

**George Washington to Baron de Calbiac, July 23, 1776,
The Writings of George Washington from the Original
Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick,
Editor.**

To BARON DE CALBIAC

New York, July 23, 1776.

Sir: I received your favour of Yesterday, and in answer thereto, I am to inform you, at the same time that I commend the good Intentions which you profess induced your Countrymen¹ to leave their Families and Homes, that I have done the only thing in my power to favour their views.

On their first arrival and introduction to me, I gave them a letter to the Continental Congress, to whom it was necessary to make known their wishes and from whom any Appointments they expect, must come. This, I am persuaded, you are sensible of, and would wish you to communicate to them. Their pretensions will be duly considered, and if supported by proper Credentials, I make no doubt but suitable Regard will be had to their Merits.

Your and their good Sense will readily suggest the Propriety and Expediency of their furnishing some testimonial and recommendation previous to any appointment: These would have been proper at any time, but the late instance of treachery and ingratitude in Monsieur² in deserting and taking the Command of a party of the Enemy in Canada, after he had been promoted to Office in the service of the United Colonies, makes them indispensably necessary. Though I do not entertain the least suspicion of the Honour and

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Integrity of the Gentlemen of whom you write, or mean to insinuate that a conduct like Monsieur would frequently happen.

I might further add, that the unacquaintance of our Soldiers with any Language but their own, makes them rather unwilling and impatient under the Command of Foreigners, unless they axe Men of high reputation. Nor will they consent thereto but on that account and where they profess great Military knowledge. It therefore follows that any Appointments these Gentlemen may obtain, will not be attended with any good purposes or satisfaction to themselves, unless they are to [be in a] Corps of their own people, or those who understand their Language. I am, Sir, etc.

1aron de Calbiac came from Guadeloupe.
2he name is left blank in the "Letter Book."