushing reinforcements to our southern Army, before the enemy can make any considerable addition to theirs, that every exertion will be made on your part to remove the reasonable complaints of Officers and Men. With very sincere sentiments etc.⁶⁸

68. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, January 12[–13], 1782.

Dear Sir: On receiving your Excellency's favr. of the 1st. inst. by Lord Stirling, I immediately set about making the necessary enquiry respecting the post said to be taken by the enemy near Egg Harbour, and had I found the report well grounded, I should have concerted measures to have dislodged them. From the best information I have been able to obtain, particularly from General

Forman who is now in Town, no lodgement ever was made upon Osburns Island or at any other place. A constant intercourse is carried on by Water between the Refugees and the Inhabitants, but that, no force which I could spare would prevent, as they would, if kept out of one inlet make use of another for their purposes. It is in vain to expect that pernicious and growing traffic will ever be stopped, untill the States pass laws agt. it, making the penalty death . This I long ago foresaw and recommended. We are I believe the only Nation who suffer their people to carry on a commerce with their enemy in time of War.

It is a pity but that Villain Moody could be apprehended lurking in the Country, in a manner which would bring him under the description of a Spie . When he was taken before, he was in Arms in his proper Uniform with a party, and had his Commission in his pocket. It was therefore a matter of great doubt whether he could have been considered otherwise than a prisoner

of War. It was said he had been inlisting Men in the Country but no proof of the kind ever appeared. I have the honor etc.

P.S. 13th:

I have recd. your Excellency's favr. of the 11th. by Colo. Laurence who confirms the accounts I had of the situation of matters upon the Coast and adds that an adequate Water force can alone remove the Evil. I am obliged by your information respecting the intended attempt upon the Mail, which I think probable; I shall give notice of it to the post Master and to public Bodies that they may be careful how they send dispatches of consequence by the post. An Escort of Horse already travels with the post Rider from Kings ferry to Morris town which was thought the most dangerous Stage.⁸⁰

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES

Philadelphia, January 22, 1782.

Sir: Although it may be somewhat out of my province, to address your Excellency on a subject not immediately of a military nature, yet, I consider it so nearly connected with and so essential to the operations under my direction, that I flatter myself, my interference will not be deemed impertinent.

Upon applying to the Superintendent of Finance, to know how far I might depend upon him for the pay, Feeding and

80. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Cloathing of the Army, for the Current Year, and for the sums necessary to put it and keep it in motion, he very candidly laid open to me the State of our Monyed affairs, and convinced me, that, although the assistances we had derived from abroad were considerable, yet, they would be by no means adequate to our expences. He informed me further, that to make up the deficiency, the States had been called upon, by Congress, for Eight Millions of Dollars for the service of the year 1782, and shewed me the Copy of a circular letter from himself to the several Legislatures, in which he had so fully and clearly pointed out the necessity of a compliance with the Requisition, that it is needless for me to say more on that head, than that I intirely concur with him in opinion, so far as he has gone into the matter. But there are other reasons, which could not be so well known to him as they are to me, as having come under my immediate observation, and which, therefore, I shall take the liberty to mention.

Your Excellency cannot but remember the ferment into which the whole Army was thrown, twelve Months ago, for the want of pay and a regular supply of Cloathing and provisions, and with how much difficulty they were brought into temper, by a partial supply of the two first, and a promise of more regular supplies of all in future. Those promises the Soldiery now begin to claim, and altho' we shall be able to satisfy them tolerably in respect to Cloathing, and perfectly in regard to provision, (if the Financier is enabled to comply with his Contracts) yet there is no prospect of obtaining pay, untill part of the money required of the States can be

brought into the public treasury. You cannot conceive the uneasiness which arises from the total want of so essential an Article as Money, and the real difficulties in which the Officers, in particular, are involved on that account. The favorable aspect of our affairs, and the hopes that matters are in a train to afford them relief contributes to keep them quiet; but I cannot answer for the effects of a disappointment.

Enabling the Financier to comply with his Contracts, is a matter of the utmost consequence; the very existence of the Army depends upon it. Should he fail in his payments, the Contract ceases, and there is no alternative left, but to disband or live upon the seizure of neighbouring property. The saving to the public, by feeding an Army by Contract, is too well known to need any illustration, and that alone ought to be a sufficient inducement to the States to find the means of adhering to it.

It will, perhaps, be urged, that the sum called for is immense, and beyond the ability of the Country to pay. There is one plain answer to that objection, should it be made. It is, that if the War is carried on, a certain expence must be incurred, and that such expence must be drawn from the people, either by a partial, cruel and I may say, illegal seizure of the property which lays most convenient to the Army, or by a regular and equitable Tax in Money or specific Articles. Money, if it can be procured, is to be preferred, because it is neither liable to waste, nor is it expensive in the mode of collection or transportation. Whereas, I think I may venture to say, that a great proportion of the specific Articles have been wasted after the

people have furnished them, and that the transportation alone, of what have reached the Army, has, in numberless instances, cost more than the value of the Articles themselves.

To bring this War to a speedy and happy conclusion, must be the fervent wish of every lover of his Country, and sure I am, that no means are so likely to effect these, as vigorous preparations for another Campaign. Whether then we consult our true interest, substantial œconomy, or sound policy, we shall find that relaxation and langour are, of all things to be avoided. Conduct of that kind, on our part, will produce fresh hopes and new exertions on that of the enemy; whereby, the War, which has already held beyond the general expectation, may be protracted to such a length,

that the people, groaning under the burthen of it and despairing of success, may think any change, a change for the better.

I will close with a request, that your Excellency will be good enough to take the first opportunity of laying these my sentiments before the Legislature of your State. From the attention they have even been pleased to pay to any former requisitions or representations of mine, I am encouraged to hope, that the present, which is equally important with any I have ever made, will meet with a favorable reception. I have the honor etc.

P.S. The Returns of Troops called for by Resolve of the 10th.

of Decemr. is collecting and will be forwarded very soon. The remote situation of some of the Corps has made it a tedious business, but such is the nature of it, that an accurate Return cannot be digested untill the Returns of all the Legionary Corps and those of Artillery are obtained, that credit may be given for the Men serving in them.⁹²

[N.H.H.S.]

92. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the letter sent to President Meshech Weare. The P.S. was omitted from the letters sent to Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The original of the letter sent to Pennsylvania and the draft are in the *Washington Papers*. From the indorsement on the draft the letters to New Hampshire to New Jersey, inclusive, and to Maryland and Virginia went out in the mail of January 23; that for Delaware was “left at Mr. Dickinsons House.”

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, January 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: The inclosed Paper⁹³ without signature, was a few days since put into my hands. As the information is not such as can be acted upon in a military way, I have thought it adviseable to

transmit the same to your Excellency that any use you should think proper might be made of it. I have the honor etc.⁹⁴

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Philadelphia, January 30, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am favored with your Excellency's Letter of the 21st Instant inclosing a Copy of your Correspondence with Genl Haldimand.

It has long since been determin'd that the Prisoners taken upon the Capitulation at the Cedars should be exchanged and we propose as proper subjects for their Exchange so far as they will go the Canadian Officers who were taken at St John's and sent in

93. The paper inclosed contained, according to an N. B. on the draft, Information respecting John Smith said to have come to Morris Town for the purpose of communicating intelligence to the Enemy.“

94. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

on Parole in 1776. The enemy now pretend those Gentlemen never held any Military Rank. whenever this proposition is accepted every difficulty on that head will be removed.

The Affair of the People on the Grants is now before Congress I sincerely hope that such measures will be determined on as will restore quiet to that part of the Country or at least prevent those unhappy consequences you seem so justly to dread. I am etc.²⁴

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES³⁰

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, January 31, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor of transmitting herewith³¹ Returns of the number of Men now actually in service from your State, in order that measures may be adopted for completing the Regiments to the full establishment agreeably to the Resolution of Congress of the 10th of Decr. I cannot omit so favourable an opportunity of expressing to you my sentiments on this subject, and of entreating in the most earnest manner, that there may be a speedy, pointed, and effectual compliance with those requisitions.

It will I flatter myself, be unnecessary to recapitulate all the Arguments I made use of, in the circular Letter I had the honor to address to the several States

24. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

30. Of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

31. In the draft and in some of the letters the word “accurate” follows the word “herewith.”

at the close of the Campaign of 1780, in which it must be remembered, I took the liberty to urge from the knowledge I had of our affairs, and a series of experience, the policy, the expediency, the necessity of recruiting the Army as the only probable means of bringing the War to a speedy and happy conclusion; if those Arguments had any influence at that time; if the consequent exertions were crowned with any success; if the present crisis exhibits new and more forcible inducements for still greater efforts; let me point you and your Legislature to these considerations, and especially let me recommend, in the warmest terms, that all the fruits of the successes, which have been obtained the last Campaign, may not be thrown away by an inglorious winter of languor and inactivity.

However, at this advanced stage of the War, it might seem to be an insult upon the understanding to suppose a long train of reasoning necessary to prove that a respectable force in the field is essential to the establishment of our liberties and independence; yet as I am apprehensive the prosperous issue of the combined operation in Virginia, may have (as too common in such cases) the pernicious tendency of lulling the Country into a lethargy of inactivity and security; and as I feel my own

reputation, as well as the interest, the honor, the glory, and the happiness of my Country intimately concerned in the event, I will ask the indulgence to speak more freely on those accounts, and to make some of those observations, which the present moment seems to suggest; that the broken and perplexed state of the Enemy's affairs, and the successes of the last Campaign

on our part, ought to be a powerful incitement to vigorous preparations for the next; that, unless we strenuously exert ourselves to profit by these successes, we shall not only lose all the solid advantages that might be derived from them, but we shall become contemptible in our own eyes, in the eyes of our Enemy, in the opinion of Posterity, and even in the estimation of the whole World; which will consider us as a nation unworthy of Prosperity, because we know not how to make a right use of it; that, altho' we cannot, by the best concerted plans, absolutely command success, altho', the race is not always to the swift, or the Battle to the strong, yet without presumptuously waiting for Miracles to be wrought in our favour, it is our *indispensible Duty*, with the deepest gratitude to Heaven for the past, and humble confidence in its smiles on our future operations, to make use of all the Means in our power for our defence and security; that this period is particularly important, because no circumstances since the commencement of the War have been so favourable to the recruiting service; and because it is to be presumed from the encrease of population and the brilliant prospects before us, it is actually in our power to complete the Army before the opening of the Campaign; that, however flattering these prospects may be, much still remains to be done, which cannot probably be effected unless the Army is recruited to its establishment; and consequently the continuance or termination of the War seem principally to rest on the vigor and decision of the States in this interesting point. And finally, that it is our first object of policy under every supposable or possible case to have a powerful Army early

in the field; for we must suppose the Enemy are either disposed, "to prosecute the War" or to enter into a negotiation for peace"; there is no other alternative; on the former supposition, a respectable Army becomes necessary to counteract the Enemy and to prevent the accumulating expences of a lingering War; on the latter, nothing but a decidedly superior force can enable us boldly to claim our rights, and dictate the law at the pacification. So that, whatever the disposition of the Enemy

may be, it is evidently our only interest and œconomy to act liberally and exert ourselves greatly, during the present Winter, to cut off at once all the expences of the War, by putting a period to it.

And soon might that day arrive, soon might we hope to enjoy all the blessings of peace, if we could see again the same animation in the cause of our Country inspire every breast, the same passion for freedom and military glory impel our Youths to the field, and the same disinterested patriotism pervade every rank of Men, as was conspicuous at the commencement of this glorious revolution; and I am persuaded only some great occasion was wanting, such as the present moment exhibits, to rekindle the latent sparks of that patriotic fire into a generous flame, to rouse again the unconquerable Spirit of Liberty, which has sometimes seemed to slumber for a while, into the full vigor of action.

I cannot now conclude this Letter without expressing my full expectation, that the several States animated with the noblest principles, and convinced of the policy of complying faithfully with the requisitions, will be only emulous which shall be

foremost in furnishing its quota of Men; that the calculations of the numbers wanted to fill the deficiency may be so ample, as (allowing for all the casualties and deductions) will be sufficient certainly to complete the Battalions; that the measures for this purpose, may be so explicit, pointed and inergetic as will inevitably furnish the Recruits in season; and that such checks may be established to prevent imposition as to the quality of the Men, that no Recruits may be accepted but those who are in fact able-bodied and effective; should any of a different description be sent to the Army, they must be rejected, the expences thrown away, and the service injured, tho' others are required to supply their places; for it is only deceiving ourselves, with having a nominal instead of a real force, and consuming the public Provisions and Cloathing to no effect, by attempting to impose decriped and improper Men or boys upon us as Soldiers.

The Returns before alluded to, being but this moment collected, I regret that it was not possible they should have been forwarded sooner, to prevent miscarriage or delay in so important a communication, I have committed them to Colonel Dearborne³² who will have the honor of

delivering these Dispatches and explaining my ideas very perfectly; as he is charged solely with this business he will return as soon as it is negotiated, but he is instructed to wait until he can bear such official Accounts from you to me, as will fully inform me, what aid may absolutely be relied upon from Your State, which in conjunction with the other reports of a similar

32. Col. Henry Dearborn.

nature, must serve as a Basis, on which we may build our final plans and arrangements for the ensuing Campaign. I have the honor etc.³³

[N.H.H.S.]

33. In the writing of David Humphreys. The text is from the letter sent to New Hampshire. The last paragraph was omitted in the letters to Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey.

To THE VIRGINIA SENATE

Philadelphia, February 5, 1782.

Gentlemen: Permit me to assure you that I very sensibly feel the honor conferred upon me by your Address of Thanks of the 4th of January. The approbation which you have been pleased to express of my past conduct cannot but ensure a continuance of my endeavours to merit your good opinions.

I shall with peculiar pleasure, communicate to the Officers and Men composing the Army of our illustrious Ally the favorable sentiments which you entertain of their conduct. It will, if possible, add to that happy agreement which I hear subsists between them and the Inhabitants.

That the Common Wealth of Virginia may long enjoy that peace and security of which she is at present possessed is the fervent wish of Gentn. etc.³⁹

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Philadelphia, February 6, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have been duly honored with your

39. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The reply was inclosed by Washington (February 5) in a brief note to Nathaniel Harrison, president of the Virginia Senate. The draft of this note is in the *Washington Papers*.

Excellency's Letter of the 4th of Jany. by Col Carrington.

The disagreeable picture you give of the embarrass'd situation of the finances and other public Matters in your State is the more distressing to me; as I had flattered myself the reduction of the Enemy's force in Virginia would afford a favorable opportunity for reestablishing your affairs, and making more vigorous preparations for prosecuting the southern War.

It is not my business to determine which of the States has sustained the greatest share of the burden of the War, or to decide whether the contingent of Men and Money lately assigned to them has been exactly in proportion to their abilities. Congress whose province it is to judge, ought, from the information they may be possess'd of, to be supposed, competent to the task. but it may not be improper to observe that the advantage derived to any particular State from the present mode of feeding the Army by Contract, depends wholly on the local circumstances which require the Army to be stationed in such State; that very little, if any public Money is paid from the Treasury except on the provision Contracts; and that these Contracts must cease, as I have already explained in my circular Letter of 22d. Jany. unless the Financier is enabled by the States to pay the Contractor regularly.

In my several communications to the States since the surrender of the Enemy at York, I have expressed my sentiments so fully on the necessity of making early and vigorous preparations for the next Campaign, that I have nothing new to

add on that subject; I had formed expectations that the reasons for spirited exertions at this crisis would have appear'd as forcible to others as they had done to me, Unless such Measures are adopted I see no prospect of putting a speedy period to the War. With the greatest respect etc.⁴¹

To THE MAYOR, RECORDER, ALDERMEN, AND COMMON COUNCIL OF WILLIAMSBURGH

Philadelphia, February 6, 1782.

Gentlemen: I thank you sincerely for your polite Address

41. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

and Congratulations on the important success which has been obtained, by the assistance of the Troops of our great and generous Ally.

If I have been instrumental in restoring tranquility to any part of the United States, which was suffering under the ravages of the Enemy, I consider the approbation of the Virtuous Citizens of America, as the most ample reward for those services.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to assure you, that the tender concern, you are pleased to express for my future success and personal welfare, will ever inspire me with the liveliest sentiments of gratitude and respect, whilst I have the honor etc.⁴⁰

To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE

Philadelphia, February 8, 1782. VALUE="1782/02/08" CERTAINTY="certain"

Sir: Upon an application of Capt. Van Heer Commanding the Troop of Marechaussé for Money to recruit his Troop the Superintendent of Finance was of opinion, that as he recruited the Men in this State and as they would consequently be placed to the Credit of the State, the Sums necessary for

recruiting should be furnished by them. Should your Excellency agree in this opinion Capt. Van Heer will take your directions.

It has been thought that Men for the

40. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Washington inclosed the above in a brief note of transmittal to Joseph Prentis, who had forwarded the address of the mayor et al., expressing his “regret that circumstances did not admit of my receiving it personally.” The draft of this note is an the *Washington Papers*.

Cavalry might be procured on better terms than for the Infantry; Colo Armand has accordingly undertaken to recruit his Corps at Thirty two Dollars pr Man, and I think it equally probable, that Cap Van Heer will be able to recruit his Troop on the same Terms.

Cap. Van Heer will furnish your Excellency with the returns of his Corps and give you any information respecting it which you may desire. I have the honor etc.⁵²

[H.S.P.]

To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE

Philadelphia, February 21, 1782.

Sir: I take the liberty of laying before your Excellency a Copy of Colo. Humptons return of the number of Recruits which were obtained for the Line of Pensilvania the beginning of this month, so few have been procured in the course of the Winter, the most favorable time for recruiting, that supposing the business will proceed upon the same scale of proportion the number by the opening of the Campaign must be very inadequate to the deficiency of the Line. I have therefore thought it my duty to make this representation to your Excellency with a request that you will lay it before

the present session of Assembly in order that they may take under consideration the necessity of adopting more efficacious means for augmenting the Army than

52. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

what are likely to result from Voluntary enlistments.

The late advices from abroad leave no reason to doubt but that the enemy intend to prosecute the War vigorously; tho' hard pressed by a formidable combination the resources of Great Britain are far from being exhausted, and while she has an assurance that the War will not spread in Europe, she can and will find Men to support the American War. Policy so clearly points out the necessity of bringing our reinforcements in the Field before the Enemy receive theirs, that I flatter myself the State of Pensilvania will contribute every thing in her power to so desirable an end. I have the honor etc.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing I have been favored with the sentiments of a Gentleman well acquainted with the state of Western affairs and with the intention of the Enemy upon that quarter. They have every inducement to be troublesome to us there, independant of the very considerable diversion which it will make in favor of their operations upon the Coast it will serve to establish and secure their claim to the extended limits of Canada. To bar that an offensive operation against Detroit has long been the object of my wishes but if we cannot effect that we certainly can with common exertions stand so formidably on the defensive that all the country beyond the Mountains may be protected. Could your Regiment, which is stationed at Fort Pitt be compleated that with the Virginia

Regt., which I shall also press to have compleated, and the occasional force of the Country would contribute greatly to the latter plan. I mention this matter at this early period because I very clearly foresee that the Army which I shall be able to collect for the probable operations of the Campaign will not admit of Detachments.¹⁶

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Philadelphia, February 28, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with Your Excellencys favor of the 8th of February, since the receipt of which, letters of a later date from Colo Febiger and Lt Colo Posey have come to hand.

From their reports, (notwithstanding the imprudent steps which had been taken) I am glad to learn, the Officers who had signed the representation were convinced of, and sorry for, the impropriety and unguardedness of the expressions contained in it; and that the Detachment, having received a partial supply of necessaries, was on the point of marching. This, I am persuaded has been done, without the interposition of force to compel them to it. It would have given me the most sensible pain, to have heard there was occasion for such an application to the Count De Rochambeau, as such a measure would have impressed our Allies with very disadvantageous ideas of us, afforded our Enemies an opportunity of making unfavorable suggestions, and possibly, might have been productive of very ill

16. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

consequences, on other accounts.

I have reason to expect, that, as ample and permanent provision (as our circumstances can admit) will be made respecting the Staff departments at the Southward, before Colo Carrington departs from this place. The arrangement is now in agitation between the Quarter Master General, the Minister of Finance, and the Deputy Quarter Master Colo Carrington, who I trust will be able to give you a satisfactory account, at his return.

The present circumstances are such as render it inexpedient, to order the Virginia Troops stationed at Pittsburg, from thence; that Garrison will not bear a diminution without endangering the loss of

the Post, and the devastation of the Frontier in consequence. There can be no probability that the Virginia Troops will be incorporated with the Regiment of Pennsylvania. And Your Excellency will recollect, that it is inconsistent with the establishment of the Army, to make the Men belonging to one State, count as part of the quota of another, in consequence of any reformation, or new arrangement of Corps, whatever. I have the honor etc.³⁴

[N.Y.P.L.]

***CIRCULAR TO THE EASTERN AND MIDDLE STATES⁵⁷**

Philadelphia, March 5, 1782.

Sir: The operations of next Campaign being

34. In the writing of George Augustine Washington.

57. New Hampshire to Maryland, inclusive.

contingent, depending in a great degree upon measures which are not within my controul, and very much upon the plans of the Enemy and their efforts to carry them into execution, it is impossible for me, at this time, to say whether any, or how many Militia the States in this part of the Continent may be called upon [to furnish] for the purposes of the Ensuing Campaign: but as I persuade myself it is the wish of every one of them to see a vigorous offensive plan prosecuted with a view of terminating the War honorably and speedily; it becomes my duty to [inform them] that, the Continental force [(admitting the Battalions should be compleated)] aided by any auxiliary Troops that I have any expectations of, [is] totally inadequate to the first and great object which presents itself to our view; and therefore it may be essential to my future plans that the Executive powers of the States should be, if they are not so already, vested with sufficient [authority]⁵⁸ to call forth, properly equipped, such a body of Militia as the exigencies of Service may require; the demand will not be made but in case of necessity, and will be [postponed]⁵⁹ as long as possible;

the consequences therefore of a want of such powers, or of [the] delay, occasioned by calling an Assembly, [on such an emergency,] might prove fatal to our operations, and injurious to our Cause.

I need not add how much it is my wish and desire, and how much the public interest will be promoted by it, that the Continental Regiments should be completed, every man, of which these are deficient, will add to the draught of Militia, and doubly to the public expences; [while these Troops] will

58. Washington wrote “powers,” which Humphreys changed to “authority.”

59. Washington wrote “protracted,” which Humphreys changed to “postponed.”

not be so competent to the purposes for which they are wanted, to say nothing of the disadvantages which Agriculture and Manufactures will sustain by [having] the labourers and Artisans [called off] from their Work.⁶⁰ I would beg leave to suggest that the longer term Militia can be drawn out for the more beneficial and less expensive will their Services be [and that in case of a seige, they ought to be engaged during the continuance of it, or untill relieved by an equal number, so that the operating strength may not be diminished at a critical moment when it may be most wanted].⁶¹

FOR PENNSYLVANIA ONLY

In the course of last year, when an operation against New York was in contemplation, I took the liberty of applying to the State of Pennsylvania for a Corps of Riflemen; then believing, and afterwards (at the seige of York) proving, the vast utility of them. I am induced thus early to renew my application on this head, that in case the State should be called upon for Militia, at least 300, properly Officered, may be of the Class of Rifleman.⁶²

60. Washington wrote “by calling off the labourers and Artisans from their Work,” which Humphreys changed as above.

61. Washington wrote: "At any rate it ought not to be less than two Months from the time they join the Army," which Humphreys changed as above.

62. The letters sent varied in minor verbal details from the above autograph draft. That to Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut, in the writing of David Humphreys, has the following P.S.: "I have the honor to receive your Excellencys Letter of the 21st Febry 1782."

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, March 7, 1782.

Sir: General Forman has applied to me for permission for Mrs. Provost to go into New York, in search of some property she has there, taking with her some person whom he would chuse, and from whom he makes no doubt of obtaining some very useful intelligence on his return.

As Mrs. Provoost and the Gentleman intended to go with her are both Citizens of New Jersey and as the ostensible reason of their going in is of a civil nature I have referred General Forman to your Excellency for the permission he requests, and if there are no particular reasons against your granting it, I think from what I know of General Formans Character he will make it subservient to our Interest.⁶⁵ I have the honor etc.⁶⁶

65. Livingston wrote to Washington (Mar. 8, 1782): "I have received your Excellency's Favour of yesterday, in consequence of it I forwarded to General Forman by the same Express the passports requested." Livingston's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

66. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Philadelphia, March 10, 1782.

Dear Sir: I sincerely sympathize with you, in the arduous task imposed upon you as first Magistrate of the State of Virginia, in consequence of the present distressed and embarrassed situation of affairs; which you so pathetically describe in your Letter of the 15th. of Feby. For it is well known from experience, that in times of War and public Calamity, whoever is engaged in the management of public affairs, must share largely in the perplexities and troubles of them, but at the same time it must be remembered, besides the gratification which results from a consciousness of having done our duty faithfully, that to struggle nobly with misfortunes, to combat difficulties with intrepidity, and finally to surmount the obstacles which opposed us, are stronger proofs of merit, and give a fairer title to reputation, than the brightest scenes of tranquility, or the sunshine of prosperity could ever have afforded.

By my Letter of the 28th of Feby you will see that measures were in agitation for supplying the Staff Departments at the Southward. The Clothier General (out of our little Stock) will send on three or four hundred Suits of Cloathing to the care of the Officer superintending the recruiting Service, for the recruits that may be raised. Such other provision as our circumstances will admit, and the Service may require, will I have

no doubt be made in such a manner, as to prove that no designed system of partiality could have influenced Congress or the Ministers of the great Departments in any of their Arrangements.

I have the honor to inclose to your Excellency the Copy of a Letter of this date from General Knox; if the State will agree to let the Public have the Cannon or the loan of them as suggested in Gen. Knoxs Letter I shall be glad to be advised of it by the earliest conveyance that measures may be taken without loss of time for putting them in a condition for service before the opening of the Campaign. It is unnecessary, I am persuaded, to observe as an inducement for granting the use of them to the public, that similar applications to some of the Eastern States for Iron Ordnance Powder &c last Campaign were attended with success; with the highest sentiments of esteem etc.⁷⁷

[V.S.L.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, March 12, 1782.

Sir: Major Barber,⁸³ who now holds a Commission in the Line of the Army at large, informs me that if the State of New Jersey, to which he belongs, will grant him the Commission of Captain in one of their Regiments, he can prevail upon Captain

77. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

83. Maj. William Barber, aide to Lord Stirling. He had been wounded at Yorktown and served to January, 1783.

Anderson⁸⁴ to resign in his favor, and that he can obtain the consent of all the Captain's junior to Capt. Anderson to his being admitted into his place.⁸⁵ If Major Barber can effect the latter, I would take the liberty of warmly recommending the measure, because permanent provision will be made for a very meritorious Officer for whom it will be difficult otherwise to find employ. Should your Excellency's influence with the Legislature be necessary to forward this matter, you will oblige me by using it upon the occasion. I have the honor etc.⁸⁶

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Philadelphia, March 14, 1782.

Sir: I think it necessary to inform your Excellency, that I have granted permission to the sloops Mary and Leith to proceed from New York to Baltimore, with Cloathing and Necessaries for the British and German Prisoners of War at Frederick Town and other places in the state. Should there be any impropriety in those Vessells going up to the Town, you will lodge orders to have them stopped at any convenient place below it. The Officers who have the Goods in charge will

have occasion for Waggons to Transport them from the place of debarkation to the places of Cantonment. They will pay for the hire of them, and I could wish that no

84. Capt. Joseph Inslee Anderson, of the First New Jersey Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

85. Captain Anderson and the other officers objected to this proposed arrangement; it was not carried out.

86. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

imposition may be put upon them and that they may have passports under your Excellencys authority for their safe conduct thro' the Country. I have the honor etc.⁹¹

[M.D.H.S.]

To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose the Copy of a Return of the Non Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Pennsylvania Line now serving with the Southern Army; your Excellency will observe by the Note annexed to it, that the Return is not so compleat as could have been wished; but General Greene having proposed sending a perfect Return, as soon as it could be obtained, it will be communicated by the earliest opportunity. I have the honor etc.¹³

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Morris Town, March 28, 1782.

Sir: I lately gave permission for two Vessels to

91. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

13. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

proceed as flags of Truce from New York to Wilmington with Cloathing and necessaries for the British and Hessian Prisoners confined in Philadelphia and Lancaster. I thought proper to give your Excellency this information that such measures as you may think necessary, may be taken to prevent any improper intercourse between the Flags and the Inhabitants.

The Persons who have charge of the Cloathing &c. and who are named in the Passports will I suppose want Waggons to transport it to the places of delivery; they will pay the expences and I could wish that they might not be imposed on in this respect. I am &c.⁴⁸

***To MRS. CATHARINE SCHUYLER⁶⁶**

Newburgh, April 6 1782.

Madam: I have been honored with your favor of the 2d Instr. as it is your wish to retain the old guard in preference to the New one ordered, I will direct Genl. Clinton to suffer them to remain till further orders from me, or till circumstances may render it necessary to recall them.

Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to you, Mrs. Hamilton &ca. I am etc.

48. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

66. Wife of Philip Schuyler (née Van Rensselaer).

To ABRAHAM DAVENPORT⁷⁹

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 14, 1782.

Sir: I have just received your favor of the 12th Inst by Mr Baldwin, previous to which I had given direction for Major Maxwell⁸⁰ to continue with his Detachment at Stamford, until the 25 of April; I have now consented that he should remain there with his Command until the first of May; at which time he is positively to join the Army; as the state of the service will not permit Detachments to be absent beyond that period, on any account whatever.

I cannot but hope the State Troops destined for the defence of your frontier will have arrived before the first of May, because under whatever circumstances you may be at that time, it will be impossible for me, consistent with the general Arrangements, to afford any further aid of Continental Troops. With great regard etc.⁸¹

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Newburgh, April 24, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Favor of Yesterday, and

79. Of Stamford, Conn.

80. Maj. Hugh Maxwell, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. David Humphreys wrote him (April 14), by direction of Washington, that his detachment could remain at Stamford until May 1. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

81. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

have to lament the Situation in which I am placed between the Resolves of Congress and the Transactions of this State. It is particularly unfortunate, as Genl Schuyler in answer to his Queries when here, was informed, that I did not conceive myself authorized to issue provisions to the Levies of the State untill they were received into Service. In Consequence of which, I was in hopes the Legislature would have made provision for their Subsistence: But this not being done, and to avoid the disagreeable Consequences which you justly apprehend, I must consent that the

Contractors shall issue provisions to those collecting at the lower Rendezvous, untill the Matter of their Subsistence shall be decided by Congress. The Levies at the Northern posts, I wish to have collected as soon as possible, that they may be ready to relieve the Troops of N Hampshire, which are now I perceive, exceedingly Scattered, and whom I shall want to draw together very soon for the general purposes of the Campaign. I am &c.

P.S. Your Excellency will be sensible that Regular Measures must be adopted for the Issues to the Levies, that no impositions may be practiced upon the Contractors or the public.⁴⁴

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 25, 1782.

Sir: It appears to me, upon further consideration

44. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

essentially necessary, that the Levies of this State should be collected immediately, to some of the Posts where issuing Stores are established by the Contractors, otherwise I apprehend, it will be impossible they should be fed in the manner proposed. I have directed Mr. Sands to issue to all the Levies which may be assembled at Fishkill upon their being duly mustered and returned for Provisions. The inclosed contains a similar Order to the Contractors in the Northern Department to supply all such as may be collected at Albany, or any place where they have an issuing Store. I have made this communication to prevent Mistakes and have the honor etc.⁴⁹

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, April 27, 1782.

Sir: Tho' it is by no means my Opinion that the Enemy will divide their force and again take possession of Rhode Island, there are some circumstances which seem to carry such an Appearance;

I therefore think it would be highly imprudent on our parts to leave any Fortifications standing on the Island [of Rhode Island] which may be of any use to them on such an Event. The Works round Newport can under no circumstances be of any advantage to us and I must therefore request your

49. In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original at Washington's Headquarters and Museum, Newburgh, N.Y.

Excellency to cause them to be levelled immediately.

I am not well enough acquainted with the Situation and nature of the Work on Butts's Hill, to determine positively whether it ought to be destroyed or not; it appears to me that in case the Enemy should reoccupy the Island it would be important for us to have possession of that ground; but whether on such an event possession could be kept your Excellency must determine. I have no troops to spare to Garrison it. If the Work is tenable might not a small Guard be kept in it and such Arrangements be made that (at the first Signal of the appearance of a Fleet) a number of Militia might be thrown in sufficient to keep possession of it? should you think this impracticable I would wish the Works to be destroyed.

I take the liberty to inclose a Letter from Count Rochambeau to Mr de Quemy⁵⁴ Commanding the Emerald frigate. I beg Excy to forward it with all possible dispatch to that Gentleman. I have the honor etc.⁵⁵

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES¹⁷

Head Quarters, May 4[-8], 1782.

Sir: I find myself arrived at that period at

54. Pierre Claude, Marquis du Quesne.

55. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

17. From New Hampshire to Virginia, inclusive.

which I hoped to have seen the Batallions of the several States compleated to their Establishment in conformity to the requisition of Congress of the 19th December last.

The inclosed returns of Recruits which I have caused to be made up to the 1st Inst. will shew how totally short of my expectation the Exertions of the States have fallen; from your State you will find that none¹⁸ have joined the Army in consequence of the above requisition.

All my Accounts from Europe concur in declaring that the¹⁹ Ministry of England are still determined to prosecute the War. It becomes therefore our decided duty, to be prepared to meet their hostile intentions, in whatever way they are to be carried into Execution, to do which our utmost Exertions are now called for. You will suffer me therefore to intreat, that if your State have any expectations from the Military Operations of this season, not another moment, may be lost in providing for and carrying²⁰ into execution, the full completion of their Batallions. It is scarcely necessary to inform you that on this expectation all our calculations must be formed and on this Even must rest the hopes of the ensuing Campaign.

My intelligence of the actual Aid we may expect from our Allies, is not yet so explicit, as will lead me to decide absolutely on the mode of Operation for this Campaign; but were our expectations of Support from that quarter ever so promising, yet from the Negligence and Languor of the States, from whence our own

18. This phrase, of course, varied in each circular; *e.g.*, that to Connecticut read “only Eight Recruits have joined etc.” and that to Maryland substituted for this paragraph: “From the Returns which I have been able to obtain of Recruits furnished by the several States, I am very sorry to observe that there Exertions to this Time, are almost totally short of this expectation.”

19. The draft in the *Washington Papers* reads “the British King and Ministry” and some of the circulars so read.

20. The draft at this point reads: “into most effectual execution.” The circular sent to Pennsylvania also contains these words.

Exertions are to Spring, I am not at this day enabled to give any Assurance of our being prepared to Co-operate with our Allies in any great Objects, equal to their Expectation or our own abilities. I am sorry to say I have the best authority to assure your Excellency, that the Court of France is much dissatisfied with the want of Vigour and exertion in the States, and with that disposition which appears willing at least, if not desirous, to cast all the burthen of the American War upon them. Waving the Injustice and Impolicy of such a temper (which to me appears very conspicuous) how humiliating is the Idea, that our dependance for support should rest on others beyond that point which absolute necessity dictates? how discouraging to our Allies, and how dishonorable to ourselves, must be our want of Vigour and utmost Exertion, at a time when if we are not wanting to ourselves, our prospects are the fairest, that our wishes could extend to.

I find from the proceedings of the several States, that their Calculations of Deficiencies, formed on Application to the several Towns who furnish the Men, are greatly different from the returns sent from the Army. I forbear mentioning many reasons, which might be assigned for this difference, and which in my opinion Originate principally within the State; and will content myself with this one observation, That should the States deceive themselves in this respect, and fail to furnish the expected Force in the Field, they will not only cast an essential injury upon the Army, but the unhappy consequences of a failure in their expectations, from Military

Operations, will reverberate upon themselves, whilst recrimination can have no effect towards alleviating our protracted Misfortunes and Distress.

Altho' Money matters are not within the Line of my duty yet as they are so intimately connected with all Military Operations, and being lately informed by the Financier, in Answer to some small

requisitions on him, that he has not yet received, one penny in Money from any one State, upon the requisition of Congress for the 8,000,000 Dollars, whilst on the contrary some of the States are devising ways, to draw from him, the small sums he has been able otherwise to establish and that he is at this time barely able to feed the Army, from hand to Mouth; I cannot forbear to express my apprehensions on that head; and to urge, with the warmth of Zeal and earnestness, the most pointed and Effectual attention of your State to the actual raising and collecting their proportion of the mentioned requisition. Upon the present Plan of Non Compliance with requisitions, for Men and Supplies, let me seriously ask your Excellency, how it is possible for us to continue the War? how is it possible to support an Army, without Money or Recruits? to what a wretched State must we soon be reduced? how dangerous is it to suffer our affairs to run at hazard, and to depend upon contingencies? to what do the present Measures tend, but to the utter ruin of that cause which we have hitherto so long and so nobly supported? and to crush all the fair hopes which the present moment places before us, were we only to exert the power and Abilities, with which Providence has bountifully

blessed this Country. But if the States will not impose, or do not collect, and apply, Taxes for support of the War, the sooner we make Terms the better; the longer we continue a feeble and ineffectual War, the greater will be our distress at the hour of submission. For my own part I am fully convinced, that without the means of execution, no Officer, who ever he may be, that is placed at the Head of the Military Department, can be answerable for the success of any Plans he may propose or agree to.

Upon this subject I will only add, that from past experience, and from present prospects, I am persuaded, that if the States would furnish the supplies agreeable to the late requisition, and would suffer the Pay, Cloathing, and subsistence, of the Army to go thro' one common Channell, two thirds of their former Expences would be saved; and many partialities, discontents, and Jealousies, which now subsist, would be removed and cease and an establishment of Order, regularity, and Harmony, in our general Affairs, would be experienced, which cannot from the present disjointed and different Systems of Finance, adopted by seperate States arise.

While acting in my Military capacity, I am sensible of the impropriety of stepping into the line of civil Polity; my anxiety for the general good, and an earnest desire to bring this long protracted War to a happy Issue, when I hope to retire to that peacefull state of domestic pleasures, from which the call of my Country has brought me, to take an active part, and to which I most ardently wish a Speedy return; I hope will furnish my excuse,

with your Excellency and the Legislature, while I request your pardon for this Trespass.

[If I should have occasion for the Militia of your State, the Call will be Sudden; and their Movements must be rapid, otherwise great expence will accrue, and only disgrace and disappointment will follow. For these reasons I beg leave to recall your Excellency's attention to my Letter of the 5th. of March last and to pray most earnestly that every previous Arrangement may be taken to facilitate their March when requested.] I have the honor etc.

P.S. May 8th. 1782.

Since writing the above, I have been furnished with sundry English and New York Papers containg the last Intelligence from England, with the Debates of Parliament upon several Motions made respecting the American War; least your Excellency may not have been favoured with so full a Sight of these papers as I have been, I take the Liberty to mention that I have perused these Debates with Care and Attention, with a View, if possible, to penetrate their real Design: And upon the most mature Deliberation,

I am obliged to declare it as my candid Opinion, that the Measure, in all its Views, so far as it respects America, is merely delusory; having no serious Intention to admit our Independence upon its true principles; but is calculated to produce a Change of Ministers, to quiet the Minds of their own people and reconcile them to a continuance of the War; while it is meant to amuse this Country with a false Idea of Peace, to draw us off from our Connection with france and to lull us into a State of Security and Inactivity; which takg Effect, the Ministry will be left to prosecute the War in other parts of the World with greater Vigour. Your Excellency will permit me on this occasion to

observe, that even if the Nation and Parliament are really in earnest to obtain peace with America, it will undoubtedly be Wisdom in us, to meet them with great Caution and Circumspection; and by all means to keep our Arms firm in our Hands; and instead of relaxing One Iota in our Exertions, rather to spring forward with redoubled Vigor, that we may take the advantage of every favorable Opportunity, untill our Wishes are fully obtained. No Nation have ever yet suffered in Treaty, by preparing, even in the Moment of Negotiation, most vigorously for the field.

The Industry which the Enemy are using to propogate their pacific Reports, appears to me a Circumstance very suspicious, and the Eagerness with which the people, as I am informed, are catchg at them, is in my opinion, equally dangerous. I am etc.²¹

[N.H.H.S.]

21. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The P.S. is from the circular sent to Maryland, and is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The paragraph in brackets was omitted from the circulars sent to Maryland and Virginia, There were minor verbal variations in word arrangements, etc., in nearly all of the circulars as sent. In addition to photostats of this circular as sent to various of the States, there is in the *Washington Papers* the draft of the circular and the original of the one sent to Pennsylvania. Both Sparks and Ford print this letter under date of May 4, omitting the paragraph in brackets.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, May 5, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Excellencys Fav. of the 3d.

The Commissioners appointed by me to meet Commissioners from the British Commander in Chief, have unfortunately separated, without effecting the desirable purposes of their Mission, In consequence of which no Exchanges will at present be admitted untill I have the Direction of Congress for the Regulation of my future

Conduct in this Respect. I have the Honor etc.¹

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

[Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 5, 1782.]

[Dear Sir:] The subject of your Excellency's favor of the 23d of March was immediately referred to Major General Knox, who has direction to negotiate that business, so as to obtain the Brass Artillery, belonging to the State of Virginia, as soon as possible.

It is probable His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau will soon put the french Troops in motion; tho as yet, the Objects of the Campaign are not so decided, as to enable me, to inform you for what quarter. Whenever this movement shall take place, considerable quantities of the Equipage, Stores, and Artillery of that Army will be left behind; for the protection of which, the Count sollicita a Body of Militia may be stationed at the Posts of York and Gloucester. I have the honor to inform your Excellency also, that we were obliged at the close of last Campaign, to leave some of our Artillery of Seige and Stores in that part of the Country, for want of the means of conveyance, these will now be totally exposed to loss, or destruction, unless steps are taken to prevent it.

1. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Notwithstanding I am fully sensible of the Expences and Difficulties of calling Militia into service, and wish it may be avoided whenever it is not essential; I think in the present case some measure of this kind will be extreamly necessary, and have therefore to request Your Excellency's attention to, and compliance with the Requisition of the Count de Rochambeau. I have written to the Count stating the embarrassments, and praying that his Estimate of the Numbers wanted may be as moderate as possible, and have the fullest confidence that his application will be calculated accordingly. I have the honor etc.⁹⁹

[N.Y.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, May 6, 1782.

Sir: On receiving information, by a representation from the Inhabitants of Monmouth County, of the cruel Murder of Captain Joshua Huddy of the Jersey State Troops by a party of Refugees from New York. I immediately informed the British Commander in Chief, that unless he delivered up the perpetrators of that horrid deed I should be reduced to the disagreeable necessity of Retaliating.

In answer to my Letter the British General informed me, that a Court Martial is ordered for the trial of the persons

99. In the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are missing from the letter sent, but are supplied from the draft in the *Washington Papers*.

complained of; but at the same time says that those people offer in Justification of the fact, a number of instances of Cruelty committed by us and particularly in Monmouth County; tho' this is by no means admitted; but on the contrary orders are given to designate and send to Camp a British Officer, who, if my demand is not complied with, will be executed. Yet I cannot forbear observing to your Excellency that whilst I demand Satisfaction from the Enemy for the Violences they commit, it becomes us to be particularly careful that they have not the like claim on us, and I must beg you to make it known to all persons acting in a military capacity in your State that I shall hold myself obliged to deliver up to the Enemy or otherwise to punish such of them as shall commit any Act which is in the least contrary to the Laws of War. I doubt not of your doing the same with those who come under the Civil power.

The Enemy also complain of the detention of Hetfield and Badgely who they say were out, by direction of our Commissary of Prisoners, under Sanction of a Flag. I must beg your Excellency to inform me as soon as possible of the Circumstances attending their Capture and the causes of their detention. If those causes are not strictly just I could wish they were sent in.⁶

6. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

May 7, 1782.

Sir: I have had the Honor to receive your Excellency's Favor of the 5th. Communicatg Intelligence from St. Croix, for which I beg you to accept my Acknowledgements and thanks.

It seems we are comg to a period when we are exceedgly in Danger of being imposed upon by the Insidious Measures of our Enemy. You have doubtless seen the Intelligence from N York and the Debates in Parliament upon the American War, which the Country it seems are catching at as a prelude to a Speedy peace, upon principles of Independence. I will only mention to your Excellly that I have perused the several Motions which have been Made and the Debates thereon with great Attention, and upon serious Consideration am obliged to say that the whole appears to me merely delusory, calculated to quiet the Minds of their own people, and to lull the Exertions of ours, and that findg themselves hard pushed in other Quarters, they want to amuse us in America, whilst they attend to other parts of their Empire; which being secured, they will have Time and Means to revert to this Continent again, with hopes of Success.

An Idea of American Independence on its true principles dont appear thro' the whole Debates; but an Idea of reconnecting us to the British Nation, by dissolving our Connexion with France is too prevalent. I am etc.⁹

9. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

***To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK**

Newburgh, May 8, 1782.

Sir: As the plan of Campaign must depend entirely on the means that are put into my hands, of which I have scarcely a conjectural knowledge at this time, and, on the force of the Enemy at their different Posts, I shall be obliged to your Excellency (as the communication between Boston and Hallifax is open to Flags, which frequently pass) for the most accurate account which you can obtain, covertly, of the enemys Numbers at Hallifax and its dependencies, strength of their Works, temper of the Inhabitants, and such other intelligence as may be useful in a Military point of view; the same of Penobscot. I want, if possible, to have the whole before me at one view, that I may point my operations to such objects as I have means to accomplish; your compliance with this request and as soon as it is convenient to you will very much oblige, Sir, Yr. etc.¹²

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, May 8, 1782.

Sir: I had the Honor to receive your Excellency's

12. The letter sent, in the writing of Benjamin Walker, is in private hands (1933). A photograph, kindly presented by George Dudley Seymour, of New Haven, Conn., varies in minor verbal particulars from Washington's draft.

Favor of the 24th of April, inclosing a Copy of your Letter to Congress on the Subject of American prisoners confined in England; with your Sentiments on the Necessity of Retaliation.

I am sorry to inform your Excellency, that a Meeting of Commissioners which had, Among other matters, been concerted for the purposes of a general Exchange, comprehendg. that a release of our Countrymen prisoners in Europe, as well as others, has been unhappily dissolved, without effecting any One of those benevolent purposes, which, on our part, were the Object of their Mission. This Circumstance I fear, will place any future Exchanges, at a great Distance. no means however in my power, will be omitted to effect so desirable an Event.

I have the Honor to concur fully with your Excellency on the Subject of Retaliation, and to inform, that the Circumstances attendg. the Death of Captain Huddy, are like to bring that Object to a point. A Demand has been made by me for the perpetrators of that horrid Deed; the Reply to this Demand, received from Genl Robertson, is not satisfactory; I have informed him therefore, that Orders are given to designate by Lot, a British Officer of the Rank of Capt Huddy, for Retaliation; that the Time and place for his Execution are fixed, and that nothing can stay my Resolution from being carried into compleat effect, but a strict Compliance with my first Request. I expect Genl. Robertsons next Answer will bring this ungrateful Business to an Issue.

I am Obliged by your Hint respecting the powder;¹³ Genl. Knox, in whose Department it is, shall be informed, when he

13. In Connecticut available as a loan to the Army.

arrives from Philadelphia.

If the Demands of the Campaign, which is not yet fully decided, should require for the powder of your State, it will be thankfully received. With great Sincerity etc.¹⁴

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 10, 1782.

Sir: I have given the most peremptory orders that no Flags from the Enemy shall be received at any other place or post but Dobbs's ferry on any business or pretext whatever, and that no flag from us to them shall (for any reason however pressing) be permitted to pass to the Enemies Lines, except from the same place.

This I thought essentially necessary for many Reasons, which I doubt not will occur to your Excellency, and therefore request your aid in carrying the measure into effect, and that you will be

pleased to communicate your orders to all persons who may have occasion to be acquainted with the matter in the State over which you preside.

These Orders, are given to all officers commandg. on the lines in the several States contiguous to Posts occupied by the British, which I shall cause to be rigidly obey'd and hope

14. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

for the concurrence of the civil Power in preventing all other intercourse with the Enemy. I have the honor etc.²²

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 10, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose to Your Excellency, the Copy of a Letter of this date to Colonel Canfield, prohibiting the practice of sending Flags from, or receiving them at any place except the Post of Dobbs' Ferry. This I thought essentially necessary for many reasons, which I doubt not will occur to your Excellency, and therefore request your aid in carrying the measure into effect; and that you will be pleased to communicate your Orders to all Persons, who may have occasion to be acquainted with the matter, in the State over which you preside.

Orders similar to those of Colonel Canfield are given to all the Officers Commanding on the Lines, in the several States contiguous to Posts occupied by the British; which I shall cause to be rigidly obeyed; and shall hope for the concurrence of the Civil Power, in preventing all other intercourse with the Enemy as far as possibly can be done. I have the honor etc.²³

22. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

23. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. This same letter was also sent to Gov. William Livingston, to which was added the following P.S.: "I am told there is quite an open

intercourse between the City of New York and the County of Monmouth, by means of prostituted Flags of Truce.”

***To WILLIAM BURNET²⁴**

Newburgh, May 10, 1782.

Sir: Your letter of the 12th. of April was long on its passage to me. I have endeavoured to recollect every circumstance respecting my employing—Hatfield for the purpose of obtaining intelligence, while the Enemy were at Elizabeth Town in the spring of 1780; what follows is the result.

The Morning after I marched the Troops from their Hutts near Morris Town, to oppose the advance of the enemy; and while we lay at the pass near Springfield; a person of the name of Hatfield (I suppose, and believe it was Moses) was brought to me (either by Colo. Dayton, Colo. Ogden or the deceased Mr. Caldwell, or perhaps Colo. D'Hart) with intelligence of the enemy's strength, and what he had seen of their movements the preceeding day; adding that, it was in the power of him, (Hatfield) to go into, or communicate with People in Elizabeth town and bring me

24. Surgeon general of the Eastern Department, Continental Hospital.

further information. being suspicious of the name, I expressed my apprehension to the Gentleman who introduced him to me, that he was rather sent by the enemy to our Camp *for* , and would *carry* intelligence, than bring such as would be serviceable to us: but having my fears quieted on this head, by assurances that he wished us well; and had it more in his power (by means of his connections) to be useful in this way than most others, I engaged him to get into the enemy's rear (for at that time we supposed them to be at the Connecticut Farms) and ascertain more particularly their strength and designs, either from observation or enquiry, whether any particular mode was pointed out to him by which he was to attempt this. whether it was proposed by, or expected of him at the time, to go upon Staten Island, I do not recollect; nor can I charge my memory with having had any transaction with him since.

I wish most sincerely, that in a matter which nearly concerns the essential interests of any individual, I could be more explicit; but what I have hear said is the substance of my best recollection. I am etc.

To GOVERNOR JOHN MATHEWS

Head Quarters, May 22, 1782.

Sir: I have been bond with your Excellys two Favrs. of the 15th. of March and 11th. of April.

I am happy to Observe the good Disposition of the State over which you preside; their Exertions seem to rise in proportion to the Distresses in which they have been involved. The Act for Recruitg your Line I hope may be attended with happy Consequences.

Our Affairs at this moment are placed in a most critical Situation, a Situation which claims all our Wisdom and Vigor. The Enemy are again trying the Arts of Delusion and Seduction. A total Revolution in their Ministry will be announced to you; this will probably produce a Revolution in Measures, not, I fear, favorable to a speedy Restoration of Peace. Sir Guy Carleton is arrived at N York with propositions of Conciliation similar to those [made?] in 1780.⁸⁵ Ostensible and Delusory, the Consequences [mutilated] Time must disclose.

I feel myself honored by the very polite Claim which you are pleased to make upon my friendship and shall ever be happy in an Occasion to manifest to your Excellency the Esteem with which you have impressed me, and to convince you thereof by any Communications worthy of Notice in your public Capacity. I have &c.⁸⁶

85. See the letters of John Adams to the President of Congress, Mar. 23 and Mar. 24, 1780, and the resolves of Congress of Oct. 18, 1780.

86. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, May 23, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday, with its Inclosures respecting Mr Murson.⁹⁴

Sensible of the Impropriety of suffering persons of his Character to remain in the Country at this Time, I inclose to your Excellency a permission to Capt Pray who commands at Dobb's Ferry, to pass Mr Muirson within the Enemy's Lines. The Time for his going in I submit to your Excellency knowing that you will not wish his Continuence longer than is necessary.

It was my Expectation that your Levy Recruits would have been delivered by the State to their Regiments. But two officers having been ordered on to Receive those at Fishkill from Colo Weizenfelts, I think it will be best for those from Colo Willets Regiment to be delivered at the same place. I have the Honor etc.⁹⁵

[N.Y.P.L.]

94. Benjamin Woolsey Muirson, of Long Island.

95. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 28, 1782.

Sir: In reply to your Excellencys favor of the 15th Inst. I have to observe, that considering the several

important circumstances which have occurred in public affairs and the uncertainty of the operations of the Campaign; I should not think it advisable that the Recruits from your state should march to

join the Southern Army, until further Orders. In the mean time the number ought to be augmented as much as possible, and the preparations such as that they could move at a Moment's warning.

Should it be more convenient for supplies, to have your recruits attached to those of Pennsylvania or Maryland at the nearest Rendevous in either State, I shall have no objection to it. With great respect etc.¹⁴

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, May 29, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your two Letters of the 21st and 23d of this Month.

Your Excellency's reply to Deans Letter²² I read with great Satisfaction, and this pleasure was heightened by findg. that it contained not only your own Sentiments, but also conveys the Sense of the Legislative Body of your State. From a variety of circumstances I view the present, as the most critical moment, that we have almost ever experienced throughout the present

14. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

22. A copy of Trumbull's letter to Silas Deane, May 15, 1782, is in the *Washington Papers*.

contest.

I am very sorry not to have it in my power to comply with your Excellency's Request for a small Invalid Guard for New Gate prison. I assure you Sir! that, in present circumstances and with present prospects, I must estimate every Invalid (capable of any Service) as a good Man, and keep them on constant Duty. With great Regard etc.²³

To PIERRE DE PEYSTER

Head Quarters, June 10, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of this Date. Not having been furnished by Colo Dayton with Copies of what has passed between him and the Civil power of your State respectg your Case, I shall suspend all proceedings with you, untill I shall receive those papers, and have already written to Colo Dayton for them. In the mean Time, you will be indulged to remain in your present Situation. I am etc.⁶⁵

23. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

65. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

***To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON**

Head Quarters, June 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: I perceive by your Excellency's letter of the 10th that I have not been fully understood by Mr Lott. When that Gentn. applied to me for permission for himself, and Son in Law Mr. Livingston, to go into New York, My answr. as nearly as I can recollect, was "I thought he had been well acquainted with my determination not to give passports to Citizens, unless they should previously have obtained permission from the Governor or Executive of the State to which they belonged." He confessed he knew this had been the practice but supposed, as all Flags were confined to Dobbs's Ferry and your Excellency had forbidden any other by proclamation that his application ought to come immediately to me. "I assured him, *as I thought* , very explicitly, that nothing more was intended, by these changes, than to prevent abuses; and those evils which had proceeded from a loose and indiscriminate intercourse with the enemy; that I never had it in contemplation to lay the least restraint upon the Executive of any State to grant permission to any Subject they thought proper to go within the Lines of the Enemy through that Channel; and that all the Agency I had in the matter was to give a permit as a mere official piece of duty. That I did not in the first instance conceive the right was in me, to grant passports to Citizens for

Civil purposes, and moreover that if such a right did exist I should not exercise it without a recommendation from the Executive of the State from whence the applicant came as it was not to be supposed that I could have a general knowledge of characters or that I would enter into an invidious distinction of them by granting to one and refusing another.

This Sir is the substance, if not the very words of my conversation with Mr Lott, and I have only to add to them that my Instructions to the Officer commanding at the Post of Dobb's Ferry (now Colo. Greaton) is, to permit no Person to go into, or come out of New York unless they have regular passports from Congress, the Executive of any State, the Secretary at War, or myself nor to grant Flags under any other Orders.

If your Excellency chooses to give permission to Mr. Lott and his Son in Law, whose characters and principles you have better opportunities to judge of than me to go into New York the door in this case, as in all others, is open to your Orders. I have the honr. etc.

To PRESIDENT JOHN DICKINSON

Head Quarters, June 19, 1782.

Sir: I feel myself much Obliged by the friendly

Communication of your Sentiments to me on the Subject of Retaliation, conveyed under your Favr. of the 30th May;²⁹ a Subject truly disagreeable and distressing to me.

The horrid Circumstances of Barbarity which introduced the Instance which now gains our particular Attention, came to me under the Representation of so respectable a Body of Citizens, that they could not but gain my Notice and Interposition especially from a Consideration that if it was not taken up in this Line, the people, strongly provoked by their feelings on the Occasion, would probably have assumed the Matter upon their own Decision and bro't it to an issue under

their own power, which mode of Proceedg, if permitted, would have involved Circumstances still more lamentable and calamitous.

In takg my Resolutions I also found myself supported by many repeated Declarations of Congress on this Subject. And, after my Resolutions being taken, have had the Satisfaction to receive the fullest and most Decided Approbation of that Hono Body on this particular Instance.

But under all these Circumstances, altho I never had a Doubt on the general propriety of the Measure, yet It was not my Intention, could it be avoided, to have taken as a Subject of Retaliation, an Officer under Sanction of Capitulation or Convention; and my first Orders were issued agreeable to that Idea, but unfortunately, it was reported to me that no Officer of an unconditional Description, was in our possession, which laid me under

29. Dickinson's letter of May 30 is in the *Washington Papers*. His doubts respecting the retaliation were based entirely upon the legal aspects of the matter.

a Necessity of givg further Orders, exceedg my original Intentions; in Consequence of which the unhappy Lot is fallen upon Capt Asgill, a prisoner under the Capitulation of York Town.

I feel myself exceedgly distressed on this Occasion; but my Resolutions, having been taken upon the most mature Deliberation, supported by the Approbation of Congress, and grounded on the general Concurrence of all the principal Officers of the Army, who were particularly consulted on the Subject, cannot be receded from. Justice to the Army and the Public, my own Honor and I think I may venture to say *universal Benevolence* , require them to be carried into full Execution.

It rests therefore on the British Commander in Chief to prevent this unhappy Measure takg effect. An Application is gone to Sir Guy Carlton from Capt Asgill, begging his Interposition to avert his Fate; the Matter is now in Agitation and I am told that a Strict Enquiry is makg into the Conduct of Lippincot, who is charged as being the principal perpetrator of the cruel Murder of Capt Huddy.

Should this Enquiry lead to giving Satisfaction by a Compliance with my Original Demand to Sir Henry Clinton, my feelings will be greatly relieved, and I need not assure you that I shall receive the highest pleasure from such an event. I am &c.³⁰

30. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, June 18, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Excellency's Favor of the 31st. of May, covering your Letter Addressed to Sir Guy Carleton.

As your Letter, with the Depositions which accompany it, contain every thing that is to be said on the Subject, it is needless for me to impress it with any Observations of mine.¹⁵

The Letter to Sir Guy, is forwarded by a flag to N York, and any Reply he may be pleased to commit to my Care, shall be transmitted to your Excellency by the first Conveyance. I am &c.¹⁶

To EGBERT BENSON¹³

Head Quarters, June 18, 1782.

Sir: Some Disputes having arisen between the Army and Mr Sands in the Execution of his Contract; It becomes necessary to have them decided in the Mode prescribed in the Contract, which is by the submittg them to the Decision of three Indifferent Men not of the Army. One to be chosen by the Army, the second by Mr Sands, and the third by the other two.

15. This letter made the complaint that an American sloop was seized by 5 seamen, said to have deserted from a British flag brig. As the sloop was believed to have been carried into New York,

the illegal connivance of the captain of the flag was suspected. Harrison's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

16. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

13. Attorney general of New York; commissioner to superintend British evacuation of New York, 1783; New York Delegate to the Continental Congress, 1784; Member of Congress, 1789–93.

Havg named you on the part of the Army, as one of the Arbitrators, I have to request the favor of you to inform me whether it will be convenient for you to undertake this Business, and when it will best suit you to attend; begging leave to observe that the earlier you fix the Time, in case of Acceptance, the more agreeable to me, and the more Beneficial to the public and the Army. I am &c.¹⁴

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, June 24, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Excellencys Letter of the 18th. and being much concerned for the Occasion, I am much Obliged by a Communication of its Contents.

My Instructions to Colo Dayton were very pointed, strict and positive to prevent every Intercourse with the Enemy by Way of Elizabeth Town, or any of the Jersey posts; informg him that no Communication was to be held with the Enemy but by the Way of Dobb's Ferry. No private Orders have been given by me to Capt Dayton or any other person, giving any Indulgence deviating from my general Orders, and whatever he has done on this Occasion, contrary to what was communicated in my Letter to your Excellency is absolutely contrary to my Mind and Intention.

14. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

I have written to Colo Dayton pr this Opportunity and inclosed Copy of your Letter to me, and have renewed my Instructions to him, that he take every Caution to prevent any Contravention of my Orders.

I am much obliged by your Excellencys Attention to this Matter and beg that you will continue to join your Exertions with mine, to endeavour as much as possible to break up this undue practice of holding Intercourse with the Enemy by any other way than that established at Dobb's Ferry.

If any Information against “ *that Post* ⁵⁵ relative to a more serious Matter,” can be produced and well supported, I will be much obliged if your Excellency will be pleased to have it forwarded to me as soon as possible, with the proper Documents. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁶

***To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COMMONALTY OF ALBANY**

Albany, June 27, 1782.

Gentlemen: Your congratulation on my arrival in this City I receive with pleasure and gratitude.

If in attempting to discharge those duties which every good Citizen owes to his Country, I have been so fortunate

55. Dobbs Ferry.

56. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

as to merit your approbation, and the good wishes and benedictions of the antient and respectable City of Albany, it will contribute not a little to my happiness.

I accept the freedom of the City with thankfulness, and shall retain a just sense of the honor done me by it.⁶⁹

To THE MINISTERS, ELDERS, AND DEACONS OF THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH AT ALBANY

Albany, June 28, 1782.

Gentlemen: I am extremely happy in this opportunity of blending my public duty with my private satisfaction, by paying a due attention to the Frontiers and advanced Posts of this State, and at the same time visiting this antient and respectable City of Albany.

While I consider the approbation of the Wise and the Virtuous as the highest possible reward for my services, I beg you will be assured, Gentlemen, that I now experience the most sensible pleasure from the favorable sentiments you are pleased to express of my Conduct.

Your benevolent wishes and fervent prayers

69. "The Freedom of the City of Albany" is in the *Washington Papers*. It is a vellum slip 13 by 2 # inches, signed by Mayor Abm. Ten Broeck, with the city seal pendant. The text is: "Know all men by these Presents that the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of Albany, in Consideration of his distinguished Services and exalted Merit, do by these Presents admit and receive his Excellency George Washington Esq. General and Commander in chief of the American Army &c. a Freeman and Citizen of the said City. To have and to hold use and enjoy all the Rights Liberties and Privileges granted or belonging to the said City. In Testimony whereof we have caused the public Seal of the said City to be hereunto affixed and the Name of the said Mayor subscribed this 27th. Day of June and in the sixth Year of the Independence of this State."

for my personal welfare and felicity, demand all my gratitude. May the preservation of your civil and religious Liberties still be the care of an indulgent Providence; and may the rapid increase and universal extension of knowledge virtue and true Religion be the consequence of a speedy and honorable Peace. I am etc.⁷³

To THE MAGISTRATES AND MILITARY OFFICERS OF SCHENECTADY

Schenectady, June 30, 1782.⁷⁴

Gentlemen: I request you to accept my warmest thanks for your affectionate address.

In a cause so just and righteous as ours, we have every reason to hope the divine Providence will still continue to crown our Arms with success, and finally compel our Enemies to grant us that Peace upon equitable terms, which we so ardently desire.

May you, and the good People of this Town, in the mean time be protected from every insidious or open foe, and may the complicated blessings of Peace soon reward your arduous Struggles for the establishment of the freedom and Independence of our common Country.⁷³

73. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

74. Washington seems to have been at Saratoga on June 29.

**To THE MINISTERS, ELDERS, AND DEACONS OF THE REFORMED DUTCH
CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY**

Schenectady, June 30, 1782.

Gentlemen: I sincerely thank you for your Congratulations on my arrival in this place.

Whilst I join in adoring that Supreme being to whom alone can be attributed the signal successes of our Arms I can not but express gratitude to you, for so distinguished a testimony of your regard

May the same providence that has hitherto in so remarkable a manner Envinced the Justice of our Cause, lead us to a speedy and honorable peace; and may its attendant Blessings soon restore this once flourishing Town to its former Prosperity.⁷⁵

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 3, 1782.

Sir: From the inclosed information of Captain

75. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker with a later correction by David Cobb.

Stevens, there is reason to apprehend, the business of driving Cattle to the Enemy is carrying on with great art and assiduity; it would be a happy circumstance if the Villains concerned in it could be detected; I have therefore to propose to your Excellency that you will be pleased to take such precautions as you shall judge best calculated to learn whether any such Cattle are passing in droves or small parcels (for they may be divided on the road) to the Enemy.

If you should hear of them before they turn off towards New York, I think it would be adviseable to employ some trusty Man or Men to dog and follow them privately until the fact is ascertained, otherwise it is to be feared, no positive proofs of the intention of the People engaged in this infamous trade can be obtained.

I sincerely wish every practicable plan may be attempted for seizing the cattle and apprehending and bringing to condign punishment the Men; as this would tend essentially to frustrate the insidious Schemes of our Enemies as well as deter their other Agents from similar practices. I am
&c.⁸⁴

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, July 3, 1782.

Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's Letter

84. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The same letter was sent to Brig. Gen. Elias Dayton and to Lieut. Col. Philip Van Cortlandt, changing, of course, the phrase "I have therefore to

propose to your Excellency that you will be pleased to take” to “I have therefore to request you will take.”

On July 3 Cobb acknowledged Mrs. Rachel Holly's letter of June 21 from New Haven and stated that Washington had no objection to her visiting her son, who was a prisoner in New York, “if permission is obtained from Govr. Trumbull” and that she enters New York by way of Dobbs Ferry. of the 21, of June.

Captain Johnson,⁸¹ who was the Bearer of it, had permission granted to him to go to the Enemy's Lines for the purpose of carrying money to the prisoners.⁸²

That your Excellency may be fully informed on what footing the Exchange of naval prisoners now stands, I have directed the Commissary of prisoners to report to you, what he has done in that Business.

Not having any Agency in the Exchange of naval prisoner I cannot give the Directions your Excellency requests; and is deed was this not the case, I should be extreemly unwilling to give any Sanction to partial Exchanges, it having been always my Opinion that this Business should be conducted on a more general Scale; the irregular and partial Mode has been adopted has been pregnant with Many Evils. I have the Honor etc.

July 30, 1782.

Sir: The foregoing was put into the post Office agreeable to its Date, to be conveyed to your Excellency, but thro' the Inattention of the post master was made up in the Southern Mail. And on its return from Philadelphia by the Eastern post, was captured with his Mail and carried into N York, which forms a Necessity of transmitting this Duplicate. With great Regard etc.⁸³

81. Capt. Edward Johnson.

82. Connecticut naval prisoners. The draft of Captain Johnson's passport dated June 27, 1782, is in the *Washington Papers*.

83. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull. jr. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 10, 1782.

Sir: I think it necessary to communicate to your Excellency, the following remarks of the Inspector General, which are annexed to the last Inspection Return of the Rhode Island Regiment:

“This Regt. wants 7 Ensigns, 9 Sergts, 5 Musicians, and 75 Privates to compleat it. The Regiment is in *good order* and *disciplined* , notwithstanding one third of the Men are Recruits.

If it should happen to be deficient in this point, it might be justly attributed to the want of Officers. The Regiment can at present form two large Battalions, but there are scarcely Officers enough to command One. If the State does not fill up the vacancies the Commander in Chief must be requested to appoint Officers from other Lines to command in the Regt.” I have only to add my earnest wish that a matter of so much importance to the service as that of having a sufficient number of Officers in the Field to command the Men, may be attended to, by your State as soon as circumstances will permit. I have the honor etc.¹⁶

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 11, 1782.

Sir: Colonel Lutterloh, Commissary Gen of Forage waits upon your Excellency to represent the state of the Army respecting forage, and to solicit such aid from your Legislature as may be necessary for keeping up the supplies, untill the Financier shall be enabled to take more effectual measures for the purpose.

Give me leave to inform your Excellency that the Horses and Ox Teames of the Army are arriving daily in considerable numbers, that the Commissy of Forage is not possessed

16. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

of Money for the purchase of subsistence for them, and that the Laws of the State are reported to be inadequate to procure the supplies that are absolutely requisite. The inevitable consequence of which will be that the public Cattle must perish or the forage be wrested by violence from the Possessors.

To remedy these evils, I have taken the liberty to trouble you with this, and to entreat that your Excellency will have the goodness to use your assistance and influence in devising some efficacious mode for furnishing Forage, without imposing upon the Public, or injury to the owners; taking care at the same time, that the value of the property taken may be justly ascertained in such manner, as that the debt shall be equitably paid by the Public, without breaking in upon the present arrangements of the Financier, which ought to be supported and maintained inviolably sacred, as we regard the safety and preservation of our Country. I have the honor, etc.²⁷

27. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Philadelphia, July 22, 1782.

Sir: The Count de Rochambeau havg come to a Resolution to remove the Garrison of French Troops, with their Artillery and Stores from Virginia, I think it necessary to inform you of this Event, and that it will be no longer necessary for the Militia of your State to be kept up for their Guard.

It is also my Opinion as well as of the

Count, that upon Removal of the Garrison and Stores it will be best that the Works at York, Gloucester [and West point] should be levelled, that the Enemy may have no object to attempt in that Quarter more than in any other part. This however I give you as a hint of my Judgment. The State perhaps may judge differently and will do whatever they think proper, [not only with respect to the Works, but retaining the Militia or part of them in Service.]⁴⁰

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Philadelphia, July 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: Just before the receipt of your Favor by the post, I had written your Excellency by a private conveyance, which will in a great measure anticipate the necessity of this.

The removal of the french Garrisons from York River, with their Stores will relieve your Militia from the Service they were particularly called on for by the Count de Rochambeau, and will effectually relieve you from the Embarrassment you apprehended respecting the Command.

The Intelligence from Holland is indeed very important. I wish however to be ascertained what Exertions those States will make on this Occasion.

40. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

I have no Objection to the Exchange of Mr. Crew,⁴¹ provided it be done on proper principles.

I am rejoiced to hear of the Act for recruiting your Line, and sincerely wish that the provisions of the Act may be such as to produce the desired Effect. In some Instances the Execution has fallen short of the Intention. Joined with the Men, an effectual Collection of your Taxes, is a Matter of the utmost Moment; but of this I think you are so fully persuaded, that I flatter myself, that no

Exertions within the compass of your power will be wantg, to give us that essential Relief, which our Situation in that respect so much requires. With great Regard etc.⁴²

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 30, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellencys favor of the 24th enclosing the Copy of a Letter from Col Wilier: From which I have learnt with great concern the repeated depredations that have been committed on your Western frontier, and should be extremely happy (were it in my power consistent with the general state of affairs) to afford a sufficient Detachment from this Army to cover the whole Country; but I dare say you must be sensible this

41. Robert Crew, a Virginia merchant.

42. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

is not the case. How far it may therefore be expedient to call forth an additional aid of Militia, I shall submit to your Excellencys judgment, as you are better acquainted with the circumstances of the frontier, the strength of Willets command, and probably the state of the Enemy at Oswego, than I am. In the mean time, I wish to be informed as far as may be in your power, of the force of Willet's Corps now assembled on the Mohawk, also of the strength of the Enemy at Oswego, of which I have as yet had only vague and unsatisfactory accounts.

Since the date of Col Willets Letter, he has, I suppose received four hundred Cartridge Boxes, in which Article his most essential deficiency consisted: in consequence of which I cannot but hope, that *Corps* in conjunction with the Continental Regt stationed in that quarter will be able to give a better protection to the Country than has lately been the case, and to chastise the insolence of the Enemy in any future incursion, especially since they are now likely to be supplied with hard bread

and salted Meat. Of which Articles however, I apprehend there will not at present be such quantities accumulated, but that they may be preserved from spoiling by temporary sheds, or Cellars covered with good thatch, or substantial well-wrought shade of Boughs, which may be constructed by a little care and attention of the Officers and labour of the Soldiers.

This is upon a supposition that the public will not be enabled to erect Stores for the purpose; for notwithstanding the order I have sometime since given to the Qr. Master, to furnish materials for the buildings necessary at the posts on the

Mohawk, I fear he will not have it in his power to do it for want of money. I have the honor etc.⁵⁶

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, July 30, 1782.

Sir: Lt. Heard⁵⁴ of Lt Colo. Lee's Corps informs me that a process is issued against him for the seizure of a Horse the property of Mr. Anderson in Monmouth County in the year 1780. As he says that he acted in this matter under orders from Majr Lee and that those orders were founded on my instructions, I have had recourse to my Papers and agreeable to my promise to Mr. Heard inclose a Copy of the Instructions that your Excellency may Judge how far they will Justify the Seizure in question. I am &c.⁵⁵

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, July 31, 1782.

Sir: I was not till last Evening honored with your Letter

56. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys and David Cobb.

54. Lieut. James Heard. He ranked as captain from March, 1782, and served to the close of the war.

55. The draft is in an unidentified writing.

of the 3d of this Month, accompanied by one from Genl. Bailey, and another from Captn. Johnson.

I am exceedingly pained at the reiterated Accounts of the Distress which subsists in the Territory of Vermont, the more so as I feel myself incompetent to giving any Relief. These Troubles, my dear Sir, appear to me to take their Rise from the Dispute which subsists respecting the Territory of Vermont, as it gives Occasion not only to parties and Divisions within themselves, but also encourages the Enemy to continue their Attempts and Designs among them, which will undoubtedly be aided by artful Men within that Territory so long as the Occasion exists. This Sentiment evinces to my Mind the great Necessity of some Measures being adopted to determine this Dispute, which only can be done by Congress or the concurrent Agreement of the States concerned. So long as this Dispute of Territory subsists, the parties, Divisions and Troubles, both external and internal, will, I imagine encrease. Are there no Means my dear Sir, of bringing this troublesome Matter to a Conclusion? If possible, it should be terminated in some Way or another, the particular mode is not for me to mention, I only give it as my Opinion, that this Measure will prove the greatest Remedy I can devise to allay the Troubles which now exist.

My Sentiments on Captn. Johnson's Situation were given to him in a Letter I wrote to him some Time ago.⁶¹ I am still willing to concur in any consistent means for Exchange that can be devised, but at present I have none within my Reach. I have the Honor &c.⁶²

[MS.H.S.]

61. June 14, 1781, *q. v.*

62. In the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, August 10, 1782.

Sir: Your Excellency will permit me to introduce to Your particular Notice Majr Genl. De Choisey who will have the Honor to present this Letter to you.

As an Officer, old in Comd. and eminent for his Services, he has the Honor to be placed at the Head of the Troops destined for an Expedition proposed by the Marqs. De Vaudruiel against Penobscot, provided that Enterprise should be attempted.

Any Civilities which your Excellency shall be pleased to shew him will be no more than his Merits Demand, and will be most gratefully accepted by Your etc.³³

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, August 10, 1782.

Sir: Your Excellency will be informed by B Genl Choisey, who does me the Honor to be the Bearer of this, that the Marquis De Vaudruiel with a fleet of his Most Christian Majesty's Ships of War, may be soon expected in the Harbour of Boston.

33. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

By a Correspondence which has passed between the Marquis and the Count De Rochambeau (a Copy of which I have been favored with by the latter) I am informed that the French Admiral has it in Contemplation to strike a Coup de Main upon the Post of Penobscot, while his Ships are. to continue in your Neighbourhood, requestg the Opinion and Advice of the Count upon the practicability of the Enterprise. It appears also from the same Communication that the French General has given him a partial, yet pretty plain disapprobation, of the Attempt, and has referred him to my Opinion on the Subject, which the Count De Rochambeau in his Letter to me, particularly requests me to communicate to the Marquis on his Arrival.

However desirable the Object may be, to dispossess the Enemy from that troublesome post, yet, under present Circumstances and prospects, I have not judged the Attempt to be advisable, and have therefore given the French Admiral my Opinion decidedly against it. My particular Sentiments on the Subject will be conveyed to you in the Copy of my Letter to the Marquis, which I do myself the Honor to inclose to your Excellency for your own observation and that of the Executive of your State.

If, notwithstanding my Sentiments and present Appearances, other more favorable Circumstances should turn up, or prospects should so alter as to make the Attempt appear practicable in the Judgment of the French Admiral and Genl De Choisey, as also in the Opinion of your Executive, I have no Doubt but that your State will afford every Assistance in the most

Expeditious Manner, in Men, Cannon, Mortars and Military Stores, that may be found necessary to carry the Operation into Effect. The Distance of the Army from Boston, with other Circumstances, will render it impossible to give any timely Aid from this Quarter. I am &c.³⁴

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, August 10, 1782.

Sir: The Regiment raised by your State being principally composed of Men whose Times of Service will expire with the Campaign, you will probably very soon begin to think of some method of recruiting it. I am informed by Colo. Olney that many of these Men could now be engaged for three Years or the War for a much smaller Bounty than they can be raised for in the State. Of this, it appears to me, there cannot be a Doubt, for long Experience has proved that Soldiers are more ready to enlist while in the Field than when at Home. And in this Way besides a very considerable Expence, we shall save the Time and Trouble of raising and training the Recruits, and prevent the Detriment that may be sustained by the Weakness of the Corps during that period. These Reasons induce me to second the Application of Colo. Olney, and earnestly wish it Success; and that Major Olney who goes to Rhode-Island for this purpose, may be enabled

34. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull jr.

to carry it into Execution. I have the Honor etc.³⁵

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, August 11, 1782.

Sir: Your Excellency's Letter of the 29 July came to hand only the day before yesterday. The intention of confining the Flags to Dobbs ferry was to prevent the disadvantages arising from the continual and unrestricted intercourse that was kept up with the Enemy from Various parts of the Continent and more particularly from Eliz. Town. I have no manner of objection to your Excellency's giving passports to any of your Citizens under the circumstances you mention,¹³ being convinced that you will suffer no person to go whose character and views in going you are not perfectly acquainted with. With great regard etc.¹⁴

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, August 12, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have this Day received your Excellency's

35. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

13. Livingston wished to pass one Moses Tapping to Staten Island, as Tapping thought he could borrow money there to erect a "slitting" mill in New Jersey.

14. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Favor of the 26th of July, covering a Letter directed to Sir Guy Carleton, which has been immediately forwarded to him.

From whatever principle it may be, Sir Guy appears to be disposed, in every Instance, to make himself perfectly agreable to the people of America. A late Letter of his to me announces a “Negociation havg been opened at Paris, for the purpose of a general pacification; and that the British King had given Instructions to his Plenipo. to acknowledge the absolute Independence of America, as the Basis of the Negotiation. In full Confidence however, that the Loyalists should be secured in their property, or be refunded for any Confiscations which have been made.”

Whether this, Negotiation is really intended to embrace the compleat Object we have in view; or whether it is designed as a temporary Amusement, cannot at present be fully determined; past Experience, in my Opinion, should teach us the most jealous caution. With great regard etc.¹⁹

[V.S.L.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, August 23, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 21st. and am obliged by the communication it contains; so much time hath elapsed since the party under Brandt is said to have set

19. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

out, that I am inclined to think the report either false or that they must have been recalled, as they would had they proceeded, have been down at Conojohary long since.

I have recd. nothing from Sir Guy Carleton in the political line, since his letter of the 2d. and I believe nothing has been yet communicated by our own Commissioners in Europe or to the Minister of France from his Court on the subject of pacification. I have the honor etc.⁸⁴

To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 2, 1782.

Sir: I was yesterday honored with your Excellency letter of the 28th. ulto. by General Potter and Colo. Magaw and am very sorry to hear that the Indian Ravages upon your Frontier have become so extensive and of so alarming a nature. I beg you to believe that every thing that depends upon me shall be done to check them. For this purpose I have agreed that the Pennsylvania Recruits collected at Carlisle if it meets the approbation of Congress, under Colo. R. Butler and Genl. Hazens Regiment at Lancaster shall be put upon the service you request, provided the Secretary at War can be furnished with the means of safely guarding the Prisoners of War at Lancaster. I have written to him to this effect, and have requested him to furnish such

84. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

necessary Stores for the expedition in contemplation as may be under his direction and, in short, to accede to such plans of operation as may be concerted between himself and Gentlemen acquainted with the Country which it is proposed to penetrate. My ability extends no farther. Candor now obliges me to inform your Excellency that I foresee infinite difficulties attending the putting the expeditions in motion and all arising from one source, want of Money.⁵² It is with the utmost difficulty we now find means of subsisting the Army lying still in the Field and upon the bank of the Hudson, where supplies are easily transported by Water.

I cannot form a judgment of the expence which will probably be incurred as the Gentlemen appointed to confer with me did not bring with them the estimates which are alluded to.

As I have given my sentiments to the Gentlemen above mentioned in a fuller manner than I have expressed them herein, I beg leave to refer your Excellency and the Council to them for a more particular detail. I have the honor etc.⁵³

52. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "The application on this head will go from the Secretary at War to the Superintendent of Finance, but except he has been more fortunate

in his receipts of Taxes from the States very lately than he was some little time ago, I am almost convinced it will be out of his power to supply the necessary funds.”

53. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. This same letter was also sent to Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Pennsylvania.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, September 4, 1782.

Sir: Miss Delancy has this Day made pressing Application to me to get into N York. I have informed her that no admission from me can be granted to any Persons in civil Capacity without the Approbation and consent of the Executive of the State to which they belong.

Miss Delancy is therefore referred to your Excellency; if your permission is given her my Duty will be merely Official. I am &c.⁸¹

81. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE SELECTMEN OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT¹⁹

Head Quarters, Veplanks Point, September 11, 1782.

Gentlemen: I am favored with your Letter of the 9th Instant, and much applaud the spirit you have manifested to assist in cutting off all kind of intercourse with the Enemy except at Dobbs Ferry.

With respect to the Persons who lately came without a Flag from Loyd's Neck to Norwalk,²⁰ I have to observe, that as this is the first instance that has come to my knowledge, I have not thought it absolutely necessary to detain them, but have advised Col Canfield to write in the most pointed terms to the Commandt of Loyds Neck, that in case any other instance of this kind shall happen or

if any flag should in future be sent to that quarter under any pretext whatever, the Persons coming from the Enemy will be considered and held as Prisoners of War.

And with regard to Lieut Quintond²¹ and other Prisoners who came out on Parole, I must inform you, Gentlemen, that

19. The draft is addressed "To the Civil Authority and Selectmen of Norwalk," but the letter to Washington, dated September 9, is signed by Thaddeus Betts, Stephen St. John, 2d, and Eliphalet Lockwood, Justices of the Peace, and John Lockwood, James Richards, and Ozias Mervin, Selectmen.

20. These were American seamen returned from confinement in one of the prison ships at New York, by a boat and crew of loyalists from Lloyd's Neck, which, by Washington's direction, was allowed to return.

21. Lieut. James Quintand (Quintond), commander of a Connecticut(?) armed boat.

at the same time, I do not consider myself authorized to interfere immediately in Naval Exchanges,²² I cannot object to the exchange of the Persons in question thro' the usual and proper channel. If the two Persons you mention²³ are now in the Provost at West Point, they will soon be sent in with some other Prisoners to be accounted for.

As to the intercourse you speak of, between Civil or other Characters and the Enemy on Long Island, I think it essential to acquaint you explicitly, it is my fixed opinion, that No reasons of œconomy or expediency can warrant the Measure; and that every judicious and practicable plan should be devised to prevent it.²⁴ I am etc.²⁵

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Head Quarters, September 16, 1782.

Sir: The present superiority of the British Fleet upon this Coast, naturally makes the Marquis de Vaudruiel apprehensive for the safety of that under his command in the Harbor of Boston. Should the enemy make an attempt upon him, a land force, superior to what he possesses, will be necessary for his defence, and for that he must depend upon the Militia in the neighbourhood of Boston. I am certain that to mention this circumstance, is all that is wanting,

22. Lieutenant Quintand and his crew brought with them a letter from the British commandant at Lloyd's Neck, proposing certain men (American prisoners) for exchange.

23. Isaac Raymond and Thomas Selleck.

24. This intercourse consisted of those British paroled prisoners who came over to Connecticut from Long Island to answer their paroles at intervals and who sometimes brought others with them, "Refugees from Long-Island and Gentlemen of Eminence come out of the State of Norwalk and Contract with some Boat to set them across the Sound, of this Rank are sundry now at Long-Island and by what Authority we cannot tell, our People also on Parole on Long-Island cross the Sound and for Excuse say they had no Money to Defray the Expences of a Journey by Dobbs Ferry." This letter, dated Sept. 9, 1782, is in the *Washington Papers*.

25. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

induce your Excellency to give orders, for the assemblage of such a number as may be deemed necessary upon the requisition of the Marquis de Vaudruiel. I have the honor etc.⁵⁵

To JAMES LOVELL

Head Quarters, September 16, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 9th. instant solliciting my favor for a certain Mr George Joy with the Enemy.

Should I be so happy as to enter N York, so early as you mention is the Expectation of the people of Boston; which Event, to me, I must Confess does not appear so promising as they seem to imagine, It will not be for me to determine upon the Merits or Demerits of Individuals, who may think proper to remain in that City; this decision will be left to the civil power of the several States to which they may belong.⁵⁶ I am &c.⁵⁷

To PRESIDENT WILLIAM MOORE

Head Quarters, September 23, 1782.

Sir: Having received Yesterday from the Secretary

55. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On September 16 Washington wrote also to Comte de Rochambeau (who had requested that the above application he made to Hancock) that the application had been made. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

56. Lovell had written that New York was to be “*speedily evacuated*,” and that Joy had befriended him when a prisoner in Halifax in 1776. Lovell's letter of September 9 is in the *Washington Papers*.

57. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

at War, a Resolution of Congress of the 13th inst. wherein he is “directed to take Order for carrying into Execution the Expedition projected by the State of Pennsylvania against the Savages infestg their Frontier, so far as the Commander in Chief has approved of employing therein the Recruits of that State, or other continental Troops,” I think it proper to communicate to your Excellency, the followg Paragraph of a Letter which I have lately received from Sir Guy Carleton, dated N York 12th Sepr. Vizt. “As to the Savages, I have the best Assurances that from a certain period, not very long after my Arrival here, no parties of Indians were sent out, and that Messengers were dispatched to recall those who had gone forth before that Time; and I have particular Assurances

of disapprobation of all that happened to your party on the Side of Sandusky, except so far as was necessary for self Defence.”

By repeated Accounts from our Northwestern Frontiers, which are all quiet and Still from any inroads of the Savages, or Enemy of any kind, I am induced to view the above Information of Sir Guy Carleton as grounded on the fullest Matter of Fact.

This being the State of Matters at this Moment, I beg leave to submit to your Excellency's Consideration, whether the proposed Expedition, has the same motives for its Execution, as before we were informed of these facts, and whether the best means for securing the peace and Tranquility of your frontier from the Depredations of a Savage Enemy, will not be to leave them to the Direction of their British Managers, who at present seem disposed to keep them in a State of Quiet and Tranquility. For my own part I give it as my candid

Opinion, that it will be best under the Circumstances to decline the Expedition; least, instead of giving security to the Inhabitants on the Frontiers, we should again rouse, their savage Neighbors to acts of self Defence and Revenge, in which, it is more than probable the English not considering themselves as Parties will not attempt to restrain their Rage and Fury.

Indeed this was my Opinion at the Time your Messengers first Communicated to me the wishes of your State respecting this projected Expedition; but I am more fully assured of its propriety, since I have been informed of the Facts, which I have now mentioned, and which came to my Knowledge some Time after the Gentlemen had left me.⁶

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, September 28, 1782.

Sir: By repeated Information from N. York, the Enemy have in contemplation an Attack either upon the ships of his most Christian Majesty at Boston, or those at Portsmouth, or perhaps both. Those at Portsmouth being in the most defenceless situation, may perhaps engage their attention. These

reports may be groundless, but it nevertheless behoves us to be ready to give our generous Ally every Assistance in our power, should there be occasion. I would therefore wish you to

6. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

warn the Militia in the neighbourhood of portsmouth to be ready to turn out at a moments warnng, at the appearance of an Enemy upon the Coast. I had some time ago made a similar request to the Governor of the State of Massachusetts. With great regard etc.²⁶

[N.H.H.S.]

To REVEREND JOHN WITHERSPOON⁶⁹

Head Quarters, October 8 1782.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 3d instant.⁷⁰

Since the settlement of a general Cartel is not likely to be effected, I do not consider myself at Liberty to enter into the practice of partial Exchanges, without the Direction of Congress, to whose Consideration it has been submitted.

I shall Wait this Decision; should it be in favor of partial Exchange, I know nothing at present, but that Capt. Graham may as well be indulged as another. I am &c.⁷¹

26. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

69. President of College of New Jersey; later Princeton University.

70. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

71. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, October 9, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have the honor of your Excellency's letter of yesterday; similar intelligence to that contained in it had been transmitted to me by General Bayley himself. Altho' I make it a rule never to despise any information, yet, I think with you; that no more is necessary at present than to order the force to the Northward, both regular and Militia to be prepared. The advanced season is, in my opinion, alone, an obstacle to such an expedition as General Bayley mentions; besides, can it be supposed that the Commr. in Chief in Canada would commit his whole Force to a Route which had already proved fatal to a much superior Army, and at a time when Sir William Howe was able to make so powerful a diversion in Pennsylvania. I have the honor etc.

I return your Excellency the inclosures contained in yours.⁷⁵

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, October 10, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the

75. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

16th. ulto. In consequence of reports which I recd. from New York, that the enemy mean an attack upon the French ships either in Boston or portsmouth Harbor, I advised the Marquis de Vaudreuil to keep upon his Guard, and have requested the Govs. of Massachusetts and New Hampshire to hold their Militia in readiness, should there be occasion for them. I cannot think your posts in any danger for the following Reasons: There is no object in them, and as the enemy could only effect their designs further Eastward by a Coup de Main, they would never, I think, give the Alarm by

commencing an attack upon you. The Caution you have taken of holding your Militia in readiness, is, however a proper measure in my opinion. I have the honor etc.⁸⁰

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, October 9, 1782.

Sir: Lt. Colbreath⁷⁶ quarter Master to the 2nd New York Regiment informs me that a suit is carrying on against him for a Trespass in taking some cattle which he impressed under your Excellency's Warrant in consequence of which I am under the necessity of granting leave to Lt.

Colo. Cochran⁷⁷ and several other persons to go from the Army to Albany as evidences on the part of Mr. Colbreath. I need not observe to your Excellency how exceedingly injurious such vexatious suits, as this appears to be, are to the public Service, and how

80. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

76. Lieut. William Colbreath, of the Second New York Regiment He served to June, 1783.

77. Lieut. Col. Robert Cochran, of the Second New York Regiment.

peculiarly hard it is on the officer to be put to so much trouble and expence for doing what indeed he is obliged to do. Your Excellency will I am persuaded do every thing that lays in your power to assist and relieve Mr. Colbreath in this affair. I have the honor, etc.⁷⁸

78. From a copy of the original kindly furnished by Mrs. Ernest L. Ives, of Pretoria, South Africa. The draft, dated Oct. 10, 1782, and in the writing of Benjamin Walker, differs from the above text in minor verbal variations only and is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JAMES LOVELL⁴

Head Quarters, October 16, 1782.

Sir: I am extremely obliged by the information contained in yours of the 10th. I immediately forwarded your letters and the papers to Mr. Morris by Express.

I am convinced we have nothing to expect from Great Britain but what her necessities shall oblige her to give up. She is somewhat like a person in desperate circumstances. She can scarcely be in a worse condition, and by persevering something fortunate may turn up. Upon this plan, I believe, she prosecutes the War. I am etc.⁵

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, October 19, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 15th Inst. with the Enclosures, and tho' at the same time it is true, I have the General command of the allied Army, as to all its movements operations &c. yet I have never considered myself as having an absolute right to interfere with the internal police and regulation of

4. Then in Boston.

5. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the French Army under the immediate Orders of His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau; with which Army it appears the Persons mentioned in the papers contained in your Excellency's Letter are connected.¹⁸ I have however, in order to produce an amicable settlement of the matter, communicated the Contents to Col Wadsworth, and requested him to use his utmost endeavours to prevent any Altercations and quarrels between the Citizens of this State and the *People employed by him* . As he has engaged that they will not impede the due execution of the Civil Authority, and

as he writes to your Excellency by this conveyance, I cannot but hope matters will be explained to your satisfaction.

For my own part I shall still continue to exert all my influence and authority to prevent the interruption of that harmony which is so essential, and which has so generally prevailed between the Army and the Inhabitants of the Country; and I need scarcely add that in doing this, I shall give every species of countenance and support to the execution of the Laws of the Land.

In the present quiet state of the frontiers and assurances from Sr Guy Carleton that the Incursions of the Savages are stopped by Authority, I have it in contemplation to withdraw the continental Troops from the Northward. There are many reasons which will make that measure eligible; unless the Troops which have been raised on purpose for the defence of the frontiers of this State, should be thought incompetent to the duty, even taking into consideration the inactivity of the season and the situation of affairs:

18. Daniel Woolsey, a citizen of Westchester County, brought a damage suit against Jehosiphat Starr, a foragemaster for the French Army, under Col. James Wadsworth, contractor for supplying that army; and William Dean, a constable attempting to serve a warrant for the arrest of Starr, was, by him, sent to the provost and, later, ordered out of the French camp by Colonel Wadsworth. Samuel Drake, Westchester justice of the peace, forwarded the complaint to Governor Clinton, whose letter of October 15, with the letter from Drake and an affidavit of Dean, are in the *Washington Papers*.

for indeed I confess, I do not consider the late Reports of the Enemy's being in force at the Isle au Noix, to indicate any thing farther than an attention to their own security, the severity of the approaching season and every other circumstance appear to me, to militate against an attack upon our possessions this Winter. And we shall not be at so great a distance but that succor may be afforded as early in the spring as shall be necessary. At any rate some measures must be immediately taken relative to the Troops now there; I should be happy in receiving your Excellency's sentiments as soon as may be, and am With great Esteem etc.

I should be much obliged by an ansr at the return of the bearer.¹⁹

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, October 23, 1782.

Sir: By a Resolution of Congress of the 7th. of August last, a Reform of the Regts. now in the Army, is to take place on the 1st Jany next and a Reduction of their Number to be made, so as to form complete Regts. of 500 or 612, Rank and file as the Secretary at War considering the circumstances shall judge most conducive to the good of the general Service.

On comparing the Number of Men in your

19. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

State Regts. they will not come up to the Complement of two Regts. upon the smallest Scale, which Number the Secry at War, as well as myself are very Desirous to keep them at.

I have therefore to request that your Excellency will be pleased to lay this Circumstance before the Legislature of your State, and to urge, that Measures may immediately be adopted, to recruit the Line of your State, in such Manner as to form two Compleat Battalions of at least 500 Each, rank and file.³⁰ Colo Ogden will present this to your Excellency, and will be able to give you a State of their present Numbers.

You will suffer me Sir to add, that my Opinion, grounded on the last Intelligence from Europe, and the State of British Policy and Views, is fully in favor of this Measure; It being more than probable that the Negotiations of the British Court are merely delusory, and that a Continuation of the War is still to be expected, in which Case, a greater Number of Troops than are now on foot will undoubtedly be wanted.

But admitting that Affairs should take a more favorable Turn, and a peace should prove to be the Event, yet the Expences attending this Measure should it be carried into Effect will bear no Comparison to the Benefits which will result from it, in the other Case.

This Requisition is not Singular to your State, but is also extended to the State of N Hampshire, whose Regiments are on a similar footing with your. I am &c.³¹

30. In a letter to President Meshech Weare of New Hampshire, instead of the sentence beginning "Colo Ogden" the following was used: "to do this about 200 Men will be wanted, to be raised as Recruits."

31. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

The letter sent to President Weare, which is the same as this draft, with the exception noted, is also in the writing of Trumbull, and is in the New Hampshire Historical Society.

To VICE PRESIDENT JAMES POTTER⁴⁹

Head Quarters, October 26, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 19th. instant. The subject, upon which it is written, has never, as you mentioned, been referred to me by Congress; and should it be, I shall be extremely averse to deciding upon it, for reasons which must be obvious to you.⁵⁰

Some little time ago, the Secretary at War made a question upon the expediency of continuing the Garrison at Wyoming. My answer was, that it was my wish, for the sake of discipline, to have it withdrawn: But that it having been placed there by the immediate

49. Of Pennsylvania.

50. Connecticut's claim to the Wyoming country.

order of Congress, I did not look upon myself at liberty to withdraw it without their express direction. The propriety or impropriety of the measure therefore had best be discussed before that Honorable Body. I have the honor etc.⁵¹

[H.S.P.]

To EBENEZER HAZARD

Head Quarters, October 24, 1782.

Sir: The Secretary at War has been consulted on the subject of your Letter and it is concluded for the present that the Dragoons shall continue to carry' the Mail as they have done for some time past.

The Head Quarters of the Army will move in a day or two to Newburg; I desire therefore that the Mail may in future be sent by Morris Town, from thence by the most direct road to Colonel Swards, then thro' Warwick and Chester to Newburg except the Route thro' Hackers town to Sussex, Warwick &c. which would be inconvenient to the People of Jersey, the one now proposed is the most direct and the safest that can be taken; it has been proposed before, but has always been opposed by the different Post Masters on account of distributing their News papers. If however it should not be thought proper now to take that Route I cannot nor shall I confide in the Post for any Dispatches coming to or going from Head Quarters; nor can the Dragoons

51. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

be furnished as an Escort.³⁵

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, October 30, 1782.

Sir: I have the Honor to inform your Excellency, that in formg the general Arrangements of Winter Cantonments for the Army and in Consequence of your Representation; One Regt. has been allotted to the Defence of the Northern frontiers of this State. Colo Olney with the Rhode Island Regiment is Ordered to repair to Albany and the two N Hampshire Regiments will join the Army, who are takg their Hutting Ground in the Neighbourhood of N Windsor.

This Regiment, which is a strong one, with the State Troops under Colo Willetts Command, I fancy will be fully sufficient to keep up the necessary Defence of the Winter, and to calm the Apprehensions of the Inhabitants.

My Lord Sterling will remain during the Winter in his present Command. I am &c.⁵⁹

35. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

59. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On October 30 Washington wrote to the Marquis de Vaudreuil, inclosing copies of General Forman's information of October 24 and 26 and forwarded the letter through Comte de Rochambeau under a flying seal for his information. Drafts of these letters are in the *Washington Papers*, as is also Forman's intelligence.

On this same day (October 30) Trumbull wrote a certificate for Capt. William Popham, granting him permission to remain in Albany. Trumbull's draft as in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 5, 1782.

Sir: I must request your Excellency to make it a Rule in future, when persons apply for Liberty to go to or within the Enemy's Lines, to insert in your passports that they shall repair to Dobbs's Ferry, which is the only post from whence Flags are sent, or at which they are received. This is absolutely

necessary to prevent that illegal Intercourse and Traffic, which are now carried to so great a Height. I am induced to mention this to your Excellency, because Mr. Buchanan, who lately obtained a passport from the Executive of the State, came first to Dobbs's Ferry and waited a Day or two. He went from thence to Eliza. town or some place in that Neighborhood, and then passed to New York by some Conveyance not properly authorized, and came out the same Way. I do not mean to charge Mr. Buchanan with any sinister Intention in going in the Manner above mentioned. It might have proceeded from Inadvertence or

Ignorance. But if Dobbs's Ferry is particularly specified in the passports, the persons, who infringe them, cannot make use of either of the foregoing pleas to justify themselves. I have the Honor etc.⁶⁷

[MD.H.S.]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, November 12, 1782.

Dear Sir: I wish to take a ride as far as Kingston, and if your Excellency should be disengaged, and can accompany me,⁸⁵ I will do myself the pleasure to call upon you on Thursday, and go up on Friday. I would wish to return on this side the River by the Wall Kiln. I shall be glad of an answer by return of the Bearer. I have the honor etc.⁸⁶

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, November 13, 1782.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inclose you the extract of a letter,⁸⁹ which I have lately received from His Excellency

67. In the writing of Hodijah Baylies. The same letter was written to President Dickinson, of Pennsylvania; the person who ignored the regulation in this case being a Mr. Craig.

85. The Governor did not accompany Washington on this trip.

86. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.

89. This letter, dated Nov. 6, 1782, is in the *Washington Papers*.

the Minister of France, on the subject of the amazing quantities of provisions which the enemy draw, from the States contiguous to New York. The evil complained of has been long growing, and has at length arisen to a height truly alarming. I persuade myself no arguments will be wanting to induce the Legislature of your State, at their next sitting, to pay that attention to the matter, which its importance deserves.

I have ever been of opinion, and every day's experience convinces me more and more of the truth of it, that nothing short of Laws making the supply of the enemy with provisions or stores, or holding any kind of illicit intercourse with them, Felony of Death, will check the evil so justly complained of. A moments reflection must convince every thinking mind, that four such Armies as I command, would be inadequate to the purpose. The attempt by military coercion alone might prove ruinous. For, to guard the immense length of communication from the Coast of Monmouth in Jersey Eastward, would so dissipate my force, that every detachment would invite and be at the mercy of the enemy. This observation is too striking to need urging, and shews in the clearest point of view, that rigid Laws, rigidly executed, are the only remedies that can be applied, next to a sufficient Force to invest the enemy in their post of New York. I have the honor etc.⁹⁰

90. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, November 13, 1782.

Sir: I am persuaded that the importance of the inclosed Act of Congress of the 30th Ulto. and extract of a Letter from His Excellency the Minister of France on the subject of it, will most seriously call the attention of the Legislature of your State to the matter therein mentioned. The evil complained of has been long growing, and has at length arisen to a height truly alarming.

I have ever been of opinion...⁹⁴

94. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The omitted portion is almost identical with Washington's letter to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Nov. 13, 1782, *q. v.*

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, Newburg, November 13, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 25 Ulto. and have the pleasure to inform you that all the Prisoners taken and carried into Canada have been lately released upon what terms I do not know; about 170 mostly Women and Children may be expected here every moment by way of the Lakes about 400 more mostly Men are sent round to New York by Sea.

I shall immediately write to General Muhlenberg and direct him to call any Officer who may presume to place their recruiting money to their own private Credit for arrearage of Pay to a severe account but I hope no other instance will be found but the one you mention.

Your Excellency has been truly informed as to the discipline of the Army under my immediate Command which has arrived to a perfection that reflects the highest honor upon the Officers and Men; I wish I could say you had been as rightly informed as to their numbers consider by dear Sir, I have with me only the Troops from New Jersey to New Hampshire inclusive and were the Regiments all compleat they would make far from a numerous Army.

The southern States are, I imagine by this time intirely rid of an Enemy, and I flatter myself that their exertions will not be wanting

to send their quotas of Men into the Field,⁹¹ [but how is the Army to be supported, if the States do not furnish the means?] with very great regard etc.⁹²

[V.S.L.]

***To THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON**

Kingston, November 16, 1782.

Gentlemen: I receive with peculiar pleasure, the affectionate Address² of the Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the Town of Kingston. Your polite and friendly reception of me is a proof of its sincerity.

While I view with indignation the marks of a wanton and cruel enemy, I perceive with the highest satisfaction that the heavy Calamity which befel this flourishing Settlement seems but to have added to the Patriotic Spirit of its Inhabitants; and that a New Town is fast rising out of the Ashes of the old.

That you and your worthy Constituents may long enjoy that Freedom for which you have so nobly contended is the sincere wish of Gentn. Yr. &c.

91. At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "Should the War continue it will be to the eternal disgrace of the States, should the enemy be permitted to keep possession of New York with their present numbers."

92. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

2. This address, in the *Washington Papers*, is unsigned; but the Rev. W. N. P. Dailey, of New York City, is authority for the statement that the address was presented by the president of the trustees, Maj. Henry J. Sleight.

To THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF HURLEY

Hurley, November 16, 1782.

Gentlemen: I return you my thanks for this very flattering mark of your Esteem, and exceedingly regret that the duties of my station will permit me to make but so short a stay among a people from whom I have received the warmest proofs of regard and for whose Characters I entertain the highest respect.

It is peculiarly pleasing to me, to find that my conduct has merited the approbation of my fellow Citizens. If my endeavours shall have contributed to the Freedom and Independence of my Country, that consideration will more than amply repay all my Labors.³

***To THE MINISTER, ELDERS, AND DEACONS OF THE REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH IN KINGSTON**

Kingston, November 16, 1782.

Gentlemen: I am happy in receiving this public mark of the esteem of the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the

3. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The address of the trustees of the freeholders and inhabitants of Hurley, signed by Matthew Ten Eyck, Speaker, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in Kingston.⁴

Convinced that our Religious Liberties were as essential as our Civil, my endeavours have never been wanting to encourage and promote the one, while I have been contending for the other; and I am highly flattered by finding that my efforts have met the approbation of so respectable a body.

In return for your kind concern for my temporal and eternal happiness, permit me to assure you that my wishes are reciprocal; and that you may be enabled to hand down your Religion pure and undefiled to a Posterity worthy of their Ancesters is the fervent prayer of Genre. Yrs. &c.⁵

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, November 19, 1782.

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 13th. inclosing the examination of Osgood. You will be pleased to keep him closely confined untill you hear further from me on the matter and if possible prevent the information which he has given from taking wind; otherwise the characters mentioned by him may make their escape.

Considering the peculiar situation of the people of Vermont

4. The original address of the ministers, etc., is in the *Washington Papers*. It is signed "George J: L: Doll. V. D. M."

5. From a facsimile of the original (said to be hanging in the vestibule of the Dutch Reformed Church at Kingston) kindly furnished by Rev. W. N. P. Dailey, of New York City, who states that Washington spent the night of November 15 at Col. Cornelius Wynkoop's, having come up through Rondout Valley to Stone Ridge; "the following morning he started out for Kingston passing thro the village of old Hurley to which the people of Kingston had fled when the British burned Kingston." While in Kingston Washington stayed at the public house of Evert Bogardus, dined at Judge Dirck

Wynkoop's and appeared at a levee in his honor in the Bogardus ballroom the night of November 16.

The entry in Washington's "Accounts of Expences as Commander in Chief" is: "To the Expences of a Tour to Poughkeepsie; thence to Esopus, and along the Western Frontier of the State of New York" £43.10.4. The frontier could not have been much farther west than the eastern slopes of the Catskill Mountains, as Washington seems to have been back in Newburgh by November 18.

I do not conceive my self at liberty to interfere without the direction of Congress. I have transmitted the intelligence and shall wait their order.

The determination of the state to make every filing agreeable to the Army of our Ally is truly laudable. I have the honor etc.¹⁶

TO PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 5, 1782.

Sir: I am honored with your favor of the 25th. Ulto. by Lt Col Johnson. I have no doubt but there has been a great deal of illicit Intercourse between some of the Inhabitants of Vermont and the Enemy in Canada; but as the Gentleman you referred to could not state the transactions in so explicit a manner, as to fix the charge on Individuals, so that they might be proceeded against; I have desired him, upon further recollection to make his information as pointed and definite as possible, and to Communicate the Result to, Mr Peabody or yourself.

Whenever the apparent circumstances and proofs are such as will justify my interference, I shall not fail to use every means in my power to stop the progress of any pernicious negotiations which may be carrying on between any of our Countrymen and the British, and to have the Authors of them brought to

16. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

condign punishment. I have the honor etc.⁸⁵

To NATHANIEL PEABODY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 5, 1782.

Sir: I have duly received your favor of the 27 of Novr.

For some time past, I have been fully persuaded, that the British, had been tampering, by their Emissaries with some Individuals within our Lines, and that a very improper and dangerous communication had been kept up between the Enemy in Canada and the District of Vermont. I was in expectation that Lt Col Johnson could have fixed the charge incontestably on particular Characters; but as this is not the case at present, I have requested him to give any farther, or more specific information he may recollect or obtain to President Weare or yourself; that, upon full proof being had of the transactions and of the Agents in this business, adequate measures may be taken to put a period to such unwarrantable practices as those alluded to; as well as punish the Perpetrators.

Whenever any certain demonstration of facts is made, I shall be glad to be informed, and in the meantime I am etc.⁸⁶

85. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

86. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The original letter sent is in the possession (1934) of Frank H. Stewart, of Woodbury, N.J.

To THOMAS CHITTENDEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 9, 1782.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose to you an Extract of the Deposition of Christopher Osgood of Brattleborough &c taken before the Honble Chief Justice Mumford,⁹⁷ on the 13th of Novr last; also

the Copy of a Resolution of Congress of the 27th of November 1782;⁹⁸ in obedience to which, I have caused the Persons therein named to be apprehended.⁹⁹ I am etc.¹

97. Chief Justice Paul Mumford, of the Superior Court of Rhode Island.

98. The resolve of November 27 empowered Washington to apprehend Luke Knowlton (Knoulton) and Samuel Wells.

99. Ensign Ebenezer Macomber. of the Rhode Island Regiment. was sent to apprehend Knowlton and Wells. Jonathan Arnold, Delegate to the Continental Congress from Rhode Island, warned the a men, and they fled. Macomber faded in his effort to make the arrest.

1. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 11, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your Excellencys Letter of the 23 November inclosing one to Sir Guy Carleton which I have forwarded to New York and I have directed Colonel Smith our Commissary of Prisoners to receive any monies that may be sent out on that account.

I am sorry to hear that the ragged state of your Soldiers in the line, should prevent your recruiting, it cannot be attributed to any partiality in the Secretary at War. I know that very considerable appropriations of Cloathing have been made for the Southern Army, but such is the difficulty of getting it transported thro' the Southern States, that it is generally many Months on its passage and very often great part of what is sent never arrives. When I directed General Muhlenberg to remove to Winchester I at the same time directed him to make his Arrangements with the Secretary at War for the necessary supplies for the Recruits that should come in, and I have no doubt the Secretary at

War will pay every attention to his applications, that is in his power to do. With very great regard
etc.³⁰

[V.S.L.]

30. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, December 13, 1782.

Sir: By a Resolution of Congress of the 7th. of August last, there is to be, upon the 1st. of January next, a reform of all Regiments in the Continental Army, which do not at that time consist of at least 500 Rank and File. But this being left somewhat at the discretion of the Secretary at War, he would wish, before he carries the Resolution into execution, to give those States, whose Corps are not a great way below the proposed establishment, an opportunity of endeavouring to compleat them; upon a supposition that they would rather exert themselves to effect this salutary purpose, than suffer a number of valuable Officers, whose inclination it is to remain in service, to retire upon half pay.

The Regiment of your State will, upon the 1st. of January, consist of about 300 Rank and File, which will at most form five Companies. Consequently should there be no prospect of recruiting it, a great proportion of the Officers must be dismissed upon half pay. Before Colo. Olney marched to the Northward, he shewed me an Act of the Legislature of the State, for raising 200 Men, but the object of that Act seemed to be the reinlisting the Levies who had been engaged for the Campaign, and as the Bounty money was not sent forward, Colo. Olney seemed of opinion, that very few of those Men would be retained. But I imagine he will have

informed you of his success and prospects.

I must request your Excellency to lay this matter before the Legislature, and to endeavour to prevail upon them to make adequate provision for recruiting their Regiment to 500 Rank and File at least, should the former Act prove insufficient. And as the Secretary at War only waits the determination of the House upon this point, that he may regulate his conduct accordingly. You will be pleased to furnish me with their decision, as soon as it is known.

I would just beg leave to observe, that from the present situation of Affairs, we have no reason to conclude that an addition to our present force will not be necessary next Year, and that making an early provision for such addition, can be attended with no real inconvenience or Expence, as, the Fund appropriated to this purpose, can with ease be converted to other uses before the Men are raised, should we happily have no occasion for them.³⁶

36. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, December 17, 1782.

Sir: I am favored with your Excellency's Letter of the 7th of this Month.

I should be very happy in using every endeavour in my power to procure the release of Mr Reading⁵⁶ and would apply to Sir Guy Carleton in his behalf, if such an application was like to be attended with the desired effect; but Sir Guy's Command does not extend to Canada, on which the Posts in the back Country are dependant. General Haldimand is the proper person to be applied to on this occasion and with him I have no communication. I never wrote him but one Letter which he did not Answer. As Mr Reading is not a Military Man there will be no impropriety in your Excellency's applying in his behalf and if you are of this opinion I will endeavour to transmit your Letter.

If however you think that an application from me will be best I will write General Haldimand on the Subject

56. Livingston's letter calls him Thomas Mullan Roding. He was captured by the Indians in June, 1781.

and in either case I will seek an Opportunity to convey the Letter to him which at this season will I fear be something difficult; the only public communication between this Country and Canada has been by means of the Enemies Vessels Station'd in the Lakes which must now be frozen over. With the etc.⁵⁷

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Head Quarters, December 25, 1782.

Sir: I have now the honor to inclose your Excellency a Letter from Sir Guy Carleton, and to acquaint you that One hundred and Eighty seven Guineas and a half and one Dollar equal to £262.16 Virga. Curry. has been paid into the hands of Colonel Smith² our Commissary of Prisoners on your account, which sum I have directed Colonel Smith to transmit to Mr. Samuel Inglis of Philadelphia agreeably to your desire.

I have also to inclose your Excellency copy of a Letter I have received from the Secy at War on the Subject of recruiting for the Infantry only. I am perfectly of opinion with that Gentleman not only so far as it respects your State, but the Continent at large and besides the reasons he mentions, the very heavy expence of procuring and subsisting Cavalry must

57. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

2. Lieut. Col. William Stephens Smith.

in our circumstances be a sufficient Argument against raising more than absolute necessity requires. Should your Excellency think with us I must beg you to take the necessary measures to carry this opinion into execution so far as respects the Troops of your State.³

To THADDEUS BURR

Head Quarters, Newburgh, December 26, 1782.

Sir: In compliance with the request of the Civil Authority and Select Men of the Town of Fairfield communicated in your Letter of the 23d of Novr. I have sent the Infantry of Sheldon's Legion under the Orders of Major Tallmadge to take Quarters in that place.

I beg, Sir, you will be assured nothing could be more agreeable to me, than your laudable exertions to prevent that pernicious intercourse with the Enemy, which has become so extensive and alarming; and that I am etc.¹¹

3. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

11. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To SAMUEL LOUDON²⁵

Head Quarters, December 30, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency the Commander in Chief directs me to inform you, that the Dragoon Horses will not be able to proceed any longer with the Mail, on account of the total want of forage. And therefore it will be necessary for you to procure a Rider to carry the next Mail without an escort and to continue the conveyance in the same mode, or it cannot be forwarded. The General has, some days ago, desired Col Pickering who is in Philadelphia to acquaint the Post Mastr General

this would be the case, unless an alteration in the Arrangements for forage immediately took place: There is now absolutely no alternative left, the Dragoons are ordered to join their Corps. I am, etc.

P.S. If you will send Mrs Washington, Watts'²⁶ Psalms and Hymns with the price, the Money will be remitted to you.²⁷

To JAMES LOVELL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 1, 1782.

Sir: I thank you for the trouble you have taken

25. Postmaster with the Army at Fishkill, N.Y.

26. Isaac Watts

27. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

in forwarding the intelligence which was inclosed in your Letter of the 11th of March. It is by comparing a variety of information, we are frequently enabled to investigate facts, which were so intricate or hidden, that no single clue could have led to the knowledge of them in this point of view, intelligence becomes interesting which but from its connection and collateral circumstances, would not be important.

I am much obliged to you, for your good wishes and am etc.⁶⁰

To EGBERT BENSON, MELANCTON SMITH, AND JOHN SLOSS HOBART

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 9, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to transmit to you a Copy of the contract for supplying the garrison of West point and its dependencies, also the hospital contract; together with the charges exhibited

by the officers of the army against Comfort Sands Esqr. & Co. respecting the execution of those contracts; with sundry other papers relative to the same subject: and have to request of you, Gentlemen, that you will be pleased to examine into the matters in dispute in such time, place and manner as you shall deem proper, and report your Opinion thereon as soon as convenient. I have the honor etc.

P.S. I will thank you Gentlemen for the return of the papers committed to you, with your report.⁹⁹

60. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

99. In the writing of Hodijah Baylies; the P.S. is in the draft, but not in the letter sent.

***To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED**

Middle brook, April 8[-9], 1779.

Dr. Sir: Your favor (without a date) acknowledging the receipt of my letters of the 28 and 9th Ulto. came to hand a day or two ago.

Colo. Patterson (as he is called) was a stranger even in name to me till he came here introduced by Colo. Cox as a person capable of giving the best information of the Indian Country between the Susquehannah and Niagara of any man that cou'd be met with; and as one, who had it more in his power than any other to obtain such intelligence of the situation, No. and temper of the Indians in those regions as I wanted to enable me to form the Expedition against them. in this light, and as the Brother in law of Genl. Potter who is known to be a zealous friend to America I viewed and employed Patterson for the above purpos. concealing as much as the nature of the case would admit my real design. If I have been deceived in the Man, Colo. Cox is the author of the deception and is highly culpable, because he represented him to me as a person he was well acquainted with.²⁸

The Troops from Minisink were to begin their March for Wioming last Monday. The bad Weather all March, and an accident to one of my Letters to Genl. Hand occasioned a delay of some days. Orders also went (before the receipt of your letter) to Genl. McDougall

28. "I beg Leave to mention a Matter which has given some Concern to the Council as well as several Members of the Assembly and in which it is supposed some Persons have not dealt candidly with you. I mean the Appointment of a Capt. Patterson of the back Country to some important Command. Col. Smith of the Council authorizes me to say that his Character is not even doubtful; but well known to be unfriendly to the true Interests of America, and that he is universally regarded in this Light by all the well affected of the back Country. He lays under very strong Suspicions of holding an Intercourse with the Enemy last winter and his present Appointment will have a very discouraging Effect upon the People of the back Country."— *Reed to Washington*, undated but assigned to March, 1779. Reed's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

to put the remains of Pattons and Malcolms Regimt. in motion for the same quarter, and the board of War sometime since has been applied to for a relief to Rawlings's Corp that it might re-inforce Brodhead for the purpose mentioned to you when at Camp; but what *they* have done in the matter is unknown to me. I shall be very glad to know from time to time what progress is made in compleating the 5 Companies of Independents; and let me beseech you my dear Sir while I am upon the subject of Recruits to give the most pointed Orders to those who recruit for your Battns. to take no deserters. They weaken instead of strengthen the Regimts. and not only rob the Public of the bounty Money, Arms, Accoutrements and Cloathes wch. they receive but poison the Minds of other Soldiers and carry many away with them to the Enemy. In Genl. Potters Letter (now returnd) the propriety of offering land, as an encouragement to men to enlist in the above Comps. is suggested for your consideration. I have long been of opinion founded in observation, that if the State bounties are continually encreased for every short and temporary Service and enlistment, that the prices of Men in another year will be far above our purchase, and a final end will be put to recruiting. The consequences of which, under present appearances, are well worthy of consideration.

To hear that all party disputes had subsided, and that harmony (not only between Congress and the State, but between the discordant parts of the State) was restored, would give me very singular pleasure. If party matters were at an end, and some happy expedient

hit upon to check the further depreciation of our Money, we should be soon left to the enjoyment of that Peace and happiness which every good man must wish for, and none but the viciated and abandoned tribe of Speculators &c. would be injured by.²⁹

If propositions have not been made to Congress by the Court of Gt. Britain for negotiating a Peace on the terms wch. have been held out to the Corers. on what ground is the resolutions you speak of founded? they surely do not mean to be the movers of a negotiation before they know the terms that will be offered, or which can certainly be obtained? In a word the whole matter (to me) is a mystery.³⁰ I am etc.

PS Apl. 9th. Since writing the foregoing Letter. I have seen and spoke to Genl. Green abt. Patterson; he says that Cox is not, nor was not unacquainted with the Suspicions harboured of him. that in the early part of the War he got disgusted by some disappointment, withdrew from public Service, and has conducted himself in such a manner as to be suspected of favouring the back Settlers who have joined the Enemy. But nevertheless he will answr. for his fidelity and the due performance of what he has undertaken if impedimts. are not thrown in his way. I have Accts. of the marchg. of Pattons and Malcolms Regts., and that the Troops from Minisink will be at Wioming

29. At this point in the draft the following is struck out: "I am clearly in Sentiment with you, that Congress ought to be left totally unembarrassed by the interference of particular States even if negotiation is actively begun, or proposed on the part of great Britain. but if it should not the resolutions you speak of are not only unseasonable, but pernicious in the extreme." The Pennsylvania Assembly adjourned April 5 and the harmony resolves are printed in its journal of that day.

30. Reed had written: “A Transaction this Morning seems to confirm Suspicions taken up formerly. Mr. Clymer who is full in Opposition here and of the Party with the commercial Gentlemen of Congress introduced a Sett of Resolves to some Gentlemen of the Assembly expressing the Sense of the States that the Delegates should agree to any Terms of Peace securing Independence and consistent with Treaties with foreign Powers, by no Means insisting upon Acquisitions of Territory or any splendid Advantages. It appeared to me that our Enemies would take so much Encouragement from Overtures of this Kind as tending to shew the Sense of one State and our Weariness of the Hour as might have fatal Effects. I have therefore used my Influence against it. My opinion clearly is that Congress ought to have the sole Power of settling this Business and that it will be dangerous for any State to interpose its particular Decision. But alas, a thirst after Trade and Luxury; and many wish to see their banished Friends return in Triumph.” Reed's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

this Night if no accident happens to them. Yrs. etc.

**To THE MINISTER, ELDERS, AND DEACONS OF THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH
AT RARITAN**

[Middle brook Camp, June 2, 1779.]⁹⁹

Gentlemen: To meet the approbation of good men cannot but be agreeable. Your affectionate expressions make it still more so.

In quartering an army, and in supplying its wants, distress and inconvenience will often occur to the citizen. I feel myself happy in a consciousness that these have been strictly limited by necessity, and in your opinion of my attention to the rights of my fellow citizens.

I thank you gentlemen sincerely for the sense you entertain of the conduct of the army; and for the interest you take in my welfare. I trust the goodness of the cause and the exertions of the people under divine protection will give us that honourable peace for which we are contending. Suffer me

Gentlemen to wish the reformed church at Raritan a long continuance of its present Minister and consistory and all the blessings which flow from piety and religion. I am, c.¹

99. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

1. The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

West point, November 25, 1779.

Dr. Sir: I have received Your Favor of the 15th and am exceedingly sorry to find that your indisposition continued so long. I hope it is now entirely over and that the change of season will prevent a return of it.

As there is nothing that is more interesting to us, than œconomy in our public expenditures both in money and provisions, I am happy that nothing more was done, with respect to your Militia, than what you mention. I wrote You on the 22d and requested that they might not be continued, in case they were under any inconveniences from an expectation of an operation against New York. I wish to refer You to that Letter for my acknowledgements to Yourself and the State, for the part taken, in providing for that event, and which you meant personally to have pursued, if the measure had been carried on.

As to the 2000 Coats, which have occasioned both you and me so much trouble, I shall take occasion to declare, that I am entirely persuaded, nor had I ever an idea to the contrary, that you and the Council's application with respect to them as well as the consequent delivery by the Board of War, proceeded from the purest and most laudable motives. I shall also confess, and with peculiar pleasure I do it, that the exertions of your State,

since your appointment to the government, have been great and very happily directed, to render the situation of your Troops, both Officers and Men, comfortable and cosy. And I will farther add that

I do not know, whether the Troops of Other States have not derived advantages from them, by their exciting, or at least encouraging, a generous emulation in those to which they belonged, to pursue the same just and necessary measures. But while I take pleasure in declaring this I must be free to confess to you, that I feel myself a little hurt by the terms of your Letter. The slightest touches from those we regard with esteem and affection, are felt with pain. From many parts of your Letter I have been induced to examine, with a critical attention, the paragraph of mine to the Board of War to which you allude, upon the subject of the Cloathing they had delivered for the Troops of the State, and cannot find a single syllable in it, from whence it could be possibly inferred, that I either had it in intention, or in wish, to take from the state, the credit and satisfaction of cloathing their Troops, of having the Cloathing procured by their exertions thrown into a common stock, that the Troops of Others might profit by it, of depriving those of pensilvania from the beneficial efforts of your care and industry, exerted in their favor, or that I had the least suspicion that you and the Council had any conversation with the Board of War, or Cloathier General, but in common with Other states. Before I examined it, I thought it impossible, because I was conscious that I never possessed an idea of the sort. The Paragraph stands upon the fairest footing of equality, with respect to the Army at large, and only regards the Return of the Coats the Board had delivered and which

were procured by the Continent. And the Reasons which induced me to advise the Return of those were so fully and so explicitly stated, that I hoped they would not have been mistaken. I am far from yeilding to unjust or unreasonable clamours in the Army and whenever they happen, I endeavour to check them, in a spirit I trust, of suitable authority; when causes however arise of real complaint, duty and justice, both private and public, require, that they should have attention, and that I should decently attempt their remedy; and in like manner, it cannot be amiss to try to prevent them. With respect to the case before us, the Board of War in a Letter of the 28th. of October, took occasion to mention, that they perceived inconveniences arose from partial Issues, and that they were determined to make no more; adding that an Order they had given for the delivery of 2000 Coats to your Cloathier, tho the State had engaged to complete the suits &c., which they thought a good bargain in the present situation of matters, had occasioned “jealousies and a preference to be talked of as being given to pensilvania”. This was the first information I had respecting their

delivering any Coats, and conceiving that if jealousies had already arisen on the subject, they might greatly increase, with the truest spirit of accommodation and a regard to the general rights of all the Troops, I ventured to recommend that the 2000 Coats, which they had delivered had better be returned and made subject to a general distribution. I did not do this to indulge a capricious disposition either in myself or the Army, but to promote harmony and equal justice to all. Nor did the idea of an excess in point of number, not of their being delivered

at Philadelphia, operate with me as matters of great moment, or which would produce much complaints in the rest of the Army. From a recollection of the number of our Troops and the general state of our Cloathing, I should have been satisfied, that the first objection could not apply at any rate, but to a very limited and partial extent and as to the second that it could not be of itself a just cause of uneasiness. But surely there are other considerations besides their quantity and the place of their delivery mentioned in the paragraph of my Letter, and which might prove sounds of discontent and jealousy. These were strongly marked both by me and the Board, *the superior quality* of these Coats to those which the rest of the Army would receive, *and their Uniformity*. Two circumstances very striking, and substantial, and which, if they had been adverted to and the inferior quality of the Other Cloathing recollected with its various colours and various facings must have prevented these Coats from being delivered to the Troops of any particular state, and made the distribution of them the effect of a previous casting of Lots, or of some other equal mode devised for the purpose with respect to the Troops at large. These are the grounds from whence it was principally apprehended uneasiness and jealousies would arise, and not those only which you have recited. If I know my own heart, I have no predilection or superior attachment to the Troops of one State, more than Another, they all demand my equal attention, and a conscious rectitude tells me that the strictest would only prove that, that they have equally had it in every instance. When the Cloathing was to be delivered last year, I thought it but just, altho it was all of the same quality

and only of Two Colours, that the distribution of it should be founded on a previous casting of Lots and which, were drawn as you will perceive, by the inclosed Copy of what was done upon the occasion, that the Troops of each State might have an equal chance of obtaining the Uniform to which they were most attached. If this step was necessary then, it or something like it, was certainly

more so now, when the Cloathing differed materially in quality, colours, and in facing, and yet in the first instance of the delivery of those 2000 Coats, as I have already observed I am entirely convinced, that there was not the least intentional injury either to the Troops of this or that state or to any body at all, either by the party delivering or the one receiving. We frequently are with perfect innocence. The point however seems to be decided by necessity, the inclemency of the season, the circumstance of the Army moving into Quarters, and the propriety of delivering the Cloathing collected at Windsor to prevent a farther accumulation of expence in the transportation &c. having compelled a distribution of it by Lot among the Troops of Six of the States. The Troops of Connecticut will also have their Quota in French Cloathing, having received last fall a supply thro the channel of their State Agent, much inferior in quality to that delivered to the whole of the Army afterwards. A Desire of placing the part I have taken in this business upon the true grounds, has led me to be more tedious than I wished or expected, and I am the more concerned that there should have been the least necessity for it with those I regard with esteem and affection.²¹

21. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To PRESIDENT MESHECH WEARE

Head Quarters, Bergen County, July 4, 1780.

Sir: On an examination of the quantity of powder in the hands of the public we find that the whole together with what we are to expect from the French fleet will not be more than one third of the quantity required for a decisive operation, and that unless we can derive very extensive aids from the respective States this deficiency alone must subvert our plans. I am therefore to request The Honorable the Council will be pleased to inform me whether we can obtain a supply from your State and to what amount. In an exigency like the present every State must contribute to the utmost of its abilities or, we must fail in our prospects and disappoint our allies.

It is with infinite chagrin and mortification I find that at this day the fourth of July, more than Six weeks since the first application to the States for the succours necessary towards the intended

cooperation, not more than thirty levies have to my knowledge joined any part of the Army, nor have I any information what has been effected, in this respect by any one of the States. Some of them have not even informed us what they intend to do. The Council will easily conceive the embarrassment of my situation. The french fleet and Army momentarily expected to call upon me for information of our prospects and for a plan of co-operation. America looking to me to improve the aid which our allies are sending us. A British fleet

expected at the heels of the French fleet; preliminary measures demanding an instant determination; if taken replete with hazard and involving certain disgrace should we not be able to go on with vigor; if suspended, losing an advantage on which the whole chance of success must in all probability depend. While I remain unfurnished with means to begin; uninformed, with tolerable certainty of those which will be put into my hands the time they will be ready, and consequently unable to decide any plan on reasonable grounds: I see the best oppertunity America has had to establish her independence, fettered with delays, and clouded with uncertainties, which will not permit the most sanguine to hope for such an Issue as vigor, decision and dispatch might have insured. With every sentiment of esteem etc.

P.S. In the course of our operations a number of seamen may become necessary; I request to be informed what number may be obtained from your State, on what terms and in what time after notice ? Should any Vessel arrive in your ports with any intelligence of the French fleet and Army, or of the British fleet, said to be coming out, I shall be much Obligated to you to send me immediately as precise and particular an account as you can obtain.⁷⁰

[N.H.H.S.]

70. In the writing of Caleb Gibbs. The same letter was sent also to Jeremiah Powell, President of the Council of Massachusetts.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Bergen County, July 22, 1780.

Dear Sir: Unfortunately for us, the Alliance Frigate, to which the Arms and Powder we expected were committed, is not arrived. The disappointment will frustrate our prospects unless we can obtain aid from the particular States, few of which however have it in their power to afford us any.⁹⁸ All the Arms we can muster in the public possession for our Recruits do not exceed six thousand, whereas double the number will be wanted. I am therefore compelled to request of the State of Connecticut a loan of two thousand Arms, and if they have any Cartouch Boxes as many as they can spare. It is essential that whatever of these Articles can be furnished, should be forwarded without delay to Fishkill and delivered to the Commissary of Military Stores there. I must also intreat Your Excellency to have this effected, as the Officers in the service of the Continent are without means of transportation. The time presses so much, that not a moment is to be lost.

I again beg leave to repeat my entreaties that the measures in execution may not be suffered to relax, but may be pushed on with increased activity and exertion. The time my Dear Sir is precious beyond description. None but those thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the objects in view can form a just Idea of it.

I requested your Excellency in a

98. Alexander Hamilton wrote this same day (July 22) to General Knox: "The alliance is not come nor our arms, nor our powder. They probably will come with the second division we want to know what we can do in the meantime in the article of arms without those; will you send us *immediately* a memmoranandum of what we have to your knowledge? Do you know whether the Eastern States can furnish any on loan and in what proportion. We must borrow of them and borrow of our allies, if we cannot we must go to sleep." Copy kindly furnished by R. D. Graeme, of Richmond, Va., from an original in his possession (1935).

former letter to assist with the means of forwarding the Cloathing which came for us in the French Fleet. I repeat my request. We want to be equipped and ready to commence our operations as soon

as possible, and the Credit of the troops makes it of real importance to have them clad before we appear by the side of our Allies. I have the honor etc.

P.S. I am anxious to know as soon as possible what may be expected in the Articles of Arms and Powder.⁹⁹

***To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED**

Hd. Qrs. Prekeness, July 27, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have no scruple of announcing to you, that New York is the object of my preparations; and, if the respective States do comply with the requisitions made on them there is a well grounded hope of putting a speedy and happy termination to the War.

Taking it for granted that the Militia of your State who [were] requested to rendezvous at [Trenton] by the 25th Instt. [are] there by this time I have to request the favor of you to

99. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

order them to join the Army (under my immediate command) as soon as possible, [Supposing they should not all have assembled.] Those which shall cross the Delaware at or below Trenton; may proceed by the Route of Princeton, Brunswick, Springfield, and Acquinnack. those at and above Coryells ferry, may come by the way of Morristown &ca. to this place or wherever the Army may be at the time; to know whch. the Officer Commandg. would do well to send on in time. [I am &c]⁵²

To NATHANIEL SHAW

Head Quarters, Robinson's House, July 31, 1780.

Sir: In the present situation of affairs it is indispensably necessary that we should have the most instantaneous advices of the movements of the enemy at Rhode Island. For this purpose I have

posted relays of Dragoons at every 15 Miles between New London and the Head Quarters of the Army. This taking as many as we can conveniently spare, I shall be exceedingly obliged to you to hire as many trusty Men with their horses as will continue the Chain from New London to Tower Hill posting three at every 15 Miles, with orders to ride by night or by day whenever dispatches arrive at their Quarters. I will be answerable for their pay while in service which will be as long as the British Fleet and Army continue at or off Rhode Island. Should you not be able to accomplish

52. The words in brackets are in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

this Business, you will inform the Officer the Bearer of this, who must in that case carry the Dragoons the whole way through however inconvenient it may be. I shall also be obliged to you to have a constant lookout kept upon the Sound and if the Fleet appear standing from the Eastward, towards New York to give me instant intelligence of it by the Chain of Expresses. I am etc.⁷⁹

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Newburgh, December 2, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your Excellys. favor of yesterday's date came to my hands abt. an hour ago. The Fleet (from all Accts.) has Sailed from New York, and no Troops are gone with it. If you cd. make it convenient to ride down here to morrow (the earlier the better if the suddenness of it should not create suspicion) I should be happy in an oppertunity of conversing with you on a particular matter which will not permit me to leave home at this time. With the great esteem etc.

79. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.