

which appears by the indorsement to have contained the proceedings, was all that you sent.⁹⁶

The Qr. Master should make a reasonable compensation to those persons who take up shot or any Stores from the North River and deliver them to him. I have laid your several complaints against Colo. Lewis,⁹⁷ before the Qr. Mr. General. Colo. Lewis has sent down a vindication of his conduct and desires a proper inquiry, which the Qr. Mr. General must make.

I would not have you build Barracks at Fort Edward. The troops now there may winter at Saratoga, where are good Barracks for 300 Men. If there should be a necessity of keeping a small command at Fort Edward,⁹⁸ a Hut or two may be easily erected for the purpose. If Colo. Butler undertakes the Unadilla expedition⁹⁹ I hope he may have success. I am very glad to hear of the blow struck by the Onondaga Indians upon the rear of Brant's Party. I am &c.¹

[N. H. H. S.]

TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Fishkill, October 8, 1778.

Dear Sir: I received yours of yesterday inclosing a letter from Genl. Nixon and a deposition respecting the abuse of several inhabitants of the State by some Officers of the Army. I shall immediately order the Officers to be secured until civil process shall issue against them.²

⁹⁶At this point the draft has the following, which was not incorporated in the letter sent: "Your letter of the 7th Sept. never reached me until the 24th of the same month, when the batteau men were immediately sent up."

⁹⁷Col. Morgan Lewis, deputy quartermaster general, Northern Department.

⁹⁸At this point the draft has: "during the winter."

⁹⁹A Mohawk settlement in Otsego County, N. Y., which had developed into a place of refuge for Tories and runaway negroes.

¹In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

²"An outrage has been committed on some inhabitants of this State by a Lieut. Henderson, Marshal B. Ball and Ensn. Smith as appears from a deposition in the hands of the bearer of this letter. As these officers are of your command, you will be pleased to direct them under immediate confinement to remain so till the civil power

A flag Boat was standing up the River yesterday with directions to proceed as far as Fishkill landing, to take off the family and effects of Mr. Cuyler³ of Albany. As I understood from Mr. Cuyler, when he went into New York himself, that his family and effects were not to be permitted to go down until he had cleared up some matters respecting the exchange of himself and Major Lush,⁴ I ordered the Boat to be stopped below West Point. If it is proper that Mr. Cuyler's effects should be sent to him, be pleased to direct them to be carried from Fishkill to the Boat below West Point, as there are many good reasons why the persons on board of her should not have an opportunity of coming further up and viewing the Works.

I send you by the Express a number of packets directed for your Excellency, the House of Assembly and the different Officers of Government, they came out yesterday by a Flag and contain a Manifesto and proclamation,⁵ by the British Commissioners, of a very extraordinary Nature. I have the honor, etc.

P. S. Be pleased to write a line to Genl. Putnam if the Boat is to return with Mr. Cuyler's effects. That he may take off the Guard. I shall return to Fredericksburg this Afternoon if the weather is good, at which place I shall be happy to receive your favor.⁶

can take place."—*Washington to Malcom*, Oct. 8, 1778. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

³Abraham Cuyler.

⁴Maj. Stephen Lush, aide to Governor Clinton. He had been taken prisoner at Fort Montgomery, N. Y., in October, 1777.

⁵The Proclamation and Manifesto of Oct. 3, 1778. A broadside of this is in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress.

⁶The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

On October 8 Washington wrote briefly to Lord Stirling that Congress by a resolve of September 30 had ordered Pulaski's corps and all the Continental troops in the vicinity of Philadelphia to Princeton. Stirling was requested by Washington to issue the necessary instructions and to order all the detachments then at Princeton to join their commands.

Also on this same date (October 8) Washington wrote to Col. William Malcom, granting permission for the supernumerary officers of Col. Enoch Poor's regiment to return to their homes and to Col. John Beatty, Commissary General of Prisoners, requesting a "detail state of the wants and condition of the prisoners with the enemy, the better to enable me to represent their case and real sufferings to Congress." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

They will not transfer them to that Corps unless fit to do duty in it.

A board of General officers will sit at Lord Stirlings quarters tomorrow morning ten o'clock to settle the rank of the Field Officers in the Massachusetts Line.

All officers concern'd are desired to attend and prefer [profer] their pretensions.

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS¹⁶

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 13, 1778.

Gentlemen: You will perceive, by the inclosed Copy of a Resolve of Congress, that I am impowered to employ a body of four hundred Indians, if they can be procured upon proper terms. Divesting them of the Savage customs exercised in their Wars against each other, I think they may be made of excellent use, as scouts and light troops, mixed with our own Parties. I propose to raise about one half the number among the Southern and the remainder among the Northern Indians. I have sent Colo Nathl. Gist, who is well acquainted with the Cherokees and their Allies, to bring as many as he can from thence, and I must depend upon you to employ suitable persons to procure the stipulated number or as near as may be from the Northern tribes. The terms made with them should be such as you think we can comply with, and persons well acquainted with their language, manners and Customs and who have gained an influence over them should accompany them. The Oneidas have manifested the strongest attachment to us throughout this dispute and I therefore suppose, if any can be procured, they will be most numerous. Their Missionary Mr. Kirkland seemed to

¹⁶ Philip Schuyler, James Duane, and Volkert Pieterse Douw were Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department. They sat at Albany, N. Y.

have an uncommon ascendancy over that tribe and I should therefore be glad to see him accompany them. If the Indians can be procured, I would choose to have them here by the opening of the Campaign, and therefore they should be engaged as soon as possible as there is not more time between this and the Middle of May than will be necessary to settle the business with them and to March from their Country to the Army. I am not without hopes that this will reach you before the treaty which is to be held, breaks up. If it should, you will have an Opportunity of knowing their sentiments, of which I shall be glad to be informed, as soon as possible.¹⁷ I have the honour etc.¹⁸

¹⁷ Regarding the employment of Indians, Sparks prints the following footnote in volume 5 of his *Writings of Washington*:

"A short time before Congress passed the resolve conferring the authority described above the subject had been vehemently discussed in the British Parliament (February 6) on a motion of Mr. Burke to call for the papers which had passed between the ministry and the generals commanding in America relative to the military employment of Indians. The act was denounced as criminal, and the ministers were censured with much asperity by the prominent opposition members for abetting and approving it. Mr. Burke said: 'No proof whatever had been given of the Americans having attempted offensive alliances with any one tribe of savages; whereas the imperfect papers now before that House demonstrated, that the King's ministers had negotiated and obtained such alliances from one end of the continent of America to the other; that the Americans had actually made a treaty on the footing of neutrality with the famous Five Nations, which the King's ministers had bribed them to violate, and to act offensively against the colonies; that no attempt had been made in a single instance on the part of the King's ministers to procure a neutrality; that if the fact had been, that the Americans had actually employed those savages, yet the difference of employing them against armed and trained soldiers, embodied and encamped, and employing them against the unarmed and defenceless men, women, and children of a country, dispersed in their houses, was manifest, and left those, who attempted so inhuman and unequal a retaliation, without excuse.'

"Lord George Germain spoke in reply, and justified the conduct of the administration. He said 'the matter lay within a very narrow compass; the Indians would not have remained idle spectators; the very arguments used by the honorable gentleman, who made the motion, were so many proofs that they would not. Besides, the rebels, by their emissaries, had made frequent applications to the Indians to side with them, the Virginians particularly; and he said, that some Indians were employed at Boston in the rebel army. Now taking the disposition of the Indians, with the applications made to them by the colonies, it amounted to a clear, indisputable proposition, that either they would have served against us, or that we must have employed them.' Lord North said, on the same side, 'that, in respect to the employment of Indians, he looked upon it as bad, but unavoidable.'

"Governor Pownall, who had resided long in America and understood the Indian character perfectly, was of the same opinion. He proposed a scheme of his own. 'I know,' said he, 'and therefore speak directly, that the idea of an Indian neutrality

of which have completed and will soon complete the term of service, for which they are engaged.

That General Sullivan has under his command at Providence and its dependencies about 3500 Continental and State troops.

From this state of facts and under these circumstances, the Commander in Chief requests the opinion of the Council, whether it will be prudent and adviseable to make a detachment from the main army towards Boston, and of what force.

He further informs the Council, that he has been impatiently waiting for the movements of the enemy to ascertain their intentions for the Winter, in order to enable him the better to judge of a proper disposition of the army in Winter quarters; but the uncertainty, in which their designs still continue involved and the advanced season of the year, will no longer admit of delay, in fixing upon a plan for this important purpose. He therefore requests the advice of the council on the following points: whether the army shall be held in a collected state during the Winter and where? whether it shall be distributed into cantonments and in what particular manner? what precautions shall be adopted in either case to shelter the troops and procure subsistence both of provision and forage?

He observes: That in determining these questions, the considerations principally to be attended to are, the actual strength and situation and the probable designs of the enemy; the security, good government and discipline of the army; the difficulties of subsistence and accommodation; the protection of the country; the support of our important posts; the relation proper to be preserved with the French, [fleet]⁷⁶ considering the degree of probability of its remaining where it now is, and of a winter operation against it, and the occasional succour it

⁷⁶The word "fleet" was inadvertently omitted here.

may derive from the troops under General Sullivan and from the Militia of the Country.⁷⁷

He finally informs the Council that some time since, he directed the Quarter Master General to endeavour to provide materials for barracks. The result of his measures will appear in a letter from Mr. Pettit hereunto annexed.⁷⁸

TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, October 16, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am favd. with yours of the 15th. containing the disagreeable account of the further ravages committed by the Indians. I will immediately order one Regiment to be held ready for the frontier service, and if, upon making a general arrangement of the Army, I find that more can be spared, I will make an addition to the number. As I am unacquainted with the direction of Anaquaga,⁷⁹ I shall be obliged by your Excellency's informing me immediately by Express to what place the troops from hence shall march, in order to meet and cooperate with those already to the Northward. Colo Butler marched the beginning of this month with an intent to strike some of the places of rendezvous of the enemy upon the North West frontier. I have not heard whether he has had any success; but by a letter

⁷⁷Most of the opinions, in answer to these queries, were submitted in writing to the Commander in Chief on October 20 and are in the *Washington Papers*.

⁷⁸Deputy Quartermaster General Charles Pettit's letter of October 16 to Alexander Hamilton accompanies this record of the Council of War, in the *Washington Papers*, which is in Hamilton's writing. A copy by Tench Tilghman, which varies slightly from the above, is also in the *Washington Papers*, and another copy by Tilghman is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁷⁹Anaquaga (Onoquaga, Oquaga, Unaquaga), N. Y. Clinton's reply (October 17) stated that Anaquaga was on the Susquehanna nearly west of Kingston, in Ulster County. There were practicable routes from Minisink, Rochester (in Ulster County), and Kingston, but the best was from Schoharie. This was the route taken by Col. William Butler. Clinton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

from General Stark I find that the Oneida's had destroyed the settlement of Unadilla and Butter Nuts and brought off some prisoners. I shall be guided by your better Judgment in the directions to be given to the Officer who will command this expedition, and I shall therefore be glad to have your advice in the fullest manner, as to the Route, the proper places to lodge supplies, the easiest method of procuring them and any other matters which you may judge necessary for the execution of the plan. I am &c.⁸⁰

TO COMTE D'ESTAING

Head Quarters, October 16, 1778.

Sir: I have just received intelligence that on the nights of the 10th. and 11th. inst a considerable body of troops embarked at New York; the most accurate accounts that we have been able to obtain of their numbers make them consist of ten Regiments with their flank Companies, completed by drafts to the full establishment, which will make them amount to between five and six thousand men; some however pretend that five and other that seven brigades have embarked. Although I am clearly satisfied in my own mind that these troops are destined for the West Indies, and repeated intelligence corroborated by the reason of the thing, almost removes the suspicion of any enterprise being meditated at this late Season, against Your Excellency's Squadron it is an object too precious to the common cause, for me not to give Your Excellency immediate notice of a movement which might by the most remote possibility affect it; and take such measures for counteracting the success, as the other considerations by which Your Excellency knows my conduct must be regulated, will allow. I have therefore ordered a detachment

⁸⁰ The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of troops to proceed by gentle marches as far as the Connecticut River, that it may be so far on its way, should occasion require. the utmost vigilance will be used to ascertain the time when the transports, with the troops in question shall put to Sea; their numbers; the convoy attending them and every other interesting particular. there are circumstances which induce a belief of the enemy's intention to maintain a Garrison in New York after sending a sufficient detachment to their islands; such are, the superior advantages which this post and its dependencies possess for the security and support of a body of troops, the convenience of the port for distressing our Trade and the excellence of the general situation for carrying on that kind of predatory and desultory war, with which they seem to threaten us.

The judicious reflexions which Your Excellency has done me the honor to communicate in your letter of the 29th. Ulto. and the conjectures founded on them, favor in part the idea of an offensive operation by the English in the West Indies; their Success must depend upon a naval superiority in those Seas.

Your Excellency's reasoning on Admiral Gambier's being appointed to the chief command on the American Station is conclusive and gives room to surmise that Admiral Biron is destined for the W. Indies. The ill health of the latter's crews is a circumstance that may be depended upon; the report of their laboring under a contagious disorder is without foundation: Many of the Sailors have deserted to our outposts, and among them some convalescents who report that the rest are recovering very fast.

I am happy to be informed that Your Excellency has found a satisfactory method for exchanging the bulk of your prisoners; every thing in my power shall be done for the expeditious forwarding of the rest to New York and negotiating their exchange agreeably to the terms of the convention, which you are to communicate.

number of Men he had already collected, and what further augmentations he expects to receive. I have the Honor, etc.⁷⁹

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Buckingham, Saturday, June 20, 1778.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Each Regiment is to furnish a Sub, each Brigade a Captain, and the line a Field Officer who are during the march to mount with the morning Guards and under the direction of the Brigadier of the day collect all Straglers and march them to the Army.

They are more over to see that nothing which can or ought to be brought away is left on the ground, or properly secured there; That this business may be conducted with more ease, a Subaltern and twelve Dragoons are to assist. The Commanding Officer of the Cavalry will give orders for having them furnished in Rotation.

If the morning should not be very wet, the General, Troop and March will be as this morning.

If the Commissaries are provided, the men are to have each a Gill of spirits served to them this afternoon.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

10 Miles from Coryels, June 21, 1778.⁸⁰

Sir: This will be delivered you by Major Wemp,⁸¹ who has the care of some Warriors from the Seneca Nation. The

⁷⁹In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The phrase in brackets was inserted by Washington in the draft and has the following deleted at the end: "The Afternoon promises to be very rainy, which will rather be inconvenient, as our Baggage is not yet on the ground for encamping." The letter was read in Congress June 23.

⁸⁰"1778, June 21. To cash paid John Fell for Breakfast dinner and Supr. £ 6"—"Headquarters Account Book," in the *Washington Papers*.

⁸¹Maj. Myndert Wemple, of Schenectady, N. Y.

inclosed copy⁸² of a Letter from our Commissioners will shew, that they are come to obtain the release of Astiarix Another Warrior, who has been taken on the Frontiers of Virginia. I never heard of the circumstance, till I was informed of it a few days ago by a Letter from General Schuyler. As the Commissioners have consented to his exchange and advised it, I have assured them it was agreeable to me, and I must take the liberty to request that Congress will order it to be accomplished, as soon as possible. I have treated them with civility, but declared at the same time, in answer to their speeches, both in Council and as Warriors, if they do not immediately cease Hostilities and become our friends or at least neutral, that the moment we are clear of the British Army, I will turn our whole force against them and the other Nations, at War with us, [who had taken up the Hatchet against us and committed the most horrid barbarities,] and cut them off to a man. They saw the main body of our Army to day, which circumstance, added to the evacuation of Philadelphia and the presents I wrote to Genl. Arnold to make them, and the other instances of kindness, I trust, will have a happy influence on the actions and disposition of their nation, when they return. They are also attended by a few of our Oneida and Tuscarora friends, who were thought necessary to proceed with the truce. They have dispatches from their sachems for the immediate return of such of their Men and Warriors as were here on account of their apprehensions of Hostilities by the Senecas &c. I consented to the measure and directed that they should be furnished with ample and suitable presents, if they could be obtained previous their departure. The Army is in march which will not permit me to add further than that I have the Honor etc.⁸³

⁸²This copy, dated June 9, 1778, is filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

⁸³In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILEMON DICKINSON

6 O'Clock A. M., June 21, 1778.

Dear Sir: I just now received your letter dated 10 o'Clock yesterday night for which I thank you. The one you sent off a few hours before is not yet come to hand. This morning the main army would have been in motion by four o'clock had it not been for the rain, however as there is a prospect of the bad weather giving way, we shall be under march in a few hours. I am etc.⁸⁴

TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Qurs. in Jersey, near Coryel's, June 21, 1778.

Dear Sir: I am now arrived myself on the East side of the Delaware, and the main body of the Army on the other, from whence it will cross as soon as possible. This would have been effected in part to day, had it not been for the rain and the very doubtful appearance of the morning, which prevented the Troops from moving till it was late. The Afternoon will be employed in passing the Artillery and such Baggage as can be got over. I should have written you before upon the subject of our advance, had I not been extremely occupied in putting matters in train for it, and had I not supposed you would have received regular intelligence from General Dickinson respecting it, with whom I have corresponded, as having the military direction of the Militia. I have only to add that I shall be exceedingly happy in your information from time to time of the Enemy's movements, and in your sentiments of their probable operations and routs. I have the Honor etc.⁸⁵

⁸⁴The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

⁸⁵The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

TO MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD

10 Miles from Coryels, June 21, 1778.

Dear Sir: This will be delivered you by Major Wemp who has the conduct and care of some Warriors from the Seneca Nation, who are also accompanied by a few of our Oneida and Tuscarora Friends. The inclosed Extract of a Letter from our Indian Commissioners at Albany, will inform you of the Senecas's business in this Quarter. I cannot give them the smallest account of Astiarix of whom they are in pursuit, nor did I ever hear of his captivity till I was advised of it a few days ago by Genl. Schuyler. They have been treated with civility, but at the same time I told them of their Hostilities, and that as soon as the British Army were gone, If they did not immediately cease them, I would turn our whole force against them and the other Indian Nations, who have taken a like bloody part against us and cut them to pieces. They have also had a view of the main body of the Army and been told of our great resources of Men, and number of Troops elsewhere. I hope This circumstance with the evacuation of Philadelphia and their own evidence of it, added to our civilities and some presents, will have a happy effect upon the temper and disposition of their Nation when they return. I wish you to order them such Trinkets &c. as you may judge necessary, keeping up however a distinction between them and the Oneidas and Tuscaroras who are our Friends. I would have the favors and presents to these greatly to exceed. Majr. Wemp has dispatches from the Sachems for all the Warriors and Men here before, to return Home immediately. Such as remained, I beleive are with Monsr. Tussard;⁸⁶ I shall be glad that you will have them

⁸⁶Louis Toussard, a volunteer. He had been a captain of artillery in the French Army; later served as an aide to Lafayette; was wounded and lost an arm in Rhode

different Stores with a general account of your issues and receipts during the preceding month. You will also be pleased to render me, as soon as may be, a particular return of the shoemakers and taylors tools on hand or in store.

The woolen mitts and caps are not to be delivered without my order.⁴⁶

TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

West Point, November 27, 1779.

Sir: In the Letter I had the honor of addressing to Your Excellency on the 24th, I mentioned the general Outlines of the intended disposition of the Army for the Winter. From the important light in which these Highland posts are held, I would now take occasion to mention for the more particular satisfaction of Congress, that the 1st. 2d. 3d and 4th Massachusetts Brigades, are the Troops intended for their immediate security, and for furnishing light parties for patrolling and covering the Country towards Kingsbridge. The command is also to comprehend the New Hampshire brigade, which will quarter at Danbury and Moylans and Sheldons Regiments of Dragoons, which will be stationed rather more Easterly. On the 17th. I wrote Major Genl. Gates, and, informing him of these circumstances, offered it to him, if he should prefer it to One in the main Army; but on his arrival here, he expressed his wishes to go to Virginia for a few months, on account of the situation of his private affairs. His request, from his long absence and services, appeared so reasonable and so just, that I could not object to it. The command from this circumstance, will be given to Major General Heath. I have the Honor, etc.⁴⁷

⁴⁶The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

⁴⁷In the writing of George Augustine Washington.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY

Head Quarters, West Point, November 27, 1779.

Dr. Sir: Where the troops have moved off; which are not designed to remain at this port and its dependencies, you will be pleased to order the collecting of such boats as may not be necessary for the use of this garrison and the several ferries, to places where they will be perfectly secure. I am etc.⁴⁸

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN TYLER

Head Quarters, West Point, November 28, 1779.

Sir: I have recd yr favor of the 18th. inst by Serjeant Hebbard, who delivered with it Richd Bird, his Pocket Book containing sundry Papers, 3 half Joes, two Guneas and 100 Paper Dollars enclosed in a letter from his Wife. I have not the least doubt of his past Villainous conduct, and intentions to practice the same in future and shall therefore have him properly secured until he can be conveyed to Virginia where his offences from what appears seem most likely to meet with the punishment they deserve.

I am much obliged by your promise of communicating such intelligence as may be important. We have nothing at all new in this quarter. I am, &c.⁴⁹

* TO COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

West-point, November 28, 1779.

Sir: Immediately upon receipt of this letter you will be pleased to procure One hundred and fifty pair of Snow Shoes,

⁴⁸The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

⁴⁹The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

and deposit them at Fort Schuyler, subject to the delivery of my order *only*. For particular reasons I wish to have them made in the Indian Country, by the Oneidas or some of those tribes, but if they cannot be had there, then to get them made up the Mohawk river. A proportionate number of Mocasons are also necessary, and must be deposited with the Snow Shoes.

The Quarter Mastr at Albany will pay the cost of these things upon your order. I am, etc.

TO COLONEL HENRY JACKSON,⁵⁰ CAPTAIN
THOMAS TURNER,⁵¹ AND LIEUTENANT
THOMAS EDWARDS⁵²

Head Quarters, West Point, November 28, 1779.

Gentlemen: I was yesterday favd. with yours of the 24th. I should have been glad if the arrangements made for the disposition of the Army this Winter, would have admitted of your Regiment's remaining at or very near the Quarters of the Massachusetts line. But circumstances are such, that was it be stationed upon the North River, some one of those belonging immediately to the State must be separated from the line. Thus by remedying one inconvenience another would be incurred. I think it probable that our Winter Cantonments will be between thirty and forty Miles from Kings ferry, perhaps not more than thirty. The communication will be frequent, and the transportation of the State supplies from thence to your quarters not very difficult.

⁵⁰Of an Additional Continental regiment. (The regiment was designated the Sixteenth Massachusetts Regiment in July, 1780.) He was transferred to the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1781, and to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783; retained as colonel in the First Regiment, United States Army, in November, 1783; served to June, 1784.

⁵¹Of Jackson's Additional Continental regiment. He was transferred to the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1781, and to the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783; served to June, 1783.

⁵²Of Jackson's Additional Continental regiment. He was Deputy Judge Advocate in October, 1782, and served to November, 1783.

Should our Affairs call for a larger Body of Men than are at present assigned to the defences of the posts upon the North River, you may be assured, that I shall give your Regiment the preference, as I perceive the advantages which would result from such a measure, and which I wish I could, conveniently, put immediately into execution. I am, etc.⁵³

TO JAMES WILKINSON

Head Quarters, November 28, 1779.

Sir: Col Greene and Col. Angel wait on you respecting the Cloathg for their Regts; I wish you to accommodate the matter with them in the best manner you can. From their peculiar situation, it may be impossible to transact the business agreeable to your instructions so as to let it pass immediately thro the hands of the State Clothr; but this may be finally done should there be a necessity for giving these Gentn an order for their proportion of Cloathg; which they inform me is now on hand to the Eastward. I am, &c.⁵⁴

TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, West Point, November 29, 1779.

Dr Sir: Inclosed you will find a Copy of Genl. Du-Portails state of the Troops necessary for the defence of this Post. It may be very useful during your command. You will however be pleased to observe that the Enemy were, when it was made, in possession of the Posts at Kings Ferry, which not being the case now, a less number of Guards is necessary; such as are superfluous will readily occur to you, in looking over the state.

⁵³In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

⁵⁴The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

us. I therefore depend upon your keeping a very good look out upon their line, and gaining every intelligence from people coming out of Town, that I may have the earliest notice of their movements or intentions. I am, etc.⁸⁵

TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 29, 1777.

Sir: I last night had the honor to receive your Letter of the 26th. Instt. accompanied by sundry Resolves of Congress and some other papers.

The arrival of the Arms, Locks and Flints, you have been pleased to mention, is a most fortunate and happy event. I join you most sincerely, in congratulations upon the occasion.⁸⁶

I have not yet obtained a Certain account of the expedition against and destruction of Peek's Kills. Information of those events has not been transmitted by Genls McDougall or Clinton or the Convention of the State. There is no doubt, but the Town is destroyed and with it some Stores; neither the quality or amount of them is known. It is said, that it was done in part by our own people, when they found, that they could not prevent them falling into the Enemy's Hands. The Ships and Troops have gone down the River again.⁸⁷

⁸⁵The text is from the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 6, 139.

⁸⁶"Tuesday last [March 24] arrived here the brig Sally, Capt. Stocker, in 11 weeks from Nantz, in France, with 6800 stand of small arms, a large number of gun locks &c."—*Pennsylvania Gazette*, Mar. 26, 1777.

⁸⁷Brig. Gen. Alexander McDougall wrote (March 29) to Washington an account of the British raid against Peekskill. Stores and provisions to a considerable amount had been collected at that place and Howe determined to destroy them. He sent out an American artillery officer, who had been captured at Fort Washington and exchanged, and this officer reported having heard the enemy talk of a foraging expedition by three divisions, one up the Sound to Mamaroneck, another from Kings Bridge by the center road, and a third to land at Tarrytown. McDougall had only 250 men and took no steps other than to prepare for removing the stores to places of greater safety—to Forts Montgomery and Constitution.

Before this was accomplished nine or ten of the enemy's vessels appeared in the North River near Tarrytown, and two of them ascended as high as Tellers Point, 12 miles below Peekskill, on the evening of March 22. The next day, at noon, they reached Peekskill. At 1 o'clock about 500 men in eight flatboats landed at Lents Cove,

Mr. Kirkland, the Oneida Missionary, arrived here this week, with a Chief Warrior and five other Indians of that Nation. They had been to Boston and came from thence to this place, to enquire into the true state of matters, that they might report them to a Grand Council to be shortly held. They said things were so falsely and variously represented by our Enemies thro their Agents, that they did not know what to depend on. I invited them to go to Philadelphia, but they declined it, declaring they were well satisfied with what they had seen and that they were authorized to tell their Nation, all they had heard from the Enemy was false. Being told that France was assisting us and about to join in the War, they seemed highly pleased and Mr Kirkland said, he was persuaded it would have a considerable effect on the Minds of several of the Nations and secure to us their neutrality, if not a declaration and commencement of Hostilities in our favor. I shewed them every civility in my power and every thing that I thought material to excite in them an Idea of our strength and independence. After staying Two days, they set off for their Nation, expressing their desire of the most speedy return to the Council and professing the most friendly Sentiments towards us. I am &c.⁸⁸

TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Qurs., Morris Town, March 29, 1777.

Sir: Since I had the Honor of addressing you this Morning by the Return Express, the Eastern post arrived. The Intelligence

on the south side of the bay, with four pieces of light artillery drawn by the sailors. This force being double General McDougall's, he destroyed such stores as he could and retreated towards the Highlands and sent orders to Lieut. Col. Marinus Willett, at Fort Constitution, to march to his assistance. The British kept possession of the town till the next day, when Willett attacked their outpost and drove it in. That evening the British embarked, and sailed down the river. Nine of the enemy were killed and wounded in the skirmish with Willett, and four were killed at the creek while attempting to burn the boats. The Americans had one man mortally wounded by a cannon shot, and the loss of provisions and stores was considerable. McDougall's letter is in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress.

⁸⁸In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence and orders it to take place immediately.

At a General Court Martial whereof Colonel Febiger was President 5th. of May 1778; Lieutenant Carter⁴⁹ of Colo. Baylor's Regiment of Light Dragoons tried for neglect of duty in leaving the different roads unguarded from Barren Hill Church to Philadelphia, by which neglect the Enemy march'd a body of horse and foot to said Church and surprized and made Prisoners a Subaltern and his Party who had returned to the Church for refreshment. After due deliberation the Court are of opinion that Lieutt. Carter is guilty of the charge exhibited against him, being a breach of Article 5th. section 18th. of the Articles of War but are of opinion that he must have mis-understood the orders given by Captain McLane, which considerably alleviates his neglect of duty and sentence him to be reprimanded in General Orders.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence, discharges Lieutenant Carter from his Arrest and desires him to repair to his Regiment; He hopes that he will in future pay very strict attention to the orders of his commanding Officer, as he must plainly perceive the ill effects that have arisen from Misapprehension.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, V. Forge, Friday, May 15, 1778.

Parole Onondaga. Countersigns Ohio, Ontario.

General McIntosh being appointed to a separate Command and requiring a little time to prepare for it, Colo. Clark⁵⁰ is to

⁴⁹Lieut. John Hill Carter, of the Third Continental Dragoons.

⁵⁰Col. Thomas Clark, of the First North Carolina Regiment. He was wounded at Stono Ferry, S. C., in June, 1779; taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C., in May, 1780; retired in January, 1783.

take the immediate command of the North Carolina Brigade and discharge the several duties of Colo. Commandant 'till further orders, except administring the oath to the officers (agreeable to former orders) which General McIntosh is to continue to do while he stays in Camp.

James McHenry,⁵¹ Esquire, is appointed as Assistant Secretary to the Commander in Chief and is to be respected and obeyed as such.

The Court of Enquiry whereof General Varnum was President report "That although the Inconveniences suffered in Colo. Greene's Regiment would naturally prompt him to request an Enquiry, yet that Colo. Steward has acquitted himself with propriety being no way contributory thereto."

The Proportions of Paper will be delivered the several Brigades tomorrow.

No Sutler or soldiers are to sell or give any rum or other spirituous liquors to the Indians on any pretence whatever. A breach of this order will be immediately and severely noticed.

TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, May 15, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letters of the 16th. and 26th. of last month, with their inclosures. I am sorry to observe, that the Disposition of the Indian nations is not generally so favourable, as could be wished; but it is not to be wondered at, when we consider the advantages the enemy possess over us, in the means of supplying their wants, and rewarding

⁵¹Had been a surgeon in the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment; as assistant secretary to the Commander in Chief he held the rank of lieutenant colonel; major in the Continental Army in May, 1781, to rank from October, 1780; aide to Lafayette from October, 1780, to December, 1781; Secretary of War of the United States, Jan. 29, 1796, to May 13, 1800.

their friendships. I doubt not Congress, as far as may be practicable, will direct the measures recommended by the Board of Commissioners for cultivating their attachment, to be carried into effect, or any others that may appear proper for promoting that end. I should hope, that if their minds could be impressed with a conviction of the true state of Affairs between France and this country and of the genuineness of the Treaties lately concluded, it would have a very happy influence. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras have a particular claim to attention and kindness, for their perseverance and fidelity.

Mr. Toussard,⁵² with a party of Indians arrived in camp yesterday. I learn by him, that Lt. Colo. Gouvion⁵³ was shortly to set out with another party. If he has not yet began his journey, when this gets to hand, I should wish the party to be stopped, or if they should be on the way and not far advanced, and it can be done without occasioning disgust, I should be glad they might return home. When my application was made for a body of Indians to join this army, our prospects were very different from what they now are. It was expected that the campaign would have been opened by the enemy much earlier than it, in all probability, will, if they do make another campaign in America, which is far from being certain, in the present posture of European affairs. All appearances at this time are opposed to the supposition of any speedy offensive movement on their part, and if they remain on the defensive, protected by their works, there will be very little of that kind of service in which the Indians are capable of being useful. To bring them such a distance, while there is likely to be scarcely any employment suited

⁵²Louis Tousard, volunteer. He lost an arm in action in Rhode Island in 1778 and was given the rank of brevet lieutenant colonel, Continental Army, and a pension of \$30 a month for life by Congress Oct. 27, 1778; major in the First United States Artillery in February, 1795; lieutenant colonel of the Second United States Artillery in May, 1800; honorably discharged June 1, 1802.

⁵³Lieut. Col. Jean Baptiste Gouvion, of the Continental Engineers. He was brevet colonel in November, 1781; retired in October, 1783.

to their active and desultory genius, could answer no valuable purpose; but would be productive of needless expence, and might perhaps have a tendency to put them out of humour. As there seemed too, to be some apprehensions among them for their own security, and rather a reluctance, to leave their homes, they will possibly not be displeased to find the call for their services has cease'd.

I leave it to your judgment to assign such reasons as you shall deem best calculated to account for the change and satisfy them. I should think however a good way might be, to inform them, with proper comments of the Treaties we have entered into, and that in consequence of them, affairs have taken such a turn, as to make it unnecessary to give them the trouble at this time of coming to our assistance; That we wish them for the present, to continue peaceably at home, and only be in readiness to cooperate with us on any future occasion, that may present itself for advancing our mutual interest. They may be told, that we hope soon to be able to expel our enemies and to give them effectual protection, against all those from whom they themselves have any thing to dread. These you will consider merely as hints, and make such use of them as you shall judge expedient. As I have requested the Marquis to instruct Mr. Gouvion, with a message from him to them, expressive of ideas similar to those here suggested. He will inclose his letter for Mr. Gouvion open to you, directing him nevertheless to consult you and make his declarations correspond with yours. With respect to such Indians as may happen to be on their way to us, though under present circumstances, I had much rather dispense with their attendance; yet if you conceive, they cannot be sent back, without offending them, they must be suffered to proceed.

Congress have not yet sent me their final instructions relative to your trial: So soon as they do, you may depend I shall

immediately give you notice, and transmit, agreeable to your desire, a copy of the charges they exhibit.

You will without doubt have seen such particulars of our new alliance, as have been made public. There is every reason to believe a war has been some time since declared between France and England. The late Philadelphia papers are full of it. One of them contains a message from the Court of France to that of Britain, announcing the alliance with America in terms of banter and contempt that must be more galling, than any thing she has ever before experienced. The King pronounces it to be a high and unprovoked insult. The two houses of parliament, reecho his sentiments and assure him of their most zealous support, in any measures he may find necessary towards resenting the injury. The English ambassador is recalled from France, and the French ambassador from England. Every appearance indicates an instant war. Another Philadelphia paper of the 13th., among several other articles of a similar complexion, mentions that the Directors of the Bank had waited upon Lord North to know if a war would take place so soon as was expected, to which he replied it was inevitable. I am etc.⁵⁴

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
THOMAS NELSON, JUNIOR

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, May 15, 1778.

Dear Sir: By last nights post I received your favor of the 5th. Instant.

I thank you for your exertions to raise a body of Cavalry for reinforcing and relieving those belonging to the Army, which by the severe service of the last campaign are much reduced.

⁵⁴The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

As motives of generosity and duty bring your Corps to the field, I flatter myself they will render essential services, and that their conduct will be such, as to merit the approbation of their Country.

With respect to Carbines, if they can be procured without much delay, it would be best, but if they cannot, I would not wish you to wait for them. The most direct route will be thro' Baltimore. However, I do not know but the Horses may be more easily subsisted on the upper road, tho' that too has been greatly frequented and the forage considerably exhausted.

I congratulate you most sincerely on the part which France has taken in our Affairs. The public prints will inform you of the Treaty with us, and of her message to the Court of London in consequence. The Latter was communicated thro' the Philadelphia press, and it must have been more galling and degrading to the pride and ambition of Britain than any thing she has experienced since she was a Nation. By a paper of the 13th. from the same Quarter, it is said, "the directors of the bank had waited on Lord North, to know whether a war would happen as soon as expected, who answered it was inevitable. That all Governors &c. had been ordered forthwith to repair to their respective Stations in England, Ireland and elsewhere. A further paragraph is, That a Messenger extraordinary had been dispatched to Lord Grantham, Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, instructing him to demand categorically, whether that Court meant to aid the French in their present unjustifiable conduct with respect to American disputes, or to preserve the strictest neutrality; with further directions, in case of an evasive answer, to leave the Spanish dominions immediately. It is added that the Declaration of War was only suspended to know the event of the demand." Matters appear abroad to be