

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3B, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 5

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 21, 1778.

Dear Sir: I wrote to you the 15th., desiring you to have the Arms in Massachusetts and New Hampshire collected and a Return made to me as soon as possible. I find, by letters from Genl. Heath, that Arms have lately arrived in several Vessels from France, I beg they may be immediately sent to the different Arsenals and put in order. We shall want a considerable number in the Spring when the Levies come into the Field, and I therefore think that advantage should be taken of this Season of the Year, when the Roads are hard, to bring part of them forward to the Magazines on this side of Delaware. I do not know what number to order precisely, but you can form a pretty good Judgment, upon comparing the quantities that are already in the Magazines here with the number of Recruits that the Middle and southern States will probably send into the Field. It is true that many of the reduced Regiments have their old Arms, but when you consider the customary waste and the destruction made by the Militia, who I suppose we shall be under the necessity of calling out, we ought to have a Magazine of new Arms equal to the Levies, that there may not be any delays or difficulties on that account. I am, &ca.

P.S. Upon considering the usefulness of travelling forges more fully,

since you went away I think it proper that each Brigade should be furnished with one, instead of each division.⁷⁰

To JAMES MEASE

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Head Quarters, January 21, 1778.

Dear Sir: I this day received yours of the 18th. by Lieutt. Gamble⁷¹ who has brought down 463 Coats ready cut out. I could have wished that had not been done, as I intended to have had them made up in a new fashion which I think will save Cloth, be made up quicker and cheaper and yet be more warm and convenient to the Soldier. I desire that all the remainder of the Virginia Goods may be immediately sent on in the State which you receive them, as soon as they arrive at Lancaster. I will send you a Coat of the new fashion as soon as one can be made up, and I think it will be deemed most convenient and useful to dress the whole Army in the same manner.

The Officer who had the charge of the Convoy of Cloathing from Boston left them at Fishkill, contrary to Genl. Heath's express order, he makes some trifling excuse, that the Waggons would not come any farther. I have sent up an Express with orders to have it brought immediately forward.

I shall give directions to have some agreement

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

71. Lieut. Robert Gamble, of the Twelfth Virginia Regiment. He was captain in March, 1778; taken prisoner at Camden, N.J., in August, 1780; retired in January, 1783.

made with the Taylors for their extra pay when working at their trade. Now we are fixed, I am of opinion that we can have any quantity of Cloathing made up in the Regiments provided all the materials are sent with them. If the Taylors are drawn from the Army and sent to a distance, they will most certainly find means of going off, and the Service will lose so many men. Besides we cannot at this time spare the Men from Camp.

I beg you will exert yourself in procuring Shoes, it is evident that any quantities may be got by contracting to pay for them in Hides. The price fixed by the General Officers is 4d.

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pr. [piece] for Hides and Shoes at 10/pr. pair. With this the Shoemakers are content, and several of the Brigadiers have made contracts accordingly. I am, &ca.

P.S. Lieutt. Gamble returns to bring down the remainder of the Goods. He informs me that he desired you not to cut up the Cloth, as it was intended to be made up different from the usual method, I cannot therefore tell why it was done.⁷²

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 22, 1778.

Dear Sir: An Officer of Genl. Glovers Brigade arrived here Yesterday and informs me that he left twelve Waggons load of

⁷². The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Cloathing at that place, which he had under his charge from Boston with directions to bring it on to this Army. He alledges in excuse for leaving it, that the Waggons would not come any further, but it does not appear that he took any pains to procure others. The Army being in the greatest distress for the Articles, I have sent an express purposely to the Deputy Cloathier at Fishkill to send them on, and I desire that the Qt. Master may immediately furnish Waggons. I hope the packages have none of them been broken. If they have not, I beg they may not, as near 4000 of our men are rendered unfit for duty for want of the very Articles contained in them.

If there should be any small detachments belonging to any of the Northern Troops now here, let the Cloathing be sent under their Escort. I am, etc.⁷⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 22, 1778.

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Dear Sir: I have your favor of the 6th and 8th. instants. I particularly alluded to Henley's, Lee's and Jackson's Regiments when I expressed my surprise that they had not been innoculated, as they had lain so long in Boston. I hope that very strict attention will be paid to that matter against the next Campaign. We find upon

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

a scrutiny, that there are upwards of Two thousand Men to be innoculated in Camp at this time.

I have given the adjutant General the Resolve of your Council, but he tells me that he does not think it will be in the powers of the Colonels to make such a return as is called for. Few of them have their Papers with them, and some of these who were at Ticonderoga lost them. In my next I shall be able to inform you whether it can be done. Some little time past I sent the President of the Council an exact return of such of their Troops as are under my immediate Command for their Government in cornpleating their Levies.

You will I suppose before this time have received orders from Congress respecting the delaying the embarkation of Genl. Burgoyne and his Army till the Convention is ratified by Great Britain.

By this Step Genl. Burgoyne will more than probable look upon himself as released from all former Ties, and consequently at liberty to make use of any means to effect an escape. I would therefore have you increase the vigilance and, if necessary the Strength of your Guards. All magazines of Arms if should be removed from Boston and the Neighbourhood, for any attempt is made, it must be by first seizing upon Arms to force their way.

I cannot think with you, that the operations of the next Campaign will be against New England, except the Enemy are much more strongly reinforced than I think they have any chance of being. They know the unanimity and Spirit of the people too well to attempt

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it by detachment, and should they send a considerable Body from Philadelphia, they must either remain beseiged in the Town, which would be ignominious, or risque a defeat should they come into the Field with inconsiderable Numbers. The Troops, which went back from Philadelphia to New York, were I believe only intended for the security of that City. The Garrison was so small after the reinforcement had been sent to General Howe, that the Inhabitants complained much of their being abandoned, and the Troops were returned to quiet them. This being merely matter of opinion, it should not relax your endeavours to perfect the necessary defences of the Harbour and to fix upon signals which may at all times alarm the Country upon any sudden invasion.

If any good Sealing Wax is to be procured in Boston, be pleased to direct a dozen pound to be purchased for me and send on at different times as opportunities offer. I am, &ca.76

To COLONEL WALTER STEWART

Head Quarters, January 22, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with yours of the 18th. I should have answered you by return of your Officer but he omitted to call upon me. I spoke to Mr. Blaine, Commissary of purchases respect-

76. In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

-ing the insufficiency of his Deputies. He promised to go over himself or send a proper person to assist you and to keep them to their duty.

I am amazed at the report you make of the quantity of provision that goes daily into Philadelphia from the County of Bucks. I must beg you to look into this matter and endeavour to find out whether it proceeds from the remissness of our Guards or whether any of our Officers connive at it. This latter has been hinted to me.

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I am told that Genl. Lacey,⁷⁷ who succeeds Genl. Potter, is an active Officer and well acquainted with all the Roads of that Country; if any particular mode of cutting off this pernicious intercourse strikes you, be pleased to communicate it to him. The property taken, with the Horses and Carriages that transport it, should be seized without distinction, and if any of the persons are proper objects to make examples of, it must be done. They have had sufficient warnings and cannot therefore plead ignorance in excuse of their crime. I am, etc.⁷⁸

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 23, 1778.

Dear Sir: As I have not received any answer to mine of the 13th. instant, I am at a loss how to give you further directions respecting the Sale or distribution of the Symetry's Cargo. My reason for putting

77. Brig. Gen, John Lacey, of the Pennsylvania Militia.

78. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

a stop to it was upon seeing what was certainly a very inequitable mode, upon several accounts, of conducting the Business, as appeared by a plan drawn up by the Field Officers. In the first place, the Staff were in a great measure excluded from purchasing, and as a credit of four or five Months was to be allowed, the Soldiers and noncommissioned Officers must of course have waited till the expiration of the Credit, before they could receive their dividend. Besides, by the Death, Resignation, or dismissal of an Officer, if great care was not taken, the debt would be lost. For this reason, whether the Goods are disposed of by open sale, or delivered out at a valuation, the Officer who purchases more than the Amount of his share, should immediately pay the surplus. If these matters axe put upon a proper and equitable footing, I have no objection to the sale or distribution's going on. I would only desire, that the person who acts as Vendue Master,

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may not make a final distribution of the money arising from the Sale until the determination of Congress is known respecting the property.

Inclosed you have a letter for Mr. Read president of the Delaware State, upon the Subject of filling up their Regiment. I have desired him to call upon you for an exact Return of their present Strength, that he may know what number of New Levies are wanting to complete it. Be pleased to forward the letter to him with the Return, and continue to press him on this Subject.

The Enemy made an attempt to surprise Captn. Lee a few days ago, in which they failed, but upon their return they

took two Waggon, which were said to be coming from Wilmington. This makes me apprehensive that they might have been those, which Colo. Moylan informed me you were sending up with some things for me. I shall be happy to find it otherwise.

A few days ago I received a very polite letter from Doctor Boyes⁸⁶ Surgeon of the 15th. Regiment, British, requesting me to return him some valuable Medical Manuscripts taken in the Brig Symetry. He says they are packed in a neat kind of portable library and consist of Doctr. Cullen's lectures on the institutions of Medicine, 18 Volumes. Cullen's lectures on the practice of Medicine 39 or 40 Volumes. Monroe's anatomical lectures 8 Volumes and Doctr. Black on Chemistry 9 Volumes, the whole in octavo. If they can be found, I beg that they may be sent up to me, that I may return them to the Doctor. I have no other view in doing this, than shewing our Enemies that we do not war against the Sciences. I am, etc.⁸⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN LACEY, JUNIOR

Head Quarters, January 23, 1778.

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Sir: I received your favour dated the 21st. Instant and must request that you will exert yourself to fulfil the intention of keeping a body of Troops in the Country where you are posted. Protecting the

86. Robert Boyes, surgeon of the Fifteenth Foot, British Army.

87. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The original is in the possession of William Williams, of New York, to whose courtesy the editor is indebted for the text. The draft, in the Washington Papers, also by Tilghman, varies slightly from the letter sent.

Inhabitants is one of the ends designed, and preventing supplies and intercourse with the Enemy is the other, this, perhaps with the utmost vigilance cannot be totally effected. But I must intreat you to take every step, that may render it possible. As to the reduction of your Numbers, I wish you to make timely application to the President of your State, to keep up the necessary force under your Command.

I am well informed that many Persons, under pretence of furnishing the Inhabitants of German Town and near the Enemy's Lines, afford immense supplies to the Philadelphia Markets, a conduct highly prejudicial to us and contrary to every order. It is therefore become proper to make an example of some guilty one, that the rest may be sensible of a like Fate should they persist. This I am determined to put into execution, and request you when a suitable object falls into your hands, that you will send him here, with the witnesses, or let me know his name, when you shall have a power to try, and if found guilty to execute; this you'll be pleased to make known to the people, that they may again have warning.

Your want of Whiskey I cannot remedy, we are in the same situation here, and nothing effectual can be done, until the arrival of the Committee of Congress, whom we expect every day. I am, etc.

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P.S. You will strive to suffer no more provision to go into German Town, but what is absolutely necessary for its Inhabitants.⁸⁸

88. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

To MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH SPENCER

Head Quarters, January 24, 1778.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 7th. Instr., has this day come to my hand, inclosing a return of the force of the Enemy at Rhode Island. I have for sometime understood that Lord Howe sailed for Rhode Island with more than 100 Transports in order to winter there, which must be those mentioned by you. I am concerned to find that the want of Money in that Department, has put you to so many inconveniencies, and that the prices of the necessary Articles there, have become so exceedingly high, which must be the Source of infinite difficulties. This proceeds from the great depreciation of our Currency and the avarice of the people and not from a real scarcity of many Essential Articles.

I hope the Tax recommended by Congress will be collected in the several States, and that our Money will become more valuable. Nothing will place it on a more respectable footing, than lessening the Quantity. I am, &ca.⁹⁹

99. The draft is in the writing of John Fitzgerald and Robert Hanson Harrison. On January 24 Fitzgerald wrote, by direction of Washington, to Col. Edward Stevens, of the Tenth Virginia Regiment, declining to accept his resignation unless Congress consented. It seemed to have become the practice for officers, when leave of absence was refused them, to send in their resignations. This was the case with Stevens. His resignation was accepted by Congress on January 31. He subsequently became a brigadier and major general of Virginia Militia and was wounded at Guilford Court House, N. C., in March, 1781.

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To MAJOR JOHN CLARK, JUNIOR

Valley Forge, January 24, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with yours of the 13th. Instt. I hope you will determine without delay, whether you will accept the appointment of Auditor,¹ and if you do, that you will repair as soon as you possibly can to the Army, to enter upon the duties of it. An office of this nature has been long thought expedient, and for want of it, I am persuaded, the public have suffered greatly as well as Many individuals.

1. For the Continental Army.

There is a great number of accounts such as recruiting &ca. now to be taken up and adjusted. I doubt not but your powers will be defined. This will be exceedingly material that you may meet no Impediment when you enter upon the business.

I am much obliged by your polite tender of Services and am, etc.²

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

January 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday favoured with your Letter of 13th. Instr. inclosing a return of those taken from Colo. Webbs and Ely's Regiments.⁴

I begin to be very apprehensive that the Season will entirely pass away, before any thing material will be done for the defence of Hudson's River. You are well acquainted with the great necessity there is for having the works there finished, as soon as possible, and I most earnestly desire, that the strictest attention may be paid to every matter which may contribute to finishing and putting them in a respectable State before the Spring.

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I wish you had not waited for returns of the Militia to furnish me with a state of the troops in that Quarter, and if you do not get them in, before you receive this, you will please let me

2. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter sent is in the Papers of the Continental Congress. It varies from the draft in spelling and capitalization only.

4. Webb's Additional Continental regiment and Ely's Connecticut Militia regiment had lost men in an unfortunate attempt on Long Island in December, 1777.

have an Accurate return of the Continental troops alone, it being absolutely necessary that I should know the Strength of your command as soon as possible.

I congratulate you on the success of your two little parties against the Enemy, which I dare say will prevent their making so extensive excursions for some time at least. One circumstance however I cannot avoid taking notice of, that our Officers who have been but a very short time in the Enemy's hands, reap the advantages of any Captures which happen to be made by us, this must not be practised in future, as it is the height of Injustice, and will (if continued) draw upon us the just censure of the Officers who have been for a long time suffering all the Rigors of a Severe Captivity. The proper mode of proceeding is, to deliver them into the Hands of the Commissary of Prisoners, who must be best acquainted with the propriety of complying with the Claims of our Officers in their hands.

I shall represent your Situation in the Money way, to the Paymaster Genl. and order such measures to be taken as may relieve you. I am, etc.5

To COLONEL LEWIS LA RADIERE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 25, 1778.

Sir: I have your favour of the 13th. instant. As the

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5. The draft is in the writing of John Fitzgerald. Putnam's reply to this letter, dated Feb. 13, 1778, is in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress. It is printed, in part, as a footnote to Washington's letter in Sparks's *Writings of Washington*.

Majority of the Council were for erecting the new works upon West Point, in preference to the place upon which Fort Clinton was built, I desire that they may be carried on with all dispatch. If we remain much longer disputing about the proper place, we shall lose the Winter, which is the only time that we have to make preparations for the reception of the Enemy. I am afraid, if you leave the Works to come down here, that matters will not go on properly in your absence, for I should imagine that the Eye of the Engineer is constantly wanting over Men not used to such Business. I have not yet seen Genl. Duportail, but whatever he lays before me for my decision, I shall endeavour to determine with impartiality. I am, etc.⁶

6. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. On January 20 Lieut. Col. François Louis Tisseydre, Marquis de Fleury, of the Engineers, wrote to Lieut. Col. John Laurens of his disappointment in not being able to set fire to the British shipping in the Delaware by means of "sulphured shirts," because the river was not frozen over. He sent also a memorandum of observations on the British shipping and proposed an attempt against them by fire rafts. This proposal Washington authorized through a letter from Laurens to Fleury (January 25), but the scheme was not, however, carried out. Both of these letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

To COUNT PULASKI

Head Quarters, January 26, 1778.

Sir: I have received your two Letters of 20th. and 25th. Jany. The latter was communicated to the Forage Master, whose answer you will find annexed. I can only repeat, what has been already written on the subject, that if the Cavalry can procure a

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sufficiency of forage at the quarters first assigned them, that situation is to be preferred, otherwise they must undoubtedly retire to the nearest place where this indispensable article can be obtained.

I have no objection to Captn. Craig's¹⁰ taking the command of the Lance Men; you do not mention whether the matter has been proposed to himself and whether he is willing to accept it.

With respect to having the prices of Articles necessary for the Cavalry rated, as it is a matter intirely of civil cognizance, it can only be done by the authority of the State. The scarcity of Rum is so great, that the Infantry can only have it dealt to them on certain occasions; your men must therefore content themselves till times of greater plenty. Your Officers complain that the Cavalry undergo severer duty now, than they did while they were in Camp. As rest and refreshment are two of the principal objects of your removal from Camp, I hope you will by proper arrangements give your Men and Horses an opportunity of reaping these benefits from their Winter Quarters.

There is a large Supply of Carabines arrived, at one of the Eastern ports, and orders have been given to bring forward a sufficient number to furnish the Cavalry. I am, &ca.

P.S. With this you will receive a Letter for Princetion which you will forward.¹¹

10. Capt. John(?) Craig, of the Fourth Continental Dragoons.

11. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH¹⁶

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 27, 1778.

Sir: I received yours this Evening by Lieut. Patterson inclosing a letter from the Board of War directing you to seize the Persons, Carriages &ca. that have lately arrived

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at Lancaster with Cloathing for the British Prisoners and secure the same until you receive further directions from me or from the Board. As this order was founded upon a misapprehension of facts, I desire that they may be released upon the Receipt of this and suffered to proceed upon their respective Routes, under the conduct of the Officers appointed to escort them. Inclosed you have a letter to the President of the Board of War, setting this matter in its proper light, which please to forward to him.

As soon as the detachment under your command are fit to leave the Hospital, I desire you may march immediately to this Camp. They are much wanted here, and the room which they occupy at Lancaster wanted for other patients. You are to consult the Director General upon the proper time of leaving your present quarters and march the moment he thinks it may be done without endangering the health of the men. I am, etc.

P. S. Send an Officer down three or four days before you march, that some preparations may be made for the reception of the men.¹⁷

16. Of Lee's Additional Continental regiment. He was transferred to Spencer's regiment in April, 1779; adjutant and inspector to Marquis de Lafayette in January, 1781; lieutenant colonel and aide to Washington from July, 1781, to December, 1783.

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

To FRANCIS HOPKINSON

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 27, 1778.

Sir: I received your favour of the 22d. instant by Captn. Alexander, to whom I have given an order to take several pieces of Cannon with a proper supply of Ammunition, that he, in conjunction with the other Gentlemen of the Navy, may endeavour to interrupt the Erieroy's Shipping in their passage up and down the River.

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Having never found an opportunity of conveying the letter, which you some time ago sent to me for Mr. Duché, by such a Channel as I thought it would reach him, I return it to you again. The contents have not been made public. I am, etc.¹⁸

To MAJOR JACOB MORRIS

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 27, 1778.

Dear Sir: I last night received yours by Colo. Williams with several letters from Genl. Lee. I am sorry that his request for a passport for Mrs. Battier had not been immediately granted upon the first request in Jersey, you have one inclosed, and I am persuaded you will do every thing in your power to accommodate a Lady

18. Hopkinson's letter to Duché is dated Nov. 14, 1777, and is printed in Sparks's Writings of Washington, vol. 5, P. 478.

so warmly recommended by the General. I am not without hopes that he will be able to wait upon her himself, as Genl. Prescott, for whom he is to be exchanged upon parole, has been ordered to Rhode Island some time ago.

I would have you comply with Genl. Lee's several requests for his Horses, and for the Hunting Shirt and Rifle. I return you the Letters and Papers and inclose you a letter for the General which be kind enough to forward to him. I am, etc.¹⁹

To JAMES MEASE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 27, 1778.

Dear Sir: I last night received Mr. Young's²⁰ letter of the 24th, informing me of the unlucky accident that had befallen the Virginia Cloathing.²¹ I have consulted the Brigadiers what is best to be done in their present situation, and they think that the Cloths and Linens proper for the Officers should be dried as quick as possible and sent here to be made up. The

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coarse Cloths and Linens proper for Soldiers, to be made up agreeable to directions given by Genl. Scott to Lieutt. Gamble, who will remain at Lancaster and receive the Cloathing as it is made up and forward it to Camp. All the Stockings, Shoes, Hats

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

20. Charles Young, Assistant Clothier General.

21. Young's letter (January 24), telling of damage sustained to linen and woolens in crossing the Susquehanna, is in the Washington Papers.

and ready made Shirts to be sent off immediately, if not already done, Thread and Trimmings to be sent with the fine Cloth and linen. I am, &ca.19

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 28, 1778.

Dear Sir: I received your favour of the 26th. pr. Express, inclosing Returns of the Maryland Companies of Artillery and the Law of that State for recruiting their Battalions. Their Bounties are generous, but I very much fear that nothing short of drafting will have the desired effect. The Congress having ordered Hazen's Regiment to the Northward, for a particular purpose, I have

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

directed Major Taylor to march immediately. You will therefore detain the two Artillery Companies for the present, as they will in some measure make up for the deficiency. As the Men of Hazen's Regiment who are in Hospitals in this quarter will be coming in, in the Spring I have desired Major Taylor to leave a few Officers behind to receive and take care of them. I received the Silk and twist by the Express for which I am obliged, as I am for your promise of procuring the other Articles which I wrote for. I am, etc.23

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To MAJOR JOHN TAYLOR²⁴

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 28, 1778.

Sir: Previous to yours of the 26th. instt., I had received directions from the Board of War to send part, or if they could be spared, the whole of Colo. Hazen's Regiment to Albany. Their numbers are so reduced that it is not worth while to make a division, and I therefore desire that you will immediately march with all that are fit for duty. As your nearest Route will be thro' Bethlehem, you will cross the Schuylkill at or near this Camp. For the better accommodation of the Men at this Season of the Year I would have you march in two divisions, one or two days apart. As the march will be

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

24. Of the Second Canadian Regiment. He resigned in February, 1779.

heavy, advise the Officers to take no superfluous Baggage and see that the Men do not incumber themselves with any more than necessary Clothing. Considering the climate they are going to, you should endeavour to equip them as warmly as possible. You will necessarily leave some men behind who are invalids, and others who are in the Hospitals will be coming in as they recover, you will there. fore leave a sufficient number of Officers to take care of them. I am, etc.²³

To MAJOR THOMAS SMYTH²⁵

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January 28, 1778.

Sir: I have yours of the 25th. As it is my most earnest wish to have the pay Rolls of the several Regiments brought to a final settlement, that they may from thence be regularly adjusted every month; I shall lay your letter before the Muster Master General, and if the mode you point out can be admitted, or any other adopted which will answer the desired

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end, I will direct him to give orders to one of his Deputies to have it carried into execution. I am, etc.²⁶

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

25. Of the Fifth Maryland Regiment.

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

To THE OFFICERS VISITING HOSPITALS

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, January [30?] 1778.

The Commander in Chief being informed, that many disorders and irregularities have taken place at the Hospitals, and that in some the Sick are not tended with due care, thinks it necessary that each Hospital should be visited by a prudent and careful Field Officer, who should govern himself by the following Rules.

1st. Upon his arrival at the Hospital or Hospitals assigned him, he is to take accurate Lists of all the Sick, their Names and the Regiments to which they belong, and transmit the same to the Adjt. General.

2d. If there be any Arms, accoutrements or Ammunition at the Hospitals, he is immediately to take charge of them, making an

inventory of them, and of the Soldiers Names and Regiments to whom they belong. So many of these Arms as will be necessary, are to be put into the Hands of such Soldiers belonging to the Hospitals as the Chief Surgeon there shall judge fit to perform the duty of guards to the Hospital. These guards are, as fast as possible, to prevent and Quell all disorders and Riots at the Hospitals, by confining the offenders; To suffer no patient to go beyond the limits of the Hospital without a written licence from the Chief Surgeon attending; and to inforce obedience to such regulations as the directors or Chief Surgeons

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of the Hospital shall judge necessary for the Health and best good of the patients and the service.

3d. He is to make or cause to be made exact lists of all the Articles of Clothing and necessaries belonging to the patients and when any new patients arrive, he is to demand the lists of their Names and Regiments, and of their Clothing and Necessaries; and if lists of either be wanting, or if their Arms, accoutrements or ammunition are sent with them, the Names of the Officers so sending them are to be reported to the Adj. General, that they may be punished therefore agreeable to the General Orders, issued 12th November last. These lists of the Clothing and Necessaries of new patients, are upon their arrival to be compared with the Clothing and Necessaries the Soldiers actually have with them, that if any article be wanting, due inquiry may be made for it; and if not found, the person whose fault the deficiency happens is at a proper time to be punished or charged with the article missing, or both as the circumstances shall justly warrant.

4th. When any Non commissioned Officer or Soldier shall die, an exact account is to be taken of whatever effects he dies possessed of, above his Regimental Clothing, Arms and accoutrements, and transmitted to the Board of War. But his Regimental Clothing is to be carefully preserved, and issued to such recovered Man, as must need the same, who are to be charged therewith and an account thereof transmitted to their Commanding Officer when they are sent to Camp.

5th. As fast as the patients recover and are judged by the Director or Surgeon of the Hospital to be fit for duty, the Field Officer is to send them to Camp, under the care of some Commissioned Officer, or if the number be small, of a trusty Non Commissioned Officer, and if such are wanting, then to give notice to ye Adj. General, of the number ready to march to Camp, that he may find the Necessary Officers to conduct them.

6th. He is to reside at the most convenient distance from the Hospital or Hospitals under his inspection and visit them daily, if in the same Town, and if not, then very frequently,

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at least twice a week. He is to examine critically, whether the Sick are well taken care of, and if in his opinion there be any fault or neglect in their Management, to report the same to the Director General of the Hospitals or one of his Deputies, and if a remedy be not applied in a reasonable time, then to report the same to the Commander in Chief. But he is to avoid disputes with the Surgeons of the Hospitals and not interfere with them in the management, diet or Medicines of the Sick.

7th. For any disorders committed at the Hospitals by the Non commissioned Officers or Soldiers, he is to cause the Offenders to be tried and punished by Courts martial, if three or five Officers can be assembled for that purpose; otherwise he must retain the disorderly by his own authority.

8th. He is to collect all stragglers from the Army, who may be in the vicinity of the Hospitals, and send them under proper Officers to Camp.

9th. All Non commissioned Officers and Soldiers thus sent to Camp, are to be accompanied with lists of their Names, Regiments, Clothing and Necessaries, and, if they have any of their Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition, and addressed to the Adjt. General. But besides general Lists of the whole, which are to be left with the Adjt. General, Seperate Lists of the Men of each Brigade are also to be sent with them, which are to be delivered to the Brigadiers with the Men, on their arrival in Camp.

Lastly. He is to suffer no officer to remain at or near the Hospitals after they are declared by the directing surgeon to be fit for duty. If any are tardy or show an unwillingness to join the Army, he is to report their Names immediately to the Adjt. General.⁴⁴

44. The text for this is found only in the Varick Transcripts of the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress. It is not dated, but is copied at a point which places the probable date at January 30.

To COLONEL ISRAEL ANGELL

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Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 1, 1778.

Sir: I am favoured with yours of Yesterday. As it is my wish to cut off the intercourse with Philadelphia, as effectually as possible, I desire that no passes may be granted by you to any persons, upon any pretence whatsoever, and that you will do all in your power to apprehend those who attempt to go into the City with Marketting. There is no way so likely to put a total stop to this practice, as making an example of some notorious offender. If therefore you can hear of any person who has made a practice of going to Philadelphia with Provisions or Horses, I would wish you to take pains to have him apprehended. I am, etc.⁵³

To MAJOR JOHN JAMESON

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 1, 1778.

Sir: The quantity of provision, Flour especially, that is carried into Philadelphia is by all accounts so great that the British Army is well supplied with almost every Article. The committee of Congress now here having expressed a desire that

53. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

this pernicious intercourse may be cut off as effectually as possible, I know of no other way to prevent the supply of Flour, but disabling the Mills, as we have not Guards sufficient to stop all the Roads. You are therefore, in concert with Genl. Lacey to fix upon a certain time and attempt to disable all the Mills upon Pennepack, Frankfort, and Wissahicken Creeks, beginning Morris's at Frankfort, Vanderen's on Wissahicken and Lewis's at Pennepack and proceed as far as the people usually come out for Flour. As it will be impossible for you to remove the Stores, I am advised to take off the spindles and saw off the spikes of the water wheels. This you will therefore do as soon as possible. The whole must be began upon the same time, that you may have proceeded some distance before the Enemy can get notice. You must be fully sensible of the necessity of secrecy, and therefore

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none should be intrusted but the Officers who are to execute the business, and those should be such who have no connections in the part of the Country where the Mills are. Nothing will convince the Market people that we are in earnest, till an example is made of one of them, and I therefore desire you will use your endeavours to apprehend some notorious offender, against whom there will be proof and send him here for trial; seize all the provision and the Horses, and Carriages drove by Women and Boys, many of whom are employed, as they think indulgence will be allowed on account of Sex and Age. I am, etc.⁵⁴

54. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

To ELIAS BOUDINOT

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 3, 1778.

Dear Sir: A Letter from Congress will accompany this containing two resolutions relative to prisoners. You will perceive by them that Congress go upon the presumption of our furnishing our prisoners in the Enemy's hands wholly and intirely with provisions. Their fixing no rule for liquidating and accounting for the rations heretofore supplied by the Enemy, is a proof that they do not intend them to continue, but expect our prisoners will hereafter be altogether victualled by ourselves. This is a matter, it will be necessary to attend carefully to, both that a competent supply be immediately ready for the purpose, and that there be no deficiency in future, otherwise the consequences may be dreadful, for the past conduct of the enemy gives too much reason to apprehend they would not be very apt to relieve want, which we had undertaken wholly to administer to. I am, etc.⁶⁴

To DOCTOR THOMAS BOND

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 3, 1778.

Dear Sir: In answer to your letter of yesterday, I am sorry

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64. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

to inform you, that however willing to oblige your father and yourself, I do not think I can with propriety comply with your request. I cannot suppose your father would mean to make the least ill use of the privilege he wishes for; but every indulgence of this kind becomes a precedent for others, and you will easily be sensible that it must be inexpedient, to admit any person to a free intercourse with the country, who is actually *in the power* of the enemy. It is necessary all communication should be intercepted between the Country and City, which I am endeavouring to effect. I am, etc.⁶⁵

To COUNT PULASKI

Head Quarters, February 4, 1778.

Sir: I have received your two Letters of 29th. and 31st. of last Month. The forming any considerable deposit of Forage at Trenton, while you have so small a Force to protect it does not appear to me advisable, as the Enemy may, with the greatest facility, destroy it.

My approbation of Capt. Craig's appointment, was signified in my last Letter; I cannot at any rate consent to your giving Mr. Zelienski⁶⁷ the Commission of first Lieutenant; his character has not yet been cleared from a charge of a very

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

67. John de Zielinski. He became a captain in Pulaski's Legion in April, 1778; died in September, 1779.

serious nature, brought against him by Colo. Moylan, and this circumstance apart, which is of itself a sufficient reason for at least suspending his appointment, there may be a concurrence between him and other Officers who may have better pretensions. A court martial ought immediately to be held for the Trial of this Gentleman in pursuance of the

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order given long since. I am not at Liberty to take notice of any ex parte relation in affairs of this nature, whatever evidence you may have in favour of Mr. Zelienski, will properly come before the Court, and when I am furnished with their proceedings I shall be able to judge of the matter.

The Committee have now under consideration, the means of recruiting and remounting the Cavalry, their determination will be transmitted for your government, as soon as it is made.

You will be pleased to transmit me an exact Return of the Cavalry immediately, and hereafter to continue to make accurate Weekly Returns. I am desirous of submitting your Pattern Saddle to the inspection of the Committee, you will therefore send it to Camp without delay.

As Mr. Worsham⁶⁸ is so well recommended by the Officers of his Regiment, I have no objection to his filling one of the vacancies in it. I am, etc.

P.S. Inclosed is a Letter to Govr. Livingston relative to the three Troops of Jersey Horse. The bearer will deliver one thousand Flints for the use of the Cavalry.⁶⁹

68. William Worsham, quartermaster sergeant of the First Continental Dragoons. He was made cornet Feb. 4, 1778; lieutenant in 1780; served to November, 1782.

69. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, February 6, 1778.

Sir: As the resources of this Country in point of fresh Provision are nearly exhausted, and the Army under my command is in consequence literally reduced to a starving condition, it becomes indispensibly necessary for us to avail ourselves, as much as possible, of our more distant supplies, and not to suffer any part of them to be diverted into other

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Channels; which has, I am told, been heretofore in some instances the case by your direction. for the future, I beg you will consider it as explicitly contrary to my intention that any Cattle ordered for the use of this Army

should be stopt short of their destination. Every diminution is an object in times of such scarcity. You have a ready substitute in Salt Provisions, of which I am informed there are ample Stores within your reach, whereas to us, at this distance, no considerable advantage can be derived from this article, by reason of the great difficulty attending its transportation. I am &ca.72

To WILLIAM BUCHANAN76

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 7, 1778.

Sir: The occasional deficiencies in the Article of Provisions, which we have often severely felt, seem now on the point of resolving themselves into this fatal Crisis, total want and a dissolution of the Army. Mr. Blaine informes me, in the most decisive terms, that he has not the least prospect of answering the demands of the Army, within his district, more than a month longer, at the extremity. The expectations, he has from other Quarters, appear to be altogether vague and precarious; and from any thing I can see, we have every reason to apprehend the most ruinous consequences.

The spirit of desertion among the Soldiery, never before rose to such a threatening height, as at the present time. The

72. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

76. Commissary General of Purchases of the Continental Army.

murmurs on account of Provisions are become universal, and what may ensue, if a better prospect does not speedily open, I dread to conjecture. I pretend not to assign the causes of the distress, we experience in this particular, nor do I wish to throw out the least

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imputation of blame upon any person. I only mean to represent our affairs as they are, that necessity may be properly felt, of exerting the utmost care and activity, to prevent the mischiefs, which I cannot forbear anticipating, with inexpressible concern. I am, etc.

P.S. I shall be glad to have from you a just state of what we have to expect, at the expiration of this month and in the course of the ensuing spring.⁷⁷

To HENRY CHAMPION⁷⁴

February 7, 1778.

Sir: The present situation of the Army is the most Melancholy that can be conceived. Our supplies in provisions of the flesh kind, for some time past, have been very deficient and irregular, a prospect now opens of absolute want, such as will make it impossible to keep the Army much longer from dissolving, unless the most vigorous and effectual measures be pursued to prevent it.

77. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

74. Deputy Commissary General of Purchases.

Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland are now intirely exhausted. All the Beef and Pork already collected in them, or that can be collected, will not by any means support the Army one Month longer. Further to the Southward some quantities of Salt provisions have been procured; but if they were all on the spot, they would afford but a very partial and temporary supply. The difficulty of transportation is great; The distance will not allow it to be effected by land Carriage; and the navigation up Chesapeak Bay is interrupted by the Enemy's Vessels, which makes it very precarious when we shall get any material relief from that quarter. To the Eastward only can we turn our eyes with any reasonable hope of timely and adequate succour. If every possible exertion is not made use of there, to send

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us immediate and ample supplies of Cattle, with pain I speak the alarming truth, no human efforts can keep the Army from speedily disbanding.

[I have much confidence in your zeal and activity and I trust upon this occasion they will be exerted in a peculiar manner to hurry on to Camp all the Cattle you may be able to purchase.]

I have desired Colo. Blaine to give you a just state of our situation, and to send an active man in his Department to you, to *hurry on* to Camp whatever Cattle you may be able to purchase. I cannot forbear, so urgent is the necessity of the case, accompanying his representation by a similar one from myself. You are called upon by every motive, that ought to influence you

in your official capacity and as a well wisher to the Army, to strain every nerve and exert your utmost activity towards affording us the assistance we indispensably stand in need of, and without a moment's loss of time. I persuade myself you will duly consider the infinite importance of leaving nothing undone that may be in your power; and as I know the State of Connecticut abounds in the Article we want, I flatter myself we shall not be left to feel the calamitous consequences with which we are now threatened.

Mr. Blaine will inform you of the quantity of Cattle we require for an instant supply, to be at Camp by the latter end of this month. This you will push forward with all expedition; and continue your most zealous endeavours to preserve us hereafter from experiencing the same distresses and embarrassments to which we have been heretofore too frequently exposed. I have written to Governor Trumbull to beg his concurrence and aid in this matter, of which I doubt not you will properly avail yourself.

I am informed there are considerable quantities of Salt provisions laid up in New England; as it is inconvenient, tedious and extremely expensive to transport them to this Army, I have directed General Putnam, to make use of them almost wholly, for the Troops under

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his command, and to let all the Cattle that can be procured come on to us, which will be equally conducive to dispatch and œconomy. As far as

this may depend upon you, I should wish the rule to be strictly observed. I am, etc.⁷⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, February 8, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have to request, that you will, without loss of time, make a return of the Troops under your command belonging to the State of Connecticut, to His Excellency Governor Trumbull. It is necessary this return should be very exact and particular, as it is intended for the information of the assembly, in the measures they may think proper to take, towards completing their Battalions. Among other things, you will specify the time or times for which the men are engaged; and the number of each. I shall also be glad of a complete return of all the Troops at present under your command. I am, etc.⁸¹

75. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, with the paragraph in brackets in that of Robert Hanson Harrison. This same letter was sent to Peter Colt, commissary general of purchases, Eastern Department, in which, however, the bracketed paragraph was omitted.

81. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. Practically the same letter was sent this same day to Brig. Gen. John Nixon at Albany.

To COLONEL JOHN HAWKINS STONE

Valley Forge, February 8, 1778.

Dear Sir: On the 29th. Ulto. I received your favour of the 22d. I have not the least objection to Lt. Colo. Smith's taking the Command of your Regiment, till you or Lt. Colo. Forrest are in a condition to appear in the Field. This I shall be happy to hear of.

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I thank you much for your wishes for my Honor and happiness, and you have mine very sincerely for your immediate and perfect recovery.⁸² I am, etc.⁸³

82. Colonel Stone had been wounded at Germantown, Pa., in October, 1777. He resigned in August, 1779.

83. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To PHILIP VAN RENSSELAER⁸⁴

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 8, 1778.

Sir: I observe by a Return of Military Stores made the 12th. January, that there were 5000 Muskets unfit for service in the Magazine at Albany. I most earnestly desire that you will use your utmost endeavours to have them put into repair by the opening of the next Campaign. I also observe, by the same Return, that there is a considerable deficiency of Bayonets, which you will endeavour to make up if you have Armourers skilled in that branch of business. The loss and abuse of Arms in the course of a Campaign, in which We are obliged to call in large Bodies of Militia, is so great, that unless the utmost attention is paid to the repair of the Old, our Stock must soon be exhausted, for, of all the new imported last year, it is amazing how few remain in the different Magazines. As soon as you have any considerable quantity rendered fit for service be pleased to inform me that I may call for them when and where wanted. I am, etc.⁸⁵

***To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

Head Quarters, Valley forge, February 9, 1778.

Sir: I was duly favoured with your Letter of the 23d. of last

84. Commissary of military stores at Albany, N.Y.

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

Month; to which I shd. have replied sooner, had I not been delayed by business that required my more immediate attention.

It is my wish to give implicit credit to the assurances of every Gentleman; but in the subject of our present correspondence, I am sorry to confess, there happen to be some unlucky circumstances, which involuntarily compel me to consider the discovery you mention, not so satisfactory and conclusive as you seem to think it.

I am so unhappy as to find no small difficulty in reconciling the spirit and import of your different Letters, and sometimes of the different parts of the same Letter with each other. It is not unreasonable to presume, that your first information of my having notice of General Conway's Letter came from himself; there were very few in the secret, and it is natural to suppose, that he being immediately concerned, would be most interested to convey the intelligence to you. It is also far from improbable, that he acquainted you with the substance of the passage communicated to me; one would expect this, if he beleived it to be spurious, in order to ascertain the imposition and evince his innocence; especially as he seemed to be under some uncertainty, as to the percise contents of what he had written, when I signified my knowledge of the matter to him. If he neglected doing it, the omission cannot easily be interpreted into any thing else, than a consciousness of the reality of the extract, if not literally at least substantially. If he did

not neglect it, it must appear somewhat strange that the forgery remained so long undetected; detected; and that your first Letter tome from Albany of the 8th. of Decemr. should tacitly recognize the genuineness of the paragraph in question; while your only concern at that time seemed to be "the tracing out the author of the infidelity, which put extracts from General Conway's Letters into my hands."

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Throughout the whole of that Letter, the reality of the extracts is by the fairest implication allowed, and your only solicitude was to find out the person, that brought them to light. After making the most earnest pursuit of the author of the supposed treachery, without saying a word about the truth or falsehood of the passage; your Letter of the 23d. Ult. to my great surprize, proclaims it “in words as well as in substance a wicked forgery.”

It is not my intention to contradict this assertion, but only to intimate some considerations, which tend to induce a supposition, that though none of Genl. Conways Letters to you contained the offensive passage mentioned, there might have been something in them too nearly related to it, that could give such an extraordinary alarm. It may be said, if this were not the case, how easy in the first instance, to have declared there was nothing exceptionable in them, and to have produced the Letters themselves in support of it? This may be thought the most proper and effectual way of refuting misrepresentation and removing all suspicion. The propriety of the objections suggested against submitting them to inspection may very well be questioned:

“The various reports circulated concerning their contents,” were perhaps so many arguments for making them speak for themselves, to place the matter upon the footing of certainty. Concealment in an affair, which had made so much noise, tho' not by *my* means, will naturally lead men to conjecture the worst; and it will be a subject of speculation, even to candor itself. The anxiety and jealousy you apprehended from revealing the letter, will be very apt to be increased by suppressing it.

It may be asked why not submit to inspection a performance perfectly harmless and of course conceived in terms of proper caution and delicacy? Why suppose that “anxiety and jealousy would have arisen in the breasts of very respectable Officers, or that they would have been unnecessarily disgusted at being made sensible of their faults when related with judgment and impartiality by a candid observer”? Surely they could not have been unreasonable enough to take offence at a performance so perfectly inoffensive, “blaming

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actions rather than persons," which have evidently no connexion with one another, and indulgently "recording the errors of inexperience."

You are pleased to consider General Conway's Letters as of a confidential nature; observing that "time and circumstances must point out the propriety or impropriety of communicating such Letters." Permit me to enquire, whether, when there is an impropriety in communicating, it is only applicable with respect to the parties, who are the

subject of them. One might be led to imagine this to be the case from your having admitted others into the secret of your confidential correspondence, at the sametime that you thought it ineligible it should be trusted to those "Officers, whose actions underwent its scrutiny." Your not knowing whether the Letter, under consideration, "came to me from a Member of Congress, or from an Officer," plainly indicates that you originally communicated it to at least one of that honorable body; and I learn from Genl. Conway, that before his late arrival at York town, it had been committed to the perusal of several of its members, and was afterwards shewn by himself to three more. It is somewhat difficult to conceive a reason, founded in generosity, for imparting the free and confidential strictures of that ingenious Censor, on the operations of the Army, under my Command, to a Member of Congress; but perhaps "time and circumstances pointed it out." It must indeed be acknowledged, that the faults of very respectable Officers, not less injurious for being the result of inexperience, were not improper topics to engage the attention of Members of Congress.

It is however greatly to be lamented, that this adept in Military science did not employ his abilities in the progress of the Campaign, in pointing out those wise measures, which were calculated to give us "that degree of success we might reasonably expect." The United States have lost much from that unseasonable diffidence, which prevented his embracing the numerous opportunities he had in Council, of displaying

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those rich treasures of knowledge and experience he has since so freely laid open to you. I will not do him the injustice to impute the penurious reserve which ever appeared in him upon such occasions to any other cause than an excess of Modesty; Neither will I suppose he possesses no other merit than of that after kind of sagacity, which qualifies a Man better for profound discoveries of errors, that have been committed, and advantages that have been lost, than for the exercise of that foresight and provident discernment which enable him to avoid the one and anticipate the other. But, willing as I am to subscribe to all his pretensions, and to believe that his remarks on the operations of the Campaign were very judicious, and that he has sagaciously descanted on many things that might have been done, I cannot help being a little sceptical as to his ability to have found out the means of accomplishing them, or to prove the sufficiency of those in our possession. These Minutiæ, I suspect, he did not think worth his attention, particularly, as they might not be within the compass of *his views* .

Notwithstanding the hopeful presages, you are pleased to figure to yourself of General Conway's firm and constant friendship to America, I cannot persuade myself to retract the prediction concerning him; which you so emphatically wish had not been inserted in my Last. A better acquaintance with him, than I have reason to think you have had, from what you say, and a concurrence of circumstances oblige me to give him but little credit for the qualifications of his heart;

of which, at least, I beg leave to assume the privilege of being a tolerable judge. Were it necessary, more instances than one might be adduced, from his behaviour and conversation, to manifest, that he is capable of all the malignity of detraction, and all the meanesses of intrigue, to gratify the absurd resentment of disappointed vanity, or to answer the purposes of personal aggrandizement, and promote the interests of faction. I am etc.89

[N.Y.H.S.]

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To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Valley Forge, February 9, 1778.

My Dear Sir: On the 20th. Ultio. I did myself the pleasure of writing you by Colo. Marshall, who was going to Boston, to which place I had heard that you were gone. Lest my information should have been wrong on that head and you should still be at Albany, I transmit you a Copy of my Letter of that date by the Conveyance which now offers, and I am to request that you will, as soon as your condition will admit, repair to this Army.

No occurrence of importance has taken place of late, and I have only to add my best wishes for your immediate and perfect recovery and to assure you that I am, etc.⁹⁰

89. A copy of this letter, in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison, is in the *Washington Papers*.

90. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 12, 1778.

Dear Sir: The Congress, so long ago, as the 30th. November last, directed me to have an inquiry into the Causes of the losses of Fort Mifflin⁵ upon the Delaware and Fort Montgomery upon Hudson's River. The peculiar situation of the Army has hindered me from attending to this matter before this time.

As most of the principal Officers up the North River, were immediately concerned in the defence of Fort Montgomery, or eventually so by being very near it, there cannot, in my opinion, be a sufficient number proper to compose a Court found upon the spot. It is therefore my intention to send three at least from this Army, and it is my wish that you should be one and act as president upon the occasion, if your health will permit you to

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attend. I shall therefore, be glad to hear from you upon the subject, that I may, either proceed to fill up the Commission for you, or appoint another, if your health should not be sufficiently established to go thro' the business. It is my wish to have this inquiry carried on, not only in obedience to

5. The resolves of November 28, which were forwarded to Washington in a letter of November 30. See Washington's letter to Congress, Feb. 8. 1778, *ante*.

the Resolve of Congress, but for other Reasons which I need not explain to you. It is, besides, impatiently expected by the Gentlemen in the State of New York, who are in hopes that some beneficial consequences will result from it. You are particularly well acquainted with many Circumstances relating to the situation of matters in that quarter and therefore more capable of conducting the inquiry than any other officer. I shall only add one Reason more, to induce you to strain a point upon this occasion; which is, that the scarcity of Genl. Officers is already so great, that supposing one as proper as yourself, I could not spare him without injury to the Service. I shall expect an answer by return of the express. I am etc.⁶

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY HASKELL⁹

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 13, 1778.

Sir: I am informed, that you have been since September last, absent from your Regiment, on a Furlough given you by General Gates; which must be supposed to have expired before this; I have to desire you will, without fail, immediately join your Regiment. I am &ca.¹⁰

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

9. Of the Fifteenth Massachusetts Regiment. His name was omitted in the reorganization of July 1, 1779.

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

To COLONEL MORGAN LEWIS¹¹

February 13, 1778.

Sir: I have been informed, there is a considerable number of pack saddles among the Stores taken from Genl. Burgoyne's Army; I am to desire, you will send me immediately a return of them; and indeed a general return of all the Stores in your Department. Such of the pack Saddles, as may want it, you will have repaired, without loss of time. I am etc.¹²

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, February 14, 1778.

Sir: I am favoured with yours of the 9th. instant, inclosing the proceedings of a General Court Martial held by your order.

It is a defect in our martial law, from which we often find great inconvenience, that the power of appointing General Courts Martial, is too limited. I do not find it can be legally exercised by any officer, except the Commander in Chief or the commanding general in any particular State. This

11. Deputy quartermaster general of the Northern Department.

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

An extract of a letter from Washington to Brig. Gen. John Lacey, jr., dated Feb. 13, 1775, is printed in the *Pennsylvania Register*, vol. 3, P. 306. It was in answer to Lacey's letter of February 11 on the reduced state of his militia. Washington stated he had written to the President of Pennsylvania to "let him know that unless the number of men (one thousand)

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which Gen. Armstrong promised should be kept up are regularly and constantly in the field, it will be impossible to cover the country on the other side of the Schuylkill.”

circumstance would make it improper for me to ratify the sentence against Murray, did the nature of his crime require it; and if it was thought inexpedient to let him pass unpunished, I should be under the necessity of ordering another Court for his trial. But as there are some mitigating considerations, which you mention, it may perhaps be as well to remit the present sentence, without proceeding any further in the affair. I leave it to your judgment, either, with my approbation to do this, or to make use of the inclosed order,¹³ to bring the offender to a second trial.

Had the constitution of the Court been intirely regular, I do not conceive I could with propriety, alter the capital punishment into a corporal one. The right of Mitigating only extend, in my opinion, to lessening the degree of punishment, in the same species prescribed; and does not imply any authority to change the nature or quality of it altogether. I am etc.¹⁴

13. The order inclosed, which is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, was the following form: A General Court Martial, whereof to be president, to be held the day of at York in the State of Pennsylvania, for the trial of all offenders, that shall be brought before it. Head Quarters Valley forge, feby. 14th 1778.

14. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. It is indorsed by Tilghman: “respecting a Court Martial held by order of the Board of War upon a soldier of Hartley's Rgt.”

To COUNT PULASKI

Head Quarters, February 14, 1778.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 10th. Instt. with a Schedule of expences for Clothing and equipping the Cavalry, and have submitted them to the consideration of

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the Committee of Congress, these Gentlemen will by no means consent to a Plan, which appears to them so extraordinarily expensive, as each Colonel has undertaken to provide for his own Regiment, and the Lance Men are to be draughted, the men who compose this Company must take their chance for Cloathing &ca. with the rest of the Dragoons.

You are at Liberty to raise as many Recruits as may be wanted, provided it can be done upon the Terms allowed by the Continent; that is, twenty Dollars bounty, to men engaging for three years or during the War, but I do not approve of your giving encouragement to Volunteers, as the trouble which they occasion, generally overbalances their service.

With respect to the deposition in favor of Mr. Zelienski; as the whole proceeding is exparte, I can take no notice of it, and must refer you to what I said on the subject in my last Letter.

Among the Articles of Charge alluded to above, that of the Sheep Skin Saddles, is particularly extravagant, perhaps this may be owing to the Lining, you will be

so good as to inform me at what rate you can contract for the Tree of the Saddle alone, the Skin Covers may be procured from the public Butchers, without being an Article of additional expense.

Inclosed is a Letter for Commodore Hazelwood, which forward. I am &ca.15

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ADAM HUBLEY

Head Quarters, February 14, 1778.

Sir: I am favoured with yours of the 9th. instant, accompanied by the proceedings of a General Court Martial, held by order of Major General Marquis Delafayette.

I am sorry, there happens to be an obstacle, which must necessarily delay the punishment due to such atrocious offenders, as those who have been the subject of these proceedings; but as the constitution of the Court was irregular, I cannot with propriety

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confirm the sentences. There is no authority to appoint General Courts Martial vested in any other hands than those of the Commander in Chief, or the Commanding General in any particular State.

I send you an order for constituting a Court, both

15. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

for the trial of these criminals and of all others, that may be brought before it.

There are however some mistakes in the present proceedings, which it will be necessary to rectify in the next. Joseph Rhoad and Windle Myer, being inhabitants, are not triable on the Articles of War, but must be tried on a special resolution of Congress passed the 8th. of October last and extended by another of December 29th, which are inclosed for the Government of the Court. If it can consist of the same Members who composed the former, it will save trouble. I am etc.

P.S. I send you herewith the proceedings of another Court Martial, the sentence of which have never been approved, for the same reason of an illegal appointment. The criminals were ordered to be kept in confinement in Lancaster Jail. If sufficient testimonials can be found to proceed against them, I should wish the present Court, to enter upon their trials also.¹⁶

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

To ROBERT LETTIS HOOPER, NATHANIEL FALCONER, AND JONATHAN MIFFLIN²¹

Head Quarters, Valley, February 15, 1778.

Gentlemen: I this minute received your favour of the 14th. Instant with its several Inclosures.

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I am constrained to inform you, that the situation of the Army is most critical and alarming for want of provision of the meat kind. Many of the Troops for four days and some longer, have not drawn the smallest supplies of this Article. This being the case, it is needless to add more to convince you of their distress. They have been on the point of dispersing and without the earliest relief, no address or authority will be sufficient to keep them long together. Their patience and endurance are great, but the demands of nature must be satisfied. I must therefore, Gentlemen, in the most urgent terms, request and entreat your immediate and more active exertions to procure and forward to Camp, as expeditiously as possible, all the provision of the meat kind which it may be in your power to obtain. I would not have you wait till you collect a large quantity, but wish you to send on supplies, as fast as you can get them. The Troops must have instant relief or we shall have reason to apprehend the worst consequences. I need not mention to you the necessity of secrecy

21. Hooper was a deputy quartermaster general; Falconer and Mifflin were deputy commissaries of purchases.

in an affair of such delicacy. Your own prudence and discretion will point it out. I am etc.

P.S. The State of Forage is the same with that of provision, and a supply is materially wanted. Without it and very speedily, we shall have not a Horse left.²²

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, February 16, 1778.

Sir: I have received your Letter of Yesterday and have given instructions to the Quarter Master to supply your demand of Waggon, by sending forward as many as can be spared from the Camp and pressed in the Neighbourhood; however, I would not have your exertions abated, by a reliance on success in this quarter.²⁷

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As it is impossible to secure the Hay on the Jersey Shore for our own use, it is certainly advisable to destroy it, that the Enemy may derive no benefit from it, and the sooner Colonel Butler effects this business the better.

An Express has been sent to Colonel Cox on the subject you mention. I am etc.

P.S. If there is any good reason to believe that the Inhabitants

22. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

“His Excellency desires that you would extend your Views beyond your present Circle of foraging, and while the Waggon, you carried down, are bringing off what is under the protection of the covering party, that you would send some persons further back, impress every Carriage that can be found and send them forward to Camp loaded with Forage. You will have an opportunity of looking about you in the Country upon the upper parts of Brandywine and between that and the Camp and seeing what quantity of Forage is there. But if some is not got in soon, it will come too late as I fear we shall not have a Horse left alive to eat it. You know our distress and I am sure you will endeavour to alleviate it.” — *Tilghman to Col. Clement Biddle*, Feb. 15, 1778. This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

27. Greene had recommended a foraging expedition in Bucks County, Pa., and the seizure of wagons back of the Brandywine.

have Carriages and with hold them, make severe examples of a few to deter others, our present wants will justify any measures you can take.²⁸

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 16, 1778.

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Dear Sir: The distress of this Army for want of provisions is perhaps beyond any thing you can conceive; and unless we strain every nerve to procure immediate relief, a general mutiny and dispersion is to be dreaded. Our nearest Magazines are at Dover and the Head of Elk; and it is absolutely necessary, by a vigorous effort, to push on all the provisions at those places for the present subsistence of the Troops. I have intrusted this important business to the zealous activity of Capt. Lee, whom I have empowered to impress the number of Waggons requisite for the purpose. He will probably stand in need of some assistants, acquainted with the Neighbouring Country, to facilitate and dispatch the business. I imagine you can furnish him with proper persons for the purpose, Officers in the Maryland and Delaware Troops. Every aid you can possibly afford him is demanded by the exigency of the occasion. I am etc.

P.S. I do not know in what manner the troops under your

28. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens. The P.S. in the writing of Washington.

command have been hitherto supplied with provisions; but as you are in an abundant Country, I shall imagine you might furnish yourself from the resources of it, without the help of the Magazines above mentioned, no part of which can, without detriment, be spared from the use of this Camp.²⁹

To CAPTAIN HENRY LEE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 16, 1778.

Dear Sir: You are immediately to proceed, with a party of Horse to Dover and the Head of Elk, and in conjunction with the Commissaries there, exert your utmost endeavours, to hasten to this Army all the flesh provisions deposited in the Magazines, at those places. In order to this, you are empowered to impress throughout the Country, any Number of Waggons you may stand in need of. I have also written to Genl. Smallwood, whom you will consult on the occasion, to afford you every assistance in his power, he will furnish you

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with proper Officers, acquainted with the adjacent Country, to aid in the execution of your purpose.

After putting in motion all the provisions in the aforementioned magazines, I wou'd recommend to you to consult Genl. Smallwood, on the propriety and expediency of collecting Cattle and Forage about the Country to which you are sent, and if any resources can be derived thence towards

29. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

the relief of our distresses it will be infinitely desirable. I need say nothing to animate your zeal on this occasion. I am confident you have too just a sense of our necessities to omit any exertion it will possibly be in your power to make.³⁰

To HENRY HOLLINGSWORTH

Valley Forge, February 16, 1778.

Sir: I am under the painful necessity of informing you, that the situation of the Army is most critical and alarming for want of Provision, especially of the Meat kind. The Troops have not had supplies of the latter for four days and many of them have been much longer without. I have sent Captn. Lee to forward from the Head of Elk and Dover, all the provisions, that may be at either of those places, as expeditiously as possible, and I must entreat you, Sir, to give all the assistance, in your power, to promote this very important and interesting Work. I am etc.

P.S. I need not mention to you the Delicacy of this subject and the propriety of Secrecy.³¹

30. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

31. The copy is in the writing of Richard Varick. A draft, by Hamilton, is also in the *Washington Papers*.

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To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, February 18, 1778.

Sir: I have received your two favors of yesterday and to day; there has been no considerable desertion from this camp, to my knowledge within a few days past, nor have the Enemy made any number of Prisoners on the other side of Schuylkil; the persons said to have been paraded in the city, were perhaps defenceless Inhabitants that have been seized upon by the traitorous parties who style themselves Royal Refugees.

If you have any prospect of making it worth the while, I would by all means have you continue foraging a few days longer. If the matters alleged against Mr. James,⁴¹ are founded in truth, and he is within reach, he ought immediately to be secured.

Your observations with respect to the branding Continental Horses are exceedingly just; but the proper arrangements and regulations in that department can only take place when there shall be an active and intelligent head to it. I am etc.⁴²

41. Jacob James. He tried to raise a troop of Tory dragoons in Chester County, Pa.

42. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN GLOVER

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 18, 1778.

Sir: I am favoured with yours of the 27th. of last Month. Since, from the circumstances you represent, your continuance where you are, may be for some time necessary, I cannot but acquiesce in it, while that necessity continues; but I must hope, you will not delay a moment to join your Brigade, when the exigency, which now detains you from it, ceases.

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Your presence, as that of every other General Officer, will be essentially requisite, to aid me in carrying into execution, many important new arrangements, which, there is a prospect, will take place, for the reformation and better establishment of the Army.

Excuse me Sir, if I hesitate to give my concurrence to the desire you express, of quitting the Army. I have too high an opinion of your value, as an Officer, to do any thing that may contribute to your relinquishing that Character. My earnest wish is, that you may continue in it. The spirit of resigning, which is now become almost epidemical, is truly painful and alarming. This spirit, prevailing among many of the best Officers, from various inducements, if persisted in, must deeply wound the common cause. You cannot but be convinced, the situation of the Army is such, that

it can ill bear the loss of good Officers, and such would do well to consider how much they put to the hazard, by doing any thing to weaken the sinews of our contest, at so critical a time. I am persuaded, if these ideas were properly realized, they would endure great inconveniences and make great sacrifices, rather than withdraw their services. I am fully sensible of the disadvantages Officers have hitherto laboured under from the insufficiency of their appointments;⁴³ but measures have been, and I flatter myself, others, still more effectual, will be taken, to remedy this evil. I am impressing the necessity of it, by every argument in my power and you may assure yourself that no endeavour of mine will be omitted, to remove so just a cause of complaint. I am etc.⁴⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN LACEY, JUNIOR

February 18, 1778.

Sir: The communication between the city and country, in spite of every thing hitherto done still continuing and threatening the most pernicious consequences; I am induced to beg you will exert every possible expedient to put a stop to it. In order to this, to excite the zeal of the militia under your command

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43. The “insufficiency of their appointments” was the matter of the small pay of the officers in the Continental Army, which Glover had found, as had every other officer, was insufficient to support him, even in camp.

44. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

and make them more active in their duty, I would have you to let every thing actually taken from persons going into and coming out of the city, redound to the benefit of the parties who take them. At the same time, it will be necessary to use great precaution, to prevent an abuse of this privilege, since it may otherwise be made a pretext for plundering the innocent inhabitants. One method to prevent this, will be to let no forfeitures take place, but under the eye, and with the concurrence of some commissioned officer.

Any horses captured in this manner, fit for the public service, either as light or draft horses, must be sent to camp to the Quarter Master General, who will be directed to pay the value of them to the captors.

I cannot but think, your present position is at too great a distance from the city,⁴⁵ and puts it in the power of the disaffected, very easily to elude your guards, and carry on their injurious commerce, at pleasure. I would recommend to you, to remove to some nearer post, and not to depend upon fixed guards, but to keep out continual scouts and patrols, as near the city as possible; to ramble through the woods and bye ways, as well as the great roads. The strictest orders should be given to these parties, even when necessary, and the intention is evident, to fire upon those gangs of mercenary wretches who make a practice of resorting the city with marketing.

45. Lacey was then at Warwicks, in Bucks County, Pa.

I am informed, a considerable reinforcement is coming to your aid. I am, etc.⁴⁶

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To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, February 18, 1778.

Sir: In a Letter of the 17th. Ult. from Major General Riedesel, after setting forth that a certain number of British Officers prisoners of War, had been exchanged for an equal number of Officers in the Continental Army, at the request of Gen. Burgoyne, he complains, that upon application to you, for the exchange of a proportionable number of German Officers, likewise prisoners of War, you answered no exchange of the German Troops could be entered upon, without an express order from Congress; he observes farther, that the Officers of Genl. Burgoyne's and Genl. Philipps's Families, being part of the Convention Troops, have been exchanged and he requests that a similar indulgence may be extended to the Officers of his Suite, representing it as a hardship that the Troops of the two Nations should not be treated exactly alike.

You will be so good, Six, as to inform me, whether any particular reasons have determined you to make a

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

distinction in the respects above mentioned between the British and German Officers, that I may know what kind of answer to give Genl. Riedesel.⁴⁷ I am, &ca.⁴⁸

To JAMES MEASE

Valley Forge, February 19, 1778.

Dear Sir: There having been some suggestions, that the Pennsylvania Troops have not received a proportion of the Cloathing distributed to the Army; Also, that they have not been furnished with the quantity they are charged with. I have to desire, that if application should be made, you will satisfy the president and Council of this State upon the subject,

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exhibiting to them your Vouchers and specifying to whom the Supplies were made.⁵² I am etc.⁵¹

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, February 20, 1778.

Sir: I am glad to be informed by your Letter of

47. See Washington's letter to Baron von Riedesel, Mar, 31, 1778, *post*.

48. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

51. Mease was then at Lancaster, Pa.

the 9th. Instt. that you are established in Quarters where you are likely to have means of putting your Men and Horses into good condition. As you have been so successful in contracting for Boots and Leather Breeches, I would not have you confine your views in these Articles, to the precise Number that may be wanted by your Regiment, but wish that you would extend them in such a manner, as to be useful to the other Regiments.

The Sums which may be wanted to fulfil your agreements, must be drawn from the Quarter Mr. General, in whose hands a fund is established for defraying all expences of this kind.

It gives me pain, that there should be any delay in the important business of providing Remounts, this matter among others is under the consideration of the Committee of Congress, and nothing can be done in it till their determination is known. I am &ca.⁵⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 21, 1778.

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Sir: I have been duly favoured with yours of the 10th instant. You intirely misconceived my intention,

57. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

with respect to the mode proposed of furnishing your division with shoes. I did not mean, that a shoe manufactory should be established for the purpose, but only, that you should contract with private persons, in the way of barter, to furnish you with such a Number of shoes, and to be paid for them, at stipulated rates, in raw hides. This is the mode, which has been, with success, pursued in several instances, and which, I should be glad, if you can find an opportunity, you would embrace.

With respect to the proposition from Governor Johnson, I have no objection to your sending the officers required. You know the scope of his requisition, and what the ends of it demand, and will act accordingly.

You mention some scruples, as to the operation of our articles of war, with regard to intentional, or attempted desertion. Cases of mere intention, unexpressed in any act, notwithstanding the confession of the Criminal, I do not conceive, to fall within the meaning of that article, which particularly relates to desertion, or to be susceptible of capital punishment; but where intention and any act, expressive of it, correspond, I think there can be no doubt of the propriety of construing it into desertion, and inflicting the sentence of the law. When a man is found at an improper distance from camp, or circumstances that indicate an attempt to desert, he is certainly to be considered and treated as a deserter. If not the attempt, or nothing but the full execution of his design, were to be deemed

desertion, the crime could never, or very rarely be ascertained, for, in order to that, it would be necessary, the soldier should have been actually with the enemy and afterwards recovered. When difficulties occur, the spirit rather than the letter of the law is to be consulted, and this appears clearly to be intended by that part of the oath prescribed to

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courts martial, which declares, "that when any doubts shall arise which is not explained by the articles, the court is to determine, according to conscience, the best of their understanding, and the custom of War in like cases." I am etc.59

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 21, 1778.

Sir: I duly received your favour of the 18th. of January, which hurry of business has prevented my answering sooner.

As transportation at this season, would be difficult, tedious and expensive, I approve of the plan you adopted with respect to the cannon at Albany, but that no risk may be run, and in order to have them, as early as possible, so near the scene of action, as that we may be able to make use of them if necessary, it is my wish, the moment the River is Sufficiently open, to permit it they may be brought forward with all speed. It would be altogether improper

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

to send them to Springfield.

Neither does it appear to me eligible to send the small arms at Albany, so far out of the way. If those requiring it, can possibly be repaired there, it ought to be done; or if they cannot, and it is practicable in this quarter, they ought to be sent to the Armouries this way. Nothing but necessity and its being impossible to have the business done otherwise, will justify their being sent to Springfield, to be brought from thence to this army.

I am exceedingly apprehensive from the immense waste which has constantly attended them, that we shall be very much distressed for arms at the opening of the next Campaign. I am also much afraid, that without the greatest care, we shall come far short of having a sufficiency of Cartridge boxes. These are matters, to which I most urgently request your

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particular attention, that every possible exertion may be used to avoid a deficiency in such essential articles.

I dare say you will, in your absence, be very usefully employed; but your presence here, to Superintend your department at large, is so extremely requisite, that I flatter myself you will make a point of rejoining the army as expeditiously as circumstances will admit. I am, etc.

P.S. I this moment received your letter of the 21st. of January. I shall immediately write to the Board of War, on the subject

of the artillery sent to Farmington, and transmit you directions concerning them, so soon as I receive an answer; but would not have you to wait, till these arrive at Boston, as I cannot help expressing my fear that the business of your department will be exceedingly behind hand, as Flower⁶⁰ is not yet able to look into it, with that degree of attention, it requires.⁶¹

[MS.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WOODFORD

Head Quarters, February 21, 1778.

Dear Sir: It gives me pain, that a Dispute of so delicate a nature as that which makes the Subject of your favour of the 19th. Instr. should be left undetermined and continue the source of uneasiness in officers who deserve well of their Country.⁶² This matter will not, as you seem to apprehend, be returned for the consideration of Congress, they have already refered it to their Committee in this Camp, the members of which, judging themselves incompetent to the decision of it, have, as you know, desired a state of the case to be laid before a Board of General Officers, whose Sentence is to be final. As there would be but few Members to compose a Board at the present moment, I though it would be more satisfactory to all parties, that this business should be postponed to some

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future day, when the presence of a greater number of Officers will afford an opportunity of obtaining

60. Col. Benjamin Flower, of the Artillery Artificer Regiment.

61. In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade; the draft, in the *Washington Papers*, is in that of Alexander Hamilton.

62. Woodford claimed rank precedence over Brig, Gens. Peter Muhlenberg and George Weedon. Woodford's letter, dated Feb. 19, 1778. is in the *Washington Papers*.

their sense more generally upon the subject, and this is the reason why it was not entered upon immediately.

You are already possessed of my sentiments Sir, with respect to your retiring from the Service, it would give me concern that you should quit the Army at any time; but more particularly on the eve of a campaign, the events of which are likely to be critical and perhaps decisive. If, notwithstanding all the arguments which I have repeatedly used to dissuade you from returning your commission to Congress, you are inflexibly determined on the measure, I can only say, that it will occasion great regret in. Dear Sir Yours &ca.

P.S. If you are desirous of having the Board of Genl. Officers assembled at this time, I have no objection, as I only delayed it on the consideration above mentioned.⁶³

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN LACEY, JUNIOR

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 21, 1778.

Sir: I received your favours of the 19th. and 20th. instant. With respect to the three men you mention to have taken, when going to Philadelphia, I wish you to examine them and the witnesses on the subject and to punish them in such manner,

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63. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

as they may deserve. If there is any of them, who appear to be great offenders, and to be proper objects for Capital punishment, you will send them to Head Quarters with the witnesses, that he may be tried by a General Court Martial here.

I am informed, there still remains a considerable quantity of Hay at Point no Point,⁶⁶ notwithstanding the large supplies the Enemy have obtained from thence. This, it is more than probable, they will attempt to get away before it be long, since all accounts agree, that the forage they collected heretofore is nearly expended. As it is of infinite importance to distress them in this Article, and prevent them obtaining further Supplies, I must request that you will devise some method immediately for destroying all the Hay at the place I have mentioned. The business should be conducted with great address and secrecy, and suddenly, by an active party, under Active and Enterprising Officers. If this is not the case, or the design should be previously talked of or communicated, it is almost certain the Enemy will be informed of it, and will not only find means to prevent the execution of the plan, but will take measures to cut off the party. The situation of the place is some what peculiar and difficult. This is an additional motive for secrecy and the greatest activity. If the party could go on one way and come off another, it would be highly eligible, and it appears to me if they could return, their retreat would be the more secure. Guides, in whom you have the strictest confidence, should be

66. On the west bank of the Delaware River.

provided. If the Officers appointed to Command the party are not acquainted with the Routes themselves; but in procuring them if they are necessary, you must use much caution and Management. I am etc.

P.S. If there is any Hay towards Dunks' ferry⁶⁷ or any where else, which you suppose will be liable to the reach of the Enemy, that should be destroyed if you cant remove it.⁶⁸

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To CAPTAIN HENRY LEE

Head Quarters, February 21, 1778.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 19th. instt. informing me of the measures which you have taken for supplying our wants, and the prospects which you have of success. Your application to the Assessors of the several hundreds, was extremely judicious, and I have no doubt that by your activity and prudent management, you will avail yourself of all the resources of the Country, without giving unnecessary umbrage to the inhabitants. Mr. Blaine⁶⁴ Deputy Commy. Genl. of Purchases is to call at Head Quarters previous to his setting out for the Neighbourhood, in which you are making collections of Cattle &ca. I will give him instructions, to be as well provided as

67. Dunk's Ferry, on the Delaware River, south of Bristol, Pa.

68. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

64. Ephraim Blaine.

possible with Cash in order to inspire the people with confidence and to facilitate the execution of your plans. I am, etc.⁶⁵

To CAPTAIN THOMAS CARTWRIGHT⁶⁹

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 21, 1778.

Sir: I was favoured last night, with your Letter of the 14th. Instant and with its inclosure.

As no person under our present Military system, can appoint a General Court Martial, but the Commander in Chief or Commanding General in a particular State, I cannot determine on the proceedings transmitted. Those sent by Major General, the Marquiss Dela Fayette, he omitted to deliver. I have written to Colo. Gibson⁷⁰ respecting Lieutts. McMichael⁷¹

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and Dickenson⁷² and ordered that they should be tried again. The causes of complaint, contained in General Wayne's Order for their trial, I have inclosed him, and return you the proceedings in the case of the latter. I am, etc.⁷³

65. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

69. Of Lee's Additional Continental regiment.

70. Col. George Gibson, of the First Virginia State Regiment.

71. Lieut. William McMichael, of a Pennsylvania State regiment.

72. Lieut, Henry Dickenson, of the Fifth Virginia Regiment.

73. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To HENRY HOLLINGSWORTH

Head Quarters, February 21, 1778.

Sir: Your Letter of the 18th. gives me pleasure, by informing me that you have employed two active persons for the purpose of collecting Cattle and other Articles of provision for the use of this Army, and that your Brother,⁷⁴ whose zeal and knowledge of the Country will render him exceedingly useful, is likewise exerting himself in this business. I am persuaded he will need no spur to his activity, if he is sensible of the importance and critical Service which it is in his power to render. With respect to the money, which seems to be so essential to the success of this matter, as Mr. Blaine the Deputy Commy. Genl. of purchases is going into the Country where the collections are making, I will desire him to be as well furnished with this requisite as circumstances will allow, in order to prevent any unwillingness and Jealousies in the minds of the Inhabitants on this account. I am, etc.⁷⁵

74. Levi Hollingsworth.

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75. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

To COLONEL GEORGE GIBSON

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 21, 1778.

Sir: I last night received your Favor of the 17th.

Instant. The same reasons which prevented me determining on the sentences of the Court Martial, ordered by Major General the Marquiss de la Fayette, apply against the proceedings of the Court directed by General Wayne, in the case of Lieuts. McMichael and Dickenson. I make no doubt Colonel Hubley will have shewn you my Letter of the 14th. on that subject. Under our present Military system, none can appoint General Courts Martial, but the Commander in Chief or Commanding General in a particular State. Hence it follows, that the proceedings of a Court otherwise appointed, must be irregular. I sent Colo. Hubley an order upon that occasion, for constituting a New Court, not only for the trial of Mansin [sic] and the other criminals, who had been convicted; but for all offenders that might be brought before it. If that Court is sitting, they will try Lieutt. William McMichael of the Pennsylvania State Regiment and Lieutt. Henry Dickenson of the 5th Virginia Regiment, on the charges contained in the inclosed paper. If it is not, you are to assemble one, of which you will be President.

I not only excuse, but thank you much for your conduct respecting Rations. At a time when the Army was nearly experiencing a famine and wanting every possible supply of provision, It would have been highly inexpedient for the Officers at Lancaster to have drawn more Rations than what you allowed. Nor shall the Staff with my consent, ever receive their back claims of this nature in provision. No part of the Army has been allowed the indulgence, supposing they had a

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right to claim it, which however is very questionable, if not altogether inadmissible; and there can be no reason why the Staff should have a preference.

With respect to the Sick, Houses must be provided for their accommodation, and the Convalescents ought to be separated from them. Nor should the latter be discharged too soon, as fit for duty, as their coming out in a weak feeble state can answer no valuable purposes; but on the contrary, may bring on relapses and ultimately the loss of their lives. Our situation for want of Clothing is distressing. Our demands are great and universal and our Supplies but scanty and trifling; to give to one part of the Army is to take from another. However, I wish the Clothier General to furnish the Sick, both patients and those under the denomination of Convalescents, upon your order and those of the Officers appointed to attend the Hospitals in future, with such necessaries as they may really require. In such case, you and the Officers will be very particular in describing the Companies and Corps to which the Men belong, their Names and the Articles they stand in need of, And regular information must be transmitted of the Supplies they obtain to the Commanding Officers of their respective Regiments, that abuses may not be committed and the Men prevented from losing and disposing of what they receive. The Clothier General and his Assistants, will of course know their issues and to what Corps, which will be a check when drafts are applied for again.

We shall certainly want many Horses for our Dragoons. Of this however, you will say nothing, as the proprietors will regulate their prices, at least, in proportion to our necessity. I would wish you to have an Eye to the Horses you mention and to inform yourself, as well as you can, of their number and of the characters of the holders, but in such away as to prevent every suspicion of design.

Your report of the Surgeons, is extremely pleasing and I hope they will continue to exert themselves, to answer the purposes of their appointment and to promote the interest of their Country and the cause of Humanity. I am etc.76

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To CAPTAINS EDWARD SCULL, ALEXANDER PATTERSON, AND WILLIAM WILSON⁸⁵

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 23, 1778.

Gentlemen: I received yours of the 18th. from Lancaster, in behalf of Yourselves and others appointed to superintend the recruiting Service.

If, upon the representation which you, intend to make to the Assembly when they meet, you do not get such

76. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

85. Of the Fourth, Twelfth, and First Pennsylvania Regiments, respectively.

an allowance as will defray your necessary Expenses, it cannot be expected that you will continue upon a Service, by which you will be losers. The Bounty of Eight dollars for each recruit, would, in my opinion, be fully sufficient, if there was any chance of the Business going on with success; But I fear it will not, upon the Terms held forth by this State. I am etc.⁸⁶

***To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

Valley Forge, February 24, 1778.

Sir: I yesterday received your favor of the 19th. Instt. I am as averse to controversy, as any Man, and had I not been forced into it, you never would have had occasion to impute to me, even the shadow of a disposition towards it. Your repeatedly and Solemnly disclaiming any offensive views, in those matters, which have been the subject of our past correspondence, makes me willing to close with the desire, you express, of burying them hereafter in silence, and as far as future events will permit, oblivion. My temper leads me

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to peace and harmony with all Men; and it is particularly my wish, to avoid any personal feuds or dissentions with those, who are embarked in the same great National

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

interest with myself, as every difference of this kind must in its consequences be very injurious. I am etc.

[N.Y.H.S.]

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE MILITIA AT HADDONFIELD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 24, 1778.

Sir: I have sent over Captn. Lieut Symonds⁹³ to take the charge of some pieces of heavy Artillery, with which I have directed him, to give the Enemy's Shipping near the City all the annoyance in his power, while the river continues in its present situation. He will stand in need of a body of Infantry to cover the Artillery in this Operation and to aid in throwing up some little work, that may be necessary to give them greater security and enable them to act with more effect. I have therefore to request, you will give him all the Assistance you can afford, from the Militia under your command. He may possibly have it, in his power to do something to advantage, by means of red hot shot, or otherwise. I am etc.⁹⁴

93. The draft leaves the name blank, but the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress has Symond's name inserted.

94. The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN-LIEUTENANT JONAS SYMONDS⁹⁵

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 24, 1778.

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Sir: You are to proceed forthwith into the State of New Jersey, and apply to Captn. Alexander⁹⁶ of the Navy, who is hereby directed to deliver you the pieces of heavy artillery, at present under his care; with which, you are to give all the annoyance, in your power, by means of red hot shot, or any other, that may appear to you effectual, to the enemy's shipping near the city of Philadelphia. The most eligible mode of proceeding to effect this, as to the choice of position, the construction of any necessary work, or other matter whatever, I must leave to your own discretion, to be governed by circumstances. But I must observe to you, the necessity of guarding against a surprise, or the loss of your cannon and party, in case of any attempt for that purpose being made by the enemy: in order to which, I have written to the commanding officer of the Jersey Militia at Haddonfield, to afford you all the aid he can, from the militia under his command, as a security for your cannon and to assist in raising any little work you may find requisite. You will apply to him accordingly, and enter upon the purposes for which you are sent, as speedily as possible. One thing you will have particularly to attend to, is, that as you will have to act on a point of land, or kind of peninsula, there will be great danger of the enemy throwing parties above and below you, and getting into your rear, in which case

95. Of the Second Continental Artillery.

96. Capt. Charles Alexander, of the Continental Navy.

your retreat would be intercepted. This will require a good lookout, out pretty far on both your flanks.⁹⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: I yesterday received your Two favors of the 15th. and 21st. Instant.

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I thank you much for the trouble you took in procuring the several Articles, which came by Serjeant Sprig. The Caledonian pistols and both Swords I return. The latter are too small. I wish to be informed, by the earliest opportunity, of the prices of the other Articles, that I may transmit you the Money.

I will order the Directors of the Hospital, to furnish medicine and supplies for the sick at Newport. In the mean time, the Quarter Master of the Division will accommodate them, as well as it may be in his power. I approve of your proposal for inoculating and wish the business to go on, as fast as possible.

I am sorry to find, that you are under inconveniences with respect to provisions and seem to apprehend that bad consequences may result from the supplies we are drawing

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

from below for the use of this Army. This is the result of an irresistable necessity, and such, as under the present circumstances of affairs, cannot be avoided. I have been obliged to exert every nerve to keep the Troops here together, and I trust you will spare no pains in your power to accommodate those with you. I should hope, sufficient supplies may be drawn for them from the Country below and from the adjacent Counties in Maryland, notwithstanding what we are getting.

The conduct of Mr. Huggins⁹⁹ has been much complained of. Colo. Blaine,¹ who is about Wilmington or the Head of Elk, has been spoken to about him. I wish you to represent to him his conduct again and get him removed. If he neglects to do it, you will appoint Captain Rumford² to act in that line and I will direct Colo. Blaine to supply him with Money. I approve your seizing Canby's Flour, as I have not the smallest doubt, from your information, but it was designed for the Enemy You will keep an account of the quantity and also of the quality.

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I wrote you by Colo. Blaine respecting Mr. Rutherford³ and about sending officers to Maryland.

I must request you, to make me Regular returns every Week of the Troops under your command. It is a necessary duty and unless it is done, It is impossible to know the State of the Army, or how to regulate in any essential matters.

With respect to the board of the Officer's Wives,⁴ it is a matter you must determine yourself. I imagined they had

99. Thomas Huggins, Assistant Deputy Commissary of Purchases.

1. Col. Ephraim Blaine.

2. Capt. Jonathan Rumford. He had been a captain of the Delaware Battalion of the Flying Camp in 1776.

3. Rutherford was a Philadelphia shoe manufacturer.

4. The wives of British officers captured in a prize.

been sent to Philadelphia, soon after the prize was taken. I do not suppose, that the public will suppose themselves liable for it, as they do not consider themselves prisoners, and it might be deemed ungenerous to make the Ladies pay it themselves, after so long a detention. As you and your Officers only, have had the pleasure of their company and conversation, I believe you must adjust the matter among you, as well as you can. But it were to be wished, the Ladies may be sent into their Friends without further delay, as their continuance where they are, can only serve to increase the expence and the difficulty of getting rid of them.

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I can not find, from inquiry, that Patrick McCord belongs to any Regiment here and therefore send him back according to your request. I am etc.

P.S. Upon consideration of the situation of Newport, I think, if a more interior place could be conveniently got, proper for a Hospital, it were to be wished. Tho' it is not immediately on the Delaware, yet it lies rather too much exposed.⁵

To CAPTAIN HENRY LEE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 25, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have your favors of the 1st. and 22d. from

5. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison and Richard Kidder Meade.

Dover and am much obliged for the steps you have taken and are taking for procuring Supplies for the Army. All the Cattle that are tolerably fit for slaughter, must be immediately consumed on account of our present necessity, and therefore should be drove towards Camp, as fast as they can be collected. I do not think that Kent in Maryland or any part of the Eastern Shore, a proper place to form a magazine of the lean ones, because if the Enemy were to land but a few men upon any part of the Delaware State, it is so short a way across the Isthmus, that they would sweep what are collected before any force would be drawn together to oppose them and I have some information that such an excursion is in contemplation. Again, if the Enemy should establish a post any where down the River in the Spring, a thing by no means improbable, on account of the opportunity it would afford them of obtaining supplies from the disaffected in the Delaware State, they might, by extending themselves across, render it very difficult for us to draw our Stores from any Magazines below Christeen. For these Reasons, I should think it best to have all the lean Cattle drove into Chester County at first; from whence they may be distributed thro' the upper parts of that county, Lancaster and Berks. This is a fine Country for Forage and Grass, and being directly in our Rear is perfectly safe. Colo. Hollingsworth⁶ who is well

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acquainted with the Country, can inform you what part of the County of Chester would be most proper to drive the lean Cattle to.

I have, agreeable to your desire, wrote to the pre-

6. Col. Henry Hollingsworth, Deputy Forage Master General.

-sident of the Delaware State recommending it to him to endeavour to procure a law, making it penal for any person knowingly to harbour Deserters. If they do this, any officer sent to apprehend Deserters may bring an offender to justice, which they cannot at present do for want of such a law.

Mr. Blaine the Deputy Commy. General of purchases, has gone down to the lower Counties by my direction, he will be able to form some Judgment of the amount of the Cattle and other provision that you take off, and will fall upon the proper means to procure payment. I am &ca.7

To MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 26, 1778.

Dear Sir: I duly received yours of the 13th. instant, and am happy to learn the works on the North River are getting into some train for execution, though I could wish circumstances had permitted them to be in greater forwardness as I consider them of the last importance. For if the enemy next campaign, should be able to open a navigation up the North River, to mention no other ill consequence, that may insue, I see not how we shall be able to conduct the affairs of this Army under the uncertainty and

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

difficulty, which will attend drawing supplies from the Eastward.

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I am concerned at the inconveniences you suffer, from a scarcity of money, but is a common subject of complaint, and we experience it as much as you do. I am informed there is a supply on its way to you; but lest this should not be the case, or the supply should not be adequate to your wants, I have represented your situation to Congress, and urged the necessity, as far as possible, of affording you relief.

The Clothier General shall be directed to furnish a proportion of Cloaths for the use of the men under your command. In the prohibition I made, some time since, I only meant to hinder any breach being made upon the Cloathing intended for and coming on to this Army, which is productive of much confusion and inconvenience. But I did not suppose, the Clothier would have been inattentive to the wants of the Troops with you, or would have neglected ordering proper supplies, purposely for them.

With respect to the number of men, necessary for the defence of the Posts, in your charge, it is to be observed, that it will depend upon circumstances, and be relative to the number the Enemy can bring against them. With their present force, in the vicinity of your command, a smaller number than you mention will be sufficient, for defence; but should they be able to draw together a much larger force, it would be requisite to increase yours in proportion. But it is impossible to say what number of troops, it will be in our

power actually to station in your department. This must be governed by the general amount of our strength and the strength of the Enemy. At present we are very deficient every where, but if the States will exert themselves, as they ought to do, we may be enabled to make liberal provision for all our Posts. I am etc.¹²

To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 26, 1778.

Dear Sir: In answer to yours of this morning, I think it advisable, that a couple of officers, one from the New Hampshire and one from the Massachusetts troops, should be

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immediately sent on by different routes, in quest of the cloathing; with directions to proceed on towards Fishkill till they meet it. As from other information, besides what you now communicate, I have reason to believe there is a large quantity of cloathing on its way from Massachusetts, which it is of great importance to secure from any accident; let the Officers be directed, if either of them overtake it near the North River, to apply to General Parsons for an escort in proportion to the quantity; and give it a route directly towards Easton, and when it reaches, or is near that place, to advise me of it by express, that I may send an escort to meet it there and relieve the other. If the

12. The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

cloathing from either state should be found on the other side Coryell's ferry, it must be turned up towards East-Town, cross there, and come to camp by an upper road. If it should have already crossed the Delaware, it must in that case strike up into the Country, and take a circuitous route to camp. It is better, there should be some delay, than to risk their loss. Wherever the Massachusetts cloathing may be overtaken, as the quantity will probably be large, I should wish to be advised of it by express, that measures may be taken to give it proper security, by an escort or covering party. I am, etc.

P.S. In our present uncertainty where the cloathing may be, I do not think it would be proper to send a detachment of men in search of it; which might be to fatigue them to no purpose. It will be well to caution the officers sent, to keep their business a secret.¹³

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 27, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have been regularly favoured with yours of the 13th. 18th. 19th. and 25th. January and 10th. Current.

As these letters principally respect your transactions with

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13. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The letter sent, in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade, is in the New Hampshire Historical Society. It differs from the above draft in spelling and capitalization only.

General Burgoyne, you will be guided by the directions of Congress as far as relates to him.

If they consent to the Exchange of Colo. Anstruther²¹ and Lord Napier,²² I have not the least objection. I only desire that the Exchange may not be carried into execution, until Mr. Boudinot the Commissary General of Prisoners informs you, what Officers you are to demand in return for them. If the matter takes place be pleased to mention Lord Napier's rank.

Considering Genl. Learned's ill state of Health, I think his resignation had better be accepted of, more especially, as from the nature of his complaint, it does not appear that he ever can be able to bear the fatigues of a Campaign. I would therefore advise him to make his Resignation to Congress, (with the Reasons for so doing) who are the proper Body to receive it. I am, &ca.²³

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN STEPHEN CHAMBERS²⁴

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 27, 1778.

Sir: You are aware, that the purposes of the party under your command, are, as much as possible, to cover the Roads leading into Philadelphia, cut off the communication between the city and country, and prevent the depredations, daily committing by the enemy's parties. Your own discretion also and

21. Lieut. Col. John Anstruther, of the Sixty-second Foot, British Army.

22. Francis, Lord Napier, lieutenant of the Thirty-first Foot, British Army.

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23. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The letter sent, also in Tilghman's writing, is in the Massachusetts Historical Society. It varies in inconsequential details from the above.

24. Of the Twelfth Pennsylvania Regiment.

knowledge of the Country, will point out the best means of accomplishing these ends. I shall only observe, that in order thereto, and for the security of your party, it will be incumbent on you, never to remain long in the same place, but to be constantly changing your position and quarters.

There is one thing, to which I would point your particular attention; which is, as far as circumstances and the general intention of your party will permit, to keep yourself in a posture most convenient, for covering any supplies, that may be coming to this Army. Should you hear of any large quantity of cloathing, or provisions, coming to camp, which are not accompanied by a proper escort, I would have you take it under your care, and see it safe on its way.

To induce your men to be more active and zealous in the execution of their duty; every thing which may be *actually* taken going into, or coming out from the city, shall be the property of the captors. But to prevent an abuse of this privilege, by making it a cover for plundering the inhabitants, it must always be managed under the eye of a commissioned officer, and no forfeiture must be made, but where the fact is clearly ascertained. One principal object of your command, is to protect the country, it is therefore peculiarly your duty to prevent any violence on the persons or property of the inhabitants, being perpetrated by your party.

When any horses or cattle happen to be taken,

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you will order them immediately to camp to be delivered to the Quarter Master, or Commissary General, for the public service. Directions will be given them to pay the captors the value of what they receive on a generous estimate.²⁵

To JAMES MEASE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 27, 1778.

Dear Sir: General Putnam writes me, that the men, under his command, have been totally neglected, in the article of cloathing, and that since my prohibiting him to break in upon those parcels, which were on their way to this camp, he has had no cloathing at all for the use of his department. At the same time, that I wish to prevent irregularity and confusion, by an exercise of such a power; it cannot be my intention to exclude the troops under him, more than others, from such a share of necessaries, as circumstances will justify. I must request your attention to this matter, and that you will leave no just room for complaint; but will order on to Fishkill, from time to time, regular and proportionable supplies of cloathing. I am, etc.²⁵

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

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 28, 1778.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday favd. with yours of the 25th. from Haddonfield. The Cattle that you collect, should cross the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry and then keep higher up the Country before they strike across. They should fall in with Schuylkill, at Potts Grove and cross the River there. A considerable escort should attend them. We lost a fine drove of 130 Head that were coming from New England, a few days ago. Some of the disaffected in Bucks County, gave information of them and a party of light Horse pushed up twenty miles and carried them off. When you come over with your detachment, you should keep a good

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look out between you and Philadelphia, for you may depend that they will have information of you, thro' the means of their friends with which the Country abounds.

I sent a party of Artillery men, to attempt to annoy the shipping that lay at Philadelphia, while there was Ice in the River, but as that must be all destroyed by the late thaw, and no great chance of any more, during the remainder of the Season, I think you had best order them to return to Camp, except you find they can be any how usefully employed.

If you meet with any Cattle as you come thro' Bucks County, I would have you drive them along. Those belonging to the disaffected, will most certainly be sent in to Philadelphia,

If we do not get them. I do not imagine there can be any worth speaking of below New Town and the Cross Roads.²⁶

I shall be glad that you will, upon your Return, visit General Lacey and inquire of him what dispositions he has made or intends making, he will have a considerable Body of Men with him and if they are properly placed and the Officers alert, they may certainly check the parties of the Enemy's light Horse that have frequently come out upwards of twenty miles and carried off the well-affected inhabitants' Horses, Cattle and Forage. I am &ca.

P.S. You will before this reaches you have received a Letter from Colo. Biddle; You will be pleased to execute the Business recommended therein, if possible.

Inclosed is a Letter for the Officer commanding the Artillery. I am informed that there are a Number of Cannon belonging to the Continent, the State of Pennsylvania and private persons at Bordentown. Be pleased to inquire into the matter and see whether they cannot be carried further up the River while the Waters are high, or if that cannot be done, back into the Country; that they may not fall into the Enemy's hands. Capt. Symonds has two 18 pounders and one 12 pounder upon travelling Carriages. The Roads are too bad to bring them to this Camp at present; but before he leaves them, he should put them into a place of security, from whence they may be brought in better weather. These Cannon under

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26. Wayne reported the carrying out of these orders in his letters of March 5 and 14. Pulaski cooperated with him in part of the movement, which the latter reported to Washington in a letter of March 3. A question of the right of command interfered with the cooperation. These letters from Wayne and Pulaski are in the *Washington Papers*.

the care of Symonds, should go to a place of perfect security as they are fine pieces and on travelling Carriages. He is directed to obey your orders.²⁷

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

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 1, 1778.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 27th. Ult. was delivered to me by Express and that of the 28th. by Colo. Proctor, who saw the British Ships and Craft on their return, they had passed Marcus Hook. He says it was reported that they had burnt Salem, he does not know the truth of this, but he saw a great smoke in that quarter.

When I heard last from Genl. Wayne he was at Haddonfield, and I hope will return safe with his detachment and the Cattle he has collected.⁹

In mine of the 25th. Feby. you will find directions about the Officers Wives taken in the Brig Symetry. I shall be glad to know whether you have ever found the physical Manuscripts that were on board that Vessel, as the Gentleman to whom they belong has wrote to me again concerning them. I am, etc.⁸

9. The British attempted to surprise Wayne but failed. His letter to Washington (February 26), describing the attempt, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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

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To COUNT PULASKI

Head Quarters, March 1, 1778.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 27th. Ult., and in answer to your question respecting the right of command in Officers of equal rank in the Infantry and Cavalry, I am to inform you that there is no other preeminence in our Service than what arises from Seniority. The Officer whose Commission is of prior date commands all those of the same grade indiscriminately whether Horse or foot.

You will afford General Wayne all the assistance in your power, and the rather as the Service in which he is engaged is of great importance. A sufficient number to furnish Men for keeping a look out, and preventing any sudden enterprise of the Enemy against his parties is all that is requisite. I am &ca.10

10. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

To FRANCIS HOPKINSON AND JOHN WHARTON

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 1, 1778.

Gentlemen: I am informed that a Number of the

continental flat Boats still remain at Bordentown. I wrote to Commodore Hazelwood to have them removed higher up the River, but why he has not done it I do not know. I am very apprehensive that the Enemy will one day or other make an excursion and destroy our Vessels, Boats and Stores at that place. To prevent as much of this as possible, I shall esteem it as a favour if you will, upon your return, have all the flat Boats sent up as far as Trenton, and if Commodore Hazelwood has not hands enough with him to carry them up the Falls I will write to Coryell and desire him to employ people to do it. These Boats

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may probably be of the greatest importance to us in the course of the Campaign; and I therefore beg that your first attention may be paid to them.

As I see no great prospect of the Gallies being of any use to us while the Enemy have their Ships of War at Philadelphia, I submit it to you whether it would not be better to have the Cannon and Stores taken out of them and the Hulks carried up the Creeks and sunk. From repeated misfortunes we have lost the greatest part of our heavy Cannon at our different posts and we ought therefore to be as careful as possible of the remainder. I am informed that the Cannon taken out of the Continental, State and private Vessels yet remain at Bordentown to a very considerable amount. I could therefore wish that means might be fallen upon to remove them from the Water Side, some distance back into the Country from whence they may be brought occasionally. I also think that every kind of public Stores should be removed from thence

if possible, for as the Enemy have the Command of the Water they may at any time destroy or carry them off. I make no doubt but the Gentlemen of the State Navy Board will chearfully cooperate with you in what respects their Department.¹¹ I have the honor etc.

P.S. If the Commodore carries the Boats no further than Trenton he should give Coryell notice that he may come down for them. It will be worth considering whether the Cannon cannot be carried up the River in the Boats.¹²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 2, 1778.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 26th. from Mount Holly came to hand last Evening. I am pleased to hear that you had so good intelligence of the designs and motions of the Enemy that you were enabled to withdraw your detachment from Haddonfield before they invested it. Considering the disproportion of your Strength to that of the Enemy, all that can be expected of you is to wait upon and circumscribe them as much as possible. You will

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not fail to make use of your utmost exertions to destroy all the Forage within their reach, because I imagine they are more in want of that than any thing else. I have wrote to Genl.

11. Hopkinson and Wharton replied the same day that all the boats had been removed up the Delaware "above two months ago" and that they would exert themselves to secure the cannon and stores at Bordentown. There was some friction between the Continental Navy Board and the Pennsylvania State Navy, so Hopkinson and Wharton suggested that Washington write to Commodore Hazelwood direct, as they did not "know how even a Recommendation from us to Commodore Hazelwood would be received." This letter is in the Washington Papers.

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

Pulaski to give you all the assistance that he can with the small Body of Cavalry that he has at Trenton. I can give you no other directions than to throw as many obstacles as you can in the way of the Enemy to prevent them from executing their plan to any great extent, and I know of no way more effectual than driving off all the Cattle and Horses that you possibly can and destroying the Forage that you think they would carry off. I am etc.17

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN LACEY, JUNIOR

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 2, 1778.

Sir: I yesterday received yours of the 27th. Feby. I had heard of the loss of the Cattle before it came to hand, and I am sorry to say that the loss is imputed to your having refused to let the drovers have a Guard when they applied for one. I shall be glad to know whether it is so, and if true, what could be your reason for refusing.

I desire you to send a party of 150 Men, under a good Officer, well armed and compleated with Ammunition, to Bartholomews Tavern on Wednesday next at 11 O'Clock in the

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Morning. The Officer will meet a party there at that time from this Camp, and will then receive his orders. As a very

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

particular piece of Service is to be executed, I beg that the party may be punctual to the time and not fail upon any pretence whatever.

You are constantly to make me weekly Returns of your Numbers and where your parties are posted, that I may know how to direct the Rout of any parties sent from this Army.

I dont well know what to do with the great numbers of people taken going into Philadelphia. I have punished several very severely and fined others heavily and some are sentenced to be imprisoned during the War. If the State would take them in hand and deal properly with them it would be more agreeable to me than to inflict Military punishment upon them. The evidences seldom appear against those guilty of small crimes and then they escape. If you think that the State will receive to those persons you have taken, I am willing that they should be given up to them, either to be punished as Criminals or kept to exchange for those inhabitants lately taken away from their families. I am &ca.

P.S. If any or either of the persons now in your Custody are such that you think are proper to make examples of, and you have sufficient evidence to convict them send them over to me with the Witnesses and I will have them immediately tried by a Court Martial.¹⁸

18. In the writing of Tench Tilghman; the draft, also in Tilghman's writing, varies in inconsequential verbal details. The editor is indebted to Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach for the text of this letter.

To THE BOARD OF ARTILLERY OFFICERS

March 2, 1778.

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Gentlemen: It gives me singular pain to learn by your Memorial of the 10th. inst. that there are any discontents in a corps of Officers, so eminently distinguished by their Services. You cannot be more ready to point out grievances, than I am desirous of redressing them, as far as depends on me. At the same time I must confess to you, that I cannot consider all the Articles of complaint, in the same light in which they appear to you.

That which respects the promotion of Mr. Duplessis, I think not well founded. That Gentleman received the most flattering testimonials, from the Officers who were witnesses of his conduct at Fort Mercer, where he acted both as Artillerist and Engineer, and in both capacities rendered signal Service; not to mention his bravery and activity at the time of the attack. When the evacuation was determined, by delaying the destruction of the Works beyond the time appointed, he was the means of saving several valuable pieces of Cannon, and he ran a very great hazard in blowing up the Magazine &ca. without the apparatus usually provided for safety on such occasions. On these considerations, and as a reward for his zeal manifested on other occasions and which did not suffer him to confine himself to the mere limits of his Duty, he has received, not a commission placing him as Lieutenant Colonel in the line of Artillery Officers, but a brevet giving him an honorary rank out of the line, and which was particularly chosen, as the least exceptionable mode of recompense.

This cannot be considered as a violation of any of your rights. It does not in the least interfere with your lineal promotion, which will still go on in the same manner, as though it had never happened. Mr. Duplessis cannot claim the least command in the Corps to which you belong, nor even out of it, over any Artillery Officer whatever, unless annexed to him by special order in any detached command. It may even never work any inconvenience, much less injury; as it will always be possible, where that Gentleman is assigned to any particular Service, to unite with him Officers, who were his juniors before his late preferment.

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You will remember Gentlemen, that Mr. Duplessis has never been properly in your line, nor enjoyed any of the advantages of regimental command. An attempt to introduce him, would have been very offensive to you and even injurious, and as he could not rise by Succession in your line; if he were not to have extraordinary promotion, he could never be promoted at all, whatever merit or capacity he might display. And as he was not in your line, not possessed of any of the emoluments attending it, his advancement out of it cannot with propriety be said to be an injury. The same

reasoning that would construe it so, would apply to the whole Army; but the truth is that no brevet preferment, as it does not realize the rank conferred, in the line, is an infraction of the right of any Officers belonging to it, nor is it deemed such in any other Service.

You speak of yourselves as superseded and disgraced, but do you not hold precisely the same station in your line, that you did before the promotion you complain of took place? If so, how can you be superseded? Superseding an Officer is placing his junior in a vacancy, he had a right to aspire to in the common course of lineal Succession; this has not happened. Neither can you be in any wise disgraced or dishonored by it, for an Officer is only then dishonored when he is deprived of any privilege, which in the common course of things he has a claim to and another inferior in rank derives the benefit of it, which may imply some incapacity or want of merit in him.

I do not mean to draw any comparison in favor of Mr. Duplessis and to your disadvantage. I have the highest Sense of the merit of the Officers of your Corps in general; and should be sorry to see the least injustice done to them. Yet I am persuaded your own candor will allow that Mr. Duplessis's knowledge of his profession acquired by long and indefatigable study under the greatest advantages, his zeal in embracing every occasion to be Serviceable, and the bravery he has shown in repeated instances, justly entitled him to

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encouragement. It is true, that the only opportunity he had of exerting himself, in the line of his Duty as an Artillery Officer was at Fort Mercer; but it was not his fault that he had not more frequent opportunities, this happened from his not being in the line, and consequently not having the command incident to an Officer in it. He is the more to be applauded for having sought as he did extra occasions of signaling himself.

Altho' our present arduous Struggle has the general good for its chief object, yet the Success of it necessarily involves the safety and happiness of each individual engaged in it. Duty to themselves therefore as well as to the community at large, should prevent Officers being discouraged by the difficulties they experience, and the present apparently inadequate rewards of their labours. I am happy however to inform you, that there are some arrangements in agitation, which, if my views succeed, will render the condition of Officers more desirable.

I am totally unacquainted with the cases alluded to, of Majorities offered to persons who had held no previous rank in the Army.

The powers vested in Major Stevens, as represented by you, appears to be such an abuse as demands serious attention, and you may rest satisfied that this matter shall be inquired into, and that nothing shall be neglected on my part to remedy it.

The inclosed Resolutions of Congress will shew

you that the Cause of complaint respecting the rank of Staff Officers, is in future obviated. There are arrangements in contemplation, which if adopted, will more effectually redress the evil. Among these, the general establishment of your Corps as well as others, will be comprehended.¹⁹

[H.S.P.]

To COUNT PULASKI

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Head Quarters March 3, 1778.

Sir: I have received your favour of the 28th. Ulto. informing me that you were proceeding with a part of Bland's Regiment to join General Wayne; you will have received my instructions relative to the Service which you are to render.

Your intention to resign, is founded on reasons which I presume make you think the measure necessary. I can only say therefore that it will always give me pleasure to bear testimony of the zeal and bravery which you have displayed on every occasion.

Proper measures are taking for completing the Cavalry and I have no doubt of its being on a respectable footing by the opening of the Campaign. I am &ca.23

19. In the writing of John Laurens.

23. The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

To THE BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS²⁷

Head Quarters, March 4, 1778.

Gentlemen: Inclosed I transmit you the Case and papers alluded to in yesterday's orders, respecting the claim of rank by the Brigadiers in the Virginia line and upon which you are requested to report your opinions, as to the precedence they should hold with respect to each other.²⁸ I am, etc.²⁹

27. On the rank of Virginia brigadiers.

28. Weedon's, Woodford's, and Scott's statement of claim to rank is in the *Washington Papers* under date of February, 1778. The board rendered its decision on March 4, and this original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, 5, 369.

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29. The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

***To COLONEL GEORGE BAYLOR**

Head Quarters, Valley forge, March 4, 1778.

Sir: It being adjudged advisable to augment the Cavalry in Continental Service by an addition of one Lieutt. one Sergeant one Corporal and twenty two privates to each Troop, and that the States of Virginia and North Carolina should furnish Six hundred Horses for this purpose. You will receive from the Comee. of Congress (setting at Moor hall) direction respecting the means to obtain these; with which you will repair to Virginia, and as soon as possible consult Colonel Bland, who is requested by Letter to aid you in this business and to whom you are to participate the means and furnish a Copy of these Instructions, on the most effectual mode of accomplishing this purchase with œconomy and dispatch.

In purchasing these Horses you are not restricted to price on the one hand, nor by any means to launch into Acts of extravagance on the other; good Horses are wanting, and for such the customary prices must be given; take none less than a quarter blooded, nor under fourteen and a half hands high, sound and clean made; they are not to exceed twelve years old, nor be under five, this Spring. Any kind of bays would be preferred; but, as the time is short in which they must be

procured, and the Service without them will suffer, you must not stand upon colour. Pacing Horses, Stone horses, and Mares must be avoided.

Colo. Bland and yourself will fix upon proper places of rendezvous for the Horses when purchased, where provision is to be laid in for their support, and where every proper means is to be used for the exercise and training of them; You will so concert matters as not to interfere with each other, thereby enhancing the prices of Horses and rendering the purchase more difficult and expensive.

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You will, each of you, use your best endeavours to obtain Saddles and other accoutrements for the number of Horse afore mentioned, and procure also as many Swords and pistols as you can. To enable Colonel Bland to perform his part of this business you are as before directed to furnish him with the money and Certificates. To add any thing, with a view of impressing you with an idea of the great importance of this business, and the dispatch necessary in the execution, is, I am persuaded, totally useless; your own observation and judgment will point this out in the fullest and clearest manner, but I am to desire that both you and Colo. Bland will give me early, and regular information of your proceedings and prospects.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 5, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am favoured with yours of the 20th. Feby. inclosing a letter from Lieutt. Coune³⁰ of the 62nd Regiment to Genl. Howe. I shall send in the letter and shall have no objection to his Exchange, if Genl. Howe consents. As Ensign Winslip's³¹ health does not admit of his remaining in the Service, I would have you accept of his resignation.

The wax which you mention to have sent forward is not yet come to hand. Having wrote to you fully on the 27th. Ulto. I have only to recommend the continuance of the removal of all supernumerary Stores from Boston. I am etc.³²

[M.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 5, 1778.

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Dear Sir: I am favoured with yours of the 18th. Feby. inclosing your remarks upon Colo. Drake's³³ representation of your Conduct. As I did not chuse to give any determination upon the matter exparte, I sent the representation back to Genl. Putnam,

30. Lieut. Conolly Coane, of the Sixty-second Foot, British Army.

31. Ensign John Winship, of the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment. He resigned Apr. 3, 1778.

32. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

33. Col. Samuel Drake. New York commissioner to remove stock from reach of enemy and member of New York committee of sequestration.

that you might see it, and vindicate yourself, if any of the charges were not founded in truth. It would appear from your state of the matter, that Colo. Drake and his Colleague had been guilty of neglect of duty on their parts, and therefore as they charge you with having done injustice to the inhabitants of the State of New York, in my opinion you had better address your vindication to Governor Clinton, who, being on the spot, can have a better opportunity of hearing both parties fully than I can.

I am exceedingly glad to hear of your determination to remain in the Army at this time, when too many are withdrawing themselves from the Service, and I am not less pleased at the account you give me of the progress of the obstructions and Fortifications in and upon the River. I can only recommend your strictest attention to a work of so much consequence. I must also desire that you will have all the Arms at the different posts in your Neighbourhood collected and have those that want repair put into the hands of the Armourers at Fishkill, for I am certain when we come to draw our force together in the Spring, that we shall want Arms, notwithstanding the considerable importations.

Colo. Hay,³⁴ of Haverstraw informs me, that there is a large quantity of Forage collected at that place which he fears will fall into the Enemy's hands if it is not removed or a proper

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guard sent over to protect it. As your Force may not probably allow you to do the latter with convenience, I wish you would

34. Lieut. Col. Udny Hay, Deputy Quartermaster General, and, later, agent for the State of New York.

do all in your power to effect the former. The Enemy, I should suppose must be distressed for want of it, and when our Stores come forward in the Spring our Horses will stand in equal need of it. As Colo. Hay complains of Genl. Putnam's inattention to this matter when he represented it to him, I must beg you to see to it.

The Committee of Congress who are now here have desired that no Commissions may be filled up till some new general arrangements of the Army are completed. The Gentlemen will not lose any of their pretensions to Rank, by waiting a little time longer for their Commissions, which shall be forwarded as soon as the Business above mentioned is finished. Colo. Webb's³⁵ Officers will take Rank from the time he really appointed them. As I do not know when that was, he or Lieutt. Colo. Livingston³⁶ must make an exact Return of their Ranks and time of appointment. Inclosed you have a letter for Genl. Knox who is expected from the Eastward. If he has not arrived with you, be pleased to forward it to Springfield with orders if he has not been there to send it on to Boston. I am, etc.³⁷

35. Col. Samuel Blatchley Webb.

36. Lieut. Col. William Smith Livingston, of Webb's Additional Continental regiment.

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