

but tremble at the thoughts of exposing the Towns to ruine. Be pleased, as seasonably as may be, to give us yo^r resolve herein.

As to the state of poor desolate Springfeild, to whose releife we came (tho wth a march that had putt all o^r men into a most violent sweate, and was more than they could well bear) too late, their conditione is indeede most afflicted, there being about thirty three houses and twenty five barns burnt, and about fifteene houses left unburnt. The people are full of fear & staggering in their thoughts, as to their keeping or leaving of the place. They whose houses & provisons are consumed incline to leave the place, as thinking they can better labor for a liveing in places of lesse danger than that where now they are; hence seeme unwilling to stay, except they might freely share in the Corn & provision w^{ch} is remaining and preserved by the sword. I cannot but think it conducible to the publike (& for ought I see, to the private) interest, y^t the place be kept; there being corn and provision enough and to spare for the sustenance of the persons whose number is Considerable, and cannot be maintained elsewhere wthout more than almost any place can afford to their releife. The worth of the place is also Considerable, and the holding of it will give much encouragement and help to others; and the quitting of it great discouragem^t to others, and hazzard to o^r passage from one place to another; it being so vast a