







CORRESPONDENCE AND JOURNALS

OF

SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB.

VOL. II.

1778-1782.

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*Alexander Hamilton,  
from a painting by John Trumbull  
in the possession of John Jay.*

CORRESPONDENCE AND JOURNALS

OF

SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB.

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COLLECTED AND EDITED BY

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.

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VOLUME II.

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1778-1782.

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THE CORRESPONDENCE  
OF  
SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB.

---

FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

VALLEY FORGE, Jan<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR:

I was this Evening favored with your Letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>. I had heard before of your unfortunate expedition & captivity, and not without concern.

It would give me pleasure to render you any services in my power, but it is impossible for me to comply with your request, without violating the principles of Justice and incurring a charge of partiality.

You are sensible, that we have several officers now in captivity with the Enemy of your Rank and of Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup>. Campbell's Rank, who have been in this unhappy situation much longer than you: some taken when General Thompson was defeated at the Three Rivers early in 1775—others at Long Island in August following—others at Fort Washington and a further number at the Battle of German Town. These gentlemen would surely exclaim loudly against my conduct and with reason, were any distinctions to be made by my concurrence or authority to their prejudice. So far as Exchanges have depended on me, or as they may rest with me, they have been and ever will be conducted on one principle, to wit, to release those first, who were first captured, as far as circumstances

of Rank would apply. There is no other rule by which equal and impartial justice can be done.

I know there have been some Exchanges contrary to this rule, but they were not made with my privity, consent or approbation. In a word, you may rest assured whenever circumstances put it in my power to effect your Exchange & that of all the officers and privates, under the Restrictions I have mentioned, there shall not be a moment's delay on my part, but on other terms, or in a different order, you will find on reflection, I can never do it. Suppose yourself for an Instant an Officer taken at any of the above periods, you would consider it an injury—a wrong—an act of high injustice done you, If one captured the 10<sup>th</sup> of December last of your Rank was exchanged for you. Perhaps on your return, you may have interest enough with your Acquaintances to obtain your release on parole, but you cannot do this on a principle of having an officer sent in on the like indulgence, the objections to an Enlargement on parole out of due course in such case being the same as to an Exchange.

I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most obedient Servant

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

---

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CAMPBELL.

CONCORD, 8TH JANUARY, 1778.

SIR:

Previous to your favour of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ulti<sup>o</sup> which only reached me this evening, I took the liberty of acquainting you that the friends of Col<sup>o</sup> Ethan Allen, have had it many months in contemplation, his exchange in my behalf; but from certain obstructions, which I understand originated from Governor Tryon, the release of that Gentleman has hitherto been obstructed.

By a want of Power and Interest, the friends of Col<sup>o</sup> Allen have not been able to obtain from the Council of Boston, my permission to go on Parole to the City of New York, where I might accomplish for him, what I find my efforts at this distance are too feeble to

effect ; and there is now not the smallest hope of our mutual exchange taking place.

Under such circumstances, I am naturally led to bend my attention to you Sir, and to accept with pleasure and Satisfaction, the well meant Proposition of my friend Major Morrison. If any exertions in my power can facilitate that business I shall think myself happy in the attempt. The Difference of Rank seems to be the only possible objection on the part of the British : on the side of America, there can be none ; But as there is not of your rank, an officer of the British Army, a Prisoner of War in the hands of the Americans ; and as chance has placed me, the first officer of superior rank for exchange ; there is good reason to believe, the matter will meet with no material obstruction, but what a Personal application on my part may effectually remove ; especially, as it appears by the contents of the letter and Parole you did me the honour to inclose, that General Pigot has already been pleased to accede to the agreement.

In the mean time Sir, I should esteem it a singular favour you would use your best endeavours with the Council of Boston for my immediate permission to go to Newport on Parole ; that I may be able to settle that matter in such a manner as to prevent any possible embarrassments in that quarter.

A request of this nature when stated by an American Officer of your character, who has already experienced the salutary effects of such an indulgence cannot fail to carry with it the most powerful conviction of its justice and propriety, and even lead the most scrupulous to honour it with their complience. It is not you Sir that will reap the sole benefit of such attention, but all whom the fortunes of War may hereafter place into the hands of the British troops. The instances of similar acts of indulgences having been extended to Colo<sup>ls</sup> Miles, and Haussigger, to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colo<sup>ls</sup> Kachline, Moulton, and Lutz, are sufficient instances to prove that acts of generosity in this respect are not uncommon from the British to the field officers Prisoners of War in their hands.

Should Congress and General Washington approve of our mutual exchange, the matter (in case I am permitted to go immediately on Parole to Rhode Island) will be brought to a speedy issue ; should they not happen to accede to it, and that it may be your desire to

lengthen your stay in Connecticut, I shall by personal application to General Pigot prolong, and by remaining there your substitute, confirm an absence.

I have the honour to be with great respect

Sir,

Your most obedient and  
very humble Servant

ARCH<sup>d</sup> CAMPBELL

Lieut. Colo! 71<sup>st</sup> Regt! \*

FROM ROBERT WALKER.

STRATFORD, 16 JANUARY, 1778.

DEAR SIR :

I condole with you for your misfortune : hope Sir you will not be long in that disagreeable situation : my Brother informs me that Mr Broome has a Privateer called Washington, the 1-32 part he will sell to the officers in the service : further informs that you are about to purchase s<sup>d</sup> Part. Should you, my brother & self have a desire to join you, to the amount of four hundred pounds in s<sup>d</sup> purchase. Your Statements upon the matter, & upon what terms s<sup>d</sup> part is to be

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

Archibald Campbell (1739-1791) was a son of James Campbell of Inverneil. He entered the army in 1757, holding a commission as Captain in the Fraser Highlanders, when Simon Fraser (Lord Lovat's son) raised that regiment for service in America "by special license from the King on the recommendation of Mr. Pitt." He served through the campaign, was wounded before Quebec, and after the disbanding of the Fraser Highlanders, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in the 42d Highlanders, serving in India. Returning to England in 1773, he was elected a member of Parliament, but again entered the service on the outbreak of the American Revolution, and was again in Fraser's Highlanders. While on his way to America he was carried into Boston harbor after the city had passed into Washington's hands, and so became a prisoner, with about two hundred and ten of his men. He was described by General Ward as "a member of Parliament, and a gentleman of fortune." In the year 1777 he was exchanged for Ethan Allen, received an appointment as Brigadier General, and did meritorious service in Georgia. He returned to England in 1778, and in later years, as Governor of Jamaica and Madras, he acquitted himself with honor.



purchased, & when she is to sail will oblige us. Have not to add. My brother's compliments to yourself, Brother & Family. I am &c

ROBERT WALKER.\*

P. S. I would like to have one hundred pounds of the above sum in another Bottom if you think proper.

FROM ROBERT WALKER.

STRATFORD, 23 JANUARY, 1778.

DEAR SIR:

Yours by M<sup>r</sup>. Putnam came safe to hand, am sorry we can't make a purchase in the Washington Privateer, from the character I have heard of her. But however, our books tell us the Race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. As M<sup>r</sup>. Broome has several others for sale, am willing to purchase to the amount of four hundred pounds L[awful] money in any one, or more, as you may think proper. I suppose Sir you have heard or know the situation of those for sale, & which is most likely to do well. Should think the sooner they sail the better, as the risk is not so great off & on the Coasts. If my business had permitted, should have done myself the pleasure to have made you a visit, but time would not admit of it, as I expect to return to Camp next week: shall leave the matter wholly to you, Sir, and rest satisfied with what you do in the affair. If you will take the Trouble, Sir, you'll greatly oblige your friend & Humble servant

ROBERT WALKER.

N. B. Would rather chuse to put the sum in two bottoms—not less.† My mother, sister & brother's compliments to Col<sup>o</sup>. Webb & Family: not forgetting Mrs. Dwights & mine.

\* Walker had entered the service in 1775, and as a Lieutenant in Wooster's regiment had gone to Canada. In 1776, as a captain in Colonel Samuel Elmore's regiment, he took the field in July under Schuyler, and marching into Tryon county, did garrison duty at Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix). At this time he was at West Point, a captain in Colonel John Lamb's Artillery.

† Even Washington was concerned in privateering, with John Parke Custis, George Baylor, and Lund Washington. *Writings of Washington*, vi., 197.

TO MAJOR-GENERAL HEATH.

WETHERSFIELD IN CONNECTICUT

Jan<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1778.

DEAR GENERAL

Thro: the carelessness of some person your kind letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>mo</sup> reached me only this Evening, I am exceedingly obliged for the Sentiments it contained, and your attention to my situation, but much I fear it can be of little service towards the facilitateing my exchange,—General Washington in a letter just come to hand says “with pleasure he would consent to my immediate exchange for L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell, but that many Officers of my Rank have been much longer Prisoners, and would with Justice complain of partiality, should he consent”—my only chance left is, that the Enemy may accept L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup> Lawrence of the New Corps for me, he has gone in on Parole to endeavor it.—Wishing you long Life and felicity I am my Dear General with the warmest thanks, and Sentiments of Esteem—

Your obliged friend

& Most Obed<sup>t</sup>.

Hum<sup>bl</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

Compliments to Majors Pollard and Keith. their forwarding the enclosed lett<sup>r</sup>. to Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell will much oblige me.\*

\* From the *Heath Collection* in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

---

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR-GENERAL PUTNAM.

[25 January, 1778.]

DEAR SIR:

I was yesterday favor'd with your Letter of 15<sup>th</sup> Instant inclosing a return of those taken from Col<sup>o</sup> Webbs & Ellis's Regiments.

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

I wish you had not waited for returns of the Militia to furnish me with a State of the troops in that quarter—& if you do not get them in, before you receive this, you will please let me 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 wch happen to be made by us—this must not be practiz'd in future, as it is the height of Injustice & 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 Gen<sup>l</sup> & order such measures to be taken as May relieve you.

I am Sir

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

THOMAS MUMFORD TO PHILIP DUMARESQ.\*

HARTFORD, 29 January, 1778.

DEAR SIR :

I had Occation Lately to write you & solicit favors for my son Giles Mumford, an Ensign in Col<sup>o</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb's Regiment, who had the Misfortune to be Captivated with his Colonel &c. &c. I depend on your goodness to Render him every assistance which he may need.

The Bearer of this, Col<sup>o</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb, was at the Head of the Regiment to which my said son Belongs. He is an intimate friend & particular acquaintance of mine. As he expects soon to return to New York a *prisoner*, I have the Assurance to Recommend him to you as a Gentleman of Delicate Sentiment, induced by the strongest Ties of Honor from which he cannot Depart (tho' some among you may Denominate him a Rebel). Give me leave to Recommend him to your notice & Civility (tho' a prisoner). I wish him to partake of your Liberality *with my son*, and assure you his Bills on me shall meet due honor for what you kindly advance him. If any of your friends & acquaintance meet the same Reverse of fortune I shall be Happy to Retaliate your (solicited) favour, & am, D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>, your old friend &c.

THO<sup>s</sup> MUMFORD.

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FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL PARSONS.

FISHKILL 8<sup>th</sup> Feby 1778.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup> :

I rec'd your Kind Letter of y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>: this Evening on my Return from our mutual Friend Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton's & have the Pleasure to assure you, his opinion of you is not shaken by any Reports he has heard ; if you should be exchanged I beg you to desire Major Huntington to come on to Camp as soon as possible ; he is much wanted. If tis possible to procure me a pencil & Ivory Book ; Buttons for a Coat, Lining &c I shall be particularly obliged by your Care for me in these matters.

A Declaration of War between France & England, Pitt in administration, a general Exchange of Prisoners very speedily & a Prohi-

\* A merchant of New York.

bition against calling us Rebels, gain Credit here. When y<sup>e</sup> Drafts are made I think twill be well to have some good Recruiting officers at Home ; as there's the greatest prospect of Closing y<sup>e</sup> War next Campaign our prospects of Recruiting will be increased.

All other of your Officers (unless some special Difficulties subsist) & all Soldiers whose Furloughs are out I desire may be directed to join immediately as the Works are of great Importance to be finished early & our Labourers are few

I am dear Sir

Yr. Obed<sup>t</sup>: hble Servt,

S. H. PARSONS.\*

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

NEW HAVEN, THURSDAY EVENING, 11 O'CLOCK

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

I am extremely sorry that I cou'd not have spent a few hours with you before your leaving this land of freedom for a *place*. I assure you that I did as much as was in my power to get you Exchanged, but all to no purpose. They say you gave 'em hopes of Col. Campbell, and they can take no other. They speak much of your Gentl<sup>n</sup> like Conduct towards their prisoners, & say that Every Consistent Indulgence shall be given you. On your arrival at Valentine's, shou'd you meet with Maj<sup>t</sup>: Carden, acknowledge from me his politeness to Maj<sup>t</sup>: Huntington, &c., and I think you will find him much the Gent<sup>n</sup>! —General Jones commands at the Bridge, who has been always extremely complaisant & civil.

On your arrival at York I wish you to go direct to Mr [Miles] Sherbrooke ; it must be the first House you go to. You'll find him & his Lady quite alone.—(I had engaged you lodgings at Miss Coventry's with Christopher *Miller*, who you'll find clever, & I wish you to wait on him,) but Mr Sherbrooke insists upon your taking Lodgings at his House, & I know not but it will be best for many reasons. For however he says he differs in sentiment, he will not say anything on public matters to you. You shall live more retir'd with him than other person, & that he will be your particular friend.—Col. Sherriff

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

was exceeding friendly & clever, told me that shou'd you stay a few days after my arrival, he wou'd take Care there shou'd no objection arise or Exception taken, which makes me unhappy that I did not see you before you went into York. I wanted a long Chit Chatt of some hours before I parted with you. You are sensible that One can not say one half they want to by Letter.—besides I have just come off of a most tedious jaunt at a late hour.—I saw M<sup>r</sup> Boutinott [Boudinot] in New York who hinted to me that General Washington was much displeas'd at your asking the Exchange, when so many had been so long confin'd, & you so lately taken. I made him no answer.—However, he can be of service to you. It may not be amiss to you to go to Pintard's, where you'll find him; it's near Mr. Sherbrook.—Col<sup>o</sup> Delancy is return'd with me,—so is Col<sup>o</sup> *Ely, Bulkeley & Mumford* on parole, and are unhappy as myself at not seeing of you.—General Robertson, his two Aides, Wymn's & Murray, was vastly polite to me, and deserve my particular thanks. I can hardly paint to you the attention I received from General Robertson on Gov<sup>r</sup> Trumbull's acc<sup>t</sup>, on Putnam's as well as my own.—Those Civilities go beyond what any one but a feeling good Heart can judge of.—In short I should not do Justice to our most worthy friend Sherbrook, if I suffered a line to pass without acknowledging his Family's friendly notice & regard to me—their warm Attachment to our family makes me love 'em—Add to the rest, let me recomend to your attention one of the most valuable Couple Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup> Atkinson & his Lady, on whom I have given an Order to pay if you want Twenty Guineas.

I believe General Robertson will leave you come out on parole, which I prefer—but should he not, I think you will be much happier on Longisland than in York, as M<sup>r</sup> Sherbrook can tell you his Chit-chatt & mine about this & some other affairs.—I wish you to write me as often as possible. Send me by Ballentine a Hamper Porter, 6 Gross *Good Corks*.—Tell Col. Meigs I have got him a p<sup>r</sup> of white Eyelets—Ensign Mumford begs you to remember your Officer's Commissions, which are of consequence to them. Shou'd you have any other Commands from his Father, He wishes it may be sent back by some careful Body to the Care of M<sup>r</sup> Bears.\*

\* “By a Letter just received from Col<sup>o</sup> Webb who has gone into New York, agreeable to his Parole, I hear his Officers Prisoners there Suffer Much for Want

I intended to have wrote you a number of Letters to our particular friends, but really I am to[o] fatigue'd, sleepy & unwell, so that you must Excuse it. Take the Will for the Deed, and depend I shall constantly think of you while you are in your Cap—. General Lee is in some Expectation of coming out soon. He's allowed the Liberties of the *Town*, & when its proper He'll be very happy to see you.—We have just at this late hour agoing to set down to supper, being hungry Enough I can give you my word. One & all desire my mentioning Compliments, &c., &c. Delancy says he'll soon be with you.—I have got the Bearer to come to you, not knowing but you may want something more than I at present know of—let me know & if within my grasp you'll have it.—I am as anxious for you as you can wish tho: I know no one will be treated with more politeness than yourself that they think differs so widely from them. Let me caution you to refuse, forever chatting on politicks—it can be of no service to yourself or Country—Mr. Chew & George Brindly took much pains to please me, & will be your friend—the latter is quite an agreeable family—I think however your greatest happiness will be (provided you are obliged to stay) will be in your Chamber with your Books.

[JOS: WEBB.]

FROM COLONEL RETURN J. MEIGS.

HORSE NECK, Feby 24<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

DEAR COLONEL:

I received your favor of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. by the lad that returned with your horses. Am much obliged for the papers, have not received any from the Eastward since you left us, & when they arrive shall make it my care to forward to you.

I have forwarded your letter to your friends, & believe they are well.

Major Humphreys is here. General Putnam came down in a sley. The small Major pushed on, I believe as far as Norwalk. Who

of their Commissions. None of that Regiment have yet been Commissioned I would beg your Excellency's Direction what Date their Commissions are to have and that Blanks May be forwarded to Commission them."—*Brigadier-General Parsons to General Washington*, 18 February, 1778.

knows but peace may soon be fixed on the Basis of *Right*. Every friend to Virtue, on Both sides the water wish it. But at least let us lessen the horrors of war by a General Exchange of Prisoners ; how many anxious breasts on both Sides will in that case be unburthen'd. I don't mention this on your account who have always been the fav'rite of fortune, & will never want a friend.

The severe season has prevented the Eastern Mails—can't give you any news until they arrive, will then send what papers come to Hand, & wish the same from you if they can be obtained. Dear Col. I wish you a speedy exchange, & am, your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>:

R. J. MEIGS.

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PAROLE.

I, Samuel B. Webb, of Wethersfield in Connecticut, having Leave to go to Long Island on Parole do hereby pledge my Faith & Word of Honor that I will not do or say any Thing contrary to the Interest of his Majesty or his Government, and that I will not depart from the House I am placed in by the Commissary for Prisoners nor go beyond the Bounds by him prescribed. Given under my Hand this Twenty fifth Day of February, 1778.

[SAMUEL B. WEBB.]\*

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JOSEPH WEBB TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I have been confin'd these several days or I shou'd have waited on your Excellency to Know when you shou'd choose to go home, as I look upon myself under particular Obligation to see you well at Lebanon—Our particular Friend Jere Wadswr<sup>th</sup> told me to make my self quite easy about the matter for He had Business, plenty of Horses & wou'd choose to see you home

\* The signature has been torn off, and on the margin is written by Col. Webb: "A new one given 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1778."







my Horses & Chariot—or Sleigh are at your service without the least Ceremony, or inconvenience to me in the World. and I sincerely wish you to do as it may best suit yourself—I am anxious about the affair of Judd & Flyn I promised you wou'd send your Order, to Newport which I hope you have done, if not it ought not to be omitted any longer—I feel a little chagrin'd about the two young Lads of M<sup>rs</sup> Winthrop, I have ask't a great Number of the first people who say they cannot see it inconsistant, but a p<sup>s</sup> of Civility that may be Justly due each side & scarcely even lost.—Col. Sheriff was vastly Civil in Obtaining my permitt for M<sup>r</sup> Deane's son to go first into York, then in obtaining a pass for him to England France &c—long after all this was Compleated—He was Chatting with me about his Sister—was anxious about her maintaining & taking Care of so large a Family & started the *scheme* of Educating at his own Expence the Two Lads—ask't me to obtain your leave, which Civility He wou'd much more return if ever in his power—I wish Sir you may think as I do about the Affair & aid the Good Lady who will readily acknowledge the Obligation—

I am your Excellency most

Ob<sup>t</sup> H. Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 3<sup>D</sup> MARCH, 1778.\*

FROM JOSHUA LORING.

SIR:

In answer to your letter to M<sup>r</sup> Winslow 6<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I am to acquaint you that General Robertson has no Objections to your going to Newtown, or any other place on Long Island not further distant from New York than Flushing, and when you have fixed your quarters you will be kind eno' to let me know

I am Sir Your Most Obd<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

JOS. LORING

Commiss of Pris<sup>n</sup>

New York 7<sup>th</sup> March 1778.

Col Webb Prisoner on Parole

\* From the *Trumbull Papers* in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, 9 March, 1778

SIR:

I have obtained Gen<sup>l</sup> Robertson's leave for you to come to New York, for which this will be your sufficient Pass. I am, Sir, your most obd<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOS. LORING  
Comm<sup>is</sup> of Pris<sup>n</sup>

WASHINGTON TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

HEADQUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE,  
12 March, 1778.

DEAR SIR:

I should have answered your favr. of the 14th January before this time, had I not have been daily in hopes that I should have been able to have given you a satisfactory account of a change of men and measures in the North River Department. It has not been an easy matter to find a just pretence for removing an officer from his Command where his misconduct rather appears to result from want of Capacity than from any real intention of doing wrong, and it is therefore as you observe to be lamented that he cannot see his own defects and make an honorable retreat from a Station in which he only exposes his own weakness.

Proper measures are taking to carry on the enquiry into the loss of Fort Montgomery agreeable to the direction of Congress, and it is more than probable, from what I have heard, that the issue of that enquiry will afford just grounds for a removal of Genl. P—— but whether it does or not, the prejudices of all ranks in that quarter against him are so great, that he must at all events be prevented from returning.\* I hope to introduce a gentleman in his place, if

\* "Your Excellency is not ignorant of the extent of General Putnam's capacity and diligence; and how well soever these may qualify him for this most important command, the prejudices to which his imprudent lenity to the disaffected, and too great intercourse with the enemy, have given rise, have greatly injured his influence. How far the loss of Fort Montgomery and the subsequent ravages of the enemy are to be attributed to him, I will not venture to say; as this will necessarily be determined by a court of inquiry, whose determinations I would not anticipate. Unfortunately for him, the current of popular opinion in this

the general course of service will admit of it, who will be perfectly agreeable to the State and to the public. In the mean time I trust that Genl. Parsons will do every thing in his power to carry on the works, which from his last accounts are in more forwardness than I expected.

I wish all the men on the upper part of the River had been drawn down to the Highlands instead of being kept to carry on an expedition, in which I never was consulted, but which I saw from the beginning could never succeed, from a variety of Reasons which it would be needless to give you or any man acquainted with the State of the Country thro' which it was to have passed. Those who were most sanguine I fancy now see the impracticability of it.

Peekskill and the neighboring Posts were, by Resolves of Congress included in the Northern department, and the care of carrying on the Works put under the direction of the Officer Commanding in that district. Genl. Gates being soon after the Resolve called to the Board of War, he had no opportunity of doing any thing towards it. Whether there will be any alteration in the extent of the command this campaign I cannot tell, but if it falls again into that department more immediately under my particular command you may depend that all the attention due to posts so important shall be paid to them. I am,

G<sup>d</sup> WASHINGTON.

and the neighboring States, and as far as I can learn in the troops under his command, runs strongly against him. For my own part, I respect his bravery and former services, and sincerely lament, that his patriotism will not suffer him to take that repose, to which his advanced age and past services justly entitle him."—*Robert R. Livingston to Washington*, 14 January, 1778.

To Governor Clinton, Washington wrote on the 12th: "The hints which you were pleased to give of mismanagement in the North River command came also from several other hands, and did not a little embarrass me, as they contain charges rather resulting from want of judgment than any real intention to do wrong. It is much to be lamented that we should have officers of so high a rank as to entitle them to claim separate commands with so moderate a share of abilities to direct them in the execution of those commands." For an extreme view of Putnam's abilities, see Dawson :

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FROM CHRISTOPHER MILLER.

NEW YORK, March ye 11th, 1778.

MY GOOD FRIEND :

Mr. Gaine's last paper contained all the news that was in the last Country papers. I am to sail next Sunday, if the time is put off, I'll see you—I am this moment informed that a quarrel happen'd last night between Col. John Bayard and a M<sup>r</sup> Burd, a West Indian, a Lieut. in B. Reg<sup>t</sup>. Burd struck John, on which John drew his sword and Kild him on the spot—this is an unlucky affair,—the lady present there comp<sup>ts</sup>

Your friend & humb<sup>l</sup> Sarv<sup>t</sup>

CHRIS<sup>t</sup> MILLER.\*

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, 15 March, 1778.

DEAR SIR :

I yesterday made application to General Robertson for your proposal, and had I met the same Encouragement from the Commodore everything had been settled to your Wishes, but I apprehend it will now not be worth your attention, as I have this Morn'g : received a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Boudinott with Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington's leave to go to Phil<sup>a</sup> and I am to take Gen<sup>l</sup> Lee with me, and expect a general exchange will immediately take place. If I can be of any Service to you command me and am sir, your most obed<sup>t</sup> Humble serv<sup>t</sup>

JOS<sup>t</sup> LORING

Commis<sup>t</sup> Pris<sup>ts</sup> †

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 27 March, 1778.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

Mine by M<sup>r</sup> Frink I hope you Received—let me repeat to you the sensible Obligations we are under for the civil Genteel behavior shewn you by all ranks—those attentions you have shewn to Pris-

\* "General Lee goes to Philad'a by land in a few days. Mr. Lowring & Major Williams goes with him—the Gen<sup>l</sup> is fretting at some simtons of the Gout he finds on him" *Miller to Webb*, 17 March, 1778.

† From *The Lee Papers*, II., 379.

oners when in your Hands is I am now told most amply Return'd, nothing in Life can be more pleasing to a feeling susceptible mind, nor a mark of greater soul than treating a Prisoner well when in your power—as well as the highest heights of good sound *policy*. I cou'd wish to have a long circumstantial Letter from you p<sup>r</sup> the Return of the Bearer M<sup>rs</sup> Smith, who now is permitted by his Excellency Gov<sup>r</sup>. Trumbull to visit her aged Mother in New York. I have ventur'd to say if she gets permission to go in she will be treated with the greatest politeness from the officers of the army on both sides—I have been expecting some Garden Seeds from my Friend M<sup>r</sup> Chew—likewise a list of Prisoners in the Navy Department—Send me both Rivington's & Gains' Papers—tell Col<sup>o</sup> Hinleyhigh his Lady was yesterday with me & has lately with all her children had the Small *Pox*—and is now anxious to go to him, but as yet she has not Liberty—She much wants to hear particular from her Husband with his particular Order.

Will you ask Col<sup>o</sup> Laurence how he does, & whether the acc<sup>t</sup> he knows well about, is settled.—Where is Serg<sup>t</sup> Ballentine—He uses me excessive ill—in short the British Prisoners are in distress for Clothing—I wish you would mention it to Col<sup>o</sup> Sheriff and the other Officers—let Cap<sup>t</sup> Emmerick know that the new Levies are in great distress for Clothing—for Heaven's sake let the General Exchange take place for the Advantage of both sides—there's been such desertions of the Prisoners that Williams tells me he's obliged to shut most of them up, which is extremely bad, & I am told of their, almost as often as every other Day, breaking Prison, &c. &c. Much could be said of the bad Consequences of keeping Prisoners so long Confin'd.—This Letter was to have gone by M<sup>rs</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Smith, but thro mistake did not & now will be handed you by M<sup>r</sup> Frink or Ensign Green.—Mr. Frink you know; he wants to settle with our friend M<sup>r</sup> Sherbrooke—Ensign Green has been very attentive to British Prisoners & deserves merit for his Care of 'em & can tell the Necessities & their great want of Clothes.

My most Respectfull Compliments to Mr. Sherbrooke & his Lady—General Robertson & his two Aid de Camps.

I am, dear Sammy,

Your most aff<sup>t</sup> Br

J. WEBB.

Lieut. Blotchen I advanced some money to is run off—if you see Mr Moon, PayMaster to Gov<sup>r</sup> [Mountfort] Brown I wish you or Mr Chew to mention it. If he's any Pay to stop it for his friend Webb if consistant.

Ask Mr friend Chew again & again not to forget the Scarlet Beans, Savoy Cabbage, Cawliflower, Sweet Majoram.

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FROM BARNABAS DEANE.

WITHERSFIELD, 27 March, 1778.

MY DEAR SIR:

I was much Disappointed on my Return from Boston to find that you was not Exchang'd & that you was gone into New York. However I have the satisfaction to hear that you are in our Good Friend Sherbrooke's Family where I am certain you will meet with Every Civility that you could wish. Our little Boy\* sail'd for Europe six weeks ago. I make no Doubt he is with his Father by this time.— I would be much oblig'd to you for the News Papers from New York when you have an Opp<sup>y</sup>. Also please to write me if there is any of our vessels Bro<sup>t</sup> into New York. Please to make my Compliments to Mr Sherbrooke and his Lady.

I am with Esteem &c

B. DEANE.

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FROM JOHN WINSLOW.

NEW YORK, 28 March, 1778.

SIR:

I have laid before Gen<sup>l</sup> Robertson your Letter to me, & am to acquaint you that the Gen<sup>l</sup> objects to your sending your Servant out, but that if you will write out & order your Horses to be brought to the Bridge your Servant shall have leave to go there to receive them.

The Gen<sup>l</sup> do's not choose you should go out on parole at present a general Exchange is now negotiating.

No news from Wethersfield.

Your most hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN WINSLOW,  
D. C. P.

\* Jesse Deane.



## PRISONERS OF WAR.

## INTRODUCTORY.

Few of the incidents of the revolutionary war, and of the policy that was based upon those incidents, are involved in so much doubt as the exchange of prisoners of war between the American and British commanders. This no doubt is due not only to a lack of the requisite data from a military standpoint, but also to the curious and not very consistent interference of the Continental Congress, embarrassing the American quite as much as the British commander, by introducing methods that it is very doubtful a strict recognition of belligerent rights could justify.

A cartel providing for an exchange of prisoners is a purely voluntary act of the parties entering into it, confined to a few definite points, and controlled by the convenience rather than the necessity of the respective commanders. Neither belligerent can demand a cartel; nor, on the other hand, can such a voluntary agreement embody stipulations contrary to humanity, or to the rules and usages of war. It is chiefly intended to relieve a commander from the burden of providing for a large number of prisoners of war, while leaving a corresponding number of his own men in the power of the enemy and incapable of performing any service. Equality is thus the essence of a cartel; and mutual advantage the motive for framing it.

The position of the British commander was a delicate one, for he could do nothing to recognize the political claims of the Colonists. To him they were rebels, pure and simple; and in taking up arms against their king, they had incurred the severest punishment that could be imposed for what is "generally deemed the highest crime that can be committed in civil society."\* They were criminals, not belligerents; and in the first passage of notes between Gage and Washington, the British general hinted at that position. "Britons, ever pre-eminent in mercy, have outgone common examples and overlooked the criminal in the captive. Upon these principles your prisoners, whose lives by the law of the land are destined to the cord, have hitherto been treated with care and kindness, and more comfortably lodged than the king's troops in the hospitals; indis-

\* Story, *Commentaries*, § 1797.

criminally, it is true, for I acknowledge no rank that is not derived from the king.”\* With the American commander he could not negotiate, except for an absolute submission to the mercy of the king; and to enter into a formal and solemn compact of any nature with him, would have involved an admission of the political claims of the Colonists. The proclamation of 12 June, 1775, issued by Gage, specially characterized all who were in arms as rebels and traitors, and for such nothing but submission could obtain pardon; to treat with them was out of the question. And it was not long before this position was endorsed by the king; for the royal proclamation of 23 August, 1775, declared the colonies to be in open rebellion against the Crown; and all the king’s officers, civil and military, were ordered to give information of such persons as should be found aiding and abetting those who were in arms against the Government, or holding any correspondence with them, “in order to bring to condign punishment the authors, perpetrators and abettors of such traitorous designs.” To this Congress replied, threatening to retaliate “in the same kind and degree upon those in our power who have favored, aided or abetted, or shall favor, aid or abet, the system of ministerial oppression. The essential difference between our cause and that of our enemies might justify a severe punishment: the law of retaliation will unquestionably warrant one equally severe.”†

The advantage of an exchange was recognized even before Washington assumed the command of the Continental army, for isolated exchanges had occurred under one form or another between the two parties,‡ though as yet no effort had been made to reach a basis for a general cartel, as, indeed, there was little occasion for it. It was not until October, 1775, that the matter became of sufficient importance to warrant formal notice, when the Committee of Congress—Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Lynch and Benjamin Harrison—were in camp, consulting with the commander-in-chief and the Executives of the New England Colonies on the needs and prospects of the army.

\* 13 August, 1775.

† *Journals of Congress*, 6 December, 1775.

‡ Before Washington had assumed the command, Putnam, escorted by the Wethersfield company under Colonel Chester, had effected an exchange of a few prisoners.

One of the questions laid by Washington before this Committee of Conference was: "Is it advisable to propose an exchange of prisoners? Should any of the officers and soldiers (in the army or navy) now in our Power, be given up for any except the officers and soldiers of the American army?" And the conference agreed "that an Exchange will be proper, citizens for citizens, but not officers and soldiers of the regular army for citizens." The question of the treatment of prisoners and their allowances were answered thus: "that they be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and the allowance of provisions to be the rations of the army; that the officers being in pay should supply themselves with cloaths, their bills to be taken therefore; the soldiers furnished as they now are." Before the report of the conference was laid before Congress the reply to the first question was modified so as to read, that "an Exchange will be proper, citizens for citizens, officers for officers of equal rank and soldier for soldier," and, in that form, the final report was laid before Congress on November 1st. Some little difficulty occurred to delay the adoption of the report, for not only did four weeks elapse before these paragraphs received the formal endorsement of Congress, but Washington wrote to Reed, November, 1775: "I wish that matter respecting the punctilio, hinted at by you, could come to some decision of Congress. I have done nothing yet in respect to the proposed exchange of prisoners, nor shall I now, until I hear from them or you on this subject." The capture of Ethan Allen, and his ill treatment at the hands of the British General Prescott was the immediate cause, perhaps, of precipitating a decision; for Washington was directed to propose an exchange for Allen. Congress, in the very words of the conference, outlined the plan of a general rule of exchange, "citizens for citizens, officers for officers of equal rank, and soldier for soldier."\* To secure a better treatment of Allen, Washington threatened to retaliate on Prescott, but at the same time suggested that an "exchange of prisoners taken on each side in this unnatural contest" might be entered into, if Howe should signify that it was "agreeable."† In his reply the British General took no notice of the suggestion, but on the day after Washington's letter was written, he wrote to Lord Dartmouth:

\* See Ford's *Writings of Jefferson*, I., 494.

† *Washington to Howe*, 18 December, 1775.

“Mr. Washington, presuming upon the number and rank of the prisoners in his possession, has threatened retaliation in point of treatment to any prisoners of theirs in our power ; and proposes an exchange, which is a circumstance I shall not answer in positive terms ; nor shall I enter upon such a measure without the King’s orders. Your Lordship has enclosed a publication extracted from the minutes of the Continental Congress in reference to his Majesty’s proclamation of the 23d of August, on the principles of which Mr. Washington seems to have founded his threats.”

Germain, independently of Howe’s inquiry, and having in mind certain awkward complications likely to arise should the Hessian troops serve in America, on 1 February, 1776, notified him of the return of certain American prisoners and continued :

“It is hoped that the possession of these prisoners will enable you to procure the release of such of his majesty’s officers and legal subjects as are in the disgraceful situation of being prisoners to the rebels ; for although it cannot be that you should enter into any treaty or agreement with the rebels for a regular cartel for exchange of prisoners, yet I doubt not but your own discretion will suggest to you the means of effecting such exchange, without the King’s dignity and honor being committed, or his majesty’s name used in any negotiation for that purpose. And I am the more strongly urged to point out to you the expediency of such a measure, on account of the possible difficulties which may otherwise occur in the case of any foreign troops serving in North America.”

Apart from political considerations, there was one serious obstacle to any general system of exchanges—the varying authority under which prisoners were held. From the beginning of the contest there was but the semblance of civil government, as self-constituted committees and conventions, framing their own rules of conduct and acting independently of any established procedure, were the controlling powers. As revolutionary bodies, their authority was supreme and their powers of administration restrained only by the want of popular support, which was rarely withheld ; and, depending upon the people, they too often exercised their self-assumed functions in a cruel and arbitrary manner. The rights of persons and of property were violated, force employed where persuasion or a proper application of judicial process would have sufficed, and the bitterness of faction only aggravated the spirit of lawlessness that usually accompanies a popular movement. Men were seized and thrown into prison on mere suspicion ; their property was taken on the

flimsiest of excuses; and a word or a look that could be interpreted as hostile to the Congress or the "good people" of the Colonies rendered the citizen liable to insult, injury and the charge of traitor. Many instances could be given of imprisonments ordered by a local committee, without any higher authority to restrain and check abuse, or repair injury; and it was long before steps were taken to frame general rules or centralize the management of prisoners in the hands of the Continental Congress, by which means alone could uniformity and a fair degree of responsibility be attained. Prisoners taken by the Continental troops, or under a warrant issued immediately by Congress, were from the first subject to its control only. In December, 1775, persons taken in arms on board any prize were to be deemed prisoners at the disposal of the general, "whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out in the pay of the continent or by others."\* In the general instructions issued to commanders of private ships or vessels of war, having commissions or letters of marque and reprisal, it was stipulated that prisoners or captives taken on board prizes should not be ransomed but should be disposed of as Congress, or, "if that be not sitting, in the colony whither they shall be brought, as the general assembly, convention, or council, or committee of safety, shall direct."† Two months later the subject was again regulated, and the care of prisoners imposed on the supreme executive of the colony where the capture was made, or the prisoners brought, and the local committees empowered to superintend the conduct of prisoners, and to punish misbehavior.‡ The cost of maintenance was a charge on the continent.

In the meantime Congress possessed a committee, the origin of which I have not been able to solve. When the prisoners taken at St. John's arrived at Philadelphia, they were scattered among some neighboring towns in Pennsylvania, under direction of a committee, on the membership of which the *Journals* are silent.¶ When Washington sent to Congress a copy of his letter to General Howe, threatening to retaliate Allen's treatment upon Prescott, he enclosed a letter from Master James Lovell. "His case is truly pitiable. I

\* *Journals of Congress*, 2 December, 1775.

† *Journals*, 3 April, 1776.

‡ *Journals*, 21 May, 1776.

¶ *Journals*, 17 November, 1775; 15 and 16 December, 1775.

wish some mode could be fallen upon to relieve him from the cruel situation he is now in. I am sensible of the impropriety of exchanging a soldier for a citizen; but there is something so cruelly distressing in regard to this gentleman, that I dare say you will take it under your consideration."\* The matter was referred to a strong committee, composed of Thomas Lynch, William Hooper, George Wythe, Silas Deane and Samuel Adams,† who reported‡ in favor of exchanging Governor Skene for Lovell and his family.

Still another committee was named on January 9th to inquire into the conduct of officers who were prisoners, and the members, William Livingston, Eliphalet Dyer, and William Floyd, laid their report before Congress on the 12th. When Brigadier-General Prescott arrived in Philadelphia, Mr. Adams, Samuel Ward and Roger Sherman were sent to examine him. The appointment of a special committee, and of distinct composition from others, to consider each case as it might arise, is good evidence that no settled policy for the control of prisoners had yet been so much as outlined. Nor was a beginning made until February 4th, when Thomas McKean, Richard Smith and Henry Wisner were directed to take an account of the prisoners, the names of the officers and their places of residence, and report to Congress.§ This committee was, on the 7th, joined with another, who had made a report upon a letter from the Council of Safety of New Jersey on prisoners; and, as only three members in the two committees were present, James Wilson and Oliver Wolcott were added. Congress instructed this new committee to "examine the capitulations entered into with the prisoners at the time of their surrender, to have the paroles of the officers taken, to order them to their respective places of residence, to see that the capitulations be duly observed, and the orders of Congress respecting the prisoners punctually carried into execution, and finally to make a return to Congress of the paroles of the officers, their names and places of residence, and also the number of privates, and where placed."|| This I suppose to be the "committee on prisoners," of

\* *Washington to the President of Congress*, 18 December, 1775.

† *Journals of Congress*, 30 December, 1775.

‡ *Journals*, 5 January, 1776.

§ *Journals*, 4 February, 1776.

|| *Journals*, 7 February, 1776.

which frequent mention is to be found in the Journals from February to June,\* when, on the erection of a war office, the care of prisoners of war was one of its duties.† All of this regulation pertained to the police or supervision of the prisoners, and it was not until June 17, 1776, that a general rule was laid down governing exchanges: "prisoners taken by continental forces be not exchanged by any authority but the Continental Congress." It would appear as if the control was now so centralized that no confusion could arise.‡

Having determined that Continental prisoners were under the sole control of Congress, it became necessary to frame some rule for exchange with the British. A committee, composed of Carter Braxton, James Wilson and Benjamin Harrison, prepared the measure,§ and as adopted by Congress it provided:

"That the commander-in-chief in each department be empowered to negotiate an exchange of prisoners in the following manner: One continental officer for one of the enemy of equal rank, either in the land or sea service, soldier for soldier, sailor for sailor, and one citizen for another citizen.

"That each state hath a right to make any exchange they think proper for prisoners taken from them or by them.

"That the several commanders-in-chief in each department be directed to exchange any officer in the British service, now a prisoner in any of these states, of or under the rank of colonel, for colonel Ethan Allen.

"That the persons taken prisoners with Colonel Ethan Allen be put upon the same footing as those in the continental service, and exchanged accordingly as opportunity presents."||

Meanwhile the Adjutant-General of the British army, Colonel Patterson, had held his conversation with Washington, and had adverted to the proposed exchange of Lovell for Skene, to which the English commander was willing to assent. So long a time had elapsed since the proposition had first been made that Washington turned to Congress for advice; and receiving the proper authority, wrote to Howe "that the Congress have not only approved of this

\* February 8, 20, 21, 28; March 4, 14, 19, 29; April 9, 17, 19; May 9, 13; June 1 and 11, 1776.

† *Journals*, 12 June, 1776.

‡ *Journals*, 22 July, 1776.

§ *Journals*, 9 July, 1776.

|| *Journals*, 22 July, 1776.

proposition, but, judging that a general exchange of prisoners will be attended with mutual convenience and pleasure to both parties, have empowered their commanders in each department to negotiate one."\* He then quoted the resolutions of July 22d. Howe at once readily consented to the mode of exchange, merely adding that deserters should not be included in the arrangement, and that the choice of persons to be exchanged should be made by the respective commanders for their own officers and men.† Congress extended this latter condition so as to give the respective commanders the right to choose what citizens should be given in exchange by the other.‡ The question of exchanges in the naval line was untouched by this agreement, as that could be determined only by Admiral Lord Howe.

No sooner had this arrangement been made, when an incident occurred to prevent its action on the lines intended. The unfortunate affair at the Cedars, in which American prisoners had been massacred by Indians in spite of the efforts of the British commander to protect them as he was bound to do by the terms of the capitulation, and the subsequent act of Arnold in purchasing the safety of the remaining prisoners by engaging to return an equal number of British, precipitated a difference between the American Congress and the British commander that threatened the continuance of any system of exchanges. Congress forbade Arnold to return any British prisoners until the perpetrators of the massacre had been delivered up, and reparation made for the plunder taken at the Cedars.§ This order the British naturally construed as a refusal to confirm the treaty, and Washington bore the brunt of the charge of violating the agreement made by Arnold, although he had not "the smallest concern" in the matter. Indeed he pointedly asked Congress to reconsider the matter, and carry the agreement into execution.||

But Congress stood firm and distinctly asserted its power to disavow the promise made by Arnold at the Cedars, on the ground of

\* *Washington to Howe*, 30 July, 1776.

† *Howe to Washington*, 1 August, 1776.

‡ *Journals of Congress*, 27 August, 1776.

§ *Journals of Congress*, 10 July, 1776; *Writings of Jefferson* (Ford) II, 30.

|| *Writings of Washington*, IV, 476.



want of authority. "The agreement entered into by General Arnold was a mere sponson on his part, he not being invested with powers for the disposal of prisoners not in his possession, nor under his direction ; and, therefore, it is subject to be ratified or annulled, at the discretion of this house."\* The outcome of this attitude was that no general exchange was made in the year 1776, and when Congress again and again urged the matter, no step could be made towards a satisfactory agreement. In September, Congress directed the General to procure as soon as possible an exchange of the officers and soldiers taken on Long Island.† In October, it directed Washington to negotiate an exchange of the officers returned from Canada, they to have a preference over those taken in New York and Long Island.‡ It was Webb who announced the success of this negotiation.§ In November leave was given to exchange the foreign prisoners, the mercenaries in the pay of Great Britain, who might be made prisoners to the United States.||

Other questions had arisen.

"I regret," wrote Washington to Howe on November 7th, "that it has not been in my power to effect the proposed exchange of prisoners before this time. As soon as the proposition was agreed to, I wrote to the Governors and Conventions of the different States, where the prisoners were, to have them collected and sent to the most convenient places in the neighbourhood of the two armies. Their dispersed situation, for their better accommodation, has been the reason of the delay ; at least I cannot ascribe it to any other cause. It has not arisen, Sir, from any design on my part ; and I am persuaded the difficulty of drawing them together must be evident to you, especially as it was early suggested in some of my former letters. As to the charge of your officers being confined in common gaols, I had hoped that you were satisfied by my assurances on this head before. It is not my wish, that severity should be exercised towards any, whom the fortune of war has thrown or shall throw into our hands. On the contrary, it is my desire, that the utmost humanity should be shown them. I am convinced, the latter has been the prevailing line of conduct to pris-

\* *Journals of Congress*, 10 July, 1776.

† *Journals*, 26 September, 1776.

‡ *Journals*, 10 October, 1776.

§ *Ante*, Vol. I, p. 180.

|| *Journals of Congress*, 15 November, 1776.

oners. There have been instances, in which some have met with less indulgence than could have been wished, owing to a refractory conduct and a disregard of paroles. If there are other instances, in which a strict regard to propriety has not been observed, they have not come to my knowledge, and if you will be pleased to point them out, and to particularize the names of the officers, the earliest inquiry shall be made into the complaint, and the cause removed, if any exists.

“With respect to the stragglers, who have lately fallen into our hands, I cannot, upon the best consideration, discern how the agreement subsisting between us is affected by sending them to places from whence they may be easily collected upon a general exchange. That the custom of war requires, or that the interest of an army would admit of a daily exchange of prisoners, are points on which we are so unhappy as to differ in sentiment. The opportunities of conveying intelligence, and many other consequences flowing from such an intercourse, seem so very obvious, that, upon further reflection, I flatter myself you will think with me on this subject. But if otherwise, it might have been exemplified on your part in the immediate return of such stragglers from our army as have fallen into your hands, which would have justified an expectation of a similar conduct from us.”

Howe was satisfied by this that the delay in the exchange was due to the neglect of those to whose care the arrangement of prisoners had been entrusted, and not to any disregard to the agreement on the part of Washington.

“Give me leave at the same time to observe, that this measure, naturally so desirable to the parties concerned, must be in a great degree interrupted, if a general exchange should remain an object, to the prejudice of prisoners near at hand, who upon the shortest notice of their ranks or numbers might be relieved by an equality of those in my possession; and as I cannot foresee any objection to an exchange taking place immediately, so far as may be conveniently effected, and as often afterwards as the prisoners more remote shall arrive, I am willing to hope for your concurrence in promoting the same.

“You are pleased to say, the usage of war does not allow of an immediate exchange of prisoners; which I can by no means agree to, the contrary being ever the custom of armies, between which an exchange of prisoners has been determined, as far as the nature of business may permit. And in respect to stragglers from your army, since you have been pleased to say I might have set you examples of returning them, I am to inform you, that no persons under that description have fallen into my hands. Such men as have been

lately taken in arms, as well as those who have been longer in confinement, are solely detained for the arrival of your prisoners, in consequence of assurances received from you on that subject."\*

Having agreed upon the exchange, the question of manner was not a little complicated by the arbitrary selection of objects by the British. Washington collected such prisoners as were in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, and sent them in, making a demand of such officers in exchange as he thought best entitled to a preference, beginning with those taken at Quebec. The British commander paid no respect to this demand, but sent out such as best pleased him, or made the most urgent application. This act called out a sharp remonstrance from Washington :

"I would beg leave to recall your attention to the proposition for the exchange of prisoners, in the several letters I have lately written on that subject, and to inform you, that I have not received such officers in exchange as were requested by me. I am persuaded, Sir, that this mistake has arisen from Mr. Commissary Loring's † zeal to facilitate the business ; but I would at the same time desire that you give him orders, whenever any of your officers are sent in by me, not to send others in exchange, till he is furnished with a list from me, of such as I would choose to prefer, which shall always be done as soon as possible. For as the prisoners seldom pass my head-quarters on their way, it is not in my power to transmit such lists by them, without occasioning their delay. If this mode is not complied with in future, I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of stopping others from going in, as my ideas and expectations are by no means answered by what has happened." ‡

The difficulties attending an exchange were aggravated by the want of proper supervision of the prisoners. Congress had made no provision for an officer to take charge of this matter, though early in 1776 the General had positively asked for one, and in May had written :

"Before I have done, with the utmost deference and respect, I would beg leave to remind Congress of my former letters and applications, respecting the appointment of proper persons to superintend and take direction of such prisoners, as have already fallen and will fall into our hands in the course of the war, being fully convinced, that, if there were persons appointed for, & who would take the

\* *Howe to Washington*, 11 November, 1776.

† Joshua Loring, British commissary general of prisoners.

‡ *Washington to Howe*, 17 December, 1776.

whole management of them under their care, that the continent would save a considerable sum of money by it, and the prisoners be better treated and provided with real necessaries, than what they now are ; and shall take the liberty to add, that it appears to me a matter of much importance, and worthy of consideration, that particular and proper places of security should be fixed on and established in the interior parts of the different governments for their reception.

“Such establishments are agreeable to the practice and usage of the English and other nations, and are founded on principles of necessity and public utility. The advantages, which will arise from ’em, are obvious and many. I shall mention only two or three. They will tend much to prevent escapes, which are difficult to effect, when the public is once advertised, that the prisoners are restrained to a few stated and well-known places, and not permitted to go from thence ; and the more ingenious among them from disseminating and spreading their artful and pernicious intrigues and opinions throughout the country, which would influence the weaker and wavering part of mankind, and meet with but too favorable a hearing. Further, it will be less in their power to join and assist our enemies in cases of invasions, and will give us an opportunity always to know, from the returns of those appointed to superintend them, what number we have in possession, the force sufficient to check and suppress their hostile views in times of emergency, and the expenses necessary for their maintenance & support. Many other reasons might be adduced to prove the necessity and expediency of the measure. I shall only subjoin one more, and then have done on the subject, which is, that many of the towns, where prisoners have been already sent, not having convenience for or the means of keeping them, complain that they are burdensome ; and have become careless, inattentive, and altogether indifferent whether they escape or not ; and those of ’em that are restricted to a closer confinement, the limits of jail, neglected, and not treated with that care and regard, which Congress wish.”\*

In October, 1776, the appointment of a Commissary of Prisoners in each state was authorized, to hold a commission from the respective States, but to report to the continental Board of War.† Two months later Washington was directed to appoint a commissary of prisoners, a necessary step towards concentrating the management of this much divided responsibility. ‡

\* See *Journals of Congress*, 21 May, 1776. *To the President of Congress*, 11 May, 1776.

† *Journals of Congress*, 7 October, 1776.

‡ *Journals*, 27 December, 1777.

“A commissary of prisoners must be appointed to attend the army; for want of an officer of this kind, the exchange of prisoners has been conducted in a most shameful and injurious manner. We have had them from all quarters pushed into our camps at the most critical junctures, and without the least previous notice. We have had them travelling through the different states in all directions by certificates from committees, without any kind of control; and have had instances of some going into the enemy’s camp without my privity or knowledge, after passing in the manner before mentioned.”\*

The decision of Congress covered only one side of the problem, and no further action was taken till January, 1777, when the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to propose and conclude with General Howe an agreement, whereby those who are or may be made prisoners by the enemy, may be supplied with provisions and other necessaries, at the expense or on the credit of the U. S.—3 *January, 1777.*

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to propose to General Howe that a commissary be appointed on behalf of the United States to furnish the American prisoners of war, captivated by the British army, with such necessaries as they may want; and if such commissary be allowed to reside among the prisoners, that General Washington appoint a suitable person for the purpose, until an exchange can be effected.—16 *January, 1777.*

The capture of Major General Lee introduced a new factor. It is difficult to explain how he came to stand so high in the estimation of Congress, as there is nothing in his career that marks him out as a soldier or a commander. His capture, whether brought about by his wish or his misfortune, at once impressed Congress with the idea that his release must be obtained. Washington was directed to propose an exchange of six Hessian field officers taken at Trenton for Lee,† and on a rumor that Lee had been committed to the provost (which he had not), and on a belief that such treatment “totally unworthy of that gentleman’s eminent qualifications,” pointed to further injuries to his person, those unfortunate Hessian officers and Lieutenant-Colonel Archibald Campbell were held as objects of retaliation—should that become necessary.‡ In fact, Lee was so well

\* *Washington to the President of Congress*, 20 December, 1776.

† *Journals of Congress*, 2 January, 1777.

‡ *Journals*, 6 January, 1777. Some curious examples of Lee’s conceit are to be found in his letters written at this time. *Lee Papers*, II., 383, 389.

treated that he could employ his time in framing a plan of campaign for the British army, and in devising a meeting between the Howes and a deputation of Congress, undoubtedly for consultation on a peace and submission. Congress rejected the advance, and ordered the five Hessian officers and Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell into safe and close custody, publishing an explanation of this measure.\* This placed Washington in an awkward position.

“From the best information I have been able to obtain, General Lee’s usage has not been so disgraceful and dishonorable as to authorize the treatment decreed to those gentlemen, were it not prohibited by many other important considerations. His confinement, I believe, has been more rigorous than has been generally experienced by the rest of our officers, or those of the enemy, who have been in our possession ; but, if the reports be true, received on that head, he has been provided with a decent apartment, and with most things necessary to render him comfortable. This is not the case with one of the officers comprehended in the resolves, if his letter, of which a copy is transmitted, deserves your credit. Here retaliation seems to have been prematurely begun ; or, to speak with more propriety, severities have been and are exercised towards Colonel Campbell, not justified by any that General Lee has yet received.

“In point of policy, under the present situation of our affairs, this doctrine cannot be supported. The balance of prisoners is greatly against us ; and a general regard to the happiness of the whole should mark our conduct. Can we imagine, that our enemies will not mete the same punishments, the same indignities, the same cruelties, to those belonging to us, in their possession, that we impose on theirs in our power? Why should we suppose them to possess more humanity than we have ourselves? Or why should an ineffectual attempt to relieve the distresses of one brave, unfortunate man, involve many more in the same calamities? However disagreeable the fact may be, the enemy may at this time have in their power, and subject to their call, near three hundred officers belonging to the army of the United States. In this number there are some of high rank ; the most of them are men of bravery and of merit. The quota of theirs in our hands bears no proportion, being not more than fifty at most. Under these circumstances, we should certainly do no act to draw upon the gentlemen belonging to us, and who have already suffered a long captivity, greater punishments than they have experienced and now experience. If we should, what will their feelings be, and those of their numerous and extensive connections? Suppose the treatment prescribed for the Hessians

\* *Journals*, 20 & 21 February, 1777.

should be pursued, will it not establish what the enemy have been aiming to effect by every artifice and the grossest misrepresentations, I mean, an opinion of our enmity towards them, and of the cruel conduct they experience when they fall into our hands, a prejudice which we on our part have heretofore thought it politic to suppress and to root out by every act of lenity and kindness? It certainly will. The Hessians would hear of the punishment with all the circumstances of heightened exaggeration, would feel the injury without investigating the cause, or reasoning upon the justice or necessity of it. The mischiefs, which may and must inevitably flow from the execution of the resolves, appear to be endless and innumerable.

“On my own part, I have been much embarrassed on the subject of exchanges already. Applications are daily made, by both friends and enemies, to complete them as far as circumstances of number and rank will apply. Some of the former have complained, that a discrimination is about to be adopted, perhaps injurious to their reputation, and certainly depriving them of their right of exchange in due course, as established upon the principles of equality proposed last year, acceded to by both parties, and now subsisting. The latter charge me with a breach of faith, and call on me to perform the agreement.

“Many more objections might be subjoined, were they material. I shall only observe, that the present state of our army, if it deserves that name, will not authorize the language of retaliation, or the style of menace. This will be conceded by all, who know that the whole of our force is weak and trifling, and composed of militia (very few regular troops excepted), whose service is on the eve of expiring. There are several other matters, which might be mentioned upon this subject, would time and opportunity permit; but as they will not, I beg leave to refer you to Colonel Walker, who will deliver this, and give satisfaction to any inquiries that may be deemed necessary. Persuading myself that Congress will indulge the liberty I have taken upon this occasion, I have only to wish for the result of their deliberations after they have reconsidered the resolves, and to assure them that I have the honor to be, &c.”\*

\* *To the President of Congress, 1 March, 1777.* On the main subject of this letter, Congress resolved, “That General Washington be informed, that Congress cannot agree to any alteration in the resolve passed on the 6th of January; and, as to the complaints of Colonel Campbell, it was never their intention that he should suffer any other hardship, than such confinement as is necessary to his security for the purpose of that resolve.”—*Journals, March 14th.* In communicating this resolve, the President of Congress observed:—“The obvious distinction of General Howe in his treatment of General Lee, who is notoriously committed to the custody of the provost, and denied his parole, while our other officers are admitted to it, was the ground on which Congress proceeded when they

A decided step had been taken in the meantime and at the suggestion of Howe to determine the difficulties. He had asked that an American officer meet one from the British army, and Washington named his Secretary, Robert Hanson Harrison, giving him the following instructions:—

“Differences in opinion having arisen between General Howe and myself, respecting the construction of a proposition made the 30th of July, and acceded to the 1st of August last, for the exchange of prisoners, whereby it was stipulated, ‘that officers should be given for officers of equal rank, soldier for soldier, and citizen for citizen;’—for the accommodation of these differences, and to remove every just cause of complaint on the part of the enemy, if such there be, you are to meet any officer, not of inferior rank to yourself, who shall come properly authorized to treat upon the subject, and to adopt such measures, as you shall deem adequate to that end.

“Experience having also shown, that the agreement above recited is not sufficiently definite to answer all the salutary purposes intended by it, nor sufficiently comprehensive to include the various cases incident to the state of prisoners, you are hereby vested with full power and authority to devise and conclude upon such improvements, in aid of the same, as shall appear necessary for establishing a more regular and explicit mode of Exchange, as well with respect to the prisoners who have been, as those who shall be hereafter taken; making mutual provision for such an allowance to pay all necessaries as their comfort and welfare during their captivity may require; and, finally, to treat, determine, and agree upon all matters whatsoever relative to prisoners of war, on the principles of justice and humanity, and conformable to the most civilized customs and usages, for the greater ease, convenience, and security of all captives belonging to the armies under our respective commands; for all which this shall be your sufficient warrant; and your engagements, being mutually interchanged, shall be ratified and confirmed by me. Given under my hand and seal at Head Quarters in Morristown, this 4th day of March, 1777.”

passed that resolve (of January 6th), the intention of which was to show that in proportion as severities against him were increased, the same treatment should be exercised on six field-officers.”—*Letter, March 17th.*

“That if the officer commanding the army of the enemy will acknowledge Major-General Lee to be a prisoner of war, and intitled to be treated and exchanged as such, General Washington be authorized to proceed in the exchange of prisoners, either according to the principles and regulations of the cartel already agreed to, or according to such other and further principles and regulations as shall appear to him most proper and advantageous.” *Journals of Congress, 24 March, 1777.*



From the British side came Lieutenant-Colonel W. Walcott, who brought a paper, prepared presumably with the approval of General Howe, couched in terms so objectionable, that the American representative refused to receive it. It was afterwards sent out by a flag, and was as follows :

2 April, 1777.

Whereas General Washington did, in his letter to General Howe, bearing date the 30th day of June, 1776, declare that he was authorized to propose, and he did in said letter accordingly propose, a general exchange of all prisoners of war, in the manner and upon the terms following, viz. : "Officers for officers of equal rank, soldier for soldier, and citizen for citizen." To which proposal his Excellency, General Sir William Howe, did, in his answer of the first of August following, accede and agree. And, whereas, in pursuance of this agreement, General Sir William Howe, relying upon the honour and good faith of General Washington, for the due and punctual performance thereof on his part, hath, at several times, sent and delivered over to Gen. Washington, as will fully appear from the lists with them transmitted, a number of officers on their parole, and upwards of two thousand two hundred privates, of the enemy his prisoners ; and who, as well officers as privates, are still to be considered as such until they shall be regularly exchanged, officers for officers of equal rank, and the privates by a like number of those now in the possession of General Washington ; some of whom, having been taken before, or about the time of concluding the agreement, have, in direct violation thereof, been detained as prisoners for full eight months, and others, taken in the latter end of December and in the beginning of January last, have been in the like condition of prisoners for three months ; none, or very few of them, have hitherto been sent in, in return or exchange of the number of prisoners sent by Gen. Howe to Gen. Washington. I, Lieut. Col. William Walcott, vested with full powers for this among other purposes, do therefore in the most positive and peremptory manner, require and demand of General Washington the full and due performance of the agreement above recited ; and consequently the speedy and immediate release of all prisoners of war, whether British, Hessians, Waldeckers, Provincials or Canadians, as well officers as soldiers, now in his possession, or so far as they shall go or may go towards the exchange of those sent and delivered over to Gen. Washington. And whereas there are still in the possession of Gen. Sir William Howe a very considerable number of officers, and a number of privates of the enemy, prisoners unexchanged ; I do farther require and demand of Gen. Washington, that so soon as he shall have compleated the exchange of those already delivered over to him, agreeable to my requisition and demand for that purpose, he

shall proceed to the exchange of these last mentioned officers and privates, in conformity to the agreement of the 30th of July and 1st of August, 1776; to the execution of which the groundless and unprecedented objections offered on the part of Gen. Washington, by Lieut. Col. Harrison, cannot with any degree of reason, or consistently with common sense, be allowed or admitted as obstacles. The one, that "the whole of the prisoners contained in the Commissary's lists, and delivered over to General Washington, should not be accounted for, because many of them died on their return to the place of their arrival." Posterior therefore confessedly, from the objection itself as stated, to their being delivered over to Gen. Washington, all of whom therefore must be, and all of whom, this objection notwithstanding, I do again require and demand to be exchanged, according to the express terms of the agreement, "soldier for soldier," for every man delivered to the person who received them for and in the behalf of Gen. Washington. The other, "the case of Lieut. Col. Lee," whose release General Washington might with greater propriety demand, whenever, with the terms of the said agreement, "officers for officers of equal rank," he shall have in his possession an officer of rank equal to the reputed rank of the gentleman in question; but until that appear, the demand and objection upon this subject are at least premature. I do, moreover, expect and demand, that an immediate and categorical answer shall be given to these just and reasonable requisitions and demands. Given at the house of the Rev. Mr. Beech, in the townships of Hillsborough, the second day of April, one thousand seven hundred seventy and seven.

W. WALCOTT,  
Lieut. Col.

TO GENERAL WASHINGTON:  
&c., &c.

To this insolent demand Washington prepared an able reply, addressing it to

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HOWE.

MORRISTOWN, 9 April, 1777.

SIR:

I take the liberty of transmitting you a copy of a paper addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Walcott of your army, which came enclosed in a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Cornwallis. It is with peculiar regret, I am constrained to observe, that this illiberal performance of Colonel Walcott's is obviously calculated to answer a less generous purpose, than that of merely effecting an exchange, contains a gross misrepresentation of facts, and is a palpable deviation from that delicate line, which I expected would mark his con-

duct, as a man of candor and ingenuity. That gentleman has censured two articles insisted on by me through Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison, at their meeting of the 10th ultimo, "as groundless, unprecedented, and inconsistent with any degree of reason or common sense," though founded, as I conceive, in the clearest principles of equity and justice. Not contenting himself with this, which would have given me no concern, he has assumed the privilege of mutilating and misstating those articles in such a manner, as to change their meaning, and to adapt them to the unfair conclusions he wished to establish.

Having premised these things, and being charged in direct and positive terms by Colonel Walcott, who acted under your authority, with a violation of the Agreement made between us for the Exchange of prisoners, and called upon for a performance of the same, I think it necessary to explain the motives of my conduct, and the grounds on which those articles or objections stand. In respect to the first, I freely repeat, that I do not hold myself bound, either by the spirit of the agreement, or by the principles of justice, to account for those prisoners, who, from the rigor and severity of their treatment, were in so emaciated and languishing a state, at the time they came out, as to render their death almost certain and inevitable; and which, in many instances, happened while they were returning to their homes, and, in many others, immediately after their arrival.

You must be sensible, that our Engagement, as well as all others of the kind, though in the letter it expresses only an equality of rank and number, as the rule of exchange, yet it necessarily implies a regard to the general principles of mutual compensation and advantage. This is inherent in its nature, is the voice of reason, and no stipulation, as to the condition in which prisoners should be returned, was requisite. Humanity dictated that their treatment should be such, as their health and comfort demanded; and, where her laws have been duly respected, their condition has been generally good. Nor is this the language of Humanity alone; justice declares the same. The object of every cartel, or similar agreement, is the benefit of the prisoners themselves, and that of the contending powers. On this footing, it equally exacts, that they should be well treated, as that they should be exchanged. The reverse is, therefore, an evident infraction, and ought to subject the party, on whom it is chargeable, to all the damage and ill consequences resulting from it. Nor can it be expected, that those unfitted for future service by acts of severity, in direct violation of a Compact, are proper subjects for an exchange. In such case, to return others not in the same predicament, would be to give without receiving an Equivalent; and would afford the greatest encouragement to cruelty and inhumanity. The argument, drawn from the mere circumstance of the prisoners having been received, is of no validity. Though, from

their wretched situation, they could not, at that time, be deemed proper for an exchange, yet our humanity required that they should be permitted to return among us.

It may, perhaps, be fairly doubted, whether an apprehension of their death, or that of a great part of them, did not contribute somewhat to their being sent out when they were. Such an event, whilst they remained with you, would have been truly interesting; because it would have destroyed every shadow of claim for a return of the prisoners in our Hands; and, therefore, policy, concurring with Humanity, dictated that the measure should be adopted. Happy had it been, if the expedient had been thought of before these ill-fated men were reduced to such extremity. It is confessed, however, on all sides, that, after their delivery, they still continued your prisoners, and would be so till regularly exchanged.

I acknowledge, that I should, and I have been always willing, notwithstanding this concession, to account for every man, who was in a proper condition and fit to be exchanged at the time they came out, so far as the proportion of prisoners with us would extend. With what propriety, or upon what foundation of justice, can more be demanded? This has been proposed, or, what is the same, was most clearly implied in the first article or objection made by Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison, and illiberally rejected since, as inconsistent with any degree of reason or common sense. Painful as it is, I am compelled to consider it as a fact not to be questioned, that the usage of our prisoners, whilst in your possession, the privates at least, was such as could not be justified. This was proclaimed by the concurrent testimony of all who came out; their appearance sanctified the assertion; and melancholy experience, in the speedy death of a large part of them, stamped it with infallible certainty.

In respect to the second article insisted on, your discriminating Major-General Lee from other captive officers belonging to the American army demanded my particular attention. I was authorized to conclude, from your laying him under peculiar restraints, and from your letter of the 23d of January last, that you considered him in a singular point of view, and meant to exclude him from the common right of exchange, stipulated for all officers in general terms. This distinction, the more injurious and unwarrantable, as you never excepted him, though you knew him to be an officer in our army at the time, and long before the Agreement was entered into, made it my duty to assert his right in an explicit manner, and to endeavour to put the matter upon so unequivocal a footing, as to insure his enlargement, whenever an officer of rank belonging to your army should be in our power. This was attempted by the Article, and nothing more; nor is any other inference to be drawn from it. It is true, a proposition was made, since his captivity, to give a certain number of officers of inferior rank in exchange for him; but it was not

claimed as a matter of right. What name, then, does that proceeding merit, by which it is suggested, that the immediate release of General Lee had been demanded, without having an officer of equal rank to give for him? The suggestion cannot be supported by the most tortured exposition, nor will it have credit where candor is deemed a virtue, and words preserve their form and meaning.

As to the charge of delay in not returning the prisoners in our hands, the dispersed situation of those, taken at a more early period of the war, through the different States, arising from the circumstances of their captivity and a regard to their better accommodation, made their detention for a considerable time unavoidable. When the agreement subsisting between us took place, the speediest directions were given to have them collected, that an exchange might be effected. This was done in part, and at a juncture when motives of policy opposed the measure, but were made to yield to the rigid maxims of good faith.† We were pursuing the exchange, and continued our exertions to accomplish it, till the miserable appearance, indicating an approaching catastrophe, of those sent out by you, made it improper. Foreseeing that a difficulty might arise, and that it might be expected, that I should account for the whole of them, which I by no means thought it equitable to do, it became necessary that the matter should be adjusted, and the due proportion settled for which I ought to be responsible, before anything further could be done on my part. Upon this ground stands also the detention of those, who have been since captured. Added to these considerations, the discrimination set up in the instance of General Lee is to be regarded as utterly irreconcilable with the tenor of our agreement, and an insurmountable obstacle to a compliance with your demands.

Thus, Sir, have I explained the motives of my conduct, and I trust vindicated myself in the eye of Impartiality from the improper and groundless charge, which you and the gentleman acting by your authority have been pleased to allege against me. If, in doing this, I have departed in the smallest degree from that delicacy, which I always wished should form a part of my character, you will remember, I have been forced into recrimination, and that it has become an act of necessary justice. I shall now declare it to be my ardent wish, that a general exchange may take place, on general and liberal principles, so far as it can be effected, and that the agreement, subsisting between us for that purpose, should be inviolably observed; and I call upon you, by every obligation of good faith, to remove all impediments, on your part, to the accomplishment of it. If, how-

\* The following clause was here inserted in the first draft of the letter, but was omitted in the transcript sent to General Howe: "Happily we found an equivalent, so far as their number went, in those returned from Canada, and who had experienced the humanity of General Carleton."

ever, you do not, I console myself with a hope, that those unfortunate men, whose lot it is to be your prisoners, will bear their sufferings with becoming fortitude and magnanimity.

I am, Sir, with due respect, &c.\*

The question seemed no nearer a solution from this reply than in the beginning; and the remedy was not contained in General Howe's letter in answer:

NEW YORK, 21 April, 1777.

SIR:

I have received your letter of the ninth instant, concerning the requisition of Lieutenant-Colonel Walcott, a copy of which came inclosed.

Though I observe that officer has meant to insist very strongly on the justice of the claim for the return of prisoners in your possession, which was one of the objects of his appointment, I do not see reason to suspect that any personal incivility was intended by the terms in which his opinion is expressed.

Without entering into a needless discussion of the candour or illiberality of the sentiments on which your arguments are founded, yet since you are pleased to assert, that "the usage of your prisoners

\* "The design of Washington's letter, and its publication by the Congress, was to sanctify their breach of faith in not sending back our soldiers in exchange, to represent General Howe as devoid of humanity, and to irritate the deluded Americans still more against the English nation, as a people totally lost to virtue. It was by such misrepresentations and falsehoods that the rebel leaders first fomented and brought on the present rebellion; and they still continue to support it by the same infamous means. Men of malignant and ambitious dispositions of mind are always at the head of their affairs. It was such dispositions that made Lovell a delegate, and Washington a general."—*Politicus*, in the *London Chronicle*, 14 August, 1777.

John Adams wrote of this letter: "Washington is in the right, and has maintained his argument with a delicacy and dignity which do him much honor: He has hinted at the flagitious conduct of the two Howes towards their prisoners in so plain and clear a manner that he cannot be misunderstood, but yet decency and delicacy are preserved, which is the more to be applauded because the natural resentment of such atrocious cruelties renders it very difficult to avoid a more pointed language in describing them."—*To his wife*, 13 April, 1777.

"Resolved, That Congress approve General Washington's conduct as to the cartel for exchange of prisoners, and of the reasoning contained in his letter of the 9th May, making no doubt of the facts upon which his arguments are founded being duly ascertained; and that the General be informed it is the opinion of Congress that he strictly adhere to the principles contained in the said letter."—*Journals of Congress*, 6 June, 1777.

was such as could not be justified,—that this was proclaimed by the concurrent testimony of all who came out,—that their appearance sancified the assertion, and that melancholy experience, in the speedy death of a larger part of them, stamped it with infallible certainty," these, I say, being what you assume as facts, I cannot omit making some observations upon them.

It might, perhaps, suit with the policy of those who persist in every expedient to cherish the popular delusion, that the released prisoners should complain of ill-usage, or their captivity might really form a grievous comparison with the state they were in before they were persuaded to encounter the vicissitudes of war. But if their sufferings were as great as you think yourself authorized to assert, a dispassionate consideration of the following indisputable and notorious facts will point out the cause to which they are to be, in a great measure, ascribed :

All the prisoners were confined in the most airy buildings, and on board the largest transports in the fleet, which were the very healthiest places of reception that could possibly be provided for them.

They were supplied with the same provisions, both in quantity and quality, as were allowed to the King's troops not on service, some accidental instances excepted, wherein however the omission, when known, was immediately remedied.

Near one half of the whole number of prisoners, whose diseases appeared to require peculiar care, as well as separation from the rest, were at different times received into the British hospitals, and their own surgeons, without restriction, supplied with medicines for the remaining sick, until it was discovered that they disputed not to dispose of large quantities by private sale.

From this short state of facts, it is evident that your prisoners were provided with proper habitations, sufficient and wholesome food, and medicines. Nor do I know of any comfort or assistance compatible with their situation as prisoners, of which they were in want, excepting clothing; the relief to their distress in this, and the article of money, of which you were repeatedly advised, and they had claim to receive from your care, was neglected or refused, while they were furnished with every necessary I was in a situation to supply.\*

\* It will be interesting to compare these statements with the arraignment of the British by Congress.

"The inhuman treatment of those who were so unhappy as to become prisoners. The prisoners, instead of that humane treatment which those taken by the United States experienced, were in general treated with the greatest barbarity. Many of them were near four days kept without food altogether: When they received a supply, it was both insufficient in point of quantity and often of the worst kind: They suffered the utmost distress from cold, nakedness and close confine-

To what cause a speedy death of a large part of them is to be attributed, I cannot determine, but your own experience will suggest to you, whether the army under your command, in the course of last campaign, was free from such calamitous mortality, though assisted with refreshments from all parts of the surrounding provinces.

It is insinuated that I might have released the prisoners before any of the ill consequences had taken place. I am obliged to say, the event at least appears to have proved the caution with which I ought to have adopted that expedient. The prisoners were ready to be delivered up, waiting only for your proceeding in the exchange, which you had proposed, and I agreed to.

I admit that able men are not to be required by the party who, contrary to the laws of humanity, through design, or even neglect of reasonable and practicable care, should have caused the debility of the prisoners he shall have to offer for exchange; but the argument is not applicable to me in the present instance.

I might finally put this question: How is the cause of debility in prisoners to be ascertained? But as we differ so much in the principle upon which your objections are framed; as I think those objections are unsupported by precedent or equity, and that your adherence to them would be a direct and determined violation of the agreement, it becomes unnecessary for me to add more, than to call upon you to fulfil your agreement for returning the prisoners demanded by Lieut. Col. Walcott.

With respect to the case of Mr. Lee, now professed to be a principal motive for your refusal to continue the exchange of prisoners, it is comprehended, I must insist, under my general and original exception to persons in his circumstances.

With due respect, I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant

W. HOWE.

Unwilling to assume the responsibility of answering Howe's criticisms, Washington referred to them to Congress, where they remained: Freemen and men of substance suffered all that a generous mind could suffer from the contempt and mockery of British and foreign mercenaries: Multitudes died in prison; and when others were sent out, several died in the boats while carrying ashore, or upon the road attempting to go home. The committee in the course of their inquiry learned, that sometimes the common soldiers expressed sympathy with the prisoner, and the foreigners more than the English. But this was seldom or never the case with the officers; nor have they been able to hear of any charitable assistance given them by the inhabitants who remained in, or resorted to the city of New York; which neglect, if universal, they believe was never known to happen in any similar case in a Christian country."—*Journals of Congress*, 18 April, 1777.



unacted upon for more than six weeks. In this delay Howe saw his opportunity; and on May 22d wrote, demanding a final decision upon his demand for the prisoners in exchange for those sent in, and on the prisoners "now here, that I may make my arrangements accordingly." This was a telling suggestion, and forced Washington to turn to Congress and urge action:

"Good faith seems to require, that we should return as many of theirs at least as we received effectives from them; I mean such as could be considered capable of being exchanged; and perhaps sound policy, that the agreement subsisting for exchanges should continue. On the other hand it may be said, that our prisoners in general, in the enemy's hands at present, will have greater security by our retaining them, and that General Howe will be less apt to relinquish any part of his claim, the more the number in our hands is diminished by an exchange.

"I confess I am under great difficulty in this business. But what is more particularly the cause of this application, is the latter part of the first paragraph of the enclosed copy,—'*and for your determination respecting the prisoners now here, that I may make my arrangements accordingly.*' This is couched in terms of great ambiguity; and I am really at a loss what interpretation to give it; whether he intends that his conduct respecting them shall be as I advise (this appears more favorable than can well be expected), or that, if the previous demand is not answered in a satisfactory manner, he shall consider them on a different footing from that on which our former prisoners were, and the agreement totally dissolved. We are told government offered the prisoners they took to the India Company, and they have procured an act dispensing with that of the *habeas corpus* in particular cases of persons supposed inimical to them. How far they or their commanders may adopt these measures, remains to be known. I have only mentioned them as they respect the general subject of my letter."\*

Congress moved slowly, but in the end approved of Washington's reasoning, and directed him not to recede from his position. As a consequence he wrote a full reply.

TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HOWE.

MIDDLEBROOK, 10 June, 1777.

SIR:

Your several letters of the 21st of April, 22d of May, and 5th instant, have been received. Having stated my sentiments in an ex-

\* *Washington to the President of Congress, 28 May, 1777.*

pllicit manner in my letter of the 9th of April, upon the subject of your demand and the disagreement between us, I thought it unnecessary to trouble you with a repetition of them. From the complexion of yours of the 21st of April, we appeared to differ so widely, that I could entertain no hopes of a compromise being effected, or that an answer would produce any good end. But, as you have called upon me again for my final determination upon the matter, I shall freely give it, after making some observations upon what you have said, with the intention to obviate the objections on my part to a compliance with your demand through Lieutenant-Colonel Walcott.

You admit the principle, upon which my objection to account for the whole number of prisoners sent out by you is founded, but deny the application, by delicately insinuating, in the first instance, that the ill treatment complained of, was "an expedient to cherish popular delusion," and by asserting, in the second, that, supposing their sufferings to have been real, they were to be ascribed to other causes, than those assigned by me. I shall not undertake to determine, on whom the charge of endeavouring to excite popular delusion falls with most propriety; but I cannot forbear intimating, that, however successful ingenious miscolorings may be, in some instances, to perplex the understanding in matters of Speculation, yet it is difficult to persuade Mankind to doubt the Evidence of their Senses, and the reality of those facts, for which they can appeal to them. Unless this can be done, permit me to assure you, it will always be believed, whatever may be suggested to the contrary, that men could not be in a more deplorable situation, than those unhappy sufferers were, who are the subject of our difference. Did I imagine that you, Sir, had any serious scruples on the occasion, I might produce, in support of what I have alleged, the strongest proofs that Human testimony can afford.

To prove that the prisoners did not suffer from any ill treatment or neglect of yours, you say, "they were confined in the most airy buildings and on board the largest transports in the fleet; that they were supplied with the same provisions, both in quantity and quality, as were allowed to your Troops not on service; that the sick, such of them as required peculiar care, were received into the British hospitals, and the rest attended by their own surgeons, who were supplied with medicines without restriction, till it was discovered, that they disposed of large quantities by private sale." That airy buildings were chosen to confine our men in, is a fact I shall not dispute. But, whether this was an advantage or not, in the Winter Season, I leave it to you to decide. I am inclined to think it was not, especially as there was a General complaint, that they were destitute of fire the greater part of the time, and were only prevented from feeling the inclemency of the weather, in its

extremest rigor, by their crowded situation. This, I must believe, was not very conducive to their health; and, if we may judge by comparison, we must conclude that they endured similar inconveniences on board the transports.

As to the supplies of provisions, I know not what they were. My ideas of the matter were drawn from their united testimony, confirmed by their appearance, which represented the allowance as insufficient in quantity, bad in quality, and irregularly served. You yourself mention some "accidental instances of omission." I apprehend they were much more frequent, than you were apprized of. It may not be improper to observe, that there is a material difference between persons confined and deprived of every means of subsistence, in aid of their allowance, and those who are at large and have other resources, as is the case with your Troops when not on service, who have the benefit of their pay, and what they can occasionally gain by their labor. You might also find from inquiry, that we made no distinction in our supplies, between your soldiers, prisoners with us, and our own in the field. They were not stinted to a scanty pittance, but had full as much as they could use, and of the best kind. In respect to the attention paid to the sick, I am sorry their accommodation was injured, in any degree, by the misconduct of the surgeons. I heartily join with you in reprobating their proceedings, and shall esteem it a favor, if you will point out the persons, and furnish me with such proofs of their guilt as you may be possessed of.

The more effectually to exonerate yourself from the consequences imputed to the neglect or ill treatment of the prisoners, you assert they had every comfort and assistance from you, that your situation would admit; and that they wanted nothing but money and cloathing, which ought to have been furnished by me. Had we left your prisoners with us to depend entirely upon the supplies they drew immediately from you, their condition would have been little better than ours in your hands. Your officers and soldiers can both inform you, that they experienced every mark of public and private generosity, that could be shown them. Frequent instances might be adduced, that, on notice of your men being in want, orders were immediately given, that necessaries should be procured for them. Every thing was done, on our part, to facilitate any steps you took for the same end.

You were permitted to have an agent amongst us, countenanced by public authority, and allowed every latitude he could wish to enable him to execute his office. I am sorry to say, the same conduct has not been observed towards us; and that there are instances to show, that, far from endeavoring to remove the difficulties, which necessarily lay in our way, to making such ample supplies as we could wish, obstacles have been made, that might very well have

been waved. A late instance of this is to be found in your refusing to let us have a procuring agent with you, who might purchase what was necessary to supply the wants of our men.\* You must be sensible, that, for want of a regular mode being adjusted for mutually conveying supplies, there was a necessity for an exercise of generosity on both sides. This was done by us, and we supposed would have been done by you, which made us less anxious in providing, than we should have been, had we foreseen what has really happened. We ascribed every deficiency on your part to the indeterminate situation of affairs in this respect; and, looking forward to a more provident arrangement of the matter, we thought it our duty not to let the prisoners with us be destitute of anything requisite for their preservation, and imagined that your reasonings and feelings would have been the same.

Your saying that we were frequently advised of their distress is of little avail. It was not done, till it was too late to remedy the ill consequences of the past neglect, and till our prisoners were already reduced to a miserable extremity. I wish their sufferings may not have been increased in the article of cloathing, by their being deprived of what they had, through the rapacity of too many of their captors. Reports of this kind have not been wanting.

You further observe, that my own experience would suggest whether our army, in the course of the last campaign, was not subject to the same calamitous mortality with the prisoners in your possession. I cannot but confess, that there was a great degree of sickness among us; but I can assure you, that the mortality bore no kind of resemblance to that, which was experienced by the prisoners with you; and that the disorders in the camp had nearly ceased before the captivity of a large proportion of them. The garrison, that fell into your hands on the 16th of November, was found, I am convinced, in perfect health.

In reply to my intimation, that it would have been happy, if the Expedient of sending out our men had been earlier thought of, you are pleased to say, that the Event has proved the caution with which you ought to have adopted the measure. What inference can be drawn from my refusing to account for prisoners, scarcely alive, and by no means in an exchangeable condition, to warrant an insinuation, that I should have done the same, had they been released under different circumstances, let your own candor determine. But then you ask, "How is the cause of debility in prisoners to be ascertained?" This seems to be considered as a perplexing Question.

\* In acknowledging the commission as Deputy Commissary of Prisoners, Lewis Pintard returned it, and wrote: "I must inform you that I believe no person bearing the like would be permitted to remain in the city [New York], and act under it." 19 May, 1777.

For my part, I cannot view it as involving any great difficulty. There is no more familiar mode of reasoning, than from effects to causes, even in matters of the most interesting importance. In the subject before us, the appearance of the prisoners, and what eventually happened, proved that they had been hardly dealt with; but their joint asseverations, aided by the information of others not interested in the distress, more than as they regarded the rights of humanity, established the fact too firmly for Incredulity itself to doubt it.

I should hardly believe you to be serious in your application of the exception, to which you allude, to the case of Major-General Lee, if you had not persisted in a discrimination respecting him. I did not entertain the most distant Idea, that he could have been supposed to come under the description contained in it; and to force such a construction upon that gentleman's circumstances, however it may be an Evidence of ingenuity, is but an indifferent specimen of candor. I still adhere to what I have already advanced on this Head. I can by no means think of departing from it.

I am now to give you my final decision on the subject of your demands. In doing this, I can do little more than repeat what I have already said. I am extremely desirous of a general exchange, on liberal and impartial principles; and it is with great concern I find, that a matter, so mutually interesting, is impeded by unnecessary obstacles. But I cannot consent to its taking place, on terms so disadvantageous as those you propose, and which appear to me so contrary to justice and the spirit of our agreement. I think it proper to declare, that I wish the difference between us to be adjusted on a generous and equitable plan, and mean not to avail myself of the releasement of the prisoners to extort any thing from you not compatible with the strictest justice. Let a reasonable proportion of prisoners to be accounted for be settled, and General Lee declared exchangeable, when we shall have an officer of yours of equal rank in our possession. I ask no more. These being done, I shall be happy to proceed to a General Exchange. But, in the mean time, I am willing that a partial one should take place for the prisoners now in your hands, as far as those in ours will extend, except with respect to Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell and the Hessian field-officers, who will be detained till you recognise General Lee as a prisoner of war, and place him on the footing I claim. This latter proposition I am induced to make, from the distinction which your Letter of the 22d May seems to hold forth; and I think it necessary to add, that your conduct towards prisoners will govern mine.

The situation of Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, as represented by you, is such as I neither wished nor approve. Upon the first intimation of his complaints, I wrote upon the subject, and hoped there would have been no further cause of uneasiness. That gentleman,

I am persuaded, will do me the justice to say, he has received no ill treatment at my instance. Unnecessary severity and every species of insult I despise, and, I trust, none will ever have just reason to censure me in this respect. I have written again on your remonstrance, and have no doubt such a line of conduct will be adopted, as will be consistent with the dictates of humanity and agreeable to both his and your wishes.

I am, Sir, &c.

Congress also referred the whole subject of prisoners to the Board of War, where there must have been some difference of opinion. A subject that had been so fully treated by the opposing generals, and which was blocked needlessly by the insistence of Congress to secure Lee's release, ought not to have required long study. Both the generals admitted that they had agreed upon the terms of a cartel; that those terms had been in part carried into effect, and that minor differences had arisen that a reasonable policy could determine. Lee had now been admitted to his parole, so that obstruction was out of the way.

The Board of War, in a meeting held 22 July, 1777, at which John Adams, James Wilson and William Duer were present, agreed to report to Congress

"That General Washington be empowered to negotiate an exchange of prisoners with General Howe, for such prisoners as are now in captivity not having any respect to the present Dispute relative to the privates who died upon the Road before they reached the place of their Destination, which for the present is to be suspended, and that such exchange be made without any exception of Lt. Colonel Campbell or the Hessian Field officers."

The proposition was rejected by Congress, 4 ayes, 6 noes, and one divided.\* A modified measure was adopted 7 June, 1777.

"Resolved, That General Washington be authorized to negotiate the exchange of prisoners with the enemy in such manner and on such terms, as he shall judge expedient, notwithstanding the resolution of Congress respecting Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell and the five Hessian field officers."

Twelve days later these officers were admitted to parole.

Although the question of a cartel was thus replaced on precisely the footing it was during the summer of 1776, the time for acting was unpropitious. The activities of recruiting and disciplining the

\* *MS.* The vote is shown by an endorsement in Thomson's writing, but the details of the votes by States are not given.

army, and the excitements of a campaign intervened. A Commissary General of Prisoners was appointed, and a better choice than Elias Boudinot could hardly have been made.\* The questions of care, of expense and policy, were strongly in favor of an exchange; while the stories of suffering on both sides lent great weight to another appeal. On a chance opportunity Washington reopened the matter.

## TO SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 4 November, 1777.

SIR:

I have been informed by Lieutenant-Colonel Frazer, who is now a prisoner in your possession, that Major Balfour, one of your aids, had assured him, that it was your earnest desire, that a general exchange of prisoners should take place on equitable terms, or, if this could not be effected, that the officers on both sides should be released on parole. This, I have no doubt, was done by your authority, and with an intention, that it should be communicated to me. I assure you, Sir, nothing would afford me more satisfaction, than to carry the first proposition into execution. But, lest we should still unhappily disagree about the privates to be accounted for, and that this may not operate to the prejudice of the officers, it is my wish, for their mutual relief, that their exchange may immediately take place, so far as circumstances of rank and number will apply; and if any should then remain, that they may return to their friends on parole. I am induced to mention an exchange, in preference to the other mode of release, supposing that it will be more agreeable to both parties.

While we are on this subject, I would take the liberty to suggest, that on the footing of our present agreement the colonels, who are your prisoners, cannot be exchanged, there being no officers of the like rank in your army prisoners with us. From this consideration, I am led to inquire, whether an equivalent cannot be fixed on to effect it, as has been practised in similar cases. I have the honor to be, &c.

## GENERAL HOWE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA, 6 November, 1777.

SIR:

I am favored with your letter of the 4th instant. The general exchange of prisoners is so desirable a measure in justice to the officers and men immediately concerned, that I have repeatedly de-

\* *Washington to Boudinot*, 1 April, 1777.

manded of you a releasement of prisoners equivalent to those you have received, as far as the numbers in your possession will admit, on which condition I could enter upon a further exchange. The officers I have already permitted to return to their homes, on account of some peculiarity in their situations; and other indulgences, needless to mention, must sufficiently have evinced my desire to relieve the whole; and, when this previous point before mentioned is adjusted by our respective Commissaries, I shall readily agree to make the exchange as general as possible, and to the return of all such officers and men as may afterwards remain unexchanged on either side, under obvious and reasonable conditions.

Those at present prisoners with me are ready to be delivered on the shortest notice, and it rests solely with you to justify me in doing it.

\* \* \*

In this fair situation every prospect for an exchange seemed favorable. Unfortunately, the terms of capitulation granted by Gates to Burgoyne, all too favorable to the British general, afforded a new pretext for delaying the settlement. Again did Congress interfere, and setting aside a solemn compact on a very frivolous pretext, involved itself in a web of casuistry, and its general in a predicament from which he could hardly extricate himself with honor—unless he chose to override the express injunctions of that body. Of Gates' right to enter into a convention, there was no question; and the terms of that convention, however much to be criticised from the standpoint of policy, should have been strictly complied with. The first note of suggestion came from the New York Council of Safety:—

FROM THE NEW YORK COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

5 November, 1777.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is from Congress that we expect relief; the means are in their hands, if scruples, ill suited, in our opinion, to the circumstances of the country, and reprobated by the conduct of the enemy, do not prevent the use of them. Gen'l Burgoyne and his army are valuable hostages for the future good behaviour of the enemy. Should we permit them to depart, may we not have reason to fear the imprecations of those who are already ruined by their ravages, and that we may be judged by the laudable jealousy of the tories, as accessory to future devastations by the British army? We know, Sir, that treaties are sacred, and God forbid that those with whom we contend should, in violating them, be justified by our example. But they profess to



believe that no faith is to be kept with those they call rebels ; and we have little doubt that Gen'l Burgoyne's army will consider themselves as released from their engagements, the moment they quit the port of Boston. For a breach of their convention they will not need pretences, if an open avowal of their principles should not render all pretences unnecessary ; may they not allege that we have broke faith with them in the affair of the Cedars, and in the cartel for the exchange of prisoners? However this may be, shall we hesitate about the part that we ought to take, when, happily, they have furnished us with just and solid reasons for considering the convention as nullified by their own acts? All treaties, sir, ought by the contracting parties to be executed, not only in conformity to their letter, but according to their true spirit, intent and meaning ; and more particularly so, those which are capitulatory in their nature, because being founded *inter arma*, they admit not of that technical precision which may be justly expected in all other treaties. The apparent scope of the convention in question, is to secure a free and undisturbed return of the British army, commanded by Gen'l Burgoyne, to Great Britain and Canada, entirely disarmed and divested of every thing but their personal baggage and the means of carrying it ; and incapacitated to serve in America during the present war. This appears most manifestly from the 2d and 6th articles ; and hence it follows, that, according to good faith, all provisions, arms, artillery, stores and ensigns of war, tents, public equipage, and the military chest, ought to have been delivered to us. But of all these, sir, what have we received? The arms delivered up are by no means proportioned to the number of men, of which their army consisted, without estimating spare arms, of which there is reason to believe they had a considerable quantity to put into the hands of the disaffected ; and many of those given in were purposely injured. The standards and military chest are either destroyed or secreted ; the tents burned, and only a part of those immense stores which they possessed, has come to our hands. Upon a more minute inquiry, more important infractions may probably be discovered. If the infractions we have alleged are not sufficient, in the judgment of Congress, to nullify the convention, we wish such inquiry may be made. In the meanwhile we would beg leave to ask, whether it is not highly imprudent to leave between 4 and 5,000 men, with their officers at their head, so near the seacoast as Boston, especially while the enemy's troops are at Rhode Island? or when, after embarkation, the prisoners of war may reinforce the enemy in New York, or Pennsylvania, or with new supplies, make fresh inroads into this, or some neighboring states? We would, therefore, beg leave to hint, that it may not be improper for Congress to retard the embarkation of General Burgoyne and his troops, until full inquiry can be made whether he has honestly performed his part of the convention.

We have spoken, sir, with freedom ; our all depends upon it. We must either bring the enemy to deal with us upon equal terms, or we must give up the contest. If we fetter ourselves with treaties, while they disregard all laws, both human and divine, we forge our own chains ; and, like the apocryphal hero, prefer death and the ruin of our country to the breach of ceremonies which our adversaries contemn. We have long borne with their inhumanity ; our threats of retaliation have been hitherto considered as idle words, and it is time to give them efficacy ; the juncture is favorable. A brave people should dare to execute what they have thought it just to threaten. \* \* \* \* \*

Washington placed his objection on a very much higher plane, for he thought the ministry would replace the garrisons in England with these convention troops, and send the garrison men to serve in America—a stroke of policy which would not have violated the letter of Burgoyne's convention. He suggested that some delay might be caused in their departure by refusing to sell them sea stores, but supplying them with rations agreeably to stipulation.\* Another consideration of some importance suggested itself to Washington. The disadvantages of an embarkation at Boston were so great that no request of Burgoyne to have the port changed should be entertained. Transports in rounding the cape at this season of the year would run serious risk, and might be driven even to the West Indies. So highly did he consider this condition, that he sent expresses to enforce it ; † while Gates saw an opportunity to delay, and possibly to force a general exchange :

“It has occurred to me, that should Sir William Howe still obstinately refuse to settle any equitable cartel for the exchange of prisoners, that Congress would be justified, in ordering the fulfilling the

\* *Washington to Jeremiah Powell*, 5 November, 1777; *to General Heath*, 13 November, 1777.

† “I have never entertained the smallest idea, that General Burgoyne should be permitted to change the port of embarkation, or that the least variation of the spirit and letter of the convention would be indulged to the troops under his command. There is no doubt, but the British regiments upon their arrival in England, will be ordered to do duty there, but the Germans cannot, by the laws, serve in Great Britain or Ireland. If General Burgoyne has any sinister design, what I suggested to Congress in my letter of the 10th instant, a copy of which I conclude your Excellency has received, will be a good method of delaying, if not finally preventing the execution of his project.”—*Gates to Washington*, 23 November, 1777.

Convention of Saratoga to be delayed, until the United States received justice in that particular. At any rate, there will be very few of Genl. Burgoyne's soldiers to embark, as most of the Germans, and a great many of the British, have deserted upon their march towards Boston, and many more will yet desert."\*

Sir William's letter of the 6th did not entirely satisfy Washington, and he returned to some points that needed explanation.

TO SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 14 November, 1777.

SIR :

I am sorry to find, by the tenor of your letter of the 6th instant, that we still unhappily differ in our ideas of those just and reasonable terms, upon which a general exchange of prisoners might take place, and that an event so desirable is probably yet at a distance. This being the case, that relief to the unhappy, where it is practicable, may no longer be delayed, I am induced to accede to your proposition, made through Lieutenant-Colonel Frazer, "that the officers, who are prisoners of war, on both sides should be released, and have liberty to return among their friends on parole." I shall expect your answer as soon as possible upon this subject ; after which I shall give immediately the necessary orders for the return of your officers to such places as you appoint. At the same time, I wish that their exchange may appear to you, as it does to me, the more eligible mode of release. Notwithstanding what I have said, if the interpretation I have given your letter does not correspond with your own meaning, and you are disposed to proceed to an exchange of all the prisoners in your possession, for an equal number of those in my hands, without regard to the dispute subsisting between us, I shall be happy to adopt the measure. I therefore request an explanation of the third paragraph of your letter, where you say,— "Those at present prisoners with me are ready to be delivered on the shortest notice, and it rests solely with you to justify me in doing it."

In respect to the charge against Mr. Boudinot, the enclosed paper will show he has not failed to represent to Mr. Loring the wants of the prisoners in our hands. That these may be supplied, I shall upon your application grant passports to such persons, not above the rank of regimental quartermasters, as you may send out with necessaries for them.

You call upon me to redress the grievances of several of your officers and men, who, you are pleased to say, "you are well informed are most injuriously and unjustifiably loaded with irons." If there is

\* *Gates to the President of Congress, 10 November, 1777.*

a single instance of a prisoner of war being in irons, I am ignorant of it; nor can I find on the most minute inquiry, that there is the least foundation for the charge. On the contrary, I have every reason to believe, that your officers and men, who are prisoners with us, are experiencing a very different treatment. I wish you to particularize the cases you allude to, that relief may be had, if the complaints are well founded, and the character and conduct of the persons shall not forbid it.

Now we are upon the subject of grievances, I am constrained to observe, that I have a variety of accounts, not only from prisoners who have made their escape, but from persons who have left Philadelphia, that our private soldiers in your hands are treated in a manner shocking to humanity, and that many of them must have perished through hunger, had it not been for the charitable contributions of the inhabitants. It is added in aggravation, that this treatment is to oblige them to enlist in the corps you are raising. The friends of these unhappy men call daily upon me for their relief, and the people at large insist on retaliating upon those in our possession. Justice demands it. However, before I could proceed to a measure my feelings recoil at, I thought it right to mention the facts to you; and I would propose, that I may be allowed to send a suitable person into the city under the usual restrictions, to examine into the truth of them.\*

I must also remonstrate against the mal-treatment and confinement of our officers. This, I am informed, is not only the case of those in Philadelphia, but of many in New York. Whatever plausible pretences may be urged to authorize the condition of the former, it is certain but few circumstances can arise to justify that of the latter. I appeal to you to redress these several wrongs; and you will remember, whatever hardships the prisoners with us may be subjected to will be chargeable on you. At the same time it is but justice to observe, that many of the cruelties exercised towards prisoners are said to proceed from the inhumanity of Mr. Cunningham, provost-martial, without your knowledge or approbation. I am, Sir, with due respect, &c.

\*“Congress in this morning session resolved to make a strict enquiry into the treatment of American soldiers and other inhabitants of America now or late prisoners in Philadelphia. A copy of the resolution will be added to those above mentioned. I have been instructed by Congress to add a request to your Excellency to demand access by a proper officer to such prisoners as remain alive, in order [that] an effectual enquiry may be made and a satisfactory answer as to the facts returned. Congress are of opinion that the demand may be justly founded on the precedent of Agents from the enemy appointed on their part and permitted by Congress to visit Hessian prisoners on this side.” *President Laurens to General Washington*, 19 November, 1777.

P. S. Just as I was about to close my letter, two persons, men of reputation, came from Philadelphia. I transmit to you their depotions respecting the treatment they received while they were your prisoners. I will not comment upon the subject. It is too painful.

## REPLY OF GENERAL HOWE.

Philadelphia, November, 1777.\*

SIR:

I am averse to altercation, and therefore wish to be explicit and understood in my answer to your letter of the 14th instant, and to your very importunate requisition of the 23d. I shall never agree to a partial exchange of prisoners, until you have on your part fulfilled the cartel agreed upon; but as that matter has already been sufficiently investigated in the course of our correspondence, and by deputies respectively appointed, it is unnecessary to enlarge upon the subject. As liquidating the account, by the delivery of an equal number of prisoners for those received by your agents and commissaries, is the only preliminary, which can be admitted for a further arrangement; of course it rests with you, whether an exchange is to take place or not, and therefore you stand responsible for the inconvenience, which the officers and men of our respective armies must unavoidably be put to in their present state of captivity.

In order to alleviate their distress, and remove the evil as far as depends upon me, I shall permit officers for officers of equal rank to go home upon their paroles. That rule, if you choose to adopt the measure, shall be observed for such officers as you send upon their paroles to this place, New York, or Rhode Island. I could wish there were no grievances on either side, real or imaginary, to be complained of, as every man, in my opinion, who comes fairly under the description of a prisoner of war, without any aggravating circumstances on his part, is undoubtedly entitled to good treatment, and every indulgence, which can in prudence be granted; but that indulgence can only be regulated by the situation of the place, in which the prisoners happen to reside. If ever any officer or commissary under my command has deviated from the civility, care, and attention due to prisoners of war, under the above description, it is not consistent with my knowledge, and is contrary to my directions and intention.

The provision issued to the prisoners, who are or have been in my hands, has been uniformly the same, and is agreeable to a regulation, which has long been established for victualling British troops, when they are on board men of war or transports. They surely must receive that allowance, as a field-officer visits them every morn-

\* This letter was received on November 27th. It must have been written on the 25th or 26th.

ing, who has orders to hear their complaints and to report to me. You cannot suppose there could be any intention of deviating from this rule in the case of Joseph Cloyd and William Dewes. I have no objection to your sending a commissary, with a supply of clothing, money, and other necessaries for the prisoners at Philadelphia, who shall be permitted to visit the places where they are confined.

In return, I expect you will send passports for persons, who shall not be above the rank of quartermasters or commissaries, to carry supplies for the prisoners in your hands at Hartford and other places, where they are confined. You can stipulate the places to which it is necessary the quartermasters and commissaries should go. I cannot with any precision ascertain them, and therefore leave it at large for your determination. I cannot enter into the merits of Mr. Boudinot's report to you, as he refers to a correspondence with Commissary Loring, who is at New York. You wish me to particularize the cases I allude to, of prisoners of war being injuriously and unjustifiably loaded with irons. Major Stockton and other officers of the New Jersey Volunteers were put in irons at Princeton. The Major and a captain of that regiment were marched out of that place under a guard, and handcuffed together.

I am with due respect, Sir, your most obedient servant.

W. HOWE.

This letter came at a critical period, for Washington, vexed at the delay in hearing from Howe, was in the act of giving instructions to Boudinot to confine a number of the officers in his hands, and to put the privates under different and harsher restrictions than had been imposed. This measure of retaliation was undertaken with great reluctance. "Captivity of itself is sufficiently grievous," he wrote to Howe on the 28th, "and it is cruel to add to its distresses." The whole correspondence was sent to Congress, and the report of the Board of War, as recorded in the Congress MS., discredited Howe.

At a Board of War, 5 December, 1777. Present, Mr. Lee, Mr. Duer, Mr. Harvey and Mr. Smith.

The Board beg leave to report that they have taken into consideration the letters which have passed betwixt General Washington and General Howe from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, relative to the exchange and treatment of prisoners, and submit to the consideration of Congress the following Resolutions.

That General Washington be informed that General Howe's answer to his Letters of the 14th and 23d of November, remonstrating against the inhuman treatment of the American Prisoners, is in the opinion of Congress by no means explicit and satisfactory, since it neither invalidates the truth of the Depositions of Joseph Cloyd and

William Dewes, Citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or gives assurance of a more humane attention in future to the American prisoners in General Howe's power, than has been hitherto shown to them.

That General Washington be directed to require of General Howe a speedy and explicit explanation of *the following* passages in his Letter in answer to those of General Washington of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>d</sup>. November.

"As every Man in my opinion *who comes fairly under the description of a Prisoner of War, without any aggravating Circumstance on his part, is undoubtedly entitled to good Treatment, and every Indulgence which can in prudence be granted;* but the Indulgence can only be regulated by the situation of the place, in which prisoners happen to reside."

"If ever any officer or Commissary under my command has deviated from the Civility, Care and Attention *due to Prisoners of War, under the above Description, it is not consistent with my knowledge, and is contrary to my Directions and Intention.*"

"The Provision issued to the Prisoners which are or have been in my hands, has been uniformly the same, and is agreeable to a Regulation, which has long been establish'd, for victualling British Troops when they are on board Men of War or Transports; they surely must receive that allowance, as a Field Officer visits them every morning, who has orders to hear their Complaints, and to report to me. *You cannot suppose there could be an intention of deviating from this Rule, in the case of Joseph Cloyd and William Dewes.*"

As there are several passages in the above cited Paragraphs which strongly imply General Howe's intention of making a distinction in treatment between Persons taken in Arms and the faithful and liege Citizens of these States, who by chance or the fortune of War may fall into his power; an intention utterly irreconcilable, not only with the principles of humanity but with the spirit of General Howe's former Sentiments on this subject, as expressed in the following paragraph of his letter to General Washington, dated Staten Island, August 1, 1776:—

"Wishing sincerely to *give Relief to the Distresses of ALL Prisoners*, I shall readily consent to the mode of exchange you are pleased to propose, viz<sup>t</sup>, officers for those of Equal Rank, Soldier for Soldier, Citizen for Citizen, the choice to be made by the respective Commanders for their own Officers and Men."

Extract from the Minutes,

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

Endorsed: "One Motion confirmed as an amendment. A Resolution offered 8 Decem. Postponed to 15th."\*

\* The "one motion" is printed in the *Journals*, 8 December, 1778, and practically omits the extracts from Howe's letter, without altering the purpose of the

A new point had been suggested by Washington which was of importance in its subsequent developments. In November he had asked why the British were allowed to pay for the subsistence of their prisoners in Continental money, money "which they refuse themselves, which they attempt to depreciate in every instance they possibly can," and which they had openly counterfeited. Besides, the British had demanded hard money of the Americans for the support of the prisoners in their hands. Why should not they be obliged to pay in coin? The suggestion bore fruit, and Burgoyne was informed that coin only would be received, a condition which he thought somewhat odd, as it implied that Congress did not give credit to its own paper.\* Having settled this point, Washington returned to another issue—that of accounts :

"While I am on the subject of Mr. Burgoyne and his army, I would submit it to Congress, whether it will not be right and reasonable, that all expenses, incurred on their account for provisions, should be paid and satisfied previously to their embarkation and departure ; I mean by an actual deposit of the money. Unless this is done, there will be little reason to suppose, that it will ever be paid. They have failed (that is, the nation) in other instances, as I have been told, after liquidating their accounts and giving the fullest certificates, and we cannot expect they will keep better faith with us than with others. The payment, too, I should apprehend, ought to be in coin, as it will enable us to administer some relief to our unfortunate officers and men who are in captivity."†

This was the situation when Colonel Webb was made a prisoner.

Pending an appeal to Howe, Congress issued its final decision, that the embarkation of the Convention troops be suspended until a distinct and explicit ratification of the convention of Saratoga should

resolution so far as the treatment of citizens went. Not deeming this sufficient, another motion was made to direct Washington to "demand of General Howe a speedy and explicit explanation of the line of conduct which he hath adopted, and means to observe in future to such persons, whether officers, soldiers, or citizens of these States, as may be subjected to his power," but the consideration was postponed, and does not appear to have reached a final determination.

\* "The demanding hard money was so extraordinary that he [Burgoyne] imagined Great Britain would not hesitate at paying thirty thousand pounds sterling to publish such a procedure to the world." *Heath to the President of Congress*, 18 January, 1778.

† *Washington to Congress*, 14 December, 1777.



be properly notified by the court of Great Britain. This bold move, which cannot be justified, forced Howe to agree to an exchange.

## HOWE TO WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA, 5 February, 1778.

SIR :

By advices received from Rhode Island, transmitting to me a copy of a letter from General Heath to Lieut-General Burgoyne, a copy of which is inclosed, I am informed that it is determined to detain General Burgoyne's troops in New England until all demands for their provisions and other necessaries are satisfied, and that this determination is grounded, not only upon a requisition of mine for provisions to be sent in for the subsistence of the prisoners in my possession, and for the purchase of other necessaries, but upon a forgery by my agents, emissaries and abettors, of what are called continental bills of credit. This last allegation is too illiberal to deserve a serious answer.

With regard to the other, I know not from what expression, in any of my letters to you, it has been understood, that I made the requisition alluded to. You know that the allowance of provisions to prisoners, from the beginning of my command, has been equal in quantity and quality to what is given to our own troops not on service. If you had thought this insufficient, you might have directed a farther supply from the markets, and were likewise at liberty to send in whatever articles you thought proper from the country. The allowance of fuel has been also regulated, as well as our means would admit, and a similar permission of purchase or supply from you has never been refused. My letter of the 21st of April last explained to you what was afforded to the prisoners; clothing, and some other necessaries, they had a right to expect from those, who had been the occasion of their being exposed to the chance of captivity, and that idea I have ever understood to be mutual. But notwithstanding the remonstrances I made to you upon that point, finding that supplies were not sent in, my humanity interposed in behalf of the unfortunate men in our possession; and, on a late representation of their distress, I permitted in this city the purchase of blanketing, and such other necessaries as the severity of the winter require, and without which they must absolutely have perished.

Confident as I am, that you will acknowledge this to be a just recital of facts, I cannot but think it unnecessary to say any thing farther, either upon the cruelty falsely alleged to have been exercised against the prisoners, or the unjust reflections you have been so often induced to transmit to me upon that head. In consideration, however, of the real and unavoidable distresses of the prisoners on both sides, as well as to put an end to all fruitless altercation on the sub-

ject, I shall consent to an immediate exchange of all prisoners now in our possession, as well officers as private men, so far as the number of the latter, and parity of the rank of the former, will admit. In the mean time, I shall wait the arrival here of the British officers, whom you have released upon their paroles, and shall, without delay, send an equal number to you in return.

With regard to the account for provisions and other necessaries, which I find by General Heath's letter is become a pretext for infringing, if it is not intended as an absolute breach of, the convention of Saratoga, I do readily agree to the immediate appointment of commissioners, on your part and on mine, to settle that account, together with all other accounts for provisions, &c., furnished the prisoners on either side, and to make payment of the balance. As I have no objection to the earliest meeting of the commissioners for completing the exchange and liquidating the accounts, I trust there will be no new impediment to the release of General Burgoyne's troops, but that you will give immediately such orders for their embarkation upon the arrival of the transports at Boston, as will remove every difficulty.\*

I am &c.,

W. HOWE.

WASHINGTON TO SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 10 February, 1778.

SIR:

I received yesterday the favor of your letter of the 5th instant. In answer to whatever it contains concerning General Burgoyne's army, and the measures adopted relative to it, I have only to inform you, that this is a matter in which I have never had the least direction. It lies wholly with Congress; and the proposals you make on this head must be submitted to them. I have accordingly transmitted a copy of your letter, and shall be ready to forward to you any resolution they may take in consequence.

I shall omit animadverting on your observations with regard to the allowance and treatment to prisoners in your hands. It is a subject which has been fully discussed in the progress of our correspondence; and the necessity of a further investigation is superseded, by your now meeting me on the ground I have so long wished. The powers under which I act are entirely derived from Congress, and must of course be subject to such modifications, as they may think proper according to circumstances to prescribe. But, holding myself fully authorized, by their instructions and intentions, to avail myself of the reasonable terms, you are at this time willing to adopt for the mutual relief of prisoners, I shall explicitly close with your propositions to the following effect:—"That an exchange of all prisoners now in our possession, officer for officer, soldier for soldier,

and citizen for citizen, so far as number and rank will apply," be carried into execution, as expeditiously as the nature of the case will admit, and without regard to any controverted point, which might prove an impediment to so desirable an end. And here, as I may not clearly understand your meaning, when you say,—“In the mean time I shall wait the arrival of the British officers, whom you have released upon their paroles, and shall without delay send an equal number to you in return,”—I take occasion to request, that you will be pleased to favor me with an explanation; whether you intend to consider such officers, on both sides, as still continuing under the obligation of a parole, or as absolutely exchanged in pursuance of the general cartel. I see no reason why an effectual exchange should not at once operate with respect to them.

I also agree, that two commissioners from me shall meet a like number from you, on the 10th day of March in Germantown, at the King of Prussia Tavern, at eleven in the forenoon, to adjust upon equitable terms the difference you mention, and such other matters as they may be severally empowered to determine.

With respect to a general settlement of accounts, as it comprehends points with which I have no authority to interfere, it is not in my power to concur in the measure you suggest for that purpose. I am under the necessity of referring it to the decision of Congress. Considering a general exchange as finally agreed on between us, I shall without delay order the prisoners in our hands to places in the vicinity of your different posts, as their respective situations may render most convenient; and shall give you notice as they arrive, that you may return a number equal to those sent in from time to time. I am, with due respect, Sir, &c.

Howe objected to so late a day for the conference, deeming an early meeting essential to the relief of the prisoners; but Washington insisted upon his date, and Howe with bad grace acquiesced. Washington felt obliged to consult Congress. That body had appointed in January a committee, to proceed to camp, and consult with the Commander in chief on a new system of army administration. The Committee was composed of five members, Dana, Reed, Folsom, G. Morris and Charles Carroll. Among the subjects that required their attention was the cartel for the exchange. A letter on this topic was prepared by Gouverneur Morris, and is preserved among the *MSS.* of the Congress. It is without date, and is endorsed “superceded by a Conference.” In it and Washington’s letter of March 7th, we have the situation outlined.

## COMMITTEE TO WASHINGTON.

[Drawn up by G. Morris.]

SIR:

The Committee at Moor Hall have employed such Time as they could spare from many Interruptions this Morning in a Conference upon the very important Subject of the Cartel now about to be established. And altho' they may not be (and probably are not) so well acquainted with some Facts as other Gentlemen and having perhaps different Feelings upon the Subject may view the same Object in a different Point of Light, yet they conceive that the Ideas of Citizens may not be quite useless to Gentlemen of the Army now about to determine on the dearest Rights of Citizens at least of unfortunate ones. Neither will it be improper that as Members of Congress, they should endeavor to explain and to vindicate some Resolutions of Congress which must in the Course of the Business become Matter of Debate and which (in the Opinion of some Gentlemen not improperly have been already stigmatized as cruel and unjust. Your Excellency's Request, superadded to these Considerations, leads the Committee to go into the Matter a little at large—a Measure which on so important a Transaction their Duty seems to require.

Without entering into the Deduction of an historical Train of Facts we shall simply refer to those which apply to particular Propositions; but it appears to us absolutely necessary to investigate if possible the precise Situation which the contracting Parties stand in, as well absolutely as relatively to each other. For since no Fact can be clearer than this, that Interest alone (and not Principles of Justice or Humanity) governs Men on such Occasions, it becomes necessary to know our Interest and theirs which can alone be collected from such Situations.

And here because it frequently happens that Soldiers particularly young Soldiers are dazzled with misconceived or ill applied Notions of Honor it may be well to step a little on one side and explain our Sentiments. Honor, mutually pledged, appears to the Committee to be the *ostensible* Security of Compacts prompted and complied with for mutual Ease, Security or Advantage. The Current of History will shew us that this Security is for the most Part only *ostensible*, and were History silent, our own Melancholy Experience in the present War after the first Cartel settled, will evince the Truth of the Observation at least as far as the Business before us requires. But allowing that it were more than *ostensible*, allow it to be *real*. We cannot conceive that it hath any Thing to do with adjusting the Terms of the Compact. It is in publick what Honesty is in private Transactions and tho Honesty obliges a Man to pay what he owes, it hardly obliges a Man to run in Debt.

The Enemy possessing Quebec, Halifax, Rhode Island, New York, Philadelphia and Florida, are distressed for Men to make a proper Defence at these several Places in the Beginning of the ensuing Campaign, they being at present ignorant where the Storm which they suppose to be collecting will fall and fully convinced that the Loss of any capital Post will do them more essential Injury than the Failure of an Expedition, or a considerable Defeat. Besides this, it is with Difficulty they can procure Subsistence for their present Force in America, and their Supplies of Money begin to run low. They are therefore much affected by the Resolutions of Congress compelling them to send Provision in Specie or pay for it in hard Money at a par Exchange.

Having mentioned these Resolutions it is not amiss to attempt to clear them from the Imputation of Inequity. And first it must be observed that in every Compact between belligerent Powers to ascertain money Matters, Recourse must be had to a tertium interueniens, or middle Rate, neither Party being willing to trust the Honesty of the other, seeing that if he did, that other by exercising the allowed sovereignty of a state might raise or lower the current coin so as to suit his own Convenience according to the Circumstances and Exigencies which might arise. A fortiori on the present occasion is such a precaution necessary to us, the Value of whose Money is from the Nature of the Case more fluctuating than that of other Nations. Besides which the Enemy deny that it is Money and have not only the Will, but in a great Measure the Power too, of governing its Value, and further have exerted themselves to depreciate it by Methods totally unprecedented among honest Men. If then it were agreed that both Sides should pay for the Subsistence of Prisoners in the Money of the respective Countries, what would be the Consequence but that our Resources must be entirely exhausted in maintaining our Enemies, and this by Reason of their Knavery and our Folly. Besides this it would be declaring upon the very Face of the Transaction that our Money is not worth a Quarter of what it is uttered for by Congress, which is the next step to making it worth nothing at all. With a View to these Inconveniences, Congress fix the Medium to be in Spanish Milled Dollars, worth each a paper Dollar of the Currency of these States @ 4 6 Sterling. Nor does the objection of Inequity lie so strongly as Gentlemen suppose even in their own favorite Point of View, for it is permitted to them to pay in Specie, and if they can do it cheaper and more conveniently than in Gold, they certainly will, but the Fact is their Provision costs them more than ours even on this *inequitable* Exchange as it is called, and we shall have to pay for so much as is furnished to our Prisoners according to what it costs them, and not as we might have bought it in the Country. Nor shall we be permitted to replace our Deficiency in Provisions unless they happen to

want Subsistence. For this we find was the Case at first, and the Liberty of sending in Flour and wheat as they grow short in the Articles was (on that Principle and for their own Advantage) extended to an amount for purchasing other Necessaries, yet even then they by Proclamation obliged us to sell our Wheat at their Price, or in other Words to pay for their Commodities just what they pleased. And tho it may be said that this Proclamation applied chiefly or only to their own Territory, yet where it is known (and the Fact is) that the Inhabitants of that Territory never did raise Wheat beyond their own consumption, the slight thin Pretence only exposes their Conduct.

But to return, it is evident that the Interest of the Enemy now calls upon them loudly for an Exchange of *Men*, and therefore it is by no means a matter of surprise that Genl. Howe after having delayed it so long is from these circumstances brought to urge an Exchange with such Rapidity.

On the other Hand the Capture of Burgoyne and the Leisure allowed the United States to breathe from the late Exertions will enable them to bring no despicable Force into the Field earlier than the Enemy can be well supported by additional numbers; besides this the maintaining so large a number of their Prisoners will bring in considerable supplies of solid coin while the Liberty which a Principle of Retaliation now fully adopted compels them to allow our Prisoners, will enable us to maintain them with comfort among the Enemy, whereas if exchanged, they would scatter abroad thro' the Country and make little or no Addition of strength to our Army. At the same Time the Want we feel of good officers and the sufferings of our sailors and citizens call upon us to establish a Cartel. Our Interest therefore is to push the Exchange of Officers, Mariners and Citizens. The Mariners indeed will not be exchanged on the ensuing Conference, but must take their chance upon the great and useful Retaliation which Genl. Howe with great Propriety condemns, because it affects his Interest which was greatly forwarded by rendering American Prisoners so miserable as to disincline them to the service of their Country if not absolutely forced to abjure it.

The Exchange of officers will we believe be admitted by the Enemy tho' from the Delays affected there, and the parole system adopted there is very good Reason to suppose that they will expect great sacrifices on our Part in the Exchange of Privates and also some Relaxation in the inequitable Demand of subsistence. But the Exchange of Citizens they will if possible avoid, because it is their Interest to render the Acceptance of civil offices extremely dangerous, since without civil offices there can be no civil Government, and the Enemy have Discernment enough to discover that civil Governments will be a more effectual Bar to their claim than any Army upon Earth, and this for Reasons your Excellency is so fully possessed of that it is needless to run thro the Detail.

Hence it follows that the Exchange of Citizens should be a *sine qua non* of the Treaty; it should be made the great Corner Stone, Unless the Enemy will (which they will not) agree to carry on the War upon those benevolent Principles which we set them a fair Example of by Releasing all such of their Citizens as fell into our Hands. The next Part of the Treaty should we conceive be the Exchange of officers, and here as well as in the Exchange of Citizens, we ought to insist that former agreements be complied with on their Part before we take a single step further in the Business. The great security of Public Faith being a regular and rigid Execution of the Performance of every Promise on the Part of our Enemies while we have the Power of compelling Performance, which will be the Case so long as we prudently retain their soldiers in our Hands.

Another Resolution of Congress presents a very considerable Obstacle in the way of this exchange, and that is a Resolution directing that the subjects of the several states found in Arms shall be delivered to the states respectively. The Enemy will doubtless expect either a direct or at least an implicative Repeal of this Resolution, but as neither the one or the other can be in the Power of the Commissioners would it not be proper either to obtain a Confirmation of their Authority from Congress or else to instruct the Commissioners to insert a general clause to the following Effect, viz.: "Provided always that Nothing herein contained shall be construed in any wise to affect any Acts of the British Parliament or Resolutions of the American Congress." But if it shall be thought most advisable to obtain from Congress a Confirmation of the absolute Power of the Commissioners, we then submit to your Excellency the Propriety of directing them to provide that such Troops raised by the Enemy in America shall be last exchanged, and also a special Proviso that nothing in the Articles contained shall be construed to prevent either Party from proceeding judicially against those who by the Event of this Contest shall appear to have been Rebels. The Reason of which observation is this that so long as the Troops raised among us are entitled to the Privilege of equal Exchange, the Enemy will be enabled to carry on the American War in a great Measure by the strength of America. Besides this it is no small Inducement to interested Men to join them, that at the worst Great Britain will make it an Article to save the Property of her Adherents in America, and altho Prudence may as it probably will lead us to go a great Way in our Compliances to get rid of a very burthensome War, yet certainly Prudence will now dictate to hold out a Beacon to the wavering in Terrorem.

Should a Cartel take Place then in settling the Terms great Attention should be paid to the *valuation* which both with Regard to civil and military Characters should be made on Republican Principles, that is the officers should be estimated very low when compared with

the Privates, whether Citizens or soldiers, and besides this they should be exchangeable for each other only—that is to say civil officers for civil officers, military for military, citizen for citizen, and soldier for soldier. The Reasons of which, considering the disproportionate number of officers and those too of high rank among us, are too evident to dwell upon.

In adjusting accounts we cannot but be of opinion that the full Value of our Money should rigidly be insisted on, and before the Ballance is struck it should be agreed how such Ballance is to be paid ; for which a Variety of Modes presents itself. If neither Gold or Paper will answer (for if they will not acknowledge the legality and Value of our Money, they certainly should not be permitted to pay their Debts with it) then it may be proper for the Americans to pay in Wheat and the English in Cloth at limited Prices, which would be for the mutual Advantage of both Parties, or to establish some other Mode alike in the Power of both to comply with.

The Enemy will probably make a very considerable Demand of Prisoners taken at Fort Washington, but before a Tittle of this is complied with for the Sake of the Influence it may have on future Transactions, the Question must be settled whether Prisoners on Parole are or are not at the Risque of those who grant the Parole, and this must be made an Article of the Treaty. For if they are not, then when old Prescott dies, Lee should be considered as released, because upon calling for Prescott he could not come in, and therefore the other would not be bound. But if they are, then we are not to account for one more of these Men than are now alive. However, supposing the former to be the Rule established, which we believe ought to be the Case, then a manifest Distinction is to be taken between the common Accidents of Nature and other Circumstances. For clearly should the Enemy after dismissing Prisoners on Parole waylay them and put them to the sword, we should not be held to redeem them. Again, if their Death was rendered equally certain by previously administering Arsenick, the Determination ought to be the same ; and surely no good Distinction can be taken between Death brought on by a Detention of the Necessaries of Life, and an Exhibition of the Principles of Death. If therefore it should appear that these unhappy Men were by hard Treatment so reduced that great Numbers necessarily died, we ought not to be held to account for them, and a very favorable opportunity now offers to stickle for these unhappy People to the uttermost and in order that the Enemy may find it their Interest to treat Prisoners better in future, they should not be suffered to take the least advantage of their own Wrong. The Commissioners therefore should be directed to estimate the Number of these Prisoners very low and further to start an Objection whether even any of them are to be exchanged, inasmuch as the Capitulation of Fort Washington was clearly broken, and altho it



may not be proper to insist on this Matter, yet it will be of use to raise it, because in Treaty the Claim of an adversary should be opposed on every just and honorable Ground, since by that Means it may be much lessened if not totally avoided; besides which the only Security for their future good Faith consists in making them pay for their former Iniquities.

Another claim they may perhaps set up is that of Restitution for the Men taken at the Cedars, but on this Occasion the Case of Fort William Henry last War is so fully in Point that they cannot say much on the subject.

On the whole, Sir, we have to entreat that the Commissioners will not suffer a Head long Desire of relieving the Miseries of our unhappy fellow Countrymen or a blind Attachment to Principles which the Enemy disregard (they having in Fact nothing to do in the making of Treaties) to lead them into a hasty acquiescence in the Enemy's insidious Proposals, for such their Proposals will and indeed ought to be, if they would maintain the Character of able Negotiators. But that on the other Hand they will industriously consider that on a proper Management and use of the present opportunity, the Rights and Interests of this Country do most materially depend. And we cannot but wish for many Reasons that they may be careful not to interfere with the Resolutions of Congress, which may involve in it very disagreeable Altercations.

It is true that by insisting on these various Points the Treaty may become intricate, and after all the whole Matter fall to the ground. But if it should, who will suffer most by the Accident. This is a Question which should be maturely weighed, because upon a proper answer to it must depend the Steps to be taken on our Part. And at any Rate should the Exchange be ever so desirable, the best Way to bring it about will be by an apparent Indifference whether it ever takes Place.

WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

VALLEY FORGE, 7 March, 1778.

SIR:

I take the liberty of transmitting to you copies of three letters from General Howe, of the 14th and 21st ultimo, and of the 2d instant, with their enclosures. The unhappy violation of the flag of truce has laid us under no small embarrassments, and has afforded the enemy good grounds for complaint and triumph at the same time. This however is the natural consequence, and must ever be the case, where different powers counteract each other in matters of the most delicate importance. There are some circumstances attending this affair, which it may possibly be in the power of Congress to throw light upon. If they can, I shall be obliged by their assistance.

*March 8th.*—In consequence of the letters, which have lately passed between General Howe and myself, particularly those of the 5th and 10th ultimo, copies of which I had the honor to transmit to you in mine of the 8th, continued to the 14th, I was about to send commissioners to meet those appointed by General Howe for adjusting the disputed points between us, carrying into execution an exchange of prisoners, and improving the old cartel, as far as it might be practicable, for their better accommodation in future. This meeting was to be on the 10th instant; but, yesterday morning, Dunlap's paper of the 4th being put into my hands, I found that a resolution had been made on the 26th of February, calling for all accounts against prisoners in our hands, and declaring that no exchange should take place, till the balance due thereon to the United States is discharged. Some of the States are not required to exhibit their claims till the 1st of June. The time that would be taken to adjust them, and make a delivery of the prisoners, would more than exhaust all the ensuing summer.

This resolution I cannot consider as an intended infraction of my engagements with General Howe; yet its operation is diametrically opposite both to the spirit and letter of the propositions made on my part, and acceded to on his. I supposed myself fully authorized "by the instructions and intentions" of Congress to act as I did; and I now conceive, that the public as well as my own personal honor and faith are pledged for the performance.

By the direction of Congress, I in the first instance stipulated with General Howe an exchange of prisoners, "officer for officer, of equal rank, soldier for soldier, and citizen for citizen." This agreement they have ever approved, and repeatedly declared their willingness to carry into execution. Their resolution of the 24th of March last empowered me (on condition of General Lee being declared exchangeable) not only "*to proceed*" to the exchange of prisoners, according to the principles and regulations of the cartel before agreed on, but also to enter into such further principles and regulations as should appear to me most proper and advantageous. A subsequent resolution on the 6th of June holds forth the same language, sanctions my conduct and reasonings in the negotiations about that time on the subject, and directs an adherence to them. No event has occurred since that period, by which I could conclude there was any alteration in the views of Congress; so far from it, that all my late letters breathing the same spirit with the former, and pointedly signifying my wish to bring about a general exchange, if not with an express, at least met with a tacit approbation. General Howe at length, by profession if not in reality, is willing to perform the agreement on the conditions required by me and confirmed by them.

It may be said, that, with whatever powers I was originally vested

to negotiate an exchange, the resolution of the 19th of December last was an abridgment of them, so far as to annex a new condition, the settlement and payment of accounts previous to its taking place. I had no conception of this being the case in the present instance, however the letter may warrant the construction. Besides the common principle of preventing the inconveniences, necessarily resulting from allowing the enemy to make their payments in paper currency, I had reason to imagine that General Burgoyne's army was more particularly the object of the concluding clause. This interpretation I the more readily adopted, for, exclusive of the affairs of that army, I verily believed, that, from the confused, defective state of our accounts relating to prisoners, there would be a considerable balance in favor of Mr. Howe. Nor was the situation of our accounts the only reason for this belief; the prisoners in our hands, especially those westward of the Delaware, as I am informed, have been in a great measure supported by their own labor, and at the expense of the enemy, who have had agents constantly among us. If this is the case, the reason of the resolve not applying, the effect ought not of course.

But perhaps it may be thought contrary to our interest to go into an exchange, as the enemy would derive more immediate advantage from it than we should. This I shall not deny; but it appeared to me, that, on principles of genuine, extensive policy, independent of the considerations of compassion and justice, we were under an obligation not to elude it. I have the best evidence, that an event of this kind is the general wish of the country. I know it to be the wish of the army; and no one can doubt, that it is the ardent wish of the unhappy sufferers themselves. We need only consult the tide of humanity, and the sympathies natural to those connected by the cement of blood, interest, and a common dread of evil, to be convinced, that the prevailing current of sentiment demands an exchange. If the country, the army, and even the prisoners themselves, had a precise idea of our circumstances, and could be fully sensible of the disadvantages, that might attend the giving our enemy a considerable reinforcement without having an equivalent, they might perhaps be willing to make a sacrifice of their feelings to the motives of policy. But they have not this knowledge, and cannot be entrusted with it; and their reasonings, of necessity, will be governed by what they feel.

Were an opinion once to be established (and the enemy and their emissaries know very well how to inculcate it, if they are furnished with a plausible pretext), that we designedly avoided an exchange, it would be a cause of dissatisfaction and disgust to the country and to the army, of resentment and desperation to our captive officers and soldiers. To say nothing of the importance of not hazarding our national character but upon the most solid grounds, especially in

our embryo state, from the influence it may have on our affairs abroad, it may not be a little dangerous to beget in the minds of our own countrymen a suspicion, that we do not pay the strictest observance to the maxims of honor and good faith.

It is prudent to use the greatest caution not to shock the notions of general justice and humanity, universal among mankind, as well in a public as a private view. In a business on the side of which the passions are so much concerned as in the present, men would be readily disposed to believe the worst, and cherish the most unfavorable conclusions. Were the letters, that have passed between General Howe and myself from first to last, and the proceedings of Congress on the same subject, to be published with proper comments, it is much to be feared, if the exchange should be deferred till the terms of the last resolve were fulfilled, that it would be difficult to prevent our being generally accused of a breach of good faith. Perhaps it might be said, that, while the enemy refused us justice, we fondly embraced the opportunity to be loud, persevering, incessant in our claims; but, the moment they were willing to render it, we receded from ourselves, and started new difficulties. This, I say, might be the reasoning of speculative minds; and they might consider all our professions as *mere* professions; or, at best, that interest and policy were to be the only arbiters of their validity.

Imputations of this nature would have a tendency to unnerve our operations, by diminishing that respect and confidence, which are essential to be placed in those, who are at the head of affairs either in the civil or military line. This, added to the prospect of hopeless captivity, would be a great discouragement to the service. The ill consequences of both would be immense, by increasing the causes of discontent in the army, which are already too numerous, and many of which are in a great measure unavoidable; by fortifying that unwillingness, which already appears too great, towards entering into the service, and of course impeding the progress both of drafting and recruiting; by dejecting the courage of the soldiery, from an apprehension of the horrors of captivity; and, finally, by reducing those, whose lot it is to drink the bitter cup, to a despair, which can only find relief by renouncing their attachments and engaging with their captors. These effects have already been experienced in part from the obstacles, that have lain in the way of exchanges; but if these obstacles were once to seem the result of system, they would become tenfold. Nothing has operated more disagreeably upon the minds of the militia, than the fear of captivity, on the footing on which it has hitherto stood. What would be their reasonings, if it should be thought to stand upon a worse?

If a present temporary interest is to be a ruling principle, it is easy to prove, that an exchange can never take place. The constitution of our army in respect to the term of service for which our

men engage, and the dependence we are obliged to place on the militia, must for ever operate against us in exchanges, and forbid an equality of advantages. Should it be said, there are times when it might be peculiarly unequal and injurious, and that the present is such, on account of the weak condition of our army, I answer, that the delay necessarily involved in the previous negotiation on the subject, in delivering the prisoners from time to time in small numbers, and receiving others in their stead, and the mode of delivery at different places, will nearly bring the matter to the point we could wish, and give us leisure to reinforce this army, if it is to be done at all, so as to obviate in a great measure the ill consequences apprehended.

But if the argument of interest on a partial scale be pursued as far as it will go, not only the general consideration thrown out above, but special ones apposite to every situation, will present themselves, that we ought not to exchange. *Now* we ought not, because our army is weak! When the season is more advanced, and it is time for the campaign to open, we ought not, because our army may be strong, and it will be our business to avail ourselves of our own strength, and the enemy's weakness, to strike some decisive blow! If they, by the protection of their shipping and impregnable works, should be able to baffle our attempts till the period of reinforcements from Europe arrive, it will surely then not be our interest to add numbers and strength to an enemy already sufficiently numerous and strong! Thus, by a parity of reasoning, the golden era will never come, which is to relieve the miseries of captivity. Our service must become odious; those who are out of it will endeavour to keep so; and those who are in it will wish to get out of it; every prisoner the enemy makes will be his soldier, rather than submit to a rigorous and despairing confinement.

If we do not seize the present propitious moment, when the necessities of the enemy press them to reasonable terms, to form and establish a liberal cartel, it is not impossible, in the vicissitudes and reverses of war, that a time may come when we should wish we had embraced it, and interest may strongly impel the enemy to decline it, except on the most unequal conditions. True policy, as well as good faith, in my opinion, binds us to improve the occasion. There are however some ambiguities in General Howe's conduct, which require explanation, and ought to put us upon our guard. I determined to make the affair of citizens (namely, to procure an exemption from captivity for them if possible, or, if not, since it cannot now be demanded as a matter of right, to fix their exchangeability upon the easiest and most unequivocal foundation,) an indispensable preliminary to any further procedure; and at the same time to secure the exchange of General Lee, and all other officers, who have been the particular objects of exception.

The interview intended between General Howe's commissioners and those on our part on the 10th instant is now postponed.\* I cannot doubt that Congress, in preservation of the public faith and my personal honor, will remove all impediments, that now oppose themselves to my engagements, and that they will authorize me, through commissioners appointed for the purpose, to negotiate a more extensive and competent cartel, upon such principles as may appear advantageous and founded in necessity, and resolutions heretofore to the contrary notwithstanding; and I must request, that they will favor me with their answer by the earliest opportunity.

The work, from its nature, will be difficult. Two parties are concerned, whose interests are more than opposite in a common view. We shall endeavor to act for the best, and to promote the public service as far as possible, though we may not be able to answer the expectations of all. But it should be remembered, that, although General Howe's want of men affords a prospect of favorable terms, yet he will not be disposed to sacrifice to it all considerations of general advantage in a contract of such a nature; and it is not even to be hoped, that it can take place except on principles of mutual benefit. I persuade myself, that the freedom I have taken in delivering my sentiments so fully upon this occasion will readily be excused, as it proceeds from a desire to place the motives of my conduct in a just point of view, and from an opinion of duty, that led me to a free discussion of a subject, which, considered in all its lights, will appear to comprehend consequences of the first delicacy and magnitude.

I have the honor to be, &c.†

\* "I have your letters of the 14th and 21st of February, and the 2d of March, of all which due notice shall be taken. Particular circumstances make it inconvenient for my commissioners to meet yours at the time appointed. I must, therefore, beg to have the meeting deferred till the 31st of March."—*Washington to Sir William Howe*, 9 March, 1778. Sir William wrote, March 24th, to Lord George Germain: "The time appointed for the meeting of the commissioners being postponed by General Washington to the 31st of this month, without assigning any satisfactory reason, leads me to believe that neither he, nor those under whose authority he acts, are sincere in their professions to carry an exchange into execution at this time."

† Read in Congress, March 16th.

After taking this letter into consideration, Congress voted to suspend the operation of their former resolves in the present instance, and authorized General Washington to proceed to an exchange of the prisoners then in the power of the enemy, without waiting for a previous settlement of accounts; but, in arranging any future cartels of exchange, he was required to act in conformity to the resolves, which ordered a liquidation of accounts for the support of prisoners, before they could be exchanged.—*Journals, March 18th.*

## WASHINGTON TO SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

VALLEY FORGE, 12 March, 1778.

SIR:

Your letter of the 10th came to hand last night. The meeting of our commissioners cannot take place till the time appointed in my last.

I am not able to conceive on what principle it should be imagined, that any distinction, injurious to Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell and the Hessian field-officers, still exists. That they have not yet been returned on parole is to be ascribed solely to the remoteness of their situation. Mr. Boudinot informs me, that he momentarily expects their arrival, in prosecution of our engagement. You are well aware, that the distinction originally made, with respect to them, was in consequence of your discrimination to the prejudice of General Lee. On your receding from that discrimination, and agreeing to a mutual releasement of officers on parole, the difficulty ceased, and General Prescott was sent into New York, in full expectation, that General Lee would have immediately come out in return. So far from adhering to any former exception, I had particularly directed my commissary of prisoners to release Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, in lieu of Lieutenant-Colonel Ethan Allen.

I wish, Sir, I was not obliged to say there are some ambiguities still characterizing the measures taken concerning General Lee, which justify alarming surmises, notwithstanding all that has passed to the contrary. I have now been as explicit as you can desire, on the subject of Colonel Campbell and the Hessian gentlemen; and I hope to find you as explicit on the subject of General Lee, by giving directions, without further delay, to liberate him in place of General Prescott. General Lee's request, mentioned by you, to be permitted to come by land to Philadelphia, can be no objection to this requisition. It was founded upon your order to send him round by water to that place; and, conceiving it would be insisted on, that he should pass to Philadelphia, he preferred the mode of going by land, as the least inconvenient alternative. But the measure appears to me wholly improper, and a departure from our late stipulation, calculated to impose unnecessary hardships on that unfortunate gentleman, and to produce needless procrastination, at least, in allowing him the common benefit of a general agreement. With due respect, I am, &c.

## ALEXANDER HAMILTON TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

HEADQUARTERS, 12 March, 1778.

\* \* \* Another resolve\* by plain implication acknowledges a thing not founded in fact, which is very injurious to us—to wit, that

\* *Journals of Congress*, 26 February, 1777.

we have enlisted prisoners of war. This silences all our complaints against the enemy for a similar practice, and furnishes them with a damning answer to anything we can say on the subject. This is at least an instance of folly and inconsideration, and serves to prove the general charge.

These men seem also to have embraced a system of infidelity. They have violated the convention of Saratoga, and I have reason to believe the ostensible motives for it were little better than pretences, that had no foundation. I have lately seen some letters from Burgoyne on the subject. There was, however, a strong temptation for this, and it may be excused, though I cannot say the measure is to my taste. Lately a flag with provisions and clothing for the British prisoners with G[eneral] W[ashington's] passport was seized at Lancaster. The affair was attended with circumstances of violence and meanness that would disgrace Hottentots. Still more lately, G. W.'s engagements with G[eneral] H[owe] for an exchange of prisoners have been most shamefully violated. Congress have resolved that no exchange shall take place till all accounts are settled and the balance due the U. S. paid. The beauty of it is, on a fair settlement, we shall without doubt be in Mr. Howe's debt; and, in the meantime, we detain his officers and soldiers as a security for the payment—perhaps forever. At any rate, it cannot take place all next summer.

It is thought to be bad policy to go into an exchange; but, admitting this to be true, it is much worse policy to commit such frequent breaches of faith and ruin our national character. Whatever refined politicians may think, it is of great consequence to preserve a national character; and, if it should once seem to be a system in any state to violate its faith whenever it is the least inconvenient to keep it, it will unquestionably have an ill effect upon foreign negotiations, and tend to bring Government at home in contempt, and, of course, to destroy its influence. The general notions of justice and humanity are implanted in almost every human breast and ought not to be too freely shocked. In the present case the passions of the country and army are on the side of an exchange, and a studied attempt to avoid it will disgust both and serve to make the source odious. It will injure drafting and recruiting, discourage the militia, and increase the discontents of the army. The prospects of hopeless captivity cannot but be very disagreeable to men constantly exposed to the chance of it. Those whose lot it is to fall into it, will have little scruple to get out of it by joining the enemy.

It is said not to be our present interest to exchange, because we shall endeavor, by and by, to take advantage of the enemy's weakness to strike some decisive blow. If we should fail in this, which I believe we shall, when they get reinforced, we shall not think it our



interest to add to the strength of an enemy, already strong enough, and so on *ad infinitum*. The truth is, considered in the mere view of barter, it can never be our interest to exchange; the constitution of our army, from the short term of enlistments and the dependence we are obliged to place in the militia, are strongly opposed to it; and if the argument of present interest be adhered to, we never can exchange. I may venture to assert there never can be a time more proper than the present, or rather a month or two hence; and go about it as soon as we please, the previous negotiations necessary and other circumstances will, of course, procrastinate it for some time. And I would ask whether, in a republican state and a republican army, such a cruel policy as that of exposing those men who are foremost in defense of their country, to the miseries of hopeless captivity, can succeed? \* \* \*

ALEX. HAMILTON.\*

Washington commissioned Col. William Grayson, Lieut. Cols Robert Hanson Harrison, and Alexander Hamilton, and Elias Boudinot, Commissary General of prisoners, to meet the British commissioners and take "into consideration all past transactions relative to the exchange of prisoners, to adjust the differences that have so long subsisted in regard to them, to remove all difficulties that may arise in carrying into execution a general exchange of prisoners with both parties at this time, and finally to establish a regular and explicit cartel for the future." Howe, on his side, named Colonel Charles O'Hara, Colonel Humphry Stephen and Captain Richard Fitzpatrick, and Joshua Loring, his commissary general of prisoners. Germantown, the place of meeting, was declared neutral territory while the conference was to last, and the guard to attend the commissioners on either side was determined. The first meeting took place on 31 March, 1778, when the powers of the respective sides being exchanged, examined and approved, the British representatives proposed "to take up the business of our meeting, in the form of a general cartel, and to make the discussion of past transactions a secondary object; in doing which, it was to be understood that nothing was to final or obligatory, till the whole treaty should be concluded." This procedure was accepted as eligible in itself, and consonant with the intention of the meeting, and certain propositions were submitted in writing by the English, who proposed an adjournment until the following day, that the American represen-

\* *Works of Alexander Hamilton*, (Lodge,) vii., 541.

tatives might examine them and prepare their answers. The next day another meeting was held, certain modifications proposed, and to give an opportunity of digesting what the two sessions had brought forth, the next meeting was named for April 3<sup>d</sup>. Howe now expected the commissioners to retire within their respective lines at the termination of each session, as the neutrality of the place was to continue only during the time of actual negotiation. This suggestion was "equally unexpected and surprising" to the American Commissioners, and contrary to the tenor of the conditions on which the conference had been proposed. "It could not but produce much unnecessary delay in the negotiation, the distance between your camp and Germantown being sixteen miles, and tended to impose a new and burthensome condition on us, by obliging us to perform a journey of twice that distance every day. In point of propriety and for the despatch of business we thought it necessary, the Commissioners should remain constantly together." The Commissioners returned to camp, and asked for instructions from Washington. Newtown was agreed upon as the place of meeting,\* and in the interim Washington again sought a clear statement from Congress of its wishes.

WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

HEAD-QUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE,  
4 April, 1778.

SIR:

I have now the honor to acknowledge your several letters of the 21<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> ultimo, with their enclosures, which have been duly received. It gives me pain to observe they appear to contain several implications by which my sensibility is not a little wounded. I find myself extremely embarrassed by the steps I had taken towards an exchange of prisoners, and the formation of a general cartel making more ample provision for their future accommodation and relief. The views of Congress seem to be very different from

\* "Commissioners from me are to meet others from General Howe on Monday next at Newtown, to settle a cartel for a general exchange of prisoners. During the sitting of the Commissioners none of our parties are to enter the town, and you are therefore to give immediate notice to all the officers under your command to pay strict obedience to this order. The British Commissioners will probably come part of the way on Sunday; they will be attended by an escort of horse, and care must be taken not to offer the least insult to their flag."—*Washington to General Lacey*, 4 April, 1778.

what I supposed them, when I entered into my late engagements with General Howe. Their resolution of the 30th ultimo, pointedly requiring a strict adherence to all former ones upon the subject, will in all probability render them impracticable. I considered some of their resolutions as dictated on the principle of retaliation, and did not imagine the terms they contained would be insisted upon in negotiating an agreement calculated to remedy the evils which occasioned them. In most respects they might be substantially complied with; but there are some points to which an exact conformity must of necessity destroy the idea of a cartel. One is the obliging of the enemy to pay gold and silver on equal terms for Continental currency, estimating the articles supplied them at their actual prices with us, as seems to be the design of the resolve of the 19th of December; another is, that, subjecting the inhabitants of these States, taken in arms against them, to trial and punishment, agreeable to the resolve of the 30th of the same month.

I am well aware that appearances ought to be upheld, and that we should avoid as much as possible recognising by any public act the depreciation of our currency; but I conceive this end would be answered, as far as might be necessary, by stipulating, that all money payments should be made in gold and silver, being the common medium of commerce among nations, at the rate of four shillings and six pence for a Spanish milled dollar; by fixing the price of rations on an equitable scale relatively to our respective circumstances; and providing for the payment of what we may owe, by sending in provision and selling it at their market. The rates of money, and the prices of provisions and other commodities, differ everywhere; and, in treaties of a similar nature between any two States, it is requisite, for mutual convenience, to ascertain some common ratio, for both the value of money in payments, and for the rates of those articles on which they may arise.

It was determined on mature consideration not to conclude any thing expressly, that should contradict the resolution of the 30th of December; but at the same time, if it is designed to be the rule of practice, it is easy to perceive it would at once overturn any cartel that could be formed. General Howe would never consent to observe it on his part, if such a practice were to exist on ours. Though the law ought not to be contravened by an express article admitting the exchangeability of such persons, yet, if it is not suffered to sleep, it is in vain to expect the operation of it will be acquiesced in by the enemy.\*

\* This point is so clear, that the ground taken by Congress, and adhered to with pertinacity, seems very extraordinary. By the resolution of the 30th of December, all loyalists, or Americans in the British service, who should be taken in arms, were to be sent to the respective States to which they belonged, and

The measures I have taken must evince, that it is my determination to pay the fullest attention to the interests of citizens, and to the rights of General Lee, in the treaty; and I think it but justice to the gentlemen appointed to negotiate it to declare, that I know them to be so fully impressed with the importance of both those objects, as to make them cheerfully observant of the injunctions of Congress, so far as not to conclude any agreement, of which the exchange of General Lee and the alternative respecting citizens are not essential parts. These points have been early determined on.

It is with no small concern, that I have been obliged to trouble Congress upon the subjects of this letter; and, should they appear to them in the same light they do to me, and they should think proper to remove the obstacles, which now oppose the business in hand, I must request they will be pleased to communicate their determination as expeditiously as possible, that the commissioners may govern themselves accordingly, and either proceed to forming a cartel, or put an end to the negotiation. Before the resolves of the 30th came to hand, they had met, and been in treaty two days, with a prospect of a favorable accommodation.

I am happy to inform Congress, that General Lee will be put out on parole to-morrow in place of General Prescott; and I have every reason to expect, if the negotiation can be continued upon admissible terms, that his exchange will immediately follow the releasement of Colonel Campbell and the Hessian field-officers. It is agreed, that Lieutenant-Colonel Allen shall be exchanged for Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell. \* \* \*

The next meeting of the Commissioners was held at Newtown on 6 April, 1778, and the matter was opened on the following day. Here came in the instructions of Germanin. At Germantown the American Commissioners had raised the point that the propositions submitted by Howe contained an "essential imperfection," in that they gave no recital of the authority by which the British commander acted, whereas Washington's commission specified that he was acting "in virtue of full powers to you delegated." Howe would not consent to an alteration, on the ground that "he meant the Treaty to be of a personal nature, founded on the mutual confidence and honor of the contracting generals; *and had no intention, either*

suffer the penalties inflicted by the laws of such States upon traitors. Such a resolution was an effectual bar to any agreement for a general exchange. The British commander was as much bound in honor and justice to protect these persons, as he was to protect the British officers or soldiers; and in some respects more so, inasmuch as they had made greater sacrifices in supporting the cause of the king.

*of binding the nation, or extending the cartel beyond the limits and duration of his own command.*" In reply it was urged that "the private faith of an individual could not in the nature of things be a competent or proper security for a treaty of public import," and to set the public faith of America against the private word of Howe would be an unequal compact. In the course of the discussion the English "intimated an impropriety in treating with us on a national ground, in a contract of such a nature as the present, which might imply an acknowledgment inconsistent with their claims"—a reason that, it was retorted, would apply with equal force against the whole business of exchange. "The measure," said the Americans, "was calculated for mutual advantage, and must justify itself on its expediency and necessity," and to remove every obstacle to a completion of the matter the Americans suggested that a clause be admitted into the cartel "declaring that no expressions contained in it should be construed to affect the political claims of either country, in anything, not directly necessary to the due and faithful observance of the Treaty."

Two of the English commissioners returned to Philadelphia and laid the objection before Howe, for him to solve it if possible; but they returned without satisfaction, and no middle ground being offered the American commissioners reduced their point to writing:

"It appears to be the intention of the respective Generals, mutually expressed in their powers, to do an extensive and permanent act, which shall not only effect a settlement of past differences, and a general exchange of prisoners, for the present; but shall extend to the establishment of a *regular* and *explicit* cartel *in future*. The objects of this cartel will not be wholly of a military nature, but will include matters of very interesting civil concern. It is apprehended, that the power of entering into a Treaty of such importance is not naturally inherent in military command, and that it cannot be exercised, by either of the Generals, as an official act, merely, in virtue of their military capacities, but must be founded on special authority, delegated for the purpose. This authority, according to reason and universal practice, ought to be declared, otherwise it will not appear, nor have the least efficiency or operation.

"That if the authority does not exist, the negotiation can have no sufficient foundation. It must rest solely on the footing of personal

confidence. The public faith cannot be considered as pledged for the performance of any engagements in consequence of it, and these may of course be overruled at pleasure. Could the credit of individuals be supposed great enough in preservation of personal honor, to prevent the interference of superior authority, their influence could not, at any rate, extend beyond their own command, and should the casualties of war remove them, their successors would not be, in any manner, bound by their engagements.

“In fine it is conceived, there would be a manifest impropriety, in conducting a business of this nature on personal ground, as such a measure would be destitute of that validity, which the solemnity of a public act alone can give ; and which the magnitude of the objects it is intended to comprehend, indispensably requires. Personal confidence, or the mutual confidence of individuals, is too slender and unsubstantial a basis for concerns of so great variety and extent, as the treaty in contemplation must necessarily involve.”

In reply Howe’s commissioners expressed concern that the objections raised by the Americans should prove such an obstacle to the negotiation, and while asserting their belief that their powers were “ample and sufficient,” declared themselves ready to carry on the matters entrusted to them. This left the matter as it stood on the first meeting of the commissioners, and was conclusive so far as the treaty was concerned, as the British refused to receive the following note from the American representatives :

That they [the Americans] were “inexpressibly concerned to find that the Commissioners on the part of General Sir William Howe should think it necessary to make the objections stated to their powers, and supported, as they apprehend, by the most conclusive reasons, an insurmountable obstacle to the progress of a negotiation, intended to answer the most benevolent and estimable purposes.

“As General Sir William Howe must be supposed fully impowered *to enter into the Treaty, his commission imports*, they can conceive no sufficient reason, for not declaring his powers, and would flatter themselves, that nothing can be easier than to remove the cause of their objections, and to proceed in the business on admissible terms. They are ready and solicitous to treat on fair, proper and equal ground ; such as will give efficacy to their proceedings, and place a public act on the foundation of public authority.”

These papers were prepared at Newtown on April 11th, and returning to Valley Forge the American commissioners on the 15th made their report to Washington, and begged for his approval of their position. This was given, and on the 18th the papers were sent to Congress, the General saying: "The negotiation between the Commissioners is ended, without effecting a cartel. Nor do I suppose from the information I have received on the subject, there is any good prospect that one will be formed, or at least for a great while, on a liberal and extensive plan. \* \* \* The old agreement, I presume, continues, and under it we must carry on exchanges."\* The proceedings of the commissioners were referred to a committee composed of Gouverneur Morris, Mr. Drayton and Mr. Dana, who reported upon them favorably and Congress accepted the report, adding "That Congress are sincerely desirous of settling a cartel for the exchange of prisoners, on principles of justice, humanity, and mutual advantage, and agreeable to the customary rules and practice of war among civilized nations, and they lament the obstacles raised by General Howe and his commissioners during the negotiations held for this desirable purpose."† All the documents were ordered to be printed.

One more paper may be added, the reply of Congress to Washington's letter of the 4th, taken from the draft :‡

[*Draft in MS. of Duer.*]

SIR :

In Obedience to the Directions of Congress, I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant.

Congress with great Concern perceive that your sensibility is wounded by their Resolutions. Placing the firmest Confidence in your Prudence, abilities,§ and Integrity, they wish to preserve that Harmony with you, which is essential to the general weal : you may rest assured that far from any Intention to give you Pain, their Resolutions have no other Motives, or End but the public Good ; they therefore hope that you will not in future be distress by Apprehensions, as injurious to their Honor, as they are to their own Feelings.

\* *Washington to the President of Congress*, 18 April, 1778.

† *Journals of Congress*, 21 April, 1778.

‡ The letter as sent is printed in Sparks' *Washington*, v, 539.

§ Inserted by Thomson.

However different the views of Congress may seem to you now from what you supposed them to be, when you entered into your late Engagements with General Howe; *yet by strictly attending to their Resolutions you will find they are founded in Humanity, as well as Policy, and invariably regard the Dignity, Safety and Independence of these States.\**

The Duplicity of General Howe, and Authentic Information that the Gentlemen appointed by you to negotiate the Cartel held Opinions repugnant to the Sense of Congress constrain'd them in a Matter of such high Moment as forming a General Cartel to express their sentiments in an Explicit Manner, lest they might have only to lament, when it was out of their Power to remedy, a Misapprehension on Points, deeply affecting, in their Judgment, the Safety, and Honor, of these States.

Congress expected that you would consider their Resolutions of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ul<sup>o</sup> in the Light of private Instructions, calculated to shew their sense with Respect to the general Outlines of the propos'd Cartel; a Practise usual with the Supreme Power of every State in similar cases.

You observe that a strict adherence to all the Resolutions of Congress must of necessity destroy all Idea of a Cartel; but as a Distinction can easily be made between such of the Resolutions of Congress respecting Prisoners, as † flow from general Principles of Policy, and those which ‡ arise from Circumstances, which have render'd a Variation from Time to Time necessary, it is conceived that an Attention to this Discrimination will rid § you of those Embarrassments, w<sup>h</sup> you may at first View, think yourself entangled with.

The Resolution of Congress of the 19<sup>th</sup> December respecting the Mode of settlement for Supplies to the Enemy's Prisoners seems not, to have been sufficiently attended to. It is left at the option of the Enemy to pay either in Coin, Dollar for Dollar, or in Provisions, etc. equal in Quantity and Kind to what is furnished. Whatever Objections may be made against the first mode, there surely cannot be a more just, and equal Ratio than the latter. General Burgoyne

\* On a slip attached to the letter with sealing wax is written in Joseph Reed's writing: "*they certainly had nothing in View but the Dignity the Safety & Ind. Congress certainly had nothing in View but a proper Respect to the Dignity, Safety and Independence of these States.*" These words were substituted for those in the draft.

† Word in Thomson's writing.

‡ Two words in a writing unrecognized.

§ On margin, but to be inserted here, is written "remove the difficulties with which you seem to be embarrassed." I cannot place the writer.



[lately made the same objections on this point]\* which occur'd to you : but on being reminded *by Major General Heath* of the alternative offer'd by the Resolution, he acquiesced, and the victualling Ships are now actually delivering Provisions in Payment for what they have received.† The move suggested by you is liable to this strong objection, that it would lay us under the necessity of furnishing the Enemies' Prisoners with us, as well as ours with them, with Provisions ; which Certainly would be a Capital Advantage to them, if we consider the Distance whence they must derive their Supplies. *Congress however do not wish that a general Cartel should break off for Want of a strict Compliance with this Res: provided a mode is adopted for Subsisting Prisoners, upon a Principle of Equality to the Contracting Parties, and are therefore willing to confide in your Prudence to settle finally this matter.*‡

The Resolution of the 30th of December was a Measure naturally flowing from the Treason acts which the respective States have past in Consequence of the Express Recommendation of Congress. On a mature Deliberation they are convinced that a Deviation from it would be subversive of our Character as an Independent People, and inconsistent with sound Policy. No [officer] of Congress, *or under their authority* can suspend the Operation of the Laws of the Different States, and therefore they cannot consent that any Measure should be adopted in the proposed Cartel which may contravene that Resolution.

It does not however appear to Congress that any Embarrassment will arise in this Matter, unless the Enemy should insist upon an Article in the Cartel that Americans taken in Arms shall be entitled

\* By another hand.

† On a slip thus marked is written by Duer: "The Commissaries of Prisoners on each Side may pass Receipts for the Rations received, expressing the Quantum of each Article received for the Subsistence of the Prisoners in the Power of the Contracting Parties—and the Balance may be paid in Provisions, or in Coin, at the Option of either Party.

‡ On the margin, in Thomson's writing, is found:—

"On the question to strike out

Mass.	Mr. Dana	ay	Maryl.	Mr. Chase	no
	Mr. Gerry	ay		Mr. Forbes	no
	Mr. Lovell	ay		Mr. Henry	no
Rhod. I.	Mr. Ellery	ay	Virg.	Mr. Lee	no*
Con.	Mr. Huntington	no	N. C.	Mr. Burke	ay
N. Y.	Mr. Duer	ay*		Mr. Harnet	ay
N. J.	Mr. Scudder	ay	S. C.	Mr. Laurens	no
P.	Mr. Jas Smith	no		Mr. Drayton	no
	Mr. J. B. Smith	ay	Georg.	Mr. Langworthy	ay

to the Benefit of an Exchange. Under the Terms of "Officer for Officer, Soldier for Soldier, &c?,"\* Traitors would no more be included by the Laws of Nations than Deserters. The carrying this Resolution into Practice can depend only on the Will of the Several States, who in this Respect must be presum'd to be governed by Principles of Policy, of which they must necessarily be competent Judges.

*Congress are concerned to find that an Absolute Exchange is agreed on for Lt. Col. Campbell, and Lt. Colo. Allen, and that Genl. Lee is only permitted to come out on Parole. They will however suspend their Judgment in this Matter, 'till they are informed whether your Commissioners were acquainted with the Resolution of Congress of the 30th Ultio. previous to such Agreement.*

*The Intention of Congress in that Resolution was, That no Exchange (general or partial, absolute or Parole) should take Place, without the Order of Congress, 'till the Exchange of Genl. Lee for Genl. Prescott had been first made. Since Genl. Howe's Propositions for a General Exchange they deem this Preliminary not only due in Justice to that unfortunate and deserving Officer; but essential to the Honor of these States—I am therefore directed to inform you that it is the Unalterable Determination of Congress that unless this Point is acceded to, all further Negotiations, whether for a general or Partial Exchange (except in Cases to be submitted to the Opinion of Congress) should cease. It being in their Opinion more eligible that no Cartel should take Place, than that the Honor of these States should be sullied, and their Wisdom impeached by releasing those Officers, whom it is well known, the Enemy have been long anxious to procure, and leaving Genl. Lee and others, whom they wish to detain, and whose Services their Country requires, at the Disposal of a Merciless Enemy.*

*Congress cannot but think that the Exchange of Genl. Lee should precede (not follow) the Releasement of Col<sup>o</sup>. Campbell, and the Hessian Field Officers; especially that of the latter, who were made Prisoners subsequent to Gen'l Lee's Capture; and it is their Expectation, if the Exchange of Col<sup>o</sup>. Campbell is not so far concluded as to oblige you to Comply with it, it may not take Place 'till General Lee is absolutely Exchanged for Genl. Prescott.*

*I am further directed, Sir, by Congress to inform you, that in their Opinion, the late Conduct, and Correspondence of Genl. Howe render a Strict Attention to the Support of the Dignity of these Free and Independent States at this time peculiarly Necessary, and that they esteem that Dignity injured by permitting the Enemy's Officers, Prisoners with us, to go in on Parole, before ours are sent out, a Practice admitting an Imputation of a Want of good Faith on our Part, and*

\* "(Wh. are generally used in Cartels)"—Marginal note by Duer.

*a Perfect Confidence in an Enemy, whom we cannot trust; and on this Account studiously to be avoided: they therefore doubt not from your Zeal for the Honor of these States that you will pay a strict Attention to this Matter in future, as nothing can tend to sink us both in our Estimation, and in that of all the World than a patient Submission to that Insolent Superiority, which our Enemies affect in carrying on this War.\**

Congress have taken Measures for purchasing such Articles of Capt<sup>n</sup> Cottineau's Cargo as are necessary for the Army.†

\* On margin, in Thomson's writing:

“To strike out:—

Mass.	Mr. Dana	ay	S. Caro.	Mr. Laurens,	no
	Mr. Gerry	ay		Mr. Drayton	ay
	Mr. Lovell	no	Georga	Mr. Langworthy,	no
Rh. I.	Mr. Ellery	no			
Con.	Mr. Huntington,	ay			
N. York.	Mr. Duer	no*			
N. Jersey.	Mr. Scudder,	no			
Penn.	Mr. Jas. Smith	ay			} ay
	Mr. J. B. Smith	ay			
Maryld.	Mr. Chase	no			
	Mr. Forbes	ay			
	Mr. Henry	ay			
Virg.	Mr. Lee	no			
No Caro	Mr. Burke	ay			

† With this letter is a scrap in the writing of Major-General Charles Lee, signed by him without date, place of writing or address of person to whom written, reading as follows:

“As the misunderstanding with respect to Genl. Lee seems now to be cleared up from the circumstance of his being put on his Parole, it is scarcely necessary to stipulate any particular article on his subject, but to prevent any cavils for the future let it be said in a few words that he shall be exchanged for Major General Prescott.

CHARLES LEE.”

There is also the original letter, in the writing of Charles Thomson, signed by Henry Laurens, and sent to Washington. This was used by Mr. Sparks.

In a volume of transcripts of the letters of Laurens, while President, I find the following memorandum prefixed to this letter: “The following is Copy of a Letter, produced by amendments in Congress on a draught prepared by a Commee in answer to Gen. Washington's Letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> April—the draught presented the 9<sup>th</sup>, debated at divers meetings & resolved the 1 April, ½ p. 9 o'clock, P. M.” This memorandum is in Laurens' writing.

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TO MRS. SIMPSON.

FLATBUSH ON LONG ISLAND

4 April, 1778.

Yours by Colonel Delancy, and the one by Mrs. Smith are both received, for which you have my thanks; they afforded me a singular pleasure haveing been debarr'd from hearing of you a long time before—those enclosed to your friends were delivered, no doubt they will answer them by this conveyance—Am sorry I did not see our Br. Jack before he went to the Southward, in your next be kind enough to let me know if he received my Letter from Horseneck. In my present situation I cannot say many things I wish, must defer them 'till we meet—which I hope will be soon. That Health & Happiness may be your lot, is the fervent Wish

of your Friend and Affect<sup>e</sup>. Br.

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM JOHN WINSLOW.

NEW YORK, Ap<sup>l</sup> 13, 1778.

DR. SIR:

I shall endeavour to obtain Leave from Gen<sup>l</sup>. Robertson for you to come to Town the first Opp<sup>y</sup> I have of being with him.

Serg<sup>t</sup>. Ballentine who came in here with your Brother had Leave to go from hence to Phil<sup>e</sup> by Land, whether he ever got there I have never heard, & should not some Person have been sent out from thence in Exchange for him, I shall send out a person from hence. I wish they without would form more generous Sentiments of Us, & not be quite so scrupulous. Am sorry your Brother should fall under any Censure in this Matter. I have no Opp<sup>y</sup> of getting any English or Country Newspapers, or Magazines, Should I be able to get any, you shall have them. No further News from M<sup>r</sup>. Loring,

since I last saw you, & I know of no person that is going to Connecticut, when I do, I shall let you know. All your Letters were forwarded by Cap. Manly & Mrs. Smith. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir your friend & hum Serv

JOHN WINSLOW, Com Pris<sup>r</sup>

FROM AMOS BULL.

NEW YORK, Ap<sup>r</sup> 14, 1778.

DEAR SIR:

I was yesterday at your house in Flat Bush, but had not the pleasure of finding you at home :—my business with you was perhaps a little singular, hope however, you will not think it impertinent. You have, heretofore, done me many essential services; for which, am under great obligations, & shall never be happier, than when in my power to repay them.

I know the liberal principles on which you act, & the generous sentiments you hold: am therefore encouraged to ask a favour from you, which no other can grant.—My family are at Farmington in Connecticut, & my beloved Daughter suffering for want of her education, which she is now in her prime for gaining: have long endeavoured to obtain their permission to come to this place, but have hitherto been refused. Now if you can consistently do it, I have to ask, that you will be so very obliging as to write to Gov. Trumbull, & the Council of War in your State, requesting leave for them to come, which am sure will not be denied you. I have constantly, & uniformly, relieved the distressed prisoners with us, while in Rhode Island, to the utmost extent of my abilities, & shall continue the same line of Conduct here: think myself therefore intitled to my family's enlargement.—pray be so good as to write me. I lodge at present at Sam<sup>l</sup> Franklin's, but if you send a letter to Rivington's, shall readily get it. Should be exceeding happy to see you.

That you may long enjoy every felicity, is the hearty wish of, Sir, your ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

A. BULL.\*

\* Amos Bull married Abigail, a sister of Colonel Webb.

FROM JAMES SEAGROVE.

PHILADELPHIA, 15 April, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

A few days past I received a Letter from a friend in York, acquainting me of your being a Prisoner on Parole, on Long Island—be assured my good Friend this I was distrest to hear, and especially as I have been unfortunately absent, when a person whom I highly respect, and am under numberless obligations to, perhaps stands in need of a friend's assistance to lighten Captivity—but on consideration that can scarcely be suppos'd the case with you—for the General good character which you have established, exclusive of your extensive acquaintance in New York and Long Island must make your time pass as agreeable as situation can permit. I wonder at your not writing me. I heard of a Col<sup>o</sup> Webb's being taken in the Sound, but was informed he was of Stamford. Believe me, dear Sam, I wish to see you, for which purpose I shall pay a visit to N. Y.—next month—and in the meantime should you stand in need of Cash, please call on the bearer Mr<sup>r</sup> William Constable (Partner of Jn<sup>o</sup> Porteus & Co. Hanover Square, New York) who will deliver you what you require, and I shall reimburse him here. You see I make no ceremony with you and expect none on your part. I have much to say when we meet. We have very late news from England—things seem as if we should have Peace in America—nothing but Independance can prevent—I pray God our Country be not obstinate. I shall expect a Line from you as soon as possible and am, dear Sam, your friend & Humble S<sup>t</sup>:

J<sup>s</sup> SEAGROVE.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CAMPBELL TO JOSEPH WEBB.

ROCKY HILL, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1778.

SIR:

On my way to Morristown, I took the liberty to pay my personal respects to your family, with a view to receive the honor of their Commands for Colo<sup>l</sup> Webb at New York. Your absence from home, the indisposition of some part of your family, together with the information of a Gentleman of your house, that their letters had already gone in, and further commands could not be executed in the

space of three or four hours, I thought it best under the most pressing circumstances in point of time to push forward on the road, and deny myself the pleasure of accepting your very hospitable invitation.

I am much indebted to your wishes with respect to my release, and do assure you, Sir, did it lye in my power to forward that of your Bro<sup>r</sup> it would give me a very singular pleasure in so good an opportunity of convincing you of the respect & esteem with which I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and very humble servant

ARCH<sup>d</sup> CAMPBELL,  
Lieut. Colo<sup>l</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> .

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FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

[NEW YORK] Thursday Noon,  
[16 April, 1778.]

DEAR SIR :

By this time you will see the fate of our Numbers in the late Lottery drawn here, as I sent you this Morning the News-Papers, with a List of Prizes by M<sup>r</sup> Hageman of Flatbush, by which you'll find we came much better off in this, than we did in the Former One, as three of our Tickets in this came up Prizes to the Amount of Twenty Dollars—Capt<sup>n</sup> Martin saild again Yesterday. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Sherbrooke desire their Compliments to you and intend coming up to Flatbush for the Summer Season the latter End of next Week. I am, Dear Sir,

Your very hum : Serv<sup>t</sup> to Comm<sup>d</sup>

SAM<sup>l</sup> CAMFIELD.

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ELIAS BOUDINOT TO WILLIAM ATLEE.

CAMP, April 18, 1778.

DE<sup>r</sup> SIR :

My late Absence from Camp will be a sufficient Apology for not answering your several Letters lately rec<sup>d</sup> . Our return from New Town has been earlier than I expected, occasioned by the difficulty of reducing old English Pride.—A refusal to treat with us as publick Persons and to consider Citizens as exchangeable, tho this came out

by the bye, broke us off.\* We thought it a Matter of too great Magnitude to trust to private Faith where the publick alone ought to be pledged. However you will judge better of our Conduct when you see our Proceedings which I suppose will be printed as soon as it is thought proper to give them to the publick. It will be prudent to wait their Motions for a few Day's first, as I consider it yet as a political Maneuvre.

I am so chagrined about the Hessian officers stopped with you that I hate to think of it. I cannot fathom the meaning of our conduct. By express orders they were stopped in the first place at Hanover, after repeated assurances to the Enemy that they were coming on and should be hastened in. Congress required the liberation of Gen! Lee and Exchange of Coll. Allen as preliminaries—These were complied with. The General and myself officially again repeated our assurances that they should immediately be sent in. To prevent any embarrassment to you, when I ordered them from Hanover, I wrote to the Board of War what I had done—Instead of stopping them still at Hanover, they are suffered to come to Lancaster, as if it was designed to put them to all the trouble and vexation possible. In short we must appear in the most ridiculous View to the Enemy—Our counsells continually militating against one another—and I do confess that the orders issued in my depart-

\* In the cabinet of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, I found a *MS.* of Elias Boudinot which may refer to this conference between the commissioners, or to a proposition to be submitted to them. The point is noted that unless the commissioners have received authority from Congress, as well as from the General, they cannot make a treaty or agreement to exchange citizens, as such prisoners were under the control of the civil governments. In case an agreement should be reached, the difficulty of constituting a fair exchange was almost insuperable. The variety of office and appointment in civil life was great, and the dissimilitude of officers under each of the contracting parties, would alone be an obstacle. Two remedies were suggested: 1. To divide such prisoners into two civil classes, of those in office, and those in civil life; and 2, to value officers at a certain nominal value. Simplicity recommended the former remedy; but it would be even more simple to agree that all citizens acting in their proper character and obedient to the laws of their protector, should not be the objects of capture. As to the second remedy suggested, it was not deemed policy to ransom prisoners by cash or by provisions. If the rate of ransom was fixed too high, it would be beyond the power of Congress to pay; if too low, it would afford the enemy an easy, the easiest, method to recruit their army.



New York May 2. 1778  
Dear Sir  
Your very obliging letter came duly to hand,  
& the contents shall be gratefully remembered.

Had all the Americans acted on so liberal prin-  
ciple, I had not now been here: but scandal, Insult, &  
abuse, variously & incessantly inflicted, obliged me to seek  
relief by flight; a small part of my sufferings you  
may remember having relieved <sup>me</sup> from; at least if you  
have forgot it, I never shall. however, I will not trouble  
you with tedious relation of what it has. if you can  
by any means effect my Family's enlargement, so  
that they may come to this place, you will not only  
add me to the innumerable obligations I am already under  
but will also do a special deed of charity to my daughter  
who is going to ruin, for want of her education.

May you long live, to enjoy the smiles of Heaven & the  
Sleepings of all Mankind, as you have the best wishes  
of Sir, Your real friend,  
Every much obliged, hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
M. Bull.

C. Webb



ment are so various and contradictory that I am rejoiced my time is so near at an End. I heartily feel for our worthy General, who ought to be a Saint instead of a mere man. He is sensibly affected in every thing that touches his Honor, and this is too often wounded.

By the Bearer I write to Congress on this Head, solliciting for immediate orders for their liberation, and that you should have the earliest notice of it. The old Pass will do, by your altering the Date. \* \* \*

E. BOUDINOT.\*

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FROM AMOS BULL.

NEW YORK, May 2<sup>d</sup> 1778.

DEAR SIR:

Your very obliging letter came duly to hand, and the contents shall be gratefully remembered.

Had all the Americans acted on so liberal principles, I had not now been here: but scandal, insult and abuse, variously and incessantly inflicted, obliged me to seek relief by flight; a small part of my sufferings you may remember having relieved me from; at least if you have forgot it, I never shall,—however, I will not trouble you with a tedious relation of what is past,—if you can by any means effect my family's enlargement, so that they may come to this place, you will not only add one to the innumerable obligations I am already under, but will also do a special deed of charity to my daughter, who is going to ruin, for want of her education.

May you long live, to enjoy the smiles of Heaven, and the blessings of all Mankind, as you have the best wishes of, Sir, your real friend,

& very much obliged, hum! Serv<sup>t</sup>

A. BULL.

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FROM JOHN WINSLOW.

New York, 5 May, 1778.

DR SIR:

Our Generals have been so busy that I had not an opportunity of speaking to them for you & on further Consideration I think it might

\* From the cabinet of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

be as well to put it off till M<sup>r</sup>: Boudinot goes out, as it might be thought by the General that your Intention of coming in, was with a view of having a private Conversation with M<sup>r</sup>: Boudinot, which I dare say you woud wish to avoid.

Your hum. Servant

JOHN WINSLOW

C. P.

I deliver'd Gen<sup>l</sup> Robertson your Billet who ferr'd me to Gen<sup>l</sup> Jones.\*

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FROM LEWIS PINTARD.

N. YORK, 7 May, 1778.

GENT<sup>n</sup>:

M<sup>r</sup>: Boudinot being Exceedingly Hurried has desired me to inform you in answer to your letter of last Evening respecting Col<sup>ns</sup> Murray & Hobby that he Cannot determine which of them should go out & thinks the fairest way is for them to draw Lotts for it, & he desires they will do so Imediately & advise him who is to go. He expected to have got away this day, but is disappointed & hopes to be able to go tomorrow. You will be timely advised the Hour. I sent a form last night of an order to be drawn on me for the Board of the officers going out, to Col<sup>n</sup> Magaw w<sup>h</sup> I hope got safe to hand & that they are settling with their Landlords accordingly, it will be best to let one or two bring over all the Orders for my Examination & Acceptance, & not put every Landlord to the Trouble of coming over. I have rec<sup>d</sup> Col<sup>n</sup> Webb's fav<sup>r</sup> by his Servant & had heard before the reasons why he was not permitted to come to Town. I will pay him a Visit as soon as these good folks are gone, being, Sirs,

Your very Hum. Sv<sup>t</sup>

L. PINTARD.

I find the Officers will not be permitted to come to Town but just as they are to embarque.

\* "I must confess I am much chagrined that you have not had the offer of coming out upon parole at least—many Gent<sup>m</sup> of the Army and others I thought wou'd Interest themselves in your behalf. I most sincerely wish it might be allowed you to come out & stay with me—had I time, I wou'd write more largely upon the subject. I have just heard that Generals How & Washington have broke off the General *Cartel*. I hope its not true." *Joseph Webb to Colonel Webb, 5 May 1778.*

FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL PARSONS.

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

DEAR SIR:

I have enclos<sup>d</sup> you the Crisis N<sup>o</sup> 5, the Draft of a Bill once read in one House of the British Parliament, which is cal'd the Conciliatory Plan of the British Minister.\* The Answer of Congress refusing to treat on any other Conditions than an unconditional Acknowledgement, on the Part of Great Britain, of the Independence of the States, and also the Terms of the Treaty with France I should have sent you, but have mislaid them: the Substance you may find in the inclos<sup>d</sup> Hand Bill; be patient. I hope you will soon find that Peace restord to these States which every good Man wishes, both lasting & honorable. Your Friends are well, my Comp<sup>s</sup> to your fellow Prisoners.

I am D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>:Y<sup>r</sup> Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>:

SAM. H. PARSONS.

ELIAS BOUDINOT TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

BASKENRIDGE, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1778.D<sup>r</sup> SIR:

On my arrival at Morris Town, I found L<sup>t</sup> Coll. Campbell, who proposed my going with him to New York, as he thought he could aid me greatly in farthering some immediate relief to our suffering Prisoners. By Coll Allen I rec<sup>d</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton's permission to attend Coll. Campbell and then proceeded to New York.—I found Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Daniel Jones in the Command & Gen<sup>l</sup> Valentine Jones Commandant of the City. Both these Gentlemen appear determined to give every relief to Prisoners that is in their Power.—They treated me with uncommon Civility & granted me every Thing I asked.—The Exchange I took with me was compleatly carried into Execution, with the addition of twenty-five Officers & about Twenty Privates being for the Servants of Gen<sup>l</sup> Burgoyne, Coll. Campbell

\* "Mr. Parsons left some papers for me at Hartford to be sent to you, the Drafts of Bills of Parliament have not sendt, as Political observations were introduced by M<sup>r</sup> Parsons at the bottom of it, and realy such as that Gentleman never could expect a British officer would carry." *Ensign J. Green to Colonel Webb*, 16 May, 1778.

& others. Genl Jones has given me the strongest assurances that our Officers & Privates shall not have reason again to complain of unnecessary Severity; indeed their whole System appears to be changed, or at least in Confusion. I cannot but mention the service I rec<sup>d</sup> from Coll. Campbell, who seems determined to interest himself in mitigating the rigors of Captivity, which he appears well acquainted with.—Many of our officers who are now Exchanged, are at a loss to know what to do, there being no Provision made for them, and having left both Property & Friends, they are anxious for any employment, in which they may hope for some Satisfaction for the multitude & severity of their sufferings.

As I am much engaged to get my Accounts in proper order, I shall remain here, till that is done, unless I receive other orders from your Excellency, which I beg to be favoured with, if you think my immediate Presence necessary at Camp.—If a successor to my department has been nominated, I should be much obliged by the Information.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Regards and Esteem,  
Your Excellency's &c.

ELIAS BOUDINOT,  
Com. Genl of Pris.

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TO JOHN WINSLOW.

FLAT BUSH, 16<sup>th</sup> May, [1778].

SIR :

Your orderly Sarjant waited on me the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst. with my Parole signed in Feb<sup>y</sup> last, together with an exact Copy (the date only excepted) which he requested me to sign & take up the old one—the reasons for this were misterious, however as he told me it was your particular desire—& I knew it could make no odds with me, I did not hesitate about complying—but as it yet seems somewhat unaccountable, I shall be obliged if you'll give me the reasons, why you requested it,—the letter you forwarded me from my Sis-

ter was duly received—for which you have my thanks.  
I am with Cons. &c.

S. B. WEBB.

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CAMPBELL.

NEW YORK, 18 May, 1778.

SIR :

At the time you was pleased to honor me with a visit, it gave me very much concern, that indispensable attendance with the regiment had called me frequently abroad; and the more so, as you had quitted the City before I had it in my power to pay you my respects.

The application I made in your behalf with General Jones, was unfortunately too late; had I had a more early intimation of your wish, it is probable better success would have attended my entreaty. Mr. Boudinot was gone and that business so far closed, that Gen<sup>l</sup> Jones (who seemed extremely desirous of rendering justice to your pretensions) waved at that juncture an interference, from a doubt how far Sir H'y Clinton might have approved of all that had been already agreed to. However, Sir, you may rest assured, I shall be ready to catch at the first opening to forward the object of your wishes, and shall at all times be happy in the opportunity of convincing you of the respect and esteem with which I have the honor to be, Sir, your most Obed<sup>t</sup> H<sup>'</sup>ble Serv<sup>t</sup>

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,  
Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> 7<sup>1</sup>st. Reg<sup>t</sup> \*

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

[21 May, 1778.]

The Committee† to whom were referred the Letters from Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington of the 11<sup>th</sup> May, inclosing a Copy of a Letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe of the 10<sup>th</sup> May respecting the Exchange of Prisoners—beg leave to report—that the Propositions of Gen<sup>l</sup> Sir W<sup>m</sup> Howe, for an

\* On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell had been exchanged for Colonel Ethan Allen.

† The members of this committee were, William Duer, Richard Henry Lee and Charles Carroll. The report was laid before Congress on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and is printed in the *Journals* for that day. I have used the *MS.* report of the Committee.

Exchange of Prisoners, in his Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> May, Appear to your Committee so ambiguously Express, and so liable to Misconception that in their opinion it is Expedient that Congress should on their part make Proposals for an Exchange on Principles of Equality, and exprest in clear, and Explicit Terms—From this Consideration your Committee submit to Congress the following Resolutions :—

That Gen! Washington be desired to inform Gen! Sir W<sup>m</sup> Howe, that Congress, ever anxious to alleviate the Calamities of War, are Willing to make an Exchange of Prisoners on the following Principles viz :

That an Exchange be made of all officers in the Possession of either Party, whether on Parole or otherwise as far as Rank and Number will apply.

That as Gen! Sir W<sup>m</sup> Howe has the Power of Exchange<sup>s</sup> the officers made Prisoners under the Convention of Saratoga, Congress cannot think of agreeing to an Equivalent in Privates for officers, but are willing to extend this exchange to the officers of Gen! Burgoyne's army.

That an Exchange as far as Numbers will Apply be Made of all Soldiers in the actual Possession of either Party—and also of all who having been released on Parole are, in the opinion of Gen! Washington, proper objects of exchange. That the Officers and Soldiers so to be exchanged be Mutually delivered at Such Places in the States of Rhode Island, New York, and Pensilvania, and at Such Periods of Time, as the Said Gen!<sup>ls</sup> may determine on—That Gen! Washington, in Case the proposed Exchange should unhappily not take Place, be directed to inform Gen! S<sup>r</sup> W. Howe that Congress expect, that he will, from a Regard to their [the] Prisoners in the Power of these States, take effectual Measures, that the American Prisoners may not Suffer any Distresses from the Approaching hot Season, which is in his Power to prevent, as the present Possession of Long Island and Rhode Island Afford him An Opportunity of Extending humanity towards Prisoners, without a Breach of Duty to the Power under which he acts.\*

\* "I have transmitted to General Howe a copy of the resolution respecting prisoners; and supposing him willing to effect an exchange immediately, I have written to Mr. Boudinot and requested him, as he is in possession of all the papers concerning them, to come to camp without delay, and superintend the business on our part." *Washington to the President of Congress, 24 May, 1778.*



## MEMORIAL OF AMERICAN PRISONERS ON LONG ISLAND.

[May, 1778].

To The Honorable the Delegates of the United Independent States of America. In Congress Assembled

## THE MEMORIAL

Of the Field Officers now Prisoners on Parole on Long Island in behalf of themselves, and at the particular Joint request of their Brethren in the like situation.

Beg leave to represent that they have undergone a long and tedious Captivity with (they hope,) the fortitude and Magnanimity becoming the Cause in which they are engaged, and altho: by the fortune of War thrown into the hands of their Common Enemy, yet with *Patient concern* have suffered all the Calamities attendant upon such a Situation, Long hoping for that relief which you in your Wisdom should think they were justly Entitled to.

By far the greater number of them have been Prisoners Eighteen and Some Twenty Months. They presume it will be needless to suggest to you the Numerous difficulties they have respectively undergone dureing that Period. The Public supplies (not exceeding in the whole £ 7 & a suit of Cloathes) being too sorry a Pittance to Merit Your or their attention. Not to mention several Foreigners, who destitute of every Connexion in America, having quitted their Native Shore to enter into our Service, remain here devoid of Every Relief even the necessary Change of Linnen & many others in the Like Situation. These melancholy considerations, in addition to several more, together with the Frequent applications of the Officers who seem to look up to us the subscribers for Redress & Consolation have induced us to trouble you upon the present occasion. the Friends & Connections of the officers have vainly Imagined that the Remittances to Mr. Pintard your Agent was sufficient for their Exigencies but this Alas! is too well known by Us not to be the Case. We would therefore Humbly propose that an order may be issued to the Treasurer to advance to the Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> of Prisoners for our use (a List of whom with their Respective Ranks can be procured from him) a certain sum of money to be by him forwarded to M<sup>r</sup> Pintard who will see it properly Distributed and take their Re-

spective Receipts. This or any other method that you shall be pleased to adopt will be gratefully acknowledged by &c.\*

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, May 25th, 1778.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

Yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst! I have rec<sup>d</sup>—you mistake if you think I have not attended the matter of your Exchange, but a line of rotation is the mode insisted upon.—I can't say but I am much disappointed that you have not been allow'd to come home on parole.

Not long since I was at Boston, Cambridge & that Circuit, and Waited on General *Philips*, who was polite enough to consent on his part that Col<sup>o</sup> Sutherland shou'd be Exchanged for you, and has wrote to General Clinton on the Subject, copy of which I now enclose you.—I have wrote General Robertson which you may peruse & have deliv<sup>d</sup>—I sincerely wish M<sup>r</sup>: Boudinot may consent to the Exchange of Col<sup>o</sup> Sutherland as He's a Convention Officer & can not be taken amiss by the American Officers, altho : they may have been a Prisoner longer than yourself.† I wish to hear from you by the Return of the Bearer. I have also sent you a few News Papers which after you have perused I wish to give M<sup>r</sup>: Gain or M<sup>r</sup>: Joseph

\* “A memorial from the field officers now prisoners on parole on Long Island, in behalf of themselves and at the particular joint request of their brethren in like situation, was read:

“*Ordered*, That it be referred to a committee of three; The members chosen Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. S. Adams and Mr. Duer.” *Journals of Congress*, 26 May, 1778.

† “I observe what you say with regard to Col. Webb, but am surprised at your not reflecting on what I have repeatedly wrote ‘That the Gen<sup>l</sup> will not suffer any Person to be exchanged but in the order of their capture.’ There are several Coll<sup>s</sup> older than Col. Webb & altho the General as well as myself would be much pleased in serving Coll. Webb, yet it never will be consented to, that he should be preferred to an older Prisoner of the same Rank—I shall be extremely sorry if Coll. Sutherland is gone in upon this Principle, as I know it will give the highest offence & raise the greatest Clamour.—The Gen<sup>l</sup> has been applied to by Coll. Webb on the same Subject, the bare proposing of which greatly disgusted him.—I wish you would mention this gen<sup>l</sup> Rule to Gen<sup>l</sup> Heath, as it may save him much Trouble in avoiding partial applications.” *Elias Boudinot to Joshua Mersereau*, 10 June, 1778.

Chew. M<sup>r</sup> Gain was to have sent me his'n in return—You say you hear Silas Deane has return'd from France, its a mistake. He's yet there and I am told like to be for a Time—but Simeon has arrived & is gone to South Carolina.

General Putnam is at Hartford, & has sent me word of the Flag, but I cou'd wish I had more time to write. You must remember me to our friend M<sup>r</sup> Sherbrooke, McEvers, their Ladies—Delancy and the Circle that enquire after our family. Your little Nieces Sally & Harriet are well. M<sup>rs</sup> Simpson is not yet confin'd.—I cou'd not at the Time Salmon was Caught, find an Opportunity to send you any.—I shou'd like you wou'd bring out the London Magazines bound or otherways.

I am your most Affect. B<sup>r</sup>

JOS: WEBB.

I have been to Hartford visiting the Prison, & find as [*torn*] Mason a *Midshipman*, & two other Officers closely confined. I am told its in consequence of complaints from New Port, Hallifax &c, of the treatment of the American Prisoners,—and Connecticut did not go into the seveal Law of Retalliation untill Complain'd of very much—the Deputy Commissary Williams has promised that he will do everything in his power to forward their Exchange—I enclose you some Letters lately sent me by them which I promised to forward & am happy to find an Oppy so soon.—I have just parted with Col<sup>o</sup> Meigs on his way to Hartford who promises to call on me on his Return, & shew me some Letters, Papers &c.

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FROM COLONEL WILLIAM AXTELL.

FLATBUSH, 29 May, 1778.

SIR:

The Field Officers Prisoners Quartered in the Different Townships in this County may whenever it be most Agreeable to themselves Visit any of the Respective Townships where the Prisoners are Quartered when and as often as they Please—Allways Returning to their Quarters in the Evening

I Shall Esteem it a Particular favor to Communicate to them this Regulation which I this day obtain from the General together with

Permission for Col! Antle [Antill] and Lt. Col! Brune [Bruyne] to Remain in the Quarters where they now are

I am, Sir, Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. & Very Hum! Serv<sup>t</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> AXTELL.

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TO COLONEL AXTELL.

FLAT BUSH, 30 May, 1778.

SIR:

I had the Honor of your favor last Evening, its Contents respecting the priviledges given the Field Officers Prisoners, shall be attended to. The several Acts of the British Parliament from his Excellency Gov<sup>r</sup>. Tryon, I would take pains to communicate to the Gentlemen Prisoners on the Island, but that they are already made Public in the News Papers.—I will forward those under cover to Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Hobby, likewise notify Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Antill and Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Brown of their permission to continue at their old Quarters. I am, Sir,

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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COLONEL ANTILL TO GOVERNOR TYRON.

June 2<sup>d</sup>, 1778.

SIR:

I rec'd a day or two ago, the late Acts of the B. Parliament accompanied w<sup>th</sup> a printed copy of L<sup>d</sup> Germain's Lett<sup>r</sup> to you with a *Postscript*. All these I had before seen conveyed to the Public in general thro: the common Vehicle of Intelligence, the News Papers. Decency should have induced General Tyron to have deemed that Channel sufficient for *me*, without offering an insult to my Honor, and my understanding, by sending them to my address when here a Prisoner on Parole. 'Tis an Insult to my Honor as holding a Commission in the United Independent States, to my Understanding as to suppose my Sentiments to be affected by this fresh Instance of

British distracted Policy. In order to prevent further trouble to you or any further enclosures of His I<sup>d</sup> ship,—rest assured that my profession indicates my Affection to *Britain*, and my Conduct shall always mark the Real & unalterable friend to America.

I am with personal Respect &c

ED<sup>d</sup> ANTILL.\*

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JOSEPH BARRELL TO THE TOWN COMMITTEE.

BOSTON, 4th June, 1778.

GENTLEMEN :

I am much Obliged by the Honor done me by the Town yesterday in Chuseing me one of their Representatives ; but exceedingly sorry for the Choice, as I find myself utterly averse to the employ. How this matter came about I cannot conceive as I've made it my invaried rule to inform every person who mention'd it, that I could on no consideration think of serving. My only Aim, and highest wish, is to support the Character of an Independent Honest Man, and to enjoy the satisfaction consequent thereon. As to Public life I never desire to be known in it, and am convinced I can be of no service to this town by being in the General Court. Was it not that all Private considerations ought to give way to Public good, I should mention that my business would greatly suffer ; but My Aversion & Inability are fully sufficient with me to beg as a favor the Town would excuse me from Accepting this Trust.

I am sir with all due Respect Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

JO BARRELL.

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FROM LEWIS PINTARD.

NEW YORK, 6 June, 1778.

DEAR SIR :

On my return Home Saturday last I received a letter from Mr. Boudinot, desiring me to meet him in the Jerseys.

I set out Monday in the storm, and on my way to his house, at a little village called Chatham, about ten miles from Morristown, I had the pleasure to see and dine with your younger brother, Captain of

\*From a copy in Colonel Webb's writing.

the Light Horse, who was very well, and in high spirits; glad to hear so straight from you. He set out Thursday last with his troop of horse and many others to join General Gates at Fishkills.

I returned this day, & have brought sundry letters for the officers, all of which I enclose to you, requesting the favor of your delivery of them. I enclose you also some newspapers, which I would rather you should not mention to certain people who are apt to take umbrage at everything and make mountains out of mole-hills. Your brother did not write, because I could tell you he was well, and it would have been improper for him to write more.

I can give you no further news about the exchange. Mr. Boudinot informed me he knew nothing of the particulars, having only received a few lines by express from General Washington, acquainting him that General Howe having proposed a general exchange, to which the Congress had acceded, his presence became necessary at camp immediately. I parted with him at Princeton on Thursday morning, when he set out for the camp and I for home.

Major John Beatty, late your fellow prisoner, is appointed by Congress to succeed Mr. Boudinot as Commissary of Prisoners, and he accompanied him from Princeton to camp.

I came in a flag boat with a load of flour, which will unload Monday, and prevent me the pleasure of paying you a visit; but you may expect to see me as soon as I can possibly spare half a day, being,

Yours sincerely,

L. PINTARD.\*

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FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL PARSONS.

HORSENECK 7<sup>th</sup> June 1778.

Dr. COL<sup>o</sup>:

I am occasionally at this Place and find Mr. Drummond going to New York, who is kind enough to engage to deliver you this Line—As I shall return again in the Morning to West Point, I have not Time to give you much Information, nor would it be proper as this will probably pass such Hands as are not intitled to Information from me. Your Friends are anxious to see you again in a Land of

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 265.

Liberty and your Regiment would be happy in your Restoration, Livingston & Huntington are with us at last & every Thing about Us wears a pleasing Appearance; our old Friend Gen'l Gates has taken the Command of the Department & at present has much the Love & Confidence of the Troops under his Command; Wyllys, Meigs & Sherburn, Greaton, Putnam, Nixon, Hazen, J. Livingston & your other Friends were very well last Fryday; Malcom is with us and renders himself very agreeable to the Department in which he serves—The acts of Parliament repealing some obnoxious Acts laid upon the Americans by the Britons you have seen; their Reception in the Country at this Time is such as you would expect after the Loss of so much Blood & Expence of so much Treasure; Should the Commissioners ever arrive and bring with them Powers to recognize the unconditional Independence of these States perhaps there might be a reconciliation; we think burning Bristol and some other small fiery Excurtions of late are not the clearest Evidence of the Wishes of the Administration for Peace—I have heard you intend coming out on Parole if you can obtain the Commanding Officers Consent; if a Cartel is settled I think you are more likely to be exchanged if you continue on the Island; we should be happy to see you but more happy to find you in a State to join your Regiment—Your Friend Mr Hosmer & his Family are well they often express their Concern for you & your Fellow Prisoners. You will be surprised to hear he proposes to take a long Journey in about Two or three Weeks, and has so far recovered from his Splenetic Habit as to believe he is able to endure the Fatigues of Heat & Cold, and that no Climate will affect his Constitution, tho he has so often tried and failed in his Expectation.

I have no Newspapers with me; the Opportunity of writing was unexpected, my Compliments to your Fellow Prisoners.

I am my dear Sir

Your Friend

S. H. P[ARSONS].\*

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

FROM JOHN WINSLOW.

NEW YORK, 13 June, 1778.

SIR:

I shall mention to the General what you say respecting Lt. Boyd, & take his directions concerning him.\*

No Letters from without very lately. Should any come in for you I shall forward them.

I must confess to you I don't think it probable that at this particular Conjunction you will obtain Leave to go home on parole, but should rather advise you to be patient a little while. Believe me your friend and most hum. servant

JOHN WINSLOW,  
C. P.

FROM JAMES SEAGROVE.

PHILA., 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1778.

DEAR SAM:

I wrote you some weeks since and was in hope of having had a Line from you, acquainting me with your Situation. I then had some expectation of seeing you on Long Island, but have since declined all thoughts on that head, and have determined remaining here and throwing myself on the mercy of our much injured Country—who I doubt not will be more favourable than is generally expected. They never have been deficient in sound policy—their lenity to returning prodigals will be no small proof. For my own part I have the consolation of thinking no man can accuse me of having ever acted against the interest of America. All I can charge myself with has been my giving up my opinion to a set of deluded Men who have been but to[o] much favourers of an infamous opposition to the Liberty of this Country—it's now too late to reflect. I can only hope that my future exertions may in some manner recommend me to the favour of a country which you know I have ever respected. I hope soon to meet you a free man, and will be happy

\*“At your solicitation Lt. Andrew Boyd will be sent out in Exchange for an Officer of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regt who is come in, & I beg to trouble you with a Pass for im to come into this City Tomorrow, which please to forward to him.” *Winslow to Colonel Webb*, 2 July, 1778.



to accompany you in any efforts for the General Good.—The British Army abandon this City this very night, I think without opposition, in order to save the Town. The rout of the army is through Jersey to Amboy. What will be their plan afterwards cannot say. I expect there will be warm work in Jersey as they pass. I am sorry to find the exch[angin]g of Prisoners again at a stand. I know not what is the cause.

I dare venture to say I shall be exceedingly condemned by our Tory friends with you. I care not, I have already done too much to please them. I am now determined to act for myself. May happiness attend you. I hope we shall soon meet. I cannot add, as the last ship is now leaving the Town. God bless you.

Yours &c.

J. SEAGROVE.\*

The American Army within a very short way of our Lines.—Gen'l Arnold to com'd the Troops which enters the City.

FROM LEWIS PINTARD.

N. YORK, 19 June, 1778.

DEAR SIR:

I have this minute received a letter from Major Beatty, who has been in town by the bye near two days, dated 12th inst., in which he says: M<sup>r</sup>. Boudinot with my self have at length settled every difficulty with regard to an exchange. Mr. Loring who will probably arrive before this reaches you, will inform you of the particulars. You will be kind enough to inform the gent<sup>l</sup> on Long Island of this agreement, who I flatter my self will all be at liberty in a few weeks. The flag is detained for my answer to the Major's letter, and therefore I can only add that I am.

Your Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

L. PINTARD.

Please to inform Mr. Clarkson that his chair is safe in my stable.†

\* James Seagrove was a merchant of Philadelphia. In November, 1778, a letter from Abraham Chilborn, of Haverford West, directed to Seagrove, was intercepted and laid before the Continental Congress. That body transmitted it to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, but I am unable to discover any action taken upon it.

† From *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 266.

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FROM COLONEL WILLIAM AXTELL.

FLATBUSH, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR:

His Excellency Major General Tryon Desir'd me to acquaint you that he Leaves you at Liberty to Visit any of the District where the Prisoners are Cantoon'd Viz New Lotts, Flat Lands, Gravesend, and New Utrecht, And at the same time was Pleas'd to signify to me by Letter that you have his Commission to go a Shooting with any one Companion You Please Which His Excellency is Pleased to Leave to Your own Discretion.

I am, Sir, Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup>: & Very Hu<sup>m</sup>: Serv<sup>t</sup>:

W. AXTELL.\*

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FROM ENSIGN GALLOWAY.

BROOKLYN FERRY, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1778.

M<sup>r</sup>: Galloway presents his respectful compt<sup>s</sup>: to M<sup>r</sup>: Webb. M<sup>r</sup>: Galloway as officer of the day upon the ferry, has taken the liberty of opening a letter of M<sup>r</sup>: Webb's, which he hopes M<sup>r</sup>: Webb will excuse. M<sup>r</sup>: Galloway would not have taken that liberty, but he detected two officers belonging to the Congress (who were prisoners at Flatbush and upon their Parole of honour) who were endeavouring to go to New York without a Pass, either from General Tryon or any of the commanding officers upon Long Island.—As there has been so much disturbance lately at Flatbush, M<sup>r</sup>: Galloway hopes M<sup>r</sup>: Webb will overlook it.

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M<sup>r</sup>: Galloway's compt<sup>s</sup>: to Colonel Webb—is exceedingly sorry any misunderstanding should have happened between them in consequence of his having done his duty, does not recollect to have made use of the words Colonel Webb mentions, if he did Colonel Webb will impute it to the hurry of business on so disagreeable a post and a warmth of temper and not to any intentional insult—which he assures him was the case.

Tuesday morning, 10 o'clock.

\* "M<sup>r</sup>: Axtell's compliments attend Colonel Webb, and if agreeable will wait on him to-morrow morning to pay their Respects and Dine with General Tryon at the Camp near Flushing." *To Colonel Webb*, 25 June, 1778.

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 FROM E. TUDOR.

NEW YORK, 20 June, 1778.

DEAR COLONEL :

I received your favor of this day, and was very sorry that I could not have the pleasure of waiting on you with Mr. Shaler, by reason of attending the General. Since I saw you, have waited on General Prescott and Colonel Campbell and mentioned your affair. You may depend on it, they are inclined to serve you. Colonel Campbell acquaints me that he has received no answer from Sir Henry Clinton as yet, but every day expects one, and nothing can be done till then. Nothing could afford me greater pleasure than your company in the Flag, which will most probably sail on Monday or Tuesday next, and will endeavor, if possible, to see you before we sail. Am very busy now in packing up Governor Franklin's things. I am, Dear Colonel, Yours &c. E. TUDOR.

P. S. Have sent you the machine, and hope it will fit. If it should not suit, return it and have it altered.\*

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 FROM JOSEPH WEBB.
WETHERSFIELD, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1778.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

This will be handed to you by Cornet Graefe † a young Gent<sup>m</sup> that was taken Prisoner at Bennington, since which has been much of his Time in the Jerseys on Parole and now takes his departure from Chatham & this Town and appears to be much the Gent<sup>m</sup>.—By him I send you a Horse for yourself, and another for Richard—your several Letters have duly come to hand, I have as regularly answer'd them, but find mine for some reasons, what I can't say, have scarcely ever arrived to you,—the Horses I hope will please you, the one sent for yourself is rather low in flesh on Acc<sup>t</sup> of a Number of races he has lately run but is  $\frac{3}{4}$  Blood & is an Excellent Horse.—I wish you may soon return to us. I confess I have been much disappointed at your long stay from your Anxious Friends, but I really did expect from Connections, General Prescott, French, &c,

\* From *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 299.

† "Augustus Lewis Graefe, Cornet of Prince Lewis's Dragoons in the service of his Britanic Majesty." *Note by Colonel Webb*.

that they would have sent you (at least) out on parole.—General Prescott, Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell, Col<sup>o</sup> French & the rest of the Gent<sup>m</sup> that have Interested themselves in your behalf have our family's sincere thanks—When I was at Cambridge I was several Times in Company with General Philips, who was polite enough to consent on his part that Col<sup>o</sup> Sutherland shou'd be Exchanged for you, and gave me a Copy of a Letter which he wrote His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Sir H. Clinton on the Subject—which Copy I forwarded to you, and as I said before am much surpris'd that you are not with me either by Exchange, or parole; however I will not find too much fault until I know more of the matter—its of consequence, much so, that you get out—but if you have to wait until your proper turn of rotation, God knows when you'll come on Acc<sup>t</sup> of being full Col<sup>o</sup>. I can't think it but bad Policy on both sides that a General Exchange is put off.

Make yourself however happy & contented—I well know a Prisoner's life is not very agreeable at first; though you are treated with the greatest marks of politeness we often hear—Yet a *Prisoner*. I promise myself the satisfaction of seeing of you soon either by Exchange or *on parole*, I think the most likely is the former. Mrs. W[ebb] & her two little Daughters are well. Mrs. Simp[son], her son & her little Daughter Peggy are well, & I believe both H[etty], Mrs. W[ebb], Mrs. S[impson] will write you p<sup>r</sup> the Cap<sup>t</sup> G—— & Cornet *Graefe*.

I send you a Bill of Exchange of One Hundred & fifty Pounds Sterling in my favor on Maj. Joseph Goldthwait, New York, payable two days after sight, which I know he will most strictly Honor for his own Sake & his Hon<sup>d</sup> aged Father. I also send you p<sup>r</sup> this oppor<sup>t</sup>y some Notes on the British officers which ought long ago to have been paid. Should you not be able so settle 'em Desire M<sup>r</sup> Lorrain [Loring] as Commissary of Prisoners to take 'em and pay them to you or to give a Rec<sup>t</sup> as he thinks most proper, tho: I must confess I think extremely odd they have not paid it according to promise in Guineas—is this the treatment I have to expect for advancing strange officers in a Country; *Prisoners* & distressed for money.—Capt. Luke of the 55<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> had monies of me at the same time with these Gent<sup>m</sup> & paid it with Honor in Guineas to my order—I hope the following Gent<sup>m</sup> will do the same—M<sup>r</sup> Chew will doubtless aid & assist you. I have mentioned the matter to him.

			Sterling
Bernard Dennis, Ensign	40 <sup>th</sup> Regt	Note dated 17 <sup>th</sup> March 1777	£ 5. 8. 0
James Carmichael	Qr. Mast <sup>r</sup>	40 <sup>th</sup> Regt	do 11. 0. 0
W <sup>m</sup> Carter		40 <sup>th</sup> Regt	do 9. 0. 0
W <sup>m</sup> C. Hall		28	do 5. 12. 6
Donald MacDonald		55 <sup>th</sup>	do 6. 3. 0
			37. 3. 6

You'll observe the last has given his Pay Master Orders to pay his. I much want them settled—I also send you Lieut. [Benjamin] Griffith's Bill on the Pay Mast<sup>r</sup> for £ 13. 1. 0 Sterling—likewise the first of two Setts on Sam<sup>l</sup> Jones, Esq<sup>r</sup>, drew by Peter Herring for £ 50. 0. 0 Sterling.

I have sent you a Number of News Papers which after you have perused I wish may be sent to Hugh Gain. He promised, so did Rivington, to send me their papers out constantly.—I wish you would remember to get me Gain's, Roberts, Mill & Hicks, & Rivington's from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1778 to the time of Your coming out—likewise their Registers & List of the British Army for 1778.

[No Signature.]

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1778.

You see to what a length Business with other matters have run me to—before I go any further let me advise you to go and see Prince's Gardens at Flushing, its well worth your seeing—Can you tell me in your next Smith's situation that married Miss Abby Farnsworth—she is now in this Town and wishes to know if her Husband wishes her there. She can obtain His Excellency Gov<sup>r</sup> Trumbull's leave at any time to go, as many another Lady almost he says.—I have this moment lent M<sup>r</sup> Graefe, a Cornet of Horse that was taken a Prisoner at Bennington (since his being a Prisoner He's behaved much the Gent<sup>l<sup>m</sup></sup>) Twelve British New Heavy Guineas, which he promises as p<sup>r</sup> Copy of a Rec<sup>t</sup> I now send you to pay you on his arrival in New York or a few Days after; or in case you have come from York to be paid John *Atkinson*, Merchant in York. I have sent you no Saddle or Bridle as the Gent<sup>m</sup> that take your Horse had 'em of their own.—I much want a good, fashionable genteel Plated Curb Bridle—a p<sup>r</sup> plated Sturrops—a genteel Pocket Book for myself & one for my Lady—a set of London Mag-

azines—some White—some scarlet Twist—a genteel p<sup>r</sup> stone shoe Buckels for Mrs. W.

Purchase for Gov<sup>r</sup> Franklin to be sent out by some flag that may be coming with some Cloathing, 2 Hampers Porter, 1 Ream Good Paper, some News Papers &c. \* \* \*

Capt. Jack W[ebb] is well at White Plains—Jesse [Deane] has safe arrived to his Father in Paris. \* \* \*

I have sent you some News Papers from here, there & everywhere, some old & some new. I wish you to tell the British officers that you may see that their Prisoners are realy in the greatest want of their Clothing, more particular the Article of Linnen. Was I to advise I shou'd recommend Two shirts 2 p<sup>r</sup> Hose 2 p<sup>r</sup> overalls to each man, a good Blanket for the Evening & Morning.—Col. Sheriff is the Gent<sup>m</sup> to apply to.

Adieu my Dear Br.

\* \* \* \* \*

FROM MRS. JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, June 22<sup>d</sup>, 1778.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is with great pleasure I hear of the Polite, Genteel Treatment you have met with, and doubt not but that you make yourself as cheerfull and as happy as its possible in a situation so truly undesirable.

Colonel Chester & Lady, M<sup>r</sup> Webb and your Sister have lately had a most agreeable Tour to Norwich, Colchester, &c, &c. Saw many of your good friends who asked particularly after you, and wish much to see you. Col<sup>o</sup> Chester, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Chester present compliments. I know you would ask many questions about little Sally and will therefore tell you, and in the first place, that she has not forgot you. The manner she lamented the Loss of you for many days was really affecting, but now she consoles herself with the hope that you will come again and I dare promise she will share the general joy such an event would give. Little Blachley\* too in my esteem is become valuable, but should I attempt to draw the characters of our little Group, Sally, Jack, Harriot and Peggy, it would

\* Her son.

doubtless become tedious, and I should be sorry that the length of this scrawl (trifling as it is) should prevent its reaching you. Heaven bless and preserve and restore you, is the wish of your affectionate sister.

A. W.

ELIAS BOUDINOT TO \_\_\_\_\_.

NEW JERSEY, 25 June, 1778.

\* \* \* \* \*

From my reception in New York and the enlarged Sentiments I observed there, I had hopes of being able to do much in moderating the rigors of Captivity & the cruelties of this unnatural war—I am greatly distressed to find myself in some measure disappointed—As soon as I arrived here I spread abroad what I thought the sentiments and future designs of those I conversed with while with you, relative to Prisoners in Gen! ; and in Consequence obtained the Pardon of one who was condemned to die for high Treason, got others discharged and hoped to prevent any more from being confined—Agreeable to the requests of your General's and my own Engagements I hastened flour down to the two Landings mentioned to them & both in their Power, in order to pay off the Debt of our Prisoners on the Island—In the midst of this agreeable Review, a Party of Troops from Sandy Hook came to the Landing at Middle Town Point & burned my Store House & Mill containing about 200 Barrels of flour & a few hundred Bushells of wheat—took off the Gentleman (a respectable & aged character) who had the Care of it together with 3 or 4 neighbors. These Men (of fortune & family) were indiscriminately thrown into the Sugar House with our common Soldiers & refused their Enlargement tho the most ample Security was offered. I wrote to Gen! Jones immediately on this subject but have not rec<sup>d</sup> any Answer \* \* \*

Mr. Loring assured me that there was nothing in the way [of an exchange], but the old dispute about the sick men sent out to us in 1776—that Gen! Clinton was very desirous to begin his Command free from all unnecessary dispute & if that was settled, would endeavor to put the Prisoners in the most desirable Situation, and tho he could not positively engage that those in Philadelphia should be

immediately discharged on Parole, yet from his Knowledge of Sir Hen: Clinton's Sentiments, he had not the least doubt of it. We then attempted to liquidate the dispute, but could not meet within 100—being both tyed up by Instructions. However on his painting the distresses of our Officers & Men in being taken to Sea, in very affecting Terms, & assuring me of the certainty of their relief in case of a Settlement, I ventured to exceed my orders and gave up the 100 men in order to prevent the difficulty of a sea Passage to our unfortunate Prisoners. And it was expressly agreed that I should hurry the British & Hessian Prisoners in, so as to be exchanged before he leaves Philad—if they did not arrive in Time, our Prisoners were to be left & yours were to be pushed on to Amboy. I immediately dispatched Expresses to every department in the States, with orders to send on to your Posts every Officer & a Sufficient Number of Privates without the least delay—A few came on & were exchanged, but the Hessians being averse to the Exchange could not so easily be got down without Guards—This occasioned the unavoidable delay of a few days; but they did arrive sooner than could reasonably be expected.—To my great surprise, Gen! Clinton determining to leave Philadelphia on Thursday last, embarked all our Prisoners on Wednesday, on hearing of which I went down to the Lines & wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Loring on the subject, when Gen! Robertson came out to me, from whose Sentiments I still hoped they would be relanded; but rec<sup>d</sup> an Answer from him that he could not accomplish any thing more than in case their Prisoners, or a considerable number of them, arrived by Friday Evening, our Prisoners should be returned from the Ships. On Thursday Morning they evacuated the City, and hearing of the Prisoners approaching the Town on Friday sent down the River, to acquaint the Commanding Officer of it, when I found all the Ships had sailed in the morning and none were to be found.

Thus the fair Prospect of settling the affairs of Prisoners on an Equitable footing has again vanished. \* \* \*

E. BOUDINOT.

\* From the Cabinet of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.



MAJOR-GENERAL PUTNAM TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
CONGRESS.HARTFORD, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR :

You May remember that Sometime Since, a Resolution of Congress was passed, that whenever any Fort or Fortification, garrison'd by the Army of the United States should be taken by the Enemy, the Commanding Officer of such Fort or Fortification should have a Court of Enquiry into his conduct, and the reason of such loss. In consequence of that Resolution his Excellency Appointed Major-Gen! M<sup>c</sup> Dougall, B. Gen! Huntington and Col. Wigglesworth to carry it into execution, respecting the loss of Forts Montgomery & Clinton.

The Court set at Fish Kill some time in April last, but I had no Knowledge of their Appointment untill they arrived, and therefore could not procure such evidences, and papers, as I might have done, had I been favor'd with timely notice. After the Court was over his Excellency Gen! Washington ordered one to this place, to collect and forward on the Recruits and Draughts of this State for the Continental Army : it is sometime since they were all forwarded, except some few who have deserted ; and those there is very little probability of catching. I wrote his Excellency an account of this, and desired to Know whether I might not be ordered to Join the Army : I received for answer that the operations of the Campaign were not determined on, and till they were I had better tarry here. I have waited with the utmost impatience for orders, but none having arrived I desired Col. Wadsworth to ask Gen! Huntington, what *had been* or was *to be* done, in consequence of the Court of Inquiry. I have just learnt that the proceeding of the Court, and the papers relating thereto, have never been laid before his Excellency. I think there must be some mistake as I am hardly willing to believe, that Gen! M<sup>c</sup> Dougall would keep papers of such importance to the United States as well as to My Character, so long by him, but would have sent them to Congress or his Excellency for perusal, that if I had been reported guilty of Any *Capital Crime* I might have the benefit of a Court Martial, And have been condemned or acquitt'd, so that My Character Might Stand in a clearer light in the World, but to be posted here as a publick spectator for

every ill Minded person to make their remarks upon, I think is very poor encouragement for any person to venture their lives and fortunes in the Service.

I must beg that the Hon'ble Congress will take this matter into their consideration, and grant that I may be acquitted and that with Honor, or tryed by a Genl Court Martial.

I have sent Major Putnam, My Aid de Camp, to wait the determination of Congress, and if they have not too Much business of greater concern, I wish to have an Answer by him as soon as possible.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem

Yr Most obedt Servt

ISRAEL PUTNAM.\*

COLONEL TALLMADGE TO BARNABAS DEANE.

WHITE PLAINS, July 6th, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

After waiting for several Days for particular accounts from Genl Washington respecting the Enemy's march & the late battle in N Jersey, I finally have it in my power to give you the same with some Degree of Certainty An Express has this Day arrived from Brunswick (where the Army then was) with the following accounts, viz—

that the Enemy's loss was in killed Rank & file	245
4 Officers among which is Lt Colo Monkton	4
Wounded amounted to	1255
Prisoners	117
Deserters since they left Philadelphia	1572

Thus it appears that the Enemy are weaker for their Jersey Expedition	3193
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\* This letter was read in Congress July 8th, and referred to the Board of War. On June 18th, 1778, Washington sent to Congress the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry on the losses of the Highland forts, which were referred to the Board of War. No action appears to have been taken, and on 4 August Putnam laid before Congress a letter from Washington, which was referred to a committee composed of Titus Hosmer, R. H. Lee and Scudder. This committee reported that "upon careful examination of the facts stated by the Court of Enquiry, and consideration of the evidence taken and transmitted, it appears that those posts were lost not from any fault, misconduct or negligence of the commanding officers, but solely through the want of adequate force under their command to maintain and defend them." *Journals of Congress*, 17 August, 1778.

Our loss is 7 officers & 52 Rank & file Among which are Lt Col<sup>e</sup> [Rudolph] Bunnel (Pensylvania) & Major [Edmund B.] Dickinson (Virginia).

By this noble exertion of our Countrymen & fellow Soldiers, I am of the opinion that the *fighting business* is nearly over ; so that excepting a small Skirmish now & then I trust no Capital Action will hereafter be projected by Sr Harry Clinton

My prophesy of the Enemy's March thro' N Jersey, I see is completely fulfilled, but such success I must confess I did not fully expect

I believe I have hardly been so long silent since I have been your Correspondent, which You must impute wholly to the urgency of my duty. Mr Sebor was good enough to pay me a Visit when Detached from the Regt to Dobbs's ferry, of the Duties of which Post (as Commanding Officer) he can fully inform You

I wish I had it in my power to inform You that we were soon to move down towards fort Independence as in my opinion (& from my late Comm<sup>d</sup> near that post I think I can form a good *opinion*) the Enemy would leave that post on our appearing with any Considerable force in its Vicinity. They are weak & disheartened, & of Course would not be able to oppose much force, with very different feelings. I must not omit to inform You that on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst (being the anniversary of American Independence) the Gen<sup>l</sup> & Field Officers of the Army were invited to dine with Gen<sup>l</sup> Gates when we had 13 as Catholick Toasts given us by the Gen<sup>l</sup> as Men ever drank. I presume I hardly need inform You that we were very merry on the occasion, Wine at any time being such a Rarity the effluvia and Influence of which, joined to the noble occasion, You may depend on it made us as sociable as any Sons of *Backus* in any Q<sup>r</sup> of the World.

The following are the Toasts—

- 1—The glorious Revolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776.
- 2—The United, free & Independent States of N. America.
- 3—The Congress—with grateful thanks for the honour they have done their Country by their Spirited answer to the British Commissioners.
- 4—His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington.
- 5—The Navy of the U. States—may it ever be employed to protect, but never to Enslave mankind.

6—The immortal memory of the Gen<sup>ls</sup> *Warren—Montgomery—Mercer—Wooster—Harkimer & Nash*—with all the renowned Heroes, who have fought, bled & died in defence of their Country's freedom.

7—Doct: Franklin & our Ambassadors at foreign Courts.

8—The Kings of France, Spain & Prussia—with all the Kings & Princes in alliance with the U. S. of N. A.

9—A firm & Speedy establishm<sup>t</sup> of the Consideration of the U. States of N. America

10—The lovely Females of America, & may they give their hearts & hands only to the friends of their Country

11—May our Bretheren in Canada, Florida & Nova Scotia, speedily enjoy the blessings of free States

12 A Shameful expulsion to the B. Tyrant's fleets & Armies

13—The war being gloriously finished, may all the blessings that flow from liberty, peace, Agriculture & Commerce be the future portion of the U. States of N. America

You must excuse these rough scrawls as I have gay Company to day, such as Col<sup>o</sup> W. Livingston, M. Huntington &c &c

Fail not, my Dear friend, to interest me in the small Privateers you have mentioned I depend wholly on You for this. Make my Compliments to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Broome, Chester, Webb their Ladies & all friends. I am with esteem

Yours Sincerely

B. TALLMADGE.\*

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TO GENERAL LESLIE.

FLAT BUSH, 17 July, 1778.

SIR :

Dureing our Captivity and residence on this Island we are happy in haveing received and willing to acknowledge the politest treatment from the Gentlemen of the British Army. It frequently has been otherways with ill natured Refugees and Inhabitants of il-

\* From the cabinet of the Connecticut Historical Society.

liberal Sentiments, these we have ever tho't beneath our notice. An Instance I am now obliged to communicate of an Officer under your Immediate command deviating from the Character of a Gentleman in a Way which I am confident will not be Justified by you.

Cap<sup>t</sup>. Drakeford of the 26<sup>th</sup> last Evening came to the Quarters of a Mr. Helm, L<sup>t</sup>. in the American Army, a prisoner of War now on his Parole, and without the least provocation insulted him with the most abusive language, after which in a most ungentleman-like manner forced the Cockade from his Hat, collared and push'd him from the Stoop on which he was standing. Mr. Helm's situation prevented his retaliating either by Word or Action, thinking it a more proper way to obtain Satisfaction by laying the matter before his Superiors. At his particular request, I have taken the liberty of writing you on the Subject.

With due Respect I am, Sir, yours &c. &c.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB

Col<sup>o</sup>. American Army.

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MAJOR BEATTY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

ELIZ<sup>th</sup> TOWN, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR:

I am now to inform you that yesterday I effected the Exchange of all the privates in the Enemy's hands—except those in the Hospital & a few out at work, amounting in the whole to less than a hundred. These Mr. Loring has promised shall be sent out in the Course of a week or ten days.

The prisoners are in general in good care—have therefore despatched all the Continental Troops to Head Quarters, under the care of Capt. Forman. I must refer your Excellency to Coll. Scam-

mell for the number of those—the militia, sailors, &c. making up in the whole 647. In order to determine among the militia, who were not in actual service, I obliged them, before they were discharged to make exact returns to me of their number, Regt, State, & time when taken. From this measure I find 15 men sent out here, who were taken from their own houses, and many of them out of their Beds. These I told Mr. Loring I could not receive in any other light than Citizens, nor would I return any equivalency for them. He pretended entire ignorance of their being so taken & said they were returned to him as Prisoners of War. After quarrelling some time, we omitted giving Credit for them & referred it to a future day.

I can discover little from the Prisoners who are come out. They seem generally to concur in saying, that they are removing the cannon, stores, baggage, &c. from Staten Island—and I cannot but add y.<sup>t</sup> from several circumstances, as that of a great number of small craft plying between that & New York, a great appearance of Tents, without men, the crossing over a Body of Troops to Long Island, & indeed a general Confusion seems to subsist among the whole—I am inclined to believe that an Evacuation will soon take place unless the Fleet at Sandy Hook should remove. They hesitate no longer in saying a French war must take place—and that Brittain will now be obliged to exert herself.

Should your Excellency have any commands for me, please to direct to me at Princeton.

I am, Sir, &c  
JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY.

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FROM CAPTAIN M<sup>c</sup>KISSACK.

FLATLANDS, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR:

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours by Serg<sup>t</sup> Clark, which mentions “it has been requested to you, that the late Order from the Commiss<sup>y</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Prisoners, has been rec<sup>d</sup> with much Dissatisfaction.” I do assure you, Sir, it has caused much Grumbling and Murmuring amongst the officers in general of this District; Nevertheless, we have resolv<sup>d</sup> to attend to it for a few Days, but are Determin<sup>d</sup> (should it not soon be revok<sup>d</sup>) to take our former Enlargement be the Consequence

what it will.—Be assur'd, Sir, this [is] not only my private opinion, but the Sentiments of every American Officer Prisoner in this District. I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

WILL<sup>m</sup> MCKISSACK.

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TO COLONEL AXTELL.

FLAT BUSH, 22 July, 1778.

SIR :

By desire of the Gentlemen on Parole in Flat Bush as well as on my own account, I am induced to urge you will request the Commander in chief to remove from this Village the Officers that are Prisoners, or the Invalids lately quartered in the same Houses with us. Of two Evils we are taught to choose the least—and I do assure you we can hardly picture to ourselves a worse situation than the present. The insults we receive from the Soldiery grow more frequent every day. I have experienced their abuse three times this day when standing at my Quarters, and have hourly applications from my Br. Prisoners to represent the matter to Sir Henry Clinton—but as you are particularly knowing to their Conduct from the Inhabitants, as well as the Officers, I think it proper the representation should come from you,—in this case there is no occasion of my writing His Excellency on the Subject.

I am, Sir, your most obed<sup>t</sup> Hum<sup>b</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM<sup>l</sup> B. WEBB

Col<sup>o</sup> Amer. Ar<sup>m</sup>

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FROM ADJUTANT HOPKINS.

FLAT BUSH, 22<sup>d</sup> July, 1778.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup> :

I am intirely destitute of Cash, and am Necessitated for some necessary articles, such as shoes, &c. Shall esteem it as a particular favour if you would advance me a small sum, which I shall repay as soon as I receive supplys, which I expect every moment.

I am Dear Col<sup>o</sup> tho quite unwell

Your Very Humb<sup>o</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

ELISHA HOPKINS.

Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup> of the Queens Guards in his Most Christian Majesty's service, and Col<sup>o</sup> of the first Reg<sup>t</sup> of Guards in the United States Army.

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TO SIR HENRY CLINTON.

FLAT BUSH ON LONG ISLAND

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR :

Some time in May last Major-General Prescott, Lt. Col<sup>os</sup> Campbell, Anstruther and French requested of Gen<sup>l</sup>. Jones permission for me to go into the Country on Parole. Your Excellency being absent General Jones could not at that time comply with their request, but assured me he would remember the application, and when in his power gratify my wishes. Business of more importance, no doubt, prevented his mentioning it since your arrival.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Sutherland of the 47<sup>th</sup> has come in on Parole, with a view I understand of getting exchanged for me. My private concerns in the Country make me extremely anxious to get out. Should your Excellency think proper to allow of the Exchange with Col<sup>o</sup>. Sutherland it will make me happy; otherways I shall esteem it a particular favor I may be allowed to be with



my friends in the Country on Parole. Any Gentleman of the British Army, now Prisoner with the Americans, having an Inclination to come in on Parole, I will chearfully endeavor to obtain leave for that purpose.

I have the honor to be with Esteem  
Your Excellency's Most obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB  
Col<sup>o</sup>. American Army.

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FROM MAJOR BEATTY.

PRINCETON July 30<sup>th</sup> 1778.

MY DEAR COLLONELL:

I have but a Moment to write you, as an Exchange of a Number of the Fort Washington Officers will in a few days take place. I must request you to furnish me with a return of the whole of the officers on the Island—beginning with those oldest in Captivity—ascertaining their Rank & the time of their Captivity—I am obliged to take this Step—both to do Justice to the Prisoners—& to prevent any reflections upon my Character—the utmost Impartiality is meant to take place & if I err in any respect, it must be attributed to the gentlemen there, who do not do Justice to themselves. I have no list to proceed upon, except an Inaccurate one from New York—I must beg the gentlemen will rectify this Matter—& if any dispute arises, with those of the same rank & who were taken at the same time, it is Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington's Opinion, that they either draw Lotts, or it shall be determined by Precedency of Rank. Whatever return they make me, it shall regulate all future Exchanges—I must request a report from you as speedily as possible.

I enclose you two of our latest Papers—it contains as much as I am at Liberty to write. Peruse it & lend it to your Neighbours. Remember me very affectionately to the good Family you live in. My Comp<sup>s</sup> to M<sup>r</sup>. Clarkson's & M<sup>r</sup>. Van horne's Family—tell them I saw their Friends very lately—Particularly *Matt* [Clarkson?]  
—who are all well—Tell *Tommy* at the Dominy's, to keep up his Spirits—another Twelve month will put him on the List for an Exchange. I

dare say, he Enjoys the Sweets of Confinement as fully as any of you—I flatter myself some times with seeing you—but fear I shall not be able to accomplish it.

I am w<sup>th</sup> Comp<sup>s</sup> to all the gentlemen

D<sup>r</sup> Sir, your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY.

George Tudor begs to write his name & to say he expected to hear from Col<sup>o</sup> Webb & Col. Antle [Antill] before this in answer to two letters wrote to them some time past. Adieu & believe him sincerely yours.

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MAJOR BEATTY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

PRINCETOWN, July 31st, 1778.

SIR:

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your Favor of the 27<sup>th</sup> Instant which has just come to hand, and am to inform you, that I have already complied with part of the Instructions therein contained: In a Letter from the Marine Committee of Congress, I was authorized to inform Admiral Gambier that his proposition relative to the Exchange of Marine Prisoners was acceded to by Congress, binding themselves to return a like number in our possession, with as little delay as possible.\* I have wrote to Admiral Gambier yesterday, acquainting him that I shall attend at Elizabeth-Town tomorrow, their to receive and give him credit for whatever number of Prisoners he shall deliver over—pledging the Public Faith of these States for an equal return. In my answer to the Committee I informed them of my having no particular instructions respecting marines, mentioning particularly the case of the Frenchmen. I now wait their orders on that head.

I am just returned from Philadelphia where I have in as pointed a manner as I was capable of, laid before Congress the distressed situation of their Prisoners, representing at the same time the accounts already contracted and the Impracticability as well as Improprity of discharging these debts in the manner heretofore adopted, begging they would furnish me with as much hard money as would answer the present demand, and put Mr. Pintard upon a more reputable

\* *Journals of Congress*, 30 July, 1778.

Footing ; whose private credit is already engaged for more than he can ever pay and who is in danger of being throw'd into a Provost, unless some measures are speedily taken to relieve him. Congress have not paid that attention to it I thought the urgency of the case demanded, and after waiting a number of days for an Answer, was dismissed without any other, than that they would resume the Consideration of it.

I shall endeavor always to administer a sufficient supply of provision to the prisoners in New York, and shall strictly comply with your orders with regard to Individuals.

I fear I shall be detained longer from Head Quarters than I at first imagined, occasioned by the very slow returns of the Prisoners from the different places they have been confined in—as well as this last order from Congress, respecting the exchange of marines.

I shall however at all times wait your Excellency's commands, and will be found by directing your letters to me at Prince Town, if not there, they always know where to send to me.

I am &c.

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY,  
Com. Gen. Pris.

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TO MAJOR BEATTY.

FLAT BUSH ON LONG ISLAND,  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 1778.

DEAR SIR :

We have met and made out a return of the officers and other Prisoners upon this Island, we have taken up the mode settled in our army with regard to their respective ranks, as the General rule of our conduct in the arrangement, we have signed and sent you by which means you will be possessed of the situation we are in here and enabled the better to do justice and give satisfaction to all parties If you should be acquainted with any circumstances relative to the prisoners that have not come to our knowledge you will make such alterations (*in the roster of exchange*) as you shall think proper. We have put down the third Lieutenants by themselves tho' we suppose they will rank as Ensigns and be exchanged accordingly. We

are further to inform you that we have taken no notice of those in the Provost Guard nor the Marine or Sea officers

We remain with Respect your Hbb! Serv<sup>ts</sup>

JAMES IRWINE B. Gen<sup>l</sup> P. S.  
 S. B. WEBB, Col<sup>o</sup> Amer<sup>n</sup> Army  
 ED<sup>d</sup> ANTILL L. Col<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>  
 JN<sup>o</sup> BRUYNE L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>  
 JOHN SMOCK L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Jersey Mili.  
 ANDREW GILBRITH Maj<sup>r</sup> Pen<sup>n</sup> Flying Camp.  
 EDWARD TILLARD Maj<sup>r</sup> Conn<sup>t</sup> Army  
 TARLTON WOODSON Maj<sup>r</sup> Conn<sup>t</sup> A<sup>ry</sup>  
 LEVIN JOYNES Maj<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Virg<sup>a</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>  
 SAM LOGAN Maj<sup>r</sup> Conn<sup>t</sup> Army

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

ELIZABETH TOWN, Aug. 26, 1778.

DEAR BROTHER :

I wish this may not find you in York but gone home either by Exchange or parole. I confess I am much chagrind that you have been detain'd so long, but God only knows how much longer you may yet be in bondage, for it seems that the affair of the *full Colonels* yet remains unsettled between the two parties. I did expect the British Officers many that have been Prisoners in New England, more particular in Connecticut, wou'd have interested themselves with the General Officers in your behalf. Gratitude is a virtue almost above every other, it must please Heaven itself I have been told that Col<sup>o</sup> Campbell & some others have acted the generous. They have my most unfeigned thanks for their politeness & civility and I hope they may sooner or later be sensible that doing a generous good action, meets with its reward.

I feel for your situation and wou'd do every consistent thing in my power for your release, but realy I see no prospects as there is no full Colonels in the King's Service in America. You will therefore wait with patience, or perhaps General Clinton will consent to your coming out on parole, if you can't be released.

You may tell General Robertson I have paid the money according to order which I'll soon send the Acc<sup>t</sup> of that you may receive it. I saw Gov<sup>r</sup> McKinley who was endeavoring his Exchange for Gov<sup>r</sup> Franklin but I believe will not exceed (?)—it seems they expect Thomson to be Exchange'd first (but however its not yet determined.) I cou'd wish to compleat as much of a settlement with those Bills you may have as you possibly can. (I wish you might Exchange y<sup>r</sup> two Horses for a finer pair, & if cheap a Genteal *Phaeton* I much want.—I yesterday met with M<sup>rs</sup> Maturin, sister of William Livingston, & returns in a few Days, who can tell you more particulars of the situation of our Family.—If you see Col<sup>o</sup> Barton you may ask him to settle with you the money advanced him when a Prisoner. He also took in some money to deliver Col<sup>o</sup> Heart who was a Prisoner on Long Island, but while Col. Barton was on his Road to York, Heart was Exchanged—& Col. Barton had no Oppy to deliver the money, but now has it, which you'll please to receive and give him a Rec<sup>t</sup> for.

I wish you to give my Compliments to M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Winslow & ask him if I shall advance money to the Good Parson's Lady Miss Sucky, &c. if its His desire I'll do it with pleasure.—I Rec<sup>d</sup> two half Joe's of Doct<sup>r</sup> Middleton to be Deliv<sup>d</sup> a Prisoner at Dunstable (L<sup>t</sup> A. Home 75<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> ) which I forwarded, but very lately it was return'd me & the Acc<sup>t</sup> was he was Exchanged ; therefore you'll repay Doct. Middleton the two half Joes. I enclose you a Letter from S[ilas] D[eane]—who is well & expects soon to return back from where he last came.—I wish you to rememb<sup>r</sup> me to M<sup>r</sup> Lorrain [Loring], Winslow, Sherbrook & our Friends. B[arnabas] Deane is in Company with me on our Rout from Philadelphia Home & desires to be rem<sup>d</sup> amongst the Rest.—Our sister Simpson is now at Boston. I hope she'll not lose her House tho : I much fear it. \* \* \*

JOS. WEBB.

Capt. Hawlker I am sorry to find in close prison at Philadelphia. He I conclude ranks with a Col<sup>o</sup> of the Army—the Reason given for his close confinement is—that all the Americans in the Navy [*rest is missing.*]

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TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CAMPBELL.

FLAT BUSH ON LONG-ISLAND

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

SIR :

Your friendly offers of service some time since, when I was soliciting leave of Absence on Parole deserve my warmest acknowledgements. Since that period I have been patiently waiting in hopes, and daily expectation of hearing from Sir Henry Clinton, but still remain in a disagreeable State of suspense. A letter received yesterday from M<sup>r</sup>. Silas Deane (my Step Father) and another from my Brother make me doubly anxious to get out. M<sup>r</sup>. Deane writes me he is soon to return to France, and wishes much to see me on Business of Consequence to me before he goes—my Brother informs me my private affairs call loudly for my attention and begs the exertion of my friends to obtain leave for me to retire into the Country on Parole—these added to a bad State of Health which I have been in for some time past induce me once more to intrude on your Politeness—and to request you will be pleased to state my situation to the Commander in Chief, and if possible obtain for me the Indulgence of being with my friends. I do assure you, Sir, I should not have again troubled you on this subject but for the weighty reasons offer'd, viz.—The anxiety of my friends, the suffering situation of my private concerns and my ill State of Health. I shall be happy when in my power personally to acknowledge your Civilities, and am, Sir, with Esteem

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. & Very Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB

Col<sup>o</sup>. American Army.\*

\* Endorsed by Colonel Webb "not sent."

BRIGADIER-GENERAL PARSONS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

29<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> , [1778].

DEAR GENERAL :

By My Son from Long Island Yesterday, I learn that Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton's Baggage Arriv<sup>d</sup> at Flushing last Wednesday. he was expected there last Thursday ; about forty Field Pieces had Arriv<sup>d</sup> at Flushing from New York : that the Hessians at Huntington had March<sup>d</sup> for Jamaica : that the Dragoons at Huntington had receiv<sup>d</sup> Orders to March to the Narrows ; but when they were ready to March were order'd to Wait for further Orders—that Orders were Sent to Gen<sup>l</sup> Tryon to hasten his March Westward, that his Troops were incamp'd yesterday at Satalket on their Way Westward. That he heard the English Fleet Sail'd last Wednesday ; this acct. he rec<sup>d</sup> from Col. Webb, and Others, of our Prisoners,—that the Inhabitants are Anxious to have Arms & a few Men Sent to them and they Will Answer for Gov<sup>t</sup> Tryon & his Command—That all the Vessells Near the Harbour & Bay of Huntington were order'd to the Bay under Convoey of their Ships of War, whither they had loaded or not : that there were yesterday Near Seventy Sail of Vessels in Huntington Harbour Mostly Square rig<sup>d</sup> Vessels—

Mr. Scudder, exchang<sup>d</sup> left New York last Saturday, Says he saw from the Provost Guard a considerable Number of Small Pieces of Field Artillery which were remov'd Toward Eastward which he was inform'd were remov'd to Long Island—that the British Fleet return'd Much Shatter'd after the late Storm ; he Saw a Ship, Said to be a 50 Gun Ship dismasted lying in the East River, that Most of the Artillery which was on y<sup>e</sup> Fields near y<sup>e</sup> Provost Guard was remov'd—that the Flour in the City is Very Musty & the Inhabitants Not well Supplied even with that—That Some Troops are incamp'd at Bushwick a large Camp at the Fly ; No English Fleet Arriv<sup>d</sup> before he left y<sup>e</sup> City.

I am y<sup>r</sup> Excellency's h Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM<sup>l</sup> H. PARSONS.

## GOVERNOR CLINTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.\*

POUGHKEEPSIE, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1778.

SIR:

In Loudon's New York Packet of the 3<sup>d</sup> of September, I find the following Paragraph "In Congress August 17<sup>th</sup> 1778 The Committee to whom was referred a Letter from Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington of the 28<sup>th</sup> July last respecting Major General Putnam, and the Report of the Court of Inquiry on the Subject of the Posts in the Highlands on Hudson's River taken last year which was transmitted Congress Report; That upon Careful Examination of the Facts Stated by the Court of Inquiry and Consideration of the Evidence taken and transmitted it appears That those Posts were lost Not from Any Fault, Misconduct or Negligence of the Commanding Officers, but Solely thro' the Want of an Adequate Force Under their Command to Maintain and defend them. Resolved That Congress Agree to the said Report. Extract from the Minutes, Charles Thomson Sec<sup>y</sup>" As this Resolution Appears to have been printed at the Instance of Major General Putnam I have No Doubt of it's Authenticity Altho' I have Never been favoured with a Copy of it, Nor does it appear to have been published by order of Congress.

Your Excellency will permit me to remind you that I am one of the Officers alluded to in that Resolution, and that the Forts on the Banks of Hudson's River in the Highlands were under My immediate Command when reduced.

I was then a Subordinate Officer and Subject to the orders and Command of General Putnam; Had the Resolution Considered me as such No doubts respecting the Propriety of My Conduct would have remained—On the Contrary it Seems to Consider the different Posts as being under distinct and independent Commands and of Course the Propriety of Maintaining or evacuating them as left to the Discretion of their respective Commanders—The Resolution Ascribes the Loss of the Posts Not to the Fault, Misconduct or Negligence of those Officers *but Solely to the Want of an adequate Force to Maintain them*, and as not only the Posts Under My Command, but a brave Garrison & valuable stores were lost; it gives birth to a Question, which, however interesting to me, it does not

\* Henry Laurens.



determine, Viz. whether as I (being on the Spot) cannot be supposed Not to have known the strength of the Garrison and of the Enemy Without—being Supposed too Ignorant or Negligent for the Command I ought to have made so great a Sacrifice to so Vain an Attempt; but whether on the Contrary I ought not to have preserved the Garrison & Stores by Vacating the Posts.

What the Sentiments of Congress may be on this subject or whether they will think proper ever to make them known is to me uncertain. Should it not be thought an object of sufficient Importance to Merit an Inquiry; yet the Respect I owe My own Reputation added to the Desire I have of preserving the Confidence which the Garrison reposed in me; and of which they gave me the highest Proof leads me to think it My Duty to enable myself to evince the Propriety of My Conduct on that Occasion especially as the Silence of Congress May be urged as an Argument against its having been altogether unexceptionable.

For this purpose I request the Favor of Congress to order certified Copies of the Report of the Court of Inquiry, of the Papers accompanying it and of General Putnam's Letter informing them of the Loss of the Forts to be transmitted me; As by these I trust it does Not only Appear that tho' unfortunate in the Event, The Garrison made the best possible Defence but also that My Conduct in attempting to hold those Posts tho' with an inadequate Force—The Reasons which were given me to expect a reasonable Reinforcement & the Nature of My Command considered—was strictly Justifiable.

Your Excellency's Attention to this Subject will greatly oblige  
Sir etc. GEO. CLINTON.\*

\* Congress sent certified copies of the papers, and, through its president, informed him that it was "well satisfied of the propriety of his conduct as commander of the Forts on Hudson's River." *Journals of Congress*, 21 September, 1778. I have been unable to discover any of the papers connected with this inquiry into the loss of the Highland forts. The originals have been abstracted from the papers of the Continental Congress, and the copies sent to Gov. Clinton are not to be found among the Clinton MSS.

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 TO JOSHUA LORING.

[September, 1778.]

DEAR SIR :

A State of constant suspense is of all others the most disagreeable, and to be continually troubling those who I am confident wish to serve me is extremely painful,—nor would I again mention it to you, but that my peculiar situation demands my every exertion to obtain my Parole—and I cannot but think I am entitled to this Indulgence. Col<sup>o</sup> Antill I find has permission to go to town, and assurances that he will be permitted to retire to the Country on Parole. My situation I think would induce the same hand to grant me the Indulgence. Permit me Sir again to request your Exertions. Perhaps a personal application might have weight, if so I wish to be in Town a day or two.

Mr<sup>r</sup> Keene is going to town. I have requested he will See you on the Subject, and beg your further advice what steps I shall pursue. My former letters contain as much on the Subject as I can mention. Wishing to hear from you, I am Sir, your friend & Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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 TO CAPTAIN JOHN WEBB.
Sunday Even<sup>g</sup> ten oClock Nov<sup>r</sup> 1 1778.

DEAR SIR :

An hour Since your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> was handed, however disagreeable its contents it afforded me pleasure to hear of your welfare and exertion on my behalf. Your advice is good, 'tis easier to say what ought to be than to perform, I presume to say no Man has borne

his situation (considering all Circumstances) with more fortitude than your Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.—but in fact my patience is nearly exhausted, Since you left us in May last I have been fed with fair promises—next Week—in a few days &c &c &c I was positively to be permitted to retire to the Country on Parole, 'till at length promises appeared mere Bug bears—when I requested my friends to obtain a Catagorical answer to my request, I obtained it—no you shall not go—the pretence was the unjust treatment of L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup>. Conolly, but so little dependance have I in promises that should Conolly be released—I don't believe they would let me go out, My soul will not bend beneath the dignity of its Rank, I cannot court a Scoundrel, disavow my real Sentiments, and make him believe me his friend—no nor never will, a little of this kind of conduct I believe would have obtained my request,—at least I am told a Man of Rank, and well known, is my opposer, and I am confident from no other principle but that I have not bow'd at his feet, and solicited his favor,—Was it not that I have a young Reg<sup>t</sup>. in the Field, & several other matters, which almost singularly attend me I should not be so uneasy, compare my situation with Col<sup>o</sup>. Allison & Judge you whether I ought not in the Strictest Justice to be exchanged before him. However fully confident of your good will I shall not trouble you further on this head, your advice shall be taken respecting another application, at the same time should L<sup>t</sup>. Col Conolly be released from Confinement I beg you'll notify M<sup>r</sup>. Loring of it—& back it with a request for my Parole—

You say had an agreeable Partner accompan<sup>d</sup> me to

the Ward—might have been more Agreeable—oh! my Dr. Jack these are not the times to be whispering soft things to the fair females,—but this I try, and I should think myself void of every tender generous feeling did I not feel an agreeable alleviation when in their Company,—but alas hours of reflection will come, & what are my tho'ts, A Prisoner—& a prisoner like to be, these at this Glorious period, are too much to bear with any degree of patience—

I know of no Opportunity at present to forward this to you, I shall lay it aside 'till one offers when I will again take up my pen.

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SIR HENRY CLINTON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

NEW YORK, 10 November, 1778.

SIR:

It is not necessary at present to resume the consideration of the principal questions relating to the convention of Saratoga. I wish merely to bring under Review the Resolution of Congress of the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, enclosed in your Letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> to Sir William Howe.

It appears to me different from the Practice of all Nations or Parties at War, and in some Degree tending to increase the Hardships of War, to refuse granting an Equivalent of Privates for officers.

Such an Exchange at present may prevent great Inconveniences to many of the Parties concerned.

You have ordered the Troops of the Convention to be removed from Massachusetts Bay to Virginia; and I have ordered all the officers of your Army, Prisoners out on Parole, to return here.

These movements, with all the Hardships incident to them at this Season, may in part be prevented if you think proper to agree that the officers of your Army Prisoners on Parole, or now here, be exchanged for Officers and Men of the Troops of the Convention, according to the Customary Proportion, or according to such Proportion as may be determined by Commissioners appointed on both Sides.

If what I propose should meet with your approbation, and the Time and Place for the meeting of Commissioners for the Purposes before mentioned is determined, I shall send Colonels O'Hara and Hyde of His Majesty's Foot-Guards, as Commissioners on my Part, who will be fully instructed and authorised to enter on the consideration of any matters that may arise in the conduct of this Business.

Mr. Clarke, Assistant Commissary General to the Troops of the Convention, who will have the honor of delivering this Letter, being desired by Major General Phillips to return immediately to Cambridge by land, in order to settle some accounts relative to that army, I am to request a Passport for him to return thither for that Purpose.

H. CLINTON.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

HEADQUARTERS, FREDERICKSBURG, 14 November, 1778.

SIR:

I do myself the honor to transmit you the copy of a letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, which I received yesterday from Sir Henry Clinton, on the subject of exchanging the prisoners of the Convention.

Should the proposition be agreeable to Congress, I shall be glad to receive powers to enter into a negotiation as soon as possible, as it may probably relieve our officers, upon parole, from the disagreeable necessity of returning to New York.\* I will just observe, that should an exchange take place upon the terms proposed by Sir Henry, I should suppose we shall not be obliged to give up any considerable number of privates by way of composition, as the officers of the Convention, should the whole be suffered to be exchanged, would go a great way towards liberating ours at present in the hands of the enemy. But it cannot be expected that they will leave their troops entirely destitute of officers.

Mr. Commissary Clark, mentioned by Sir Henry Clinton, was permitted by General Heath to go from Boston to New York to

\* Mr. Loring had written to Colonel Beatty, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, summoning all the officers who were at home on parole, to repair immediately to New York.

settle the accounts and procure money for the discharge of the debts of the troops at Cambridge. I am &c

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.\*

FROM SILAS DEANE.

PHILADELPHIA, 14<sup>th</sup> Novr, 1778.

MY DEAR SIR:

Miss Ogden has the goodness to be the bearer of this Letter. I have wrote you several, & am surprized to learn that you have not received them as I sent them open, & the Contents were inoffensive. I fondly hoped, you would before this, have been exchanged, for I am extremely impatient to see you though it were but for a few Days, this as the last resource. I proposed to Cap<sup>t</sup> Duncan That at least you might be permitted to come out on your parole for a few weeks; I write you a Letter by him open which you must have received before this will come to hand. I pray you to take care of your health, and to write me by every Opportunity just to let me know how you are, as to health, & if I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you, yet I shall be no less anxious for your release, to obtain which nothing in my power shall be wanting. I am my

Dear Sir Your's most Affectionately,

SILAS DEANE.

\* This letter was referred to the Board of War, and, on its report, Congress empowered and directed Washington to appoint commissioners to confer with the British on the exchange "of officers in the service of these states, now prisoners in the actual possession of the enemy, or out on parole, for the officers and men of the troops of the convention, according to their ranks and numbers, officers of equal rank to be first exchanged: after which, if it shall be necessary, an equivalent of inferior for superior officers, and, if agreeable to such equivalent, all the officers of the army shall be exchanged, and a balance of officers remain in their hands, then an equivalent of privates to be given in exchange for such officers, shall be settled according to the customary proportion, or such proportion as may be agreed on." Washington was fully authorized to ratify the terms agreed upon. *Journals of Congress*, 19 November, 1778. Sir Henry Clinton's letter, and the report of the British Commissioners, are printed in Almon's *Remembrances*, 1779.

JOSEPH WEBB TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

WETHERSFIELD, 24 November, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

This will be handed you by my young Man Manning Merrills who waits on you as the Head of the Department for a Sum of Money due from Friend Knaps your Deputy ever since July, you can't think my Dear Sir what shifts turns & twistings I have been obliged to make during this Intrin of non payments I am now in the greatest distress—which makes me Dispatch off to your friendly assistance, I am not insensible of your troubles & Vexations, but I trust it will now be convenient in Which case I know you will aid & Assist me as soon as any one in short my present distress is as high as I can paint but I leave you who is so well acquainted with Mankind trade & Commerce to reflect—& for any further particulars to enquire of Merrills the Bearer but I well know that with you it will be needless to Enlarge I have told you my case and can only beg your attention to me at this Time which I shall ever acknowledge—I need not mention that things daily rise, the Farmers are playing the Devil with us, when will the Continental Currency End—is Congress Endeavoring to retreave her Character? in short Congress is not what Congress was.—Esq! S—— yet holds His Seat—but without adding I know you think as I do.—

I have given up all thought of Business & now spending Old Stock—in short there's not the least encouragements for the Man of Business nothing but one scene of extortion uneasiness fretting & finding fault with each other but Sweet Hope once in awhile comes in which makes it pass for the present—I would ask for a long Circumstantial Letter from you, but I must acknowledge I do not deserve it—I must own this is the first Letter I have Wrote you since I had the pleasure of seeing of you at Philadelphia.

Mr. Jo. Barrel merch<sup>t</sup> of *Boston* is lately married to a certain Mr<sup>s</sup> Simpson of Weathersfield.\* We have all hands lately drank Tea with your good Lady & family left all well, except y<sup>r</sup> Little Son which is much better than of late. I am Dear Wadsworth

Your most affectionate & sincere friend JOSEPH WEBB.

\* The marriage occurred on November 16th.

I have lately seen Col. Webb at the lines near Kings bridge—poor fellow is extremely unhappy thinks hard an Exchange is not push for the Officers that are prisoners.—I have enclosed Col<sup>o</sup> Tillman [Tilghman] Aide D Camp to the Commander in Chief some of His Letters to me which you can see—pray what can be done? Something ought to be done.—Our treatment of a Certain Col. Conolley is an Excuse for this Deviltry, pray do you know anything about the matter? shou<sup>ld</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Beatty be near you I beg you would ask him particularly about it, & let me know—likewise its Reported that Our Commissary has Rec<sup>d</sup> Orders to Order into York all the American Prisoners out on parole—Bulkly, Ely & Mumford are anxious & much wish to know.—Pray has Col<sup>o</sup> Biddle or the Good M<sup>rs</sup> Shaw Rec<sup>d</sup> some Gauze & Ribbon sent her.      Y<sup>rs</sup> &c as before

WEBB\*.

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FROM COLONEL CHESTER.

WETHERSFIELD, Dec<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>, A. D. 1778.

DEAR SIR:

I troubled you, not long since, by Br<sup>o</sup> Webb, with a request, respecting the action commenced against me, by Col. Johnson. The Particulars of that affair you are minutely acquainted with. It is at present suspended only for want of your testimony; but I fear it cannot be put off much longer on that, or any other score. I must therefore beg of you to forward me your affidavit (if allowable) as early as possible, sworn to, sealed, & directed to Windham County Court. You can shew it to some proper officer, who, when satisfied, will frank it. If it comes unsealed, it will answer me no purpose in Court. I should be glad (if it may be) of a Copy directed to me. This may save your friend, & I know of nothing else that can.†

We are all most ardently wishing your exchange, and an opportunity of embracing you in the Arms of friendship. God knows how long it may be first. M<sup>rs</sup> Simpson is married to M<sup>r</sup>. [Joseph]

\* From the Wadsworth MSS., in the possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, of Hartford.

† In February, Colonel Chester again wrote that the testimony of Colonel Webb had not been received, the trial had been with much difficulty postponed, and a flag was to be sent into New York to obtain his testimony.



Barrell of Boston. Miss Webb has left us, to spend the winter with them. M<sup>rs</sup> Webb buried her little Harriot while M<sup>r</sup> Webb was with you at the Lines. Jerry Ingersoll is return<sup>d</sup> home in health. The situation is such that you'll pardon we while I only add that I am, Dear Sir, your affectionate friend

& Humble Servant  
JOHN CHESTER.

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COL. WEBB'S AFFIDAVIT.

I, Samuel B Webb, of lawful age testify & say that sometime in Decr 1776 while I was an Aid de Camp to his Excellency General Washington, that Lieut Colo Obadiah Johnson of Colo Andrew Wards regiment made application to his Excellency for liberty to go home on furlough. We were then in quarters on the west side of Delaware about eight or ten miles from Trenton. At that time a general idea prevailed that some capital stroke would soon be made or at least attempted. Genl Washington about that time told his Aids to refuse every application for furloughs & when the s<sup>d</sup> Lieut Colo Johnson spoke to me on the subject, I told him it was impossible to comply with his request and gave him the strongest reason to believe that some important movement was about to take place which required the Assistance of all the Officers.—He continued to urge the matter & persuaded me to speak to the General on the subject—The General was surprized I should mention it and positively refused it.—Yet to the best of my knowledge a second & third application were made by the said Lieut<sup>t</sup> Colo Johnson—Upon which his Excellency authorized me to mention to said L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Johnson—that no man of spirit

who was a friend to his country would wish to leave the army at such a critical period—that it would set a bad example for officers to leave us & that the soldiers with propriety might refuse to continue after the term of their enlistment if officers were permitted to go home for their amusement & to attend to their own private affairs. These remarks seemed to have no weight with the said Lt. Colo. Johnson & he insisted on my repeating the application; which I did—and to the best of my knowledge his Exc<sup>y</sup>. replied—“that such men were better at home than here as they never would do their duty in the field or encourage others to do it.” His Excellency therefore said, that if Colo. Ward would give his consent the said Lt. Colo. Johnson might go home, and Upon Colo. Ward’s consenting I wrote the furlough—Further the deponent saith not.—

S B WEBB

(Copy)

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

CAMP, 15 December, 1778.

We, the Commissioners appointed by your Excellency for the purposes specified in the powers to us given on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November last, Beg leave to report—

That in pursuance of your instructions, we repaired to Amboy on Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup> instant at 11 o’clock; where we continued till Friday evening the 11<sup>th</sup> before we were met by the Commissioners on the part of His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, who had been detained ’till that time by impediments of weather.

That the next day we had an interview with them on the business of our Commission; in which they immediately objected to our powers, as not extending to the purposes they had in view—declared

the object of our meeting had been misunderstood, and after a short conversation, put an end to the conference.

That their intention, as communicated to us, was—that the exchange of each of their officers should necessarily involve the exchange of a certain number of *their* privates also ; and consequently that the *whole* of our officers, prisoners in their hands, should be exchanged for a *part* only of the officers of the Convention troops, with a proportion of private men to discharge the balance in their favour ; whereas the line of conduct prescribed to us, both by the resolution of Congress and your Excellency's powers founded thereon, was, “that officers of equal rank should be first exchanged, after which, if it should be necessary, an equivalent of inferior for superior officers ; and if agreeably to that equivalent all the officers of the Enemy should be exchanged, and a balance of Prisoners remain in their hands, then an equivalent of privates was to be settled, according to the Customary proportion or such proportion as might be agreed on.”

That the British Commissioners in the course of the Conference having urged certain inconveniences, which in their opinion would result from the Separation of *all* the Officers of the Convention troops from the men, by a general exchange,—in order effectually to obviate that objection, we thought ourselves authorized by our instructions to make them an offer, which we accordingly made, to exchange whatever part of the Convention Officers, they might think Proper for an equal number of our officers in their possession of equal rank, as far as the relative state of numbers would permit. This proposal, however, they totally declined.

That after the Interview, we received a Letter from the British Commissioners Containing reasons, which they had before Assigned verbally, for their refusal to conduct the negotiation on the terms proposed in our instructions ; a copy of which letter and of our Answer, we beg leave to Subjoin for Your Excellency's perusal.

LETTER FROM THE BRITISH COMMISSIONERS.

Dated, AMBOY, 12<sup>th</sup> Decr 1778.

GENTLEMEN :

We cannot sufficiently lament that the purposes of our Meeting, you will pardon us for observing, have been defeated by a less Gen-

erous and Extensive construction of the Resolves of the Congress of the 19<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>: than the view in which we had considered them.

Every feeling of Honour, Justice and Humanity make it impossible to acquiese in a proposal which might lead to separate the Officers from the private soldiers, by exchanging the former and leaving the latter still in Captivity. Companions in their More fortunate hours, they Must be equally sharers of affliction. Such Cruel and Unprecedented distinctions, between Men who have equally a claim upon the favour & Protection of their Country, We are certain your own feelings, as officers and men, would condemn—You will consequently not be surprised at the impossibility of our acquiescing in the partial mode of Exchange proposed.

We beg leave therefore to acquaint you, that We intend returning to New York to morrow to make our Report to Sir Henry Clinton. Let us flatter ourselves that some expedient may be immediately embraced by both Parties, upon Such Honourable Humane & Disinterested Principles as may give the most speedy and ample Relief to every Order of Unfortunate men concerned.

We are, Gentlemen, Your most obedient humble Servants

CHA<sup>s</sup> O'HARA  
WEST HYDE.

ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING LETTER.

AMBOY, Decem<sup>r</sup>: 12<sup>th</sup>, 1778.

GENTLEMEN :

We have read the Letter with which you were pleased to favour us this afternoon.

We join with you in lamenting that the purpose of our meeting has been frustrated ; and we assure you, that it is to us Matter of equal concern and surprise to find, that there should be a difference in our respective Constructions of the Resolve to which you refer.—Persuaded as we were, that the terms of that Resolve were too simple and precise to admit of more than one interpretation ; we did not even suspect it possible to differ about its' meaning ; and the objects of our meeting having been delineated, in a manner which appeared to us perfectly clear & explicit, we had no expectation of the difficulty which has occurred in carrying them into execution.

You will not be Surprised that this should have been the Case, when you recur to the circumstances that produced our meeting—We beg leave to recall them to your view. Sir Henry Clinton in his Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup>: proposed to General Washington an exchange of our officers prisoners in his hands, for officers & men of the Convention troops—General Washington replied that he did not think himself authorized to accede to the proposal, but would refer it to Congress, and communicate their decision. In a subsequent

letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> he transmitted the Resolve in question as an "Answer to the proposition contained in Sir Henry's letter of the 10<sup>th</sup>," at the Same time announcing our appointment as Commissioners "to negotiate an exchange on the principles therein mentioned"—The language of the Resolve was literally this—to exchange "the officers in the service of the United States, prisoners in the actual possession of the Enemy or out on parole for the officers and men of the Troops of the Convention, according to their rank & number: Officers of equal rank to be first exchanged, after which if it shall be necessary an equivalent of inferior for superior officers, and if agreeably to such equivalent All the officers of the Enemy shall be exchanged and a balance of prisoners remain in their hands, then an Equivalent of privates shall be settled according to the customary proportion or such proportion as may be agreed on." Sir Henry Clinton in his Letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> Instant acknowledged the receipt of the foregoing and consented "in consequence" to a meeting of Commissioners at the time and place appointed.

This, Gentleman, you will be sensible could not be considered by us otherwise than as an acquiescence with the terms of the Resolve; and we appeal to your own candor for their perspicuity and natural import.—It Could not therefore but appear strange, that at first Sight of our powers, without any comment or explanation, though they were expressed not only in the spirit but in the letter of the Resolve; You at once objected to them and declared the purpose of our meeting had been Misunderstood. As the one was only a transcript of the other, we conceived from the manner in which the objection was raised, that it applied not to any *construction* given to the Resolve; but to the Resolve itself.

How far the feelings of honor, justice and humanity may be repugnant to a Compliance with the proposal which has been made, you only can determine for yourselves; though we think it a question which might have merited an earlier consideration. We believe however it is not very customary to exchange Officers for privates, when there is a sufficient number of Officers on both sides to exchange for each other; but that this is rather a secondary expedient, made use of only when there are officers on one side and none on the other. In the present war the practice of exchanging officers for private men, in any case whatever, has not yet been known; and if exchanges conducted without reference to this principle have heretofore been thought consistent with justice and humanity, we can perceive no sufficient reason why a different opinion should be entertained at this time.

With respect to any inconveniences which you think might attend the exchanging all the officers of the Convention troops—we take the liberty to repeat what we mentioned in our interview this Morning—that we are willing to exchange as many of them as you

may judge proper for others of equal rank as far as numbers will extend.

We beg leave to assure you, that we should be happy to be afforded an opportunity of concurring with you to the utmost of our power in Measures for extending relief, as far as the circumstances of the parties will permit, to every order of captivity, on principles of humanity and mutual Advantage.

We are Gentlemen Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obedient Humble Servants

ROB. H. HARRISON  
ALEX. HAMILTON.

This put an end to the business of our meeting, and we have taken the earliest opportunity to return to Camp and report our proceedings to your Excellency ; which we hope will meet with your approbation.\*

ROB. H. HARRISON  
ALEX. HAMILTON.

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FROM LEWIS PINTARD.

N. YORK, 18 Dec<sup>r</sup> , 1778.

D<sup>r</sup> SIR :

M<sup>r</sup> Loring & the Commissioners are returned without doing anything towards the Exchange. I have seen the former, and he says the American Commissioners would only exchange officers & not privates. The British insisted on a proportion of each & they have parted, so that all your hopes of a speedy exchange are come to nothing, which I am very sorry for, but there is no other remedy than the old one of Patience. I have not yet got leave to furnish the cash to the officers. Lord Roddon [Rawdon] has referred the matter to M<sup>r</sup> Loring, on my calling on him yesterday about it, he promised to see his Lordship & give me an answer this day, which I have not yet got, altho : I have been five times for it myself. A

\* "As an exchange has not been effected, and Sir Henry Clinton has called for all our officers on parole, I shall, in consequence of the resolution of the 19th ulto., order the Commissary of Prisoners to require the immediate return of the Convention and any other officers with the Enemy on parole. I do not mean, however, to include General Burgoyne in the demand, unless Congress should direct it; as there appear to be many political reasons for permitting him to remain in Britain in his present temper. But if Congress should differ from me in opinion on this point, I shall be happy to be informed, that measures may be pursued for his recall."—*Washington to the President of Congress*, 16 December, 1778.

The Flat Bush Gazette, Saturday Apr. 10, 1779

A size of Fish and Clippert  
Six pounds of Shad for twenty  
eight Coppers.

One Hundred Clippert for  
twenty two Congress Dollars.

Peter Scales

Superintendent General

D. Horse, Mayor

Jas. Gwynne

Magistrate of Police

Office of  
Police

Apr. 1779

Ionian Intelligence  
By Authentic Intelligence  
from Ireland rec<sup>d</sup> by the last  
Cook Fleet we are informed  
that the British Troops at  
the Southward after having  
conquered Georgia and placed  
strong guards on all the  
roads leading into that  
Province have embarked in

flat bottomed Boats and are now  
on their way to rescue the  
suffering troops of Burgoyne's  
Army.

London,

April 3. It is now generally be-  
lieved that the Ministry have  
up all thoughts of employing  
either Russian or German  
Troops to send to America inas-  
much as the King of Lilliput  
has generously offered them what-  
ever number of troops they want  
at a much cheaper rate than  
either of the other Mercenaries  
can be had; Besides one  
Ship will carry over an Hundred  
thousand of them, and a Barrill  
of Snow support them for a  
Month which will be an  
amazing saving to the Nation.

already burthened with too  
heavy Taxes.

New York April 7<sup>th</sup>

Since the arrival of the Cook  
Fleet all kinds of Provisions  
are exuding plenty and cheap  
insomuch that the farmers  
on Long Island can't get more  
than a Shilling for three  
eggs when they carry them  
to Market, and a large  
white Shaw has been lately  
known to sell as low as a  
Dollar.

Wants a place

A young woman with a  
good breast of Milk, she  
would prefer being employ-  
ed as a Nurse as she is fond  
of Children However she can  
turn her hand to any thing

From the rebel papers.  
We are informed that Congress  
are about to raise a Regiment  
of "Maccaronis" not with  
a view to fight but to  
serve as a Model for the  
rest of the Army to drop  
by. it is whispered that  
if the exchange takes  
place, three Gentlemen  
now Prisoners on Long  
Island: will be appointed  
Field Officers of that  
Corps.

Graves, End.

It is said there was  
a great run of Shells  
last night.

Miss M. B. B. B.



Number of the Country People have been to Town this day for their Board & were obliged to return without their money—the officer appointed to attend the payment of the money being busy & could not attend.

With Compliments to all, I am, D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> ,  
 Y<sup>rs</sup> Affectionately  
 L. PINTARD.

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, 19 December, 1778.

SIR:

I am sorry its not in my power to give you any encouragement in regard to a general exchange, the Commissioners having disagreed in the very first proposition made by us, which was to have a proportion of privates with our officers, and which could not be assented to on your part from a resolve of Congress which was to be implicitly adhered to; this being the case, we parted without doing the least business. As to your obtaining leave to go home on parole, I think it impracticable, well knowing Sir Henry Clinton's resolution not to let an officer go out, until those return that are already out; and I am sorry to inform you that not one has come in yet, notwithstanding they have been summoned a long time since. Whenever it is in my power to serve you, be assured of my attention. Col. Beatty has not yet sent anything for you. Whenever he does, it shall be taken care of, and you made acquainted. I did not get one of your papers while I was out. The first I have I will send you. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient & most humble serv<sup>t</sup>

JOS. LORING.\*

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COLONEL BEATTY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

ELIZABETH TOWN, 3<sup>d</sup> January, 1779.

SIR:

On my arrival at this place with a view of negotiating the exchange of a number of marine prisoners, I am prohibited by the

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 236.

Commanding officer at this post of conducting my business in the usual manner, but am informed that previous to my sending in any prisoners, it is necessary that I should have a particular and special order from your Excellency for that purpose. As this mode of procedure was entirely new and for which I had received no warrant or instructions, I took the liberty of asking General Maxwell whether the order implied in it the exchange of prisoners, or was meant only to prevent the too frequent passing of private persons, and by which an intercourse was kept up with the enemy. He replied the prohibition was general, and that he could by no means admit of Prisoners going in as hitherto upon my pass, but that it was necessary I should have your Excellency's special order.

As a number of prisoners are now on their way from Phil<sup>a</sup> for New York, and the General has refused them quarters in this place, I am to request your Excellency's immediate Instructions in this case, setting forth the line of conduct I am in future to pursue.\*

I am &c.

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY

P. S. The necessitous call of the prisoners at N. York for an immediate supply of provisions for their support urges me to apply for your Excellency's passport for that purpose.

\* Washington wrote to Congress to prescribe a proper line of conduct for Colonel Beatty to pursue, suggesting the following points: "To reside at the Head-Quarters of the army. To make no exchanges but such as are directed by the Congress, the Board of War, or the Commander-in-chief, (the directions of the two former to pass through the hands of the latter;) and, whenever he has occasion to send a Flag into the enemy's lines with provisions for prisoners, or any other business, to make application to the Commander-in-chief, who will judge of the cause and the propriety in point of time. The exclusive privilege which Mr. Beatty seems to require, of regulating the intercourse by flag, both with regard to the object and the time of sending them, astonishes me. It would give him powers, which no Commissary of Prisoners has ever yet been vested with. They must be dangerous, and certainly are unnecessary, as the Commissary can have no business in the course of his office, with which the Commander-in-chief ought to be unacquainted." 11 January, 1779.

Congress confirmed these suggestions by the resolutions printed in the *Four-nals*, 23 January, 1779.

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GENERAL PHILLIPS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

SUSSEX IN THE JERSEYS,

6 January, 1779.

SIR :

I have received at this place your letter dated from Philadelphia of December the 25<sup>th</sup> for which and allowing Lieutenant Campbell going to New York I return you, Sir, my very sincere thanks.

I lament from the bottom of my heart at there being so little likelihood of an Exchange of Prisoners of war, the cause of humanity is deeply interested in it, and the injury both sides receive should urge the real and good intentions of both parties to endeavour at procuring a mutual release of officers and soldiers who by an unlucky chance of war are separated from their friends and Country.

I cannot help being of the opinion that the methods already adopted have failed from want of explanation, and the Commissioners who have met may possibly have been over tenacious of punctilio and forgot that in treating of an Exchange of Prisoners, they were to consult the feelings of humanity and not those of pride, however well founded on either side, and that a number of articles in strict form might be passed over for the advantage of a common good.

I view the resolves of the American Congress for suffering exchanges upon a general plan, as perfectly leading to real advantage, but the locality and particularity of the Troops of Convention assuredly requires a modulation of that resolve which the Commissioners have not perhaps attended to. In a number of Prisoners of War made at large it is very easy to exchange them upon a general plan and each Officer returns to his Corps or Regiment, but the Troops of Convention are differently circumstanced, for the Corps and Regiments being actually included in the situation of the Officers, these latter being exchanged have no place to resort to and their military stations would be as effectually lost as now when they are under the restriction of a Convention, and it becomes therefore of unavoidable necessity that to promote or suffer an exchange, some method must be fallen upon to release whole corps, officers and men. This might be done by an exchange of all the American officers who are prisoners of war for their value in officers and men of the Troops of Convention, and for the rest to remain until a second opportunity, should such arrive, or to be released by ransom, paying a stipulated sum in

specie for each rank as might be agreed on by persons chosen for the purpose on both sides.

I really imagine that a conversation on this subject might lead to a favourable conclusion, and so far is certain that a mere conversation need nor can lead to nothing unless the American Congress on the one part and Sir Henry Clinton on the other should permit a negotiation to take place after such conversation had passed.

I freely offer myself to you, Sir, on the occasion, and will meet any officer sent by your Excellency and talk over with him this matter so very interesting to us all; as this will not be treaty or negotiation, I waive every punctilio about rank in your officer and wish to meet as gentleman and gentleman, and if we have the good fortune to throw any lights on what may be judged the intentions of the American Congress, and of Sir Henry Clinton, it may result into a meeting of Commissioners, who having their path smoothed it will probably make their interview of effect.

I am well aware, Sir, that you cannot enter into my views without the previous consent of the Congress, and I request to leave you at full liberty of making this correspondence known to them to whom I should address myself without hesitation did I not suppose your Excellency to be the proper channel in a military matter.

I will own to you a very strong desire of visiting New York, and I enclose you a letter for the President of the American Congress, and will request, if you think it proper that you will allow the Deputy Adjutant General to the Troops of Convention to deliver it to the President.

I shall pursue my route to Bethlem and there wait the return of the Deputy Adjutant General who will have the honor of delivering this letter to your Excellency.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great personal respect, Your Excellency's most obedient and

most humble servant

W. PHILLIPS.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 14 January, 1779.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

I Rec<sup>d</sup> yours p<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup>s Coffin & observe the Contents about the Hay ; at that time I expected a Cartel wou'd have been settled. After I found the prospect was over, I sent to the Governor who has sent me permission to send you in one Ton of Hay, one Barrel flour, & some little necessaries to make you more comfortable. I am afraid M<sup>r</sup> Loring thinks odd of Col<sup>o</sup> Ely, Cap<sup>t</sup> Bulkley & Ensign Mumford's \* not returning sooner, but you'll please to acquaint him that they never heard of it untill the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant, which gives them much uneasiness for fear of *Censure* : they are now preparing to go, tho poor Buckley has met with a sad Misfortune, a Hhd of Salt fell upon one of his feet, which has laid him up for a long while, but is so far recover'd as to determine to go in immediately. I believe they'll endeavor to carry in about a B<sup>r</sup> of flour a man—perhaps some Cyder, Wine & Spirits etc. I wish you'd speak to the Commissary for his permission. Col. Heart tells them it will be seized as being Counterband, & against the Rules of Flags.—I can't think a single Objection will arise on the subject, when they know its going only to the Prisoners' relief—without the least fraud—I have told them the British wou'd not be guilty of it & affirmed to them that they might carry those little Necessaries without the least Damage or Danger of either Side—for I well know I was suffer'd to bring out Porter, Wine, Cheese, etc. etc., to their Officers Prisoners—but however I wish M<sup>r</sup> Loring to send a Line out to Col<sup>o</sup> Eno by the first Opp<sup>y</sup> with his permission for those Necessaries, subject to his inspection, or an Officer that he thinks proper after the things arrive at New York.

If a good Opp<sup>y</sup> offers wou'd it not be well to send your Carriage & Horses out to save any Great Expense? S[ilas] D[eane] is yet at Philadelphia in a paper war with Common *Nonsense* [Thomas Paine]. Sally & Hetty are at Boston—the same privateer that took the Harriet packet we are told has taken the Eagle Packet from New York with a Number of British Officers, which Officers, except

\* Ensign Mumford was exchanged at New York, and did not therefore return into New York a prisoner.

what few was kill'd, are landed in Spain to a British Consul, & his Rec<sup>t</sup> to deliver General Washington as many American Officers of the same Rank [taken].\* Poor Col<sup>o</sup> Howard of the Guards was killed—The Eagle on the passage to Newberry Port was retaken.— Pray how many Officers of the Rank of Colonels are before you in the line of rotation? I wish if consistant you wou'd give me a List of Connecticut Officers now Prisoners with you, the Date & the particulars—by Ely, Buckley & Mumford I shall write you. Adieu, says,

Your affectionate B<sup>r</sup>

JOS: WEBB.

FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL BAYLOR.

NEW YORK, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR WEBB:

I received your very polite favor of yesterday—and I can with great sincerity say that I shall be equally happy to see you, but lament the cause of our meeting.

I with pleasure tell you that I have got permission to go to Virginia, this indulgence is allow'd me on account of my invalid state of health—be assured that I will not leave this place without paying you a visit, unless I am prohibited. My compliments you will please to offer to all our Friends.

I am my D<sup>r</sup> sir your

Friend & affec<sup>t</sup> Hb<sup>le</sup> Servant,

GEORGE BAYLOR.†

\*“Perusing your Brother's letters by M<sup>r</sup> Townly, I observe no mention to have been made of your Exchange proposed by your worthy Brother-in-law Mr. Barrell; who wrote his Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, requesting your Exchange for a Gentleman of the British Army; who was taken in one of the outward bound Packets from New York, and carried into some Foreign Port; by a Privateer belonging to Mess. Barrell & Co. The Cap<sup>t</sup> of the Privateers d[elivere]d them (I think six in Number of different Ranks) to one of the British Ambassadors at a Foreign Court & took his rec<sup>t</sup> for them as Exchangeable in America; which Rec<sup>t</sup> has come to hand & forward to His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, for that purpose.” *Nathan Frink to Colonel Webb*, 1 February, 1779.

† From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

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 BRIGADIER-GENERAL PHILLIPS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.
BETHLEM, Saturday, Jan<sup>y</sup> 16, 1779.

SIR:

I have waited in anxious expectation of answers to my letters sent by the Deputy Adjutant General of the Troops of the Convention, but your Excellency not leaving Philadelphia so soon as expected, and my officer not being permitted to go on to that Capital has created a delay which has occasioned my waiting here some days.

Since I have been at Bethlem I have seen and read a Philadelphia Newspaper reciting the Report made by your officers of their Conference with Colonels O'Hara and Stephens. Had I seen it before I believe I should not have troubled you with any overtures on my part, and yet I protest it to be my opinion that I have not a doubt that the American Congress will see the absolute necessity of allowing exchanges of complete corps of the Troops of Convention, if they mean really to promote or agree to any exchange, and upon any other condition there can be none, for it is obvious that a Cartel upon the resolution of Congress taken literally renders all your officers into a free and full activity of service, whereas the Officers of the Troops of Convention would gain a change of place only, but be equally lost to the service as at present, the corps to which they belong being still detained. Under this description there needs not any interposition of a superior power, for the officers have too high a sense of honor to desire to quit their corps in the moment of distress, and therefore would not wish to be exchanged partially.

To exchange by ransom would effect the whole business to a mutual benefit by a general release. I am ready to enter into a negotiation upon that Plan. \* \* \*

W. PHILLIPS.

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 FROM EDMUND SEAMAN.
N. YORK, Jan<sup>y</sup> 23, 1779.

M<sup>r</sup> Edm<sup>d</sup> Seaman's respectful Comp<sup>ts</sup> to Col. Webb & has sent him under cover a Phil<sup>a</sup> Paper of 21<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> just rec<sup>d</sup> by Miss Schemerhorn from Morris Town, containing a Piece under the Signature of "Plain Truth," being Strictures on the address of Common Sense to M<sup>r</sup> Deane, which he thinks a very candid, masterly & unanswerable

Performance, much to M<sup>r</sup>. Deane's Credit & highly exposing the Author of Common Sense, which its more than probable Col. Webb has already been furnished with, as its of an old Date, however should he not, it will give M<sup>r</sup>. Seaman Pleasure in sending the Col. any Papers that have a Tendency to remove the Prejudices that have been attempted to be raised against the character of a Gentleman so nearly related to him as M<sup>r</sup>. Deane. M<sup>r</sup>. Seaman was extremely mortified that he happened not at Home when the Col. was kind enough to call & see him when last in Town, & hopes the next Time he will not be deprived of that Happiness. The Ladies join in Comp<sup>ts</sup> to you.

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FROM CAPTAIN JAMES HERON.

E[LIZABETH] TOWN, Jan<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

MY DEAR COL :

I applied to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Maxwell as you directed, but without success—he has, however, given me his word that he will write Instantly to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington for his approbation, & in case his permission can be got, I have left directions to Col : Beatty to purchase some flour, &ca, & send it in for your use. be assured I shall leave nothing undone to serve a friend I so much esteem. Neither Beatty nor any of his assistants are here at present, nor is there any supplies of money left here to carry us to our different destinations (cursed usage). I've met with Major Jiles here, whose horses & servant I get to carry me the length of Philada, where I hope I shall do myself the pleasure of delivering your Letter.

You may expect a Line from me as I pass through this to join the Reg<sup>t</sup> , which I understand are at Danb<sup>r</sup> this is a cursed place & I'm ready to quarrel with everything & everybody—so not being in a humour to write I must bid you adieu. My Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup>. C's Family, the Ladys, &c., &c.

I am, My Dear Col : with the greatest Esteem & friendship yours

J. HERON.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL PHILLIPS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

LANCASTER, February 1st, 1779.

SIR :

I last night received by express your Excellency's letters of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January, as, also, the letter from the President of the American Congress and the Resolve of that body on my subject.

I have been delayed at this place unavoidably, but the Susquehanna is now open and I shall pursue my journey to Virginia.

You are pleased to mention, Sir, in your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> of January that

“respecting a conference intended to serve as a basis for a final negociation of the Exchange of the Convention Troops, you (that is I) have withdrawn.”

I must take a liberty of observing on this that you surely Sir, have misconceived me. I made the proposition which was refused by you in a letter I had the honor to receive from you dated the 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1778, from Philadelphia, and Lord Stirling in a letter to me from Middlebrook of January 17<sup>th</sup>, an extract of which I enclose, confirms the refusal.

I have been uniform in my wishes and attempt to exchange the Troops of Convention, or to procure their release by ransom, and I am still desirous of such an event. \* \* \* W. PHILLIPS.

[EXTRACT.]

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> by your Deputy Adjutant General. The uncertainty of General Washington's return to this place, and the route by which he would come from Philadelphia induced me to persuade Mr. Bibby to remain here while I should communicate his business by letter to General Washington. I late last night received his Excellency's answer. I find he is still of opinion that no good can possibly result from any negotiation on the subject of an exchange of the Convention Troops. The proposal of exchanging whole corps of officers and men together was a point urged by the British Commissioners at Amboy, and was objected to by ours as impossible and inconsistent with the power vested in them. These sentiments have since been confirmed by Congress. STIRLING.

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FROM COLONEL BAYLOR.

THURSDAY MORNING [4 February, 1779.]

DEAR WEBB:

Agreeable to your request I copped your letter to Gov<sup>r</sup> Franklin last evening and waited on him this morning with it, and from what he tells me, I have not the least doubt but that you will have leave to go to Philadelphia, but from his conversation I fancy you will not be indulged to remain out any time. He is to give an answer on Saturday morning, if it is to me I will [send] it express to you, and wait with pleasure for your good company to Philadelphia, if you are permitted to go out, which I flatter myself you certainly will. I shall take out a carriage and Horses.

My compliments to Van Fitz & all others. Excuse haste.

Yours &c

GEORGE BAYLOR.

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TO GENERAL CLINTON.

[February, 1779.]

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR HENRY CLINTON, K. B.

Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's forces in  
North America.

The Memorial of sundry Officers of the American Army, Prisoners of War on Long Island, on behalf of themselves and others

Most respectfully sheweth:

That a Memorial has been drawn up and signed by all the Officers Prisoners on Long Island addressed to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Continental Congress, purporting an earnest desire that a general Exchange might speedily be concluded on, for the mutual advantage of the unfortunate Captives of both Armys

For the more speedy effecting so desireable a purpose, we your Memorialists most earnestly request

Dear Webb      Thursday Morning

Agreeable to your request  
I copied your letter to Gov. Franklin  
last evening and waited on him this  
morning with it. and from what he  
tells me, I have not the least doubt  
but that you will have leave to go to  
Philadelphia, but from his conversa-  
-tion I fancy you will not be indulged  
to remain out any time. He is to give  
an answer on Saturday morning, if it is  
to me I will it express to you and wait  
with pleasure for your good company  
to Philadelphia if you are permitted  
to go out. which I flatter myself you cer-  
-tainly will. I shall take out a Carriage and  
Horses. My compliments to Mrs. Fitz &  
all others excuse best.

yours &c

George Bay, Esq.



that your Excellency would be pleased to permit Col<sup>o</sup>. Sam<sup>l</sup>. B. Webb to accompany Col<sup>o</sup>. Baylor to Phil<sup>a</sup>, there to remain on Parole so long as may be necessary to present and enforce the above mentioned Memorial.

And your Memorialists as in Duty bound &c.\*

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, 7 February, 1779.

SIR:

The Commander in Chief has been pleased to grant you permission to go with Col<sup>o</sup>. Baylor to Phil<sup>a</sup> for the purpose specified in your Memorial; this therefore will be your sufficient Pass to come to New York as soon as you think Proper—the time given you to return in is six weeks.†

I am sir,

Your most obedient Humble servant

JOS<sup>A</sup> LORING

Com. Gen<sup>l</sup> Pris<sup>s</sup>

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FROM JAMES WATSON.

WEATHERSFIELD, 9 February, 1779.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup>:

I am happy to hear that a prospect of your being exchanged ap-

\* In the script of Col. Webb.

† I have no record of the date on which Colonels Webb and Baylor set out from New York, but it is to be presumed they did almost at once. On the back of a letter received when in Philadelphia, Colonel Webb has noted the dates of each Tuesday from February 9th to March 23d—just six weeks—and added “22 March, 1779,” the day on which he probably expected to be again on the Island. On February 10th, he made sundry purchases in New York: a steel hilted sword, a sword knot, belt and hook; a stick, cane strings, and stick of pomatum—articles needed in social intercourse in Philadelphia. Mrs. and Miss Van Horne sent by him some letters to Miss Livingston. In Philadelphia Colonel Webb was with General Arnold, and attended a ball given at the City Tavern. Although Col. Livingston wrote from Middlebrook on the 20th that Colonel Webb's route was to Brunswick and not to Head Quarters, a visit must have been paid to Head Quarters, and a conversation held with Washington on the subject of prisoners. See letter from Washington, 25 February, 1779, *post*.

pears so promising. Your Friends here wish as earnestly for the arrival of that happy moment as you possibly can.

I have had the pleasure of seeing many of the officers of the Regt this Winter who are universally anxious for your return & their impatience is the best proof [of] the love & esteem which they ever had for you.

I have sent you a few papers, and should acknowledge it as a particular favor if you could return some of the New York papers by the Flag.

I am, Sir, with the greatest esteem &c

J. WATSON.

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COLONEL BEATTY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

COMMISSARY PRISONERS' OFFICE

24 February, 1779.

SIR:

In obedience to your Excellency's commands of yesterday, I beg leave to lay before you the following state of facts, relative to the situation and sustenance of the marine and other prisoners now with the enemy.

1st. That there are at present with the enemy about 258 prisoners of war, as appears from Mr. Pintard's return of the 6th. instant, near 200 of whom are confined on board the prison ship; the remaining part in the sugar houses and Provost.

2d. That the allowance issued them by the enemy is found insufficient to support them under their captivity, and that therefore Congress and the Board of War have directed that further supplies of provisions and clothing be furnished them by the American commissary of prisoners, occasionally, as their wants may demand.

3d. That in two letters received from the agent in New York, bearing date the 1st. and 6th. instant, he, therein, makes a requisition that a larger and more uniform supply of flour and beef is necessary to answer the purposes intended by the above resolves than has hitherto been furnished.

4th. That in his issues no regard has been paid to the prisoners, whether captured on board Continental armed vessels, State privateers, letters of marque, or private merchant ships, but that the whole have received an equal portion of the supplies thus furnished.

5th. That the subjects of his most Christian Majesty, captured by the enemy, have by order of his Excellency Mons. Gerard, been supplied in like manner with the American prisoners, he (the Sieur) becoming accountable for such issues.

6th. That exact and distinct accounts are kept of every pound of bread and beef issued, whether to French or American Prisoners, and receipts taken from the officer or other most distinguishable person among them.

7th. That the debt thus incurred by these supplies is charged to the Continent solely, and that no one State has, at any time, furnished their respective prisoners with either provision or cloathing.

To these facts give me leave to add the disagreeable and critical state I am in with regard to the exchange of Naval Prisoners, having by order of the Marine Committee of Congress, in July '78, pledged the public faith to Admiral Gambier, that like returns should be made for any number of prisoners he should land at Elizabeth Town; that in consequence of such engagements there were passed over to us at different times, seamen to the amount of near 600; that returns for about 400 only have been made, and that we have been called upon more than once to make good our engagements; that from certain resolves of Congress, all prisoners who shall be captured, either by private armed vessels or otherwise thrown in upon these coasts, do belong to such States as they shall respectively be made prisoners by, to be disposed of in exchange for those only of that State, when so taken. That few or no continental frigates are now cruising, and that from the claims of the different States no prospect remains of our ever being able to make those full returns promised by and demanded of us; and finally, that from those private, state and partial exchanges, great confusion and irregularity arises in the office. I am therefore to request your Excellency will give me such further instructions and directions on this head, as are necessary, more especially as I am to meet the British naval commissary of prisoners next week to adjust and settle those accounts.

I am, &c.,

JNO. BEATTY.

COLONEL CHESTER TO ROYAL FLINT.

WETHERSFIELD, February 26, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

I last week return<sup>d</sup> from Windham County Court, where I have had a tryal by the Judges only not on my former plea of *not Guilty* but on another which I obtain<sup>d</sup> liberty to put in, in the room of it, viz: a *plea of privilege*, or as it was considered a *Plea in abatement*. My Attorneys argued the Case very ingeniously, & produced a multitude of authorities against any inferior Jurisdiction their calling any Member to account for words spoken in Parliament, or Assembly in free debate. The members in both Countries had been punished very severely for misconduct, but by the house only. Some have been reprimanded on their Knees at the barr of the house—others fined—suspended—expelled—imprisoned &c. The lower courts have ever refused hearing, or trying Actions, for crimes, or injuries done in Parliament, because it was a known, & Established principle, that no member was accountable out of parliament for words spoken in the House. The derivation of the word Parliament, seemed to be much to my Purpose, from the French *Parler le mont*, to speak one's mind.

The attorneys ag<sup>t</sup> me observ<sup>d</sup>, that if these principles were adopted, no person was secure in his reputation, and that the house of Assembly would soon become the great Theatre of slander and defamation. But instead of producing authorities & entering into serious argumentation, they went into a popular declamation ag<sup>t</sup> English Laws & Tyranny. They were no longer a guide to us. Thank God we are the free inhabitants of the free & Independant State of Connecticut, &c. &c. A Great Rabble came in to hear the Pleas, which now seemed rather addressed to their Passions than to the Judges. However the next day we were told that the Pleas in abatement were insufficient. This obliged me to appeal to the Superior Court, & I doubt not they will judge differently on the Question. If they do, Johnson shall have all the Chance against me he can wish; for I have heretofore told, & still continue to tell the story in all Companies. M<sup>r</sup>: [Titus] Hosmer & a number of my friends, persuaded me to alter my Plea, which at first thought was against my inclination, as I thought it would be nearly shrinking from a Charge which I was convinced I was able to support. My



friends observed that duty to the Publick, and to the rights of the house, would oblige me to endeavor to prevent the pleading so bad a precedent in future. For if it was once known that Members were liable to be prosecuted before the Courts of Law, for doing their duty in the House, in free debate, no person would dare oppose the greatest villain in the world who should be nominated to office, unless his Crime was on record, since if he did, he might at least be called to a remote part of the State, & put to the Cost of proving what he had said to be true. The consequence of which would soon be, that every person nominated must pass *sub silentio*.

However I will not rely so much on a favorable issue on the present Question before the Superior Court as to desist in my endeavors to be ready to Meet him on the Merits, but shall go on Collecting what evidence I can in the matter. I have a number sworn to already that have heard Colonel Webb tell the story very much as I related it in the Assembly, & as charged in the declaration. But my Attorneys fear they will not be admitted, as they are mere hearsay evidence. The deposition you favored me with, is the best I have yet been able to obtain. Cap<sup>t</sup> Fitch could not remember so particularly, but his deposition is a good one. I have not yet seen Dr Knight. He has removed to Plainfield, & can be summoned to Court when needed. Major Cook, I shall soon see. I have pressed Col. Ward hard in the matter. He is very loath to say anything in the affair. I suppose he has given Johnson a General recommend as a good officer & is afraid to answer any Questions I would put, least it should contradict it. I think he uses me ill in the affair. I wish you to hint to me what you had reference to in particular, when you mentioned to me that Gen<sup>l</sup> Ward & Major Cook might be of service to me.

I confess myself much disappointed in Col. Webb's deposition. He ever told the story to others, as well as myself, very differently. I have always understood that the General told Johnson to his face that "no Gentleman would persist in urging for a furlough after what had passed;" and then again in anger, "That it was a matter of very little consequence" with some Field officers whether they were in Camp or Country. But now it seems that Col. Webb *was authorized to say so*. & so, to Johnson from the General. This representation will have a very different effect on the minds of a Jury, though

one would think either way it was enough to Petryfy a man of feeling. I think I must see Col. Webb on this Business. His mind is so fully taken up with the important concerns he is come out upon, that 'tis not strange he does not recollect so particularly some things that may be very important to me.

I shall endeavor to acquaint you with the Issue of the Cause whenever it is determined. The Superior Court will hear the case in about three weeks.

When you visit Connecticut I hope to have the Pleasure of waiting on you at my House. Please to make it your home. A Bed, & Stable, with such fare as we have, is ever at your service.

Your care & attention in this matter has laid me under particular obligations, which shall ever be acknowledged by, Dear Sir, your affectionate Friend & very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup> JOHN CHESTER.

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

HEAD QUARTERS MIDDLE BROOK  
25<sup>th</sup> Feby, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

Agreeable to my promise, when you were at Head Quarters, I have had a calculation made from the last returns of the Commissary of Prisoners, of the number of privates which upon the several propositions that have been made by the enemy, we should have to give them in a general exchange of our officers for officers and privates of the Convention Troops—By submitting this to Congress, if necessary, they will be the better able to decide on the propriety of adopting the measure solicited in the memorial which you have been appointed to present.

I am with great regard

Dear Sir

Your most obed Serv<sup>t</sup>

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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FROM COLONEL CHESTER.

WEATHERSFIELD, Feb. 28, A. D. 1779.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

I rejoice to have an Opportunity once more to write you free of Constraint & with liberty to say what I please; I cannot write a

Letter to be examined by every body. Great as the privilege is there is a greater one I wish for I mean the pleasure of a personal interview with my too long absent friend. Why will you not visit Wethersfield while on Parole at this Time—Six weeks surely would allow you time enough just to call & see us at least. The performance of one condition on your part shall reconcile us to be absent from each other a little longer; & that is that you apply yourself so diligently to your business as to effect your exchange. Your visit then we hope will not be short & temporary. We are all earnestly wishing for such an event, & hope it will take place generally. If it does not I think you must stand a good Chance on acc<sup>t</sup> of the Officers taken by your Brother Barrel's Vessel.

Besides the ties of Friendship, the bonds of Interest call loud on me to see you.—£5,000 is no small sum for me to loose, as much as money has depreciated. I am to acknowledge your favor accompanied with your deposition.—I could wish to have seen you before you had wrote it, as I am persuaded, if you had time to recollect Coolly, you would have wrote me one much more favorably to my purpose.—Did you receive a Long letter from me last fall by Bro<sup>r</sup> Jos. when you met him at the Lines? With that I sent the Copy of what I had heard you relate as near as I could recollect, & the substance of what I hoped you would have been able to remember & have attested to.—It is also very near what Mr. Hosmer, Major Huntington, Capt. Belding & M<sup>r</sup> Elisha Williams of E. Hartford have attested they have heard you relate. The most material difference is this that these Gentlemen & myself have ever understood you that after Johnson had very indecently & repeatedly urged for a furlough the General told him to his face that after what had been said no Gentleman would ask for a furlough, and Johnson still persisting in his application, the General told him that “If he would not take no for an answer, he might go to his Col. & if he would recommend him, one of the Aids de Camp should write him one, for I think, tis a matter of very little consequence with some officers, whether they are in the Army or the Country.”—You see how very differently the minds of a Jury will be affected by this last representation of the matter as spoken by the General himself in person & its coming from the General through another person. Besides I told the story in the Assembly that the General said it to Johnson himself, & the

Charge is laid against me in that manner in the declaration. I dare say when you come to reflect on this matter you will find that you have not given me so good a deposition as you would be able to do on further reflection. Indeed, tis not very strange at this distance of time that you should not recollect so minutely all that passed on this occasion especially as your attention at the time of writing the deposition must have been engaged with heavier cares, to you & the Publick.—But enough of this for the present.—I expect to hear from you while at Philadelphia again on this subject, according to your encouragement in your Letter. In the mean time I keep your deposition to myself, & intend no one shall know its contents.

As to Domestic news we have nothing remarkable. The good People at both houses are in tolerable Health—Those of our family in Particular desire their Love to you. Bro<sup>r</sup> Jos. is or will soon be with you in Philadelphia. To him I must refer you for the news with us. Hoping soon to see you here I must for the present bid you Adieu.

Subscribing myself your affectionate friend

& Obliged Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JOHN CHESTER.\*

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TO JOHN JAY, PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

SIR :

The Committee to which was referred the Memorial from the Officers on Long Island, having fully enquired into their situation &c. —have been obligeing enough to inform me, they intend making their report this morning. I shall esteem it a particular favor you will propose it to be taken up by Congress this day, as I am extremely impatient to have the matter determined—should Congress think proper to recommend an Exchange & refer it to His Excellency General

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

Dear Col. <sup>64)</sup> Hartford March 5. 1779

I am desirous if possible, to procure a supply of Types in attempting which I have repeatedly experienced the most friendly assistance from your Brother. I now beg leave to trouble you upon the same business—

My desire is, that you would apply to Livingston, or some other of the Printers in New York, & ensure him an honest recompence <sup>in hard money, or otherwise,</sup> for all his printing materials which it is probable he would rather sell, than carry with him, in case that City should be evacuated.

I would also that they could be <sup>sent out, or</sup> left secure in the hands of some one who remains, of whom they might be received. I know not whether any plan of this kind could be executed, if it could the recompence should be honestly made & the Favor ever, very gratefully acknowledged  
By Your Obedt & most Humble Servt,  
Col. Webb. Mabers



Washington, I shall set of immediately for Head Quarters in hopes the matter may be bro't to a conclusion before my Parole expires.

I am with Esteem & Respect  
 Your Excellency's Most obed<sup>t</sup>.  
 & very Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
 SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS.

IN CONGRESS, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1779.

*Resolved* that General Washington Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States be and he hereby is fully authorized and empowered at his discretion to negotiate and establish with the Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majesty's forces a Cartel or Agreement for the general Exchange of prisoners comprehending the Convention Troops or a more partial Agreement for any particular or definite number of prisoners and to fix and conclude upon the terms and conditions of the Said Exchange, ascertaining and allowing an equivalent of inferior for superior Officers, and an equivalent of privates for officers according to such proportion as has been customary or shall appear to him to be just and equitable, and to appoint Commissioners and the time and place of their meeting to treat and confer with the Comm<sup>r</sup> to be authorised by the Commander in Chief of the British Forces on the terms and manner of such Exchange. And it is hereby declared that the Acts and Stipulations of the said Commissioners being ratified and confirmed by the respected Commanders in Chief aforesaid shall be final and conclusive.

Extract from the Minutes  
 CHAS THOMSON Secy.

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WASHINGTON TO SIR HENRY CLINTON.

HEAD-QUARTERS, MIDDLEBROOK, 14 March, 1779.

SIR :

It is much to be regretted, that all the attempts, which have been made to establish some general and adequate rule for the exchange

of prisoners, have hitherto been ineffectual. In a matter of so great importance, too much pains cannot be taken to surmount the obstacles that lie in its way, and to bring it to a satisfactory issue. With an earnest desire to effect this, the honorable the Congress have again authorized me to propose the settlement of a general cartel, and to appoint commissioners with full powers for that purpose. This proposition, in obedience to their order, I now make; and if it should meet with your concurrence, I shall be ready to send commissioners to meet others on your part, at such time and place as shall be judged convenient.

That the present attempt may not prove as unsuccessful as former ones, it is to be hoped, if there is a meeting of commissioners, that the gentlemen on both sides, apprized of the difficulties which have occurred, and with a liberal attention to the circumstances of the parties, will come disposed to accommodate their negotiations to them, and to level all unnecessary obstructions to the completion of the treaty. I have the honor to be with due respect, &c.\*

\* "Let me assure you, Sir, that my wishes coincide sincerely with those which you express for the completion of a purpose equally urged by justice and humanity. Allow me to say, that I am happy to find the direction of this affair is now entirely reposed in military hands, as I can from thence augur the same liberality of negotiation, on the part of your commissioners, which I trust you will find on ours. Colonel O'Hara having sailed for England, it requires a day or two for the person, who is to supply his place, to inform himself of the points on which the business will turn. On Monday I shall send down Colonel Hyde and Captain André to Staten Island, that they may meet your commissioners either at Amboy or Elizabethtown, as you may wish."—*Sir Henry Clinton to Washington*, 31 March, 1779.

"I am under the necessity of requesting, that it may be deferred until Monday, the 12th instant, when Colonel Davies and Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison will meet Colonel Hyde and Captain André at Amboy, in the forenoon. Those gentlemen, I am persuaded, will enter upon business with the most liberal and generous dispositions; and from thence I am happy to conceive with you the most favorable expectations. You will, however, suffer me to observe, that, should the intended negotiation answer our wishes, yet it will not flow from that partiality, which you have been pleased to suppose."—*Washington to Sir Henry Clinton*, 4 April, 1779.



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FROM WILLIAM DUER.

PHILLS HILL, 20 March, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Williamson, who commands a Detachment of the Continental Army in Georgia writes to Congress on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feby, that the Enemy on the 15<sup>th</sup> had abandoned Augusta, having in vain Endeavor'd to rouse the Indians against us. The Creek Nation, which is the most powerful, refused in particular even to attend a Conference to which they were invited. They were making the best of the Way to Savanna, and two Bodies of men were detached to fall on the Rear.

The Express who brought the Letters says that the night before he left Charlestown, an account had arrived at that Place, that most of their Baggage, and a number of Prisoners had fallen into our hands. A Body of arm'd Tories in Number about 500 were attempting to form a Junction with the Enemy, but there is every Reason to imagine these will be frustrated in their Design. As it will give you and all the Friends of America infinite Pleasure to find that the Enemy are frustrated in their last Resource, I have desired our Friend D<sup>r</sup>. Draper to forward this Intelligence to you. All the Family here desire their Compliments—and hope soon to see you make one amongst the Sons and Daughters of Freemen. In this no one joins more sincerely than your affectionate

H<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> DUER.

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FROM CAPTAIN JOHN SWAN.

[FLAT BUSH,] March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

MY DEAR COL<sup>o</sup>:

We had a general meeting yesterday or a meeting of Generals, which you please, in consequence of which I have by their order inclosed you a letter to Sir Henry Clinton, requesting the Commander in Chief to let Major Joynes & myself go to Phil<sup>a</sup> to procure a sum of money from the Board of Treasury for the use of the Prisoners here—before I conclude it is my duty to mention that I was anxious of declining going from the time my name was first mention'd, but insisted upon. Major Joynes is particularly deputed from the ninth

Virginia Reg<sup>t</sup> to lay a claim of theirs before Congress, in behalf of themselves & the Phil<sup>l</sup> Prisoners in general.

I have some reasons to believe that Sir Henry will not admit more than one officer to go upon this business—in that case you will mention which you think will fulfill the intention of the officers here.—I am requested to inclose their letter to you, begging you will deliver it to the Commander in Chief & procure an immediate answer which be pleased to inclose me. We are all well & anxious of seeing you before you go out,\* & none more so than a certain Lady of our acquaintance. I ever am with much real esteem, my Dear Sir,

Affectionately Yours,

J. SWAN.

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TO JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, 4 April, 1779.

SIR :

In conversation with the Gentlemen Prisoners yesterday on Long Island, I found they had a desire that some of the principle Officers from their Body should attend the Commissioners to Amboy, and gave for reason, that should any objections arise on the part of General Washington's Commissioners, he might have influence enough to obviate it, provided they should be in an error, which is quite possible may be the case for want of a thorough knowledge of our situation and Circumstances. I cannot but be of opinion it may be attended with good consequence—and am certain it can do no injury. General [William] Thompson, who is a man of weight and influence would be the proper person. Should you join me in opinion, be so obliging as to name it to Sir Henry Clinton or Lord Raw-

\* Col. Webb had applied to be released on parole. Sir Henry denied the wish of Captain Swan.

don, in doing which you will confer an obligation to all the Prisoners on Long-Island, as well as, Sir, your most obedient Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup> S. B. WEBB.

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FROM SILAS DEANE.

PHILADELPHIA, Ap<sup>l</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, 1778 [1779].

DEAR COL<sup>l</sup> :

I hope to see you in a few Days, shall therefore say only that I propose to set out for Camp next Tuesday at the Farthest, but if you arrive there pay no Regard to this but come on as fast as Possible to Philadelphia, for if you meet me on the Road, it will be as well, perhaps better. I shall go by Trenton, Princeton and so on the Common Road direct to Basken Ridge where if you arrive before me come to meet me. Whatever you may obtain of intelligence I wish to learn of you personally, for the practise of intercepting Letters prevails, and those who are Base enough to intercept, are wicked enough to put the worst Construction on everything. Wishing you success, I am my Dear Col.

Most affectionately yours

S. DEANE.

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FROM COLONEL BEATTY.

AMBOY, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 79, Saturday.

DEAR COL<sup>l</sup> :

We met here agreeable to appointment on Monday last—since when we have conferred to no purpose & indeed I must say, I fear, no general Cartell will be fixed—some hopes yet remain of a partial exchange taking place—I am sensible how much pain & uneasiness this letter will create among those unfortunate Gentlemen, of whom you are one—More especially as they conceive their further delay upon the Island to be occasioned from an Unwillingness to promote their Enlargement, unless some evident advantage was gained—Give me leave to Undeceive you in this point—

However liberal & generous you may have supposed the British Commissioners propositions w'd be, upon their arrival at this place I

do assure you, they were infinitely more Extravagant, than when we met in Decem<sup>r</sup> last—To prove this I shall Inform you—That their first proposal was—That the whole of the Prisoners in our Hands, amounting to above three Hundred officers, & as many thousand privates, should be wholly given up—Then Gen'l Clinton conceiving the Ballance would still be against us, was however in the fullness of his generosity, willing to give up, the whole of our officers who were Prisoners with them—Such liberality we were strangers to, & wanted more convincing proofs of Sir Henry's, before an acquiescence in such proposals. We next proceeded to settle the Ratio or grade of officers, as we thought agreeable to their own propositions last Dec. they could not object to the Exchange of half their officers & the residue of ours to be redeemed with privates—Here too their generosity was displayed in striking colours—Upon a Calculation agreeable to their Ratio we found it would take, all the Convention Troops and about half our Army to redeem our Officers—We were astonished & yet the gentlemen conceived themselves as treating upon the most generous & liberal principles—

To day I fancy they will go upon a partial Exchange. I hope it may reach my Friend—of this I shall inform you more particularly when we break up.

I flatter myself the Gentlemen will rest satisfied from this Information as I am well assured, we were disposed to give up a good deal—but the Terms the British Gentlemen held out were so indignant, that you had rather continue Prisoners, than be released upon such conditions—Gen'l Thompson who is the Bearer of this—will give you such further Information as you may want—

I am to request your attention to that matter, we talked of when at Biddle's Quarters—if it can not be done in whole, let it be attempted in part—The advantages accruing from it, are becoming more & more considerable every day—opertunitys will serve to let me hear from you in this way—Neglect none—Comp<sup>s</sup> to the Ladies & Gentlemen of your place—& believe me to be in Haste Dr Col<sup>o</sup>  
Yours  
J. B.\*

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

FROM JAMES KEENE.

NEW YORK, 22 April, 1779.

DR. SIR :

C. G. Loring is expected home this evening, as for the Commis<sup>rs</sup> I cannot learn whether they come at the same time or not ; but I am afraid nothing to the purpose is done.

Col. Beatty will be in York as soon as the Commissioner's breaks up, whether a Gen<sup>l</sup> exchange takes place or not, with fifty Thousand Dollars to Discharge the off<sup>rs</sup> Board, &c. &c. I expect to leave the Com<sup>rs</sup> Depart<sup>mt</sup> very soon, that is the reason of my stay in town so long, I shall have my answer at 12 o'clock this day from Lord Rawdon. I hope it will be for the best. I'll be upon a shure footing, then I shall know what to trust too.\* I am, Sir, with Esteem

Y<sup>r</sup> most obed<sup>t</sup> very Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. KEENE.

FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL THOMPSON.

NEW YORK, April 27, 1779.

DEAR WEBB :

I have seen many Letters from England but very little News of consequence—They all mention that Troops are coming out some say 15,000 but I can't believe one third of that number can be sent—Tho' I am of opinion that every step will be taken to carry on an Active Campaign against us—

A Party has been in Monmouth County and brought of a small Guard of about twenty Men. I can't procure a London Paper to send you tho' I had the Promise of one this Morning—The British Commissioner are much out of Humor, they are about to Publish their proceeding at Amboy—You will then know all that past on the subject of an exchange—I am endeavoring to bring about my Ex-

\* "Mr. Loring cannot give you any satisfactory acct<sup>t</sup> concerning your being exchanged for one of the officers taken in the Eagle Packet. As soon as he can with any propriety, he'll let you know. Mr L. is always ready to serve you; proper opportunity must be observed. I assure you I am never happier than when I can do you any service." *J. Keene to Colonel Webb, 27 April, 1779.*

change for one of their Gen'ls & hope to succeed—I shall see you in a day or two and am D<sup>r</sup> Webb Yours very sincerely.

W<sup>m</sup> THOMPSON.

Tuesday Morning.\*

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

9 May, 1779.

SIR:

I was in hopes ere this to have sent you leave to go home on your Parole for a month, or perhaps longer, the disappointment you have met with heretofore, has prevented my giving you any Encouragement on this head, and I will now only say, that I expect to obtain permission for you tomorrow, likewise for Col<sup>o</sup> Allison, whom if convenient beg you will inform. I am, your most Obedient & most Humble Servant

Jos<sup>a</sup> LORING,

C. G. Prisoners.

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FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL THOMPSON.

TUESDAY EVENING [9 May, 1779.]

D<sup>r</sup> WEBB:

The matter is at last fixed for our going out on Thursday Morning. Come to Town as soon as Possible. Our Paroles to be 'till called for or exchanged.†

Send Col<sup>nel</sup> Magaw's Letter to him without loss of time as I suppose he will take out M<sup>rs</sup> Magaw and will have little time to prepair. My best Complim<sup>ts</sup> to my Friends at Flat Bush and am, D<sup>r</sup> Sir, yours very sincerely

W<sup>m</sup> THOMPSON.

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

† "The committee, consisting of Mr. Spencer, Mr. Atlee, Mr. Scudder, to whom was referred a letter from Brigadier-General Thompson and Colonel Webb, in behalf of themselves and sundry others, representing 'that Gen. Clinton had consented to their retiring into the country on parole until such time as they shall be called for; and that he required in return that they should obtain permission for Generals Phillips and Riedesel, with their aids-de-camp, and Capt. Watterson, of the 21st regiment, to go into New York on the same condition; and praying that Congress will be pleased to comply with the said proposal for their parole exchange,' brought in a report; whereupon, Resolved, That the commander in chief be authorized to make such and so many parole exchanges as he shall, from time to time, judge beneficial or expedient." *Journals of Congress*, 3 June, 1779.



New York May 12. 1779.

Sir

It gives me great pleasure to inform you, that the Commander in Chief has consented to your going home on your Parole & to remain till called for, you have therefore Permission to come to New York with your Baggage as soon as it is convenient to you for which this will be your sufficient Pass.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient &  
most Humble Servant

W. Loring  
Com. Gen. <sup>Am.</sup>

Col. Webb



TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITON,  
Friday Even<sup>g</sup>, 28 May, 1779.

DEAR WADSWORTH :

I was not a little disappointed this afternoon to find you had left Head-Quarters before I came on. I had several matters of consequence to chat with you about, be obligeing enough to remind our good friend Harrisson to write me as early as possible what the determination of Congress about General Phillips and Reidsell may be, it is interesting to me, if they cannot be permitted to go in I shall be in continual anxiety for fear of receiveing a summons to return to Captivity—God forbid that should be the case, I have already had my share. General Knox is desireous of having a Barrel of Picked Salmon sent him by return of my Waggon, I was to have spoke to you on the Subject—be kind enough to write M<sup>r</sup>. Hubbard about it.—

I am now at the North Branch in full view of Miss B[ancker]—this day you found fault about my not introduceing you, tis done, I have said many cleaver things of my friend Jerry, and he has nothing more to do than to make his appearance before the Lady to be well acquainted, whenever that happens I hope you'll steal a kiss on my account, that is if you can by a retrograde manoevre do it with your usual Gallantry, I go from this very early in the morning on my way to the Holy Land, let me hear from you frequently—and at all times believe me very sincerely

Your friend & Most

Humb<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

P. S. Be kind enough to Settle my travelling Account with Maj<sup>r</sup>. Hamilton—I advanced 50 Dollars\*—

FROM MAJOR HUNTINGTON.

QUARTERS, TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND,

13 June, 1779.

DEAR WEBB:

By M<sup>r</sup>. Jones the Bearer of this, I had the first information of your Return to Weth<sup>d</sup> , tho had before heard you was out of N. York on Parole. When he informed me you had got home, my first Question was, have you got any Letters or letter for me, to which he gave me an answer in the Negative. You will readily believe me not a little disappointed, I assure you I was ; but when he informed me you did not know of his setting out, I pardoned you, but shall not extend it for *forty* Days—tho' M<sup>r</sup>. Jones tells me you expect to be here next week—I wish it may be sooner. I wish to see you much, both on my own acc<sup>t</sup> and yours, as I believe, you will not find your Money Accounts in the situation you expected they would have been before this time. I hope you will bring on your Papers, that you may be able to Close some of the Accounts that remain unclosed. Your Clothing Accounts I have with me.—You will scarcely know your Regiment when you arrive—Your Officers new as to the Ranks they now hold except two—the soldiers as usual well armed, tolerably Disciplined but badly Clothed. You know it is natural for a Man who is answerable for the appearance of a Reg<sup>t</sup> , if he is faulty, to make or rather to meditate an excuse. My great & Principle one is, the new method of Discipline introduced, makes an Alteration from the old greater more difficult than to instruct new Troops. Why they will appear to you raw & Undisciplined is obvious, because your situation, has much too long been, where we have been taught to look as a Pattern for Discipline.—But why need I trouble you with that, you will say. I can give you a very good reason which is, that when you left the Regiment you thought them disciplin<sup>d</sup> , & of course you might have reason to expect to find them so when you return—& unless I informed you to the Contrary, the Mortification

\* From the cabinet of the Connecticut Historical Society.

you would show in your Countenance would be so great that I should not but discern it, & of Course feel it myself—which to avoid, this serves to make you come prepared.—Pray did you see anything of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> Livingston as you came from Philadelphia, has he resigned, is he dead, or is he Coming to join the Regiment? I have not hear<sup>d</sup> a word from him since Jan<sup>y</sup> last except in the Round about way. The Gentlemen Officers desire their friendly Compliments to you, & Rejoice that you are once more in the Land of Liberty, tho' universally wish, and I believe most sincerely, that your Stay was like to be longer than the Uncertainty of a Parole will give them reason to believe, tho' they are highly flattered with the pleasing Expectation that you will soon pay them a Visit, altho' they are station<sup>d</sup> in this dreary & Dismal Part of God's Creation. I wish most earnestly that your Exchange may be so speedy, that instead of a Visit, you may join & take Command of a Reg<sup>t</sup> who regret your Inactive Situation as they wish to be under your Immediate Command, as doth your Affectionate friend &

Very Humble Servant  
EBEN<sup>R</sup> HUNTINGTON.

P. S. Present my Affectionate Compliments, Respects, Love and whatever you please to the Circle.

Wish you to bring with you the Accounts of Moneys rec<sup>d</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Lockwood due to the Soldiers, which you have in your hand, as some of the soldiers are anxious to have their Money.\*

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

CAMP AT SMITH'S CLOVE, 17 June, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

I rec<sup>d</sup> your agreeable favour dated at the South Branch of the Rariton, since my arrival here. Had I been so fortunate as to have

\* To his sister, Mrs. Barrell, Colonel Webb wrote on June 13th: "I hope to set off for Providence the last of this or beginning of next week; after I have done my business with the Regiment I shall very eagerly take my flight to Boston to see my long absent friends, when I shall have chat enough for you. Remember me to your good Husband, who I never saw, but hope soon to be acquainted with. Abby, I think, will conclude to go with me and spend a few weeks with you, as Hetty is to accompany me back."

found it when I returned to Rariton, it wou'd have been a very agreeable introduction to Miss B[ancker] who every body says you are engaged to. If I am ever in that neighborhood again I shall certainly do myself the honor to call on her. This is a most villainous country, rough, Rocky, and a bad climate. Rattle snakes & Robbers are plenty. It was an infringement on the right of wild Beasts for man ever to enter this Clove, it ought to have remained as Nature certainly intended it for the sole use of snakes adders & Beasts of prey.

Harrison says he will write you soon, but dont think Congress have done anything very effectual. What they have done I dont know. If the Carolina news is true your fears of being recalled are over—but *entre nous* I am yet an unbeliever. I am alone, every body else believes it, but no official information is come to hand, and the time so long I confess there is great doubt. The Enemy remain at the two Points Van Planks & Stoney Point fortifying and are expecting reinforcements, which they will certainly have, when I expect we shall have some serious business among those dreary Hills & dales. I intend to be pretty regular in my correspondence with you, if you are not like my other friends, too lazy to keep it up. You will remember the possibility of your letters miscarrying & write accordingly. My love to your Brother & Sisters, Col. Chester & family. \* \* \*

J. WADSWORTH.

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FROM CAPTAIN JOHN WEBB.

CAMP FREDERICKSBURG, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER:

I am very sorry that it was not my Fortune to meet you on the Rhodes, by acc<sup>ts</sup> I was not but one Mile out of the Rhode when you Past ; I have the Promise of Col<sup>o</sup> Sheldon to return home when I Please, he ses that if you and my Brother says that you want to see me upon Business, that I shall return when he comes back, which will be in a few Weeks ; I want very much to see you before you return, upon Business ; the Business will be to lay a plan of our Future doing Business, the last year was very Fortinate upon the whole.—I shou'd be very happy to hear what M<sup>r</sup> D[eane] intends to do about our affairs ; and how our worthy friends are in Jersies,

particularly Miss B[ancker] and M<sup>r</sup>: Lotts Family & Cap<sup>t</sup>: Randels Family. I am exceeding happy that you have once more got out of N. York, & wish sincerely that you may be Exchang'd, and not be obliged to return to that disagreeable place that you have been in so long.—I wish you to tell Col<sup>o</sup>: Sheldon that you want to see me very much.—Wright me by Col. T. and let me no when I had better return home, I suppose that e'er long you will go to see my Sisters in Boston—I can consistantly with my duty leave the Reg<sup>t</sup>: as there is two Field Officers, three Cap<sup>ts</sup> four Lieut<sup>s</sup> & five Cornets, to Command One Hundred & Seven men.—

I wish you to send your Servant to Durham for my Stone Horse, as I hear that he is Rhode every Day, and let my Brother put him under the care of some Carefull hands, that he may be taken good Care of—I am wishing that you may soon be exchanged.

Your aff<sup>t</sup>: Brother

JOHN WEBB.

We have just Received Orders from Gen<sup>l</sup>: Mondergal [McDougall] to March to Bedford, if you have any Epalets that you can spare I wish you to send them me with my Baggage.

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FROM ADJUTANT HOPKINS.

FLAT BUSH, 19 June, 1779.

DEAR COLONEL:

I enclose this as I shall every opportunity that offers to write the person whom most I sincerely esteem and respect. The Colo. must not expect from his Adjutant's letters the ease and elegance of a Chesterfield, or the eloquence of a Chatham, but that he means to inform the Colo. (as far as his situation will permit) of many things that have transpired in Limbshire since his absence.

A list of characters has made its appearance. A. is suspected for the A—th—r [author?], on Gilded Chariot Wheels, &c., &c., &c., &c.—It's whispered near L—ve L—n [Love Lane?] that a great personage who lately left Limbobush has broke off all connections with a noted house in Amsterdam. A certain young Noble—n who sometime since made his appearance in this city has withdrawn from the corner of L—ve L—n, in consequence of its not being allowed that he'd an elegant head of hair.

Last Tuesday Capt. Bulkley, Mr. Riley and myself had several gentlemen to dine with us of the Colo's acquaintance, in the fields near my quarter. Believe me I may say with propriety that a table more elegantly furnished has not made its appearance in *Limbobush* for this century past. There was fifteen invited but only ten came, which made the glorious number of thirteen. By desire of the president I here Enclose a copy of our proceedings copied by the secretary to the president. Mr. B. & both of the Mr. C's were invited but for reasons very obvious did not come. Mr. Fitzhugh & Randolph present their most respectfull compliments. They would have wrote, but they say its customary for gentleman who leaves this, to first inform their friends they leave behind where to direct to them. Major Giles, Capts. Goodale, Fauntleroy, Willis, Willing, with Mr. Robins, Hall, Bender, Lloyd & Bradford present their compliments to the Colonel. Dear Colonel, I still remain, your Unfortunate Ad'jt  
ELISHA HOPKINS.

(P. S.) My best compliments to Mr. Webb and Family, also to Capt. Jack.\*

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, June 20, 1779.

SIR:

I have received your's of the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant by Cap. Rankin, & was glad to find you had got safe home to your Friends; We have heard Nothing yet of Gen! Phillips or Riedesel; I observe you are in hopes of some Propositions being made for a partial Exchange when those Gentlemen arrive; I heartily wish you may not be disappointed, for while you refuse to give Us any Satisfaction for the Officers that have violated their parole, I am well assured the Commander in Chief will not exchange a single Officer. We should have no Objection to exchanging You for an Officer of equal rank or an equivalent of those taken in the Eagle Packet was it not doing great Injustice to those of the Convention & others that have been so much longer Prisoners and although it is the only Chance you have of being speedily exchanged, yet I think you will admit the Justice of our Objection,

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 220. The toasts are given in the same book, 394.

Whenever I can be of Service to You, You may rely on my Attention, but I fear it is at a very great Distance. You know I have been very anxious to have the Account of those Officers who had broke their parole settled, as it was a Bar to all Exchanges, & for which purpose so long ago as last February I acquainted Col. Beatty, that the Commander in Chief was willing to leave it to the Honor of General Washington to determine in any doubtful Case among those Officers, that We only asked Reparation for any Injury received by a Breach of Honor which certainly is but common justice, yet We received no Satisfaction, but on the Contrary have been put off from time to time in the most trifling Manner, and now I find by your Commissioner's Report that your Commissary informs them "that a "great Part of Those comprehended under this Description were "either not Officers at all or effected their Escape properly"—Among so great a Number as One hundred & Sixteen there may be some found under Circumstances which perhaps might give a Colour to this Assertion, but can We do more than leave it to Your Selves to determine in that Case; & though You had pretended to find particular Exceptions, should not the Remainder have been returned or accounted for immediately. I am Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>: hum Serv<sup>t</sup>:

JOS LORING,

Com. Gen<sup>l</sup>: Pris<sup>rs</sup>:

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

MANN'S TAVERN IN WRENTHAM

Sunday morn<sup>g</sup> 7 o'clock 4 July 79.

DEAR BROTHER:

After leaving you yesterday we jog'd slowly on like Darby and Jone, saying nothing, but much thinking—this parting with friends is very disagreeable, I always comfort myself with the pleasing Idea we part to meet again—lodg'd at Hedden's 21 miles from Boston, and came on here this morning to Brakefast, where I met Mr. Stoddard from New London who informs that a

prize Brig arrived there last Wednesday taken by the Hancock Beaver and little Cromwell. She was from Hallifax for New York laden with Fish & Oyl and about 700 Bushels Irish Potatoes,—he says that 'tis reported the Delaware Frigate is taken by the Boston and Confederacy.

Hetty would write but wishes to push on before the Heat of the day. She joins me in the affectionate remembrance to you & family, and to our friends at Ten-Hills.

In haste I am yr. Affect<sup>d</sup>. Br<sup>s</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL GATES.

General Gates presents his Compliments to Col<sup>o</sup> Webb—requests the favour of his Company at Dinner, tomorrow, at the Cold Spring, to Celebrate the Anniversary of the Declaration of Independency, & the Success of the Arms of the United States in South Carolina.

Sunday Eve. [Providence],

July 4th, 1779.

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

PROVIDENCE, TUESDAY MORN<sup>g</sup>

6 July, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER :

I congratulate you on the arrival of a large and valuable prize ship, laden with provision and goods at New London,—taken 'tis said by the Revenge, and the two little privateers The Washington and Gates,—this I think will more than clear the first cost of our shares and I wish they may be further successfull. I set off from this in half an hour and intend reaching Wethers-



General Gates presents his compliments  
to Col. Wild - requests the favour of his  
company at dinner, tomorrow, at the  
Hotel Spring, to celebrate the Anniversary  
of the Declaration of Independence, & the  
Success of the Arms of the United States  
in South Carolina -

11. 11. 54

Sunday Eve. -

July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776 -



field on Thursday Evening or Friday morning, from whence you may again hear from me. The Philadelphia paper of the 23<sup>d</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, confirms the acc<sup>t</sup>. of the defeat of the British before Charlestown. A Gentleman is arrived there who was in the action, & says when he left, they were nearly surrounded about ten miles from the Town.—'tis unaccountable we have no regular express from that quarter,—General Washington has ordered Glover's Brigade from this to join him on Hudson's river with all possible dispatch, seems confident the Enemy mean to attack him \* \* \*

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

WETHERSFIELD, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR WADSWORTH :

I arrived from Boston last evening when I found your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> which would have been answered by the earliest conveyance had I been at home, our correspondence shall never drop by my neglect I assure you. I value it to much for that,—I am now at our friend Colts where I found a man going direct for Fish-kill, and tho' your letter is not by me I cannot let pass so favorable a conveyance without informing you I am in a State of existance, & if I could get my parole from New-York I might add happy—of this I think there is a favorable prospect, as I have now by me the British Consul's certificate at Corunna for four Lt. Colonels one Major one Capt & one Cornet taken by the Vengeance Privateer, the owners of which have politely said that if one would not do for me I was welcome to the whole. I intend seting of for Head Quarters in

about ten days to get General Washington to make demand of Sir Henry Clinton, they cannot refuse exchanging me with any propriety. I am sorry you did not see Miss B. she is a fine Girl,—but believe me when I say I have no claim but that of Friendship—what the world says of me respecting her, they say of many others—Common fame in General is, you know, a dam'd liar,—I mention this particularly on the Lady's acct.—as those reports are by no means advantageous unless true,—that she is *one* of my favorites I am proud to own.

Old Connecticut my friend begins now to feel the oppressive hand of our brutal Enemy; there temporary possession of New Haven, and the wanton destruction of that once beautiful Village, Fairfield, you undoubtedly will hear of before this reaches you, it has in some degree roused our Countrymen from there lethergy, they are preparing to march on the shortest notice wherever called,—*only think of* it they are going to work on Sunday (instead of praying) to get in the Harvest that they may be ready to move,—this for the *Holy Land* is something new,—Capt. Heillhouse with a few Inhabitants and some Collegians did himself immortal Honor at New Haven—would all the Militia follow there example we should soon have an end to this War,—a prize arrived last week at Salem from Glasgow for N. York, with 3600 Barrels flour, the privateers in General have great success lets here from you soon. I shall write again the first opportunity, in the Interim I am

much your friend & Hum Servt

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

O—the Congress—I wish my cursing them would make them better—I expected ere this they would have fullfill' there promise to me but— — — — \*

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, Sunday

11 July, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER :

Our sister and myself arrived here Thursday last after a warm disagreeable ride, and found our friends in a state of Health, but the whole Country in an uproar; the Enemy about 2000 under the infamous Governor Tryon, have been at New-Haven—they took possession of the Town on Monday last, there being only about 100 of the Militia to oppose them; the young Men of the Town and the Collegians, behaved gallantly, fought them as long as it could be of service. In the action we lost about 20 of that number, on Tuesday they embarked after plundering the Town and burning a few stores, went over to East Haven and burnt all the Buildings next the Shore; from this they took shiping and went for Fairfield, where they landed & took possession without opposition, the Militia being dismissed after the Enemy embarked at New Haven, under an Idea that they had returned to N. York—and the Harvest suffering. At 12 o'Clock Thursday night they sent a Flag to the Inhabitants who had collected on the Heights out of Town, acquainting them if they would come in give up their arms and swear allegiance to George the Third the Town should be preserved,

\* From the Wadsworth MSS. in the possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, of Hartford.

they returned for answer, that the Town was but a secondary object, and that they should never submit to the Government of Britains Tyrant. the Enemy went immediately to plundering, and at seven oClock set fire to the Town which now remains a heap of rubbish— This Village was large & as beautifull as any in this State, the buildings large and elegant, to add to the misfortune, the Inhabitants had not time to remove any of their property, so that many reputable worthy familys are reduced from a State of affluence to Poverty. Thus are these wretches the Servants and Slaves of George the Third, burning defenceless Towns and wageing War against innocent Women & Children.—a Child of three years old was taken from the Arms of its mother and thrown into the flames, and the mother to stop her shrieks knock'd down with a Musket. a Man who was taken prisoner being an old Countryman, was roll'd in a sheet bound fast—the sheet wet with rum and set fire to—in this situation just before he expired our people found him, several negro servants who were left to take care of their Masters property were burnt alive for attempting to extinguish the fire—indeed my friend this last excursion of theirs has been mark'd with more savage cruelty than before known, for which may God reward them. I am happy to tell you it has had a very good effect on the people, the Tory and Timid Whig now join in determining to take Arms with their virtuous Countryman and sware revenge—I have never seen the people so universally ready to take the Field since the Lexington Battle.— This mornḡ an Express informs that 4000 of the Enemy have march'd from Kings bridge and had got

as far as Horseneck. The fleet under Tryon with 2000 still in the sound, so that it appears they are determined to burn all our Sea coasts—The Militia far and near are under Marching orders, and wait but the signal to move. Two Brigades of Continentals are on the March from Hudson's river. I wish they may have it in their power to meet the British, they give out they intend to penetrate into the Heart of this state.—I wish most fervently they would attempt it, but I rather fear they will not go far from their shipping—let me hear from you respecting Penobscott—I intend in a day or two to proceed to Head Quarters, my absence from this will not be long, on my return you shall hear from me. My Love is with *Martha* and Abby and your little ones—something of the same nature hovers about Ten-Hills. Kiss them all for your friend & very Affectionate Brother

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

Monday Morn<sup>g</sup> We are just informed the Enemy have burnt Norwalk, I fear its too true—enclosed you have an order drew by my Br. on M<sup>r</sup>. Babcock for £1000 Law. M<sup>y</sup>., which if paid Credit to my Acc<sup>t</sup>. against my share of the Washington & Gates—should it not be paid, let me know and I will forward the money the first safe conveyance. New London Harbour remains blocked up. The Carolina news has lost all Credit—was there ever such a hum run thro: the Continent?

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HARRISON.

NEW WINDSOR, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1779.

DEAR WEBB:

Agreable to your request when We parted, I inform you, that Congress on the 3<sup>d</sup> ulto Resolved, "That the Commander in Chief be authorised to make such and so many parole exchanges as he shall from time to time judge beneficial or expedient"—

This Resolution you will perceive does not point out any *particular persons* to be exchanged—and of course the General is obliged to take up the business upon a general plan. He has directed the commissary to go as extensively into the relief of our Officers as he can—and if the Enemy are not highly unreasonable and will go as largely into the business as Mr. Beatty is authorized to do—the greater part or at least a great proportion of our Friends will be released. M<sup>r</sup> Beatty is gone to meet M<sup>r</sup> Loring upon the occasion, which has been put off thro necessity, as there were several points to be inquired into and fixed respecting prisoners, charged by the Enemy as Officers and Violaters of parole, before an interview could take place, which could not be adjusted till a few days ago.

I shall be very happy, my friend, if you should be restored to your acquaintances even upon this footing. A final exchange would be still better; but we must take things as we find them. I did not think it worth while to write you, before matters were in train.—If your release is effected—you shall know it by the first opportunity. I must be done.

I am D<sup>r</sup> Webb

Y<sup>r</sup> Aff<sup>t</sup> H<sup>b</sup>l<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

ROB. H. HARRISON.\*

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FROM NANCY JOHNSON.

STRATFORD, 15 July, 1779.

The assurance of the continuance of your friendship, Col : Webb, gave me satisfaction, as my esteem for you remained unaltered.

I have ever, from the first, lamented your disagreeable situation in being a Prisoner, and wished you to obtain an exchange as you desired.

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.



I now congratulate you in being once more with your Friends, & hope you will no more be obliged to leave them to live among those who must be disagreeable to you. Since no one can have all their wishes gratified in this world, we must endeavor to be content with what we can obtain. We have need of much Philosophy to bear with tolerable patience the disagreeables of this Life. Religion alone can support us in real Calamities—the only way to bear present Ills, as we ought, is by extending our views to a better world, and hoping fortune good.—

“That gen’rous hope, whence every Joy below  
“Its spirit draws, and every pain its balm.”

Is it not folly in an high degree to give it for any advantage here, where all is varying, uncertain & unsatisfying?

Our situation in these Towns along the seacoast, is very Distressful. I know your generous feeling heart will pity the unhappy sufferers—my heart bleeds for them. O! destructive War! O! barbarous fury of inhuman Britons! may Heaven defend us from their rage! terror & anxiety torment my mind.

Had it happened to be convenient to you to pass thro’ Stratford, your Friends here would have been glad to see you. Miss Walker and our Family, desire me to assure you of their friendly remembrance & good wishes; they all were glad to hear of your return from N. York.—I sincerely wish you Happiness, Col<sup>o</sup> Webb, and with real esteem am

Your friend

N. JOHNSON.

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TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HEAD QUARTERS, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1779.

DEAR SIR :

Our friend Harrisson is so very busy that he cannot at present attend to that matter of Chester’s—he promises to do it and have it with you—I wish you would put him in mind of it and get it Sworn to as its a matter of consequence. I go from this so soon as

my Horses arrive, and shall proceed to Horse neck, and have the strongest Idea that I shall soon be a *Freeman*—God bless you. Adieu Yours,

S. B. WEBB.

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TO JOSHUA LORING.

HORSNECK, July 27<sup>h</sup>, 1779.

SIR :

After a long jaunt and great pains I have obtained the British Consul's Certificate for the Officers taken in Eagle Packet and landed in Spain, of which the Inclosed is an exact Copy of the Original now with me—had not the Army been between this and Kingsbridge I should have proceeded near that Post and made you acquainted with my Business, as it is I have requested a Gentleman who lives at this place to go down under the Sanction of a Flag and request Col<sup>o</sup> Simes or Emerick, to forward you this & wait your answer—my desire is that you would be so obliging as to meet me somewhere Between this and New York, to settle the Exchange of the Officers above referr'd to having full power on our part to do as I think proper, and I doubt not we shall agree on the Terms without the least difficulty, if it should Be your Choice I should go to New York on the Business By Land or water, I shall not hesitate to comply, though it would be more agreeable that I could meet you as first propos'd; In your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> you say I cannot Expect Sir Henry Clinton will Agree to any exchange till such time as those persons who have violated their Paroles are first accounted

\* From the Wadsworth MSS. in the possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, Hartford.

for—the inclos'd copy of an order publish'd a few days since in our newspapers, will I hope convince you that Gen<sup>l</sup>. Thompson and myself made a proper representation of their conduct, and I am authorized to say, every Officer who has Violated his parole will be accounted for—as I am at this place solely on the business I have mentioned you will much oblige me, by naming the time and place of our meeting as early as possible, M<sup>r</sup>. Frink the bearer will wait, (if he can obtain permission) till this Can be sent to New York and your answer obtain'd, I am more anxious as I am Confident we shall immediately agree on the terms.

I am Sr Y<sup>r</sup>.

Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

S. B. WEBB.

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SILAS DEANE TO SIMON DEANE.

PHILADELPHIA, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER :

I sent you a Dicty, by Mons: De Francy, which doubt not you have received, but untill I have Lett<sup>rs</sup> from you acknowledging it will make no Use of it. We are here in the greatest possible Anarchy & Confusion. On Saturday Night the House of M<sup>r</sup>. Humphreys a respectable Citizen, & as True, & brave a Whig, as any in this State was forced by the Rabble, excited, & led on, by Two of the Committee. He was from Home, but returned, just after they had entered in search of him. They had knocked down, and Wounded his Sister a Young Lady in the House, and were retiring just as He made his Way thro. them into his House; He armed himself, and stood on his defence, whilst they insulted, and Abused him, and to intimidate Him, led up a File of Soldiers armed, but He bravely defied them all Unitedly, and without any Assistance from the Authority of the City or his Neighbors, dispersed them. This daring outrage, tho. not the greatest that has been committed here, has

alarmed the Citizens, & yesterday there was a Town Meeting, at which the Committee found themselves greatly embarrass'd and were severely censured; Mr R Morriss was acquitted of every Charge, and greatly applauded, this indeed looks favorable, but the Meeting stands adjourned until this Morning, & the proceedings of this Day, will shew what will probably be the Event, the Contest is between the Respectable Citizens, of Fortune & Character, opposed to the Constitution of this State, and People in lower Circumstances, & Reputation, headed by Leaders well qualified for their Business, & supposed to be secretly supported, by the Pres! & Council However Things may End, It may at this Instant be truly said, there are few unhappier Cities, on the Globe than Philad<sup>a</sup>, the reverse of its Name, is its present Character, which I hope will not be its situation for any Time,\*

It is a Melancholy Reflection to Think, that whilst Our Common Enemy, is Wasting Our Sea Coasts, & laying Our fairest, & most peaceable Towns, in Ashes, We are quarrelling among Ourselves, and can scarcely be constrained from plunging Our Swords in each others Bosoms. Fairfield, Norwalk, & the Country between them, are Plundered, & burnt to almost the last House by the Enemy, N Haven was Plundered, & the Stores on the Wharf burned, and many Houses in E Haven, the individual Acts of Barbarity You must suppose many, & Atrocious, they are so, almost beyond description, or Example The Enemy have evacuated the State; The Surprise of their Garrison at Stoney Point was a most gallant Affair And conducted in some degree, to make them retire from Connecticut. Lord Cornwallis is arrived at New York with some Recruits, & it is given out that Adm! Arbuthnot may be daily expected with a large Reinforcement I doubt it, though Our Friends in France, write positively, on the subject. He must have sailed in May, which induces Me to think his Destination changed, & that his being bound to America was given Out rather as a blind. I send you inclosed Two Lett<sup>rs</sup> from Mr Limozin which I opened, impatient for News from France, from whence I receive Nothing by Letter. pray write Me Your situation and What You have Suffered, also how the Land

\* A very good picture of the disturbed condition of Philadelphia in 1779 is given in Reed, *Life and Correspondence of President Reed*, ii., 137.

Office goes on. I send you part of Two Papers by which you will see how Payne [Thomas Paine] is handled, there are Two more still severer but I have them not by Me at this Time. The Verses merit preserving.

Our Brother B. D. is gone to Boston, he has been successful in Privateering lately, in the Mars particularly.

I am my D<sup>r</sup> Brother most Affectionately

Your's

S. DEANE.

28<sup>th</sup> I miss'd the Post of yesterday, & will now add briefly, the transactions of the Day. At Nine oClock Two or Three Hundred Men of the lower Orders of the People armed with large Staves or Bludgeons with Drum & Fife entered the State House Yard, and Stationed themselves Near The Hustings, soon after a large Number of Citizens of the first Character entered. A few Resolutions passed, when Gen<sup>l</sup> Cadwallader offering to Speak the Phalanx prepared for the purpose raised such a Noise that He could not be heard, the Chairman call'd to Order and put the Question if He should be heard, a very great Majority declared for the hearing of him. But the Moment He began, He was interrupted by the same party, with their Shouts, striking, & cracking of their Sticks against each other &c, on this He with His Friends amounting to near Three fourths present, to prevent the most fatal as well as disgraceful Consequences retired in a Body to the College where they formed a Meeting & went on with their Business, & appointing a Comm. to protest against the proceedings of the other party, they came to several Resolutions and Ad-journed The party left in the State House yard also went on, & passed a Number of Resolutions, such as might be expected from them, & then broke up. Thus The Two Parties are pitted against each other, each making Proselytes as fast as possible, against another Tryal of their Forces meantime the Minister has taken up the Insult offered to M<sup>r</sup> Holker, & thro. him, to his Most Christian Majesty by the late Committee in a perious Stile, & demanded satisfaction; This will I hope bring some of these Leaders to their Senses, but some of them I have no doubt have their Views, & their Interest so strongly & deeply fixed in promoting Anarchy & Confusion, That Nothing will call them off the desperate Course they are pursuing, some of them I doubt not are well paid for all This by the Enemy; and sure I am, the Enemy is now gaining more, by this

kind of Campaign, than by any other they can devise or plan. I am now seriously intent on leaving the City as soon as possible, without any further reference to Congress, for I see no probability of their waking from the Lethargy they are in, and Attending to Business of the utmost importance, in a regular and decisive Manner. The Report is that Lord Cornwallis and the Fleet are arrived, but Acc<sup>ts</sup> of the Troops uncertain, some say Five Thousand some More, if they are really arrived I expect a large detachment of them will be employed in Maneuvring, with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington, & in destroying Our Coasts Or that their Fleet and a principal part of their Army will strike on some part Eastward, perhaps Attempt Boston whether I shall go Northward or Southward first is uncertain, but I shall leave the Continent the Moment I can do it with probable Safety, of Arriving, in the first Neutral, or Friendly Port, pray let Me know what Bromfield & Roach are doing, their Conduct is very surprising and they do not write Us one Word. I am ever my Dear Brother\*

Most Affectionately

Yours &c

S. DEANE.

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, July 31<sup>t</sup>, 1779.

SIR:

I have but this Moment received yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>d</sup> and in reply Thereto beg leave to inform you that I met Col<sup>l</sup>. Beatty at Eliz<sup>h</sup> Town on the 20<sup>th</sup> Instant respecting an exchange of all your Officers that had broke Parole; † the proposals that he made was that all whose turns it had come to should be finally exchanged, & accounted for immediatly, for the remainder, a like number of British Officers of equal ranks to be sent in, & held on Parole until finally exchanged—in the latter you are included with a Brigd<sup>o</sup> for one of the Major Generals to be sent in, being according to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Conway Cartel an equivalent—but should our respective Commanders in Chief, chuse to make this Exchange a final One there will be no further difficulty—The Officers taken by the Vengeance Privateer

\* From the Cabinet of the Connecticut Historical Society.

† *Writings of Washington*, viii., 32.

are all included in this Exchange on Parole, and of Course Credit given you for them—but we cannot finally exchange them in preference to others who have been so much longer in Captivity, therefore our meeting could be to no effect, as it is determined to exchange Brig<sup>rs</sup> Gen! Thompson, Waterbury, Col! McGaw & yourself for Major Gen<sup>ls</sup> Phillips & Reidsell, there being no Tariff settled between Us, we cannot have a better Presedent than Gen! Conways, and as I know your anxiety to effect this Business let me advise to Gen! Phillips & Reidsell being sent in as soon as Possible, for it is a long time that We have expected them, and then do you propose the Exchange being made final; when I assure You that our meeting could be to no Purpose, having settled every thing with Col! Beatty and from which I cannot deviate, I hope you will excuse me, and believe that I am with due respect—

Your Most Obedient &  
Most Humble Servant,  
JOS LORING  
Com. Gen! Pris<sup>rs</sup>

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FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL GLOVER.

RIDGEFIELD 1 Augt. 1779.

DEAR COL<sup>O</sup>:

Your esteem'd favor of yesterday is now before me; thank you for the Intelligence which agrees with acco<sup>ts</sup> rec'd by several Deserters, Come into my post within a few days past—Should Philadelphia, be ye enemy's Object which I think may be easily effected by ye Jerseys, or by Chesepeak, (either of which would Divide & give us Trouble) the Latter, I think most Likely, to take place; but Cannot suppose it to be their intention, they having by experience found, that place did not answer their purposes—

Should they bend their force East, it would Harrass our army, and Distress ye Inhabitance, but Cannot see what advantages would accrew to them; they Cannot establish a post to act offenceively, Should they be so infatuated, it would so Divide them they must be oblig'd to Act altogether on ye Defencive—

Upon the whole, if ye N. River is given up, I think Charlestown, will be, their next Object, the force their being found insufficient to

Conquer or bring that part of ye Country to terms they wish—I wish you may succeed in your much wish'd for exchange, and that you may have the pleasure of being at ye head of your Regiment again.—Gen'l How arrived yesterday, if any allterration in ye Disposition of ye troops takes place, its probable, you may find me at Lower Salim, or Pound Ridge, where I shall be happy to see you at your Return.—

I am Dear Col. Your

Most Obd<sup>t</sup>: H<sup>ble</sup>: Serv<sup>t</sup>:

JN<sup>o</sup>: GLOVER.\*

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FROM COLONEL BEATTY.

HEAD QUARTERS, WEST POINT

Aug<sup>t</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

\* Yours of the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> is before me. I am not a little surprised at the Stile in which you write—you are certainly too well acquainted with the Line of Duty prescribed me to conceive I should either injure you in an Exchange or interfere in a matter which comes not within my Cognizance.

The certificate given Capt Newman is perfectly private, nor is he amenable even to the State for his Conduct in the disposal of those Prisoners. In this light so far from having it in my power to negotiate Exchanges for them, I have not even a negative in the case.

I will not say that Mr. Loring has designedly misinformed you but certain I am he has most egregiously misunderstood me, as I am confident no mention whatsoever was made of those Prisoners during the whole of our Conference and indeed till this time I was a perfect Stranger to either their Rank or numbers. In answer to that part of your letter in which you insist upon my attending immediately to the Exchanges of yourself, Capt. Bulkley and the other officers of your Regm<sup>t</sup>, I must beg leave to Observe that in point of Friendship, I know no person who I wou'd sooner Serve in this way than Col<sup>o</sup> Webb; but as Commiss<sup>y</sup> of Prisoners, he, with the rest must remain with the Enemy untill the time of their Capture entitles them to an Exchange without injury to their Brethren in Captivity.

I cannot omit taking notice here of the manner in which Mr.

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.



Loring has expressed himself to you in his letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult? He says "Colo! Beatty met him on the Business of Officers who made "Breach of Parole ; those whose turn of Exchange has already come "were to be immediately accounted for ; for the remainder a like "number of British officers were to be returned, to be held on "Parole until finally Exchanged," and then immediately adds "in "the Latter you are included with a Brigadier for one of the Major "Generals."

Either he has intended to Convey to you some false Ideas relative to our Negotiation or must include you in the list of Officers who have made breach of Parole. It's true we treated upon this Subject, but entirely distinct from that of Parole breakers, and even here I informed Mr. Loring I should observe the same Line of Conduct as in absolute Exchanges, viz. coinciding exactly with the time of their capture.

Mr. Loring cannot certainly be serious when he says "they were included in the Exchanges on Parole" as I do assure you they were not once mentioned : and his reason for not finally Exchanging them is truly ridiculous. had he Examined the Certificate given by the Consul at Corunna he must have observed that they were "re-leased and set at Liberty" without any Condition or restrictions whatsoever, other than that a like return of American Prisoners should be given up for them, how then from this can he infer that they are only to be held on Parole while the others are (if they please) in actual service. Were I to negociate this matter I should insist that they were accounted for immediately, the nature of the Certificate supposes it & Justice demands it.

I thank you for the hint given me of our Friend N. — C. — I have heard nothing from him since I see you, probably owing to my not writing him, if you have leisure & think I can render you any Service in this difficulty, you will always find me at this place or where ever Head Quarters may be. Compliments to Your Bro? and believe me to be your

Mo : Ob! & very

Hum! Serv!

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY.

TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, TUESDAY EVENING

10 August, 1779.

DEAR BARRELL :

I wrote you by yesterday's post but had not then time to be so particular as I wish'd; by Mr. Riley who sets off tomorrow I have the pleasure to inform you that on my arrival at Head Quarters, General Washington politely returned the certificate with full powers to negotiate the exchange as I tho't proper. from this I proceeded to our out posts and by a Flag wrote Mr. Loring (in which I enclosed a copy of the certificate) and requested him to meet me, acquainting him at the same time that I was fully authorized to exchange them. After waiting a week I received for answer that it was quite needless for him to meet me, as he had lately been with our Commissary of Prisoners, and agreed on Major General Phillips and Riedesel being sent in, Brigd<sup>r</sup>. Generals Thompson, Waterbury, Col-Magaw and myself should be at Liberty, and I have since found the two first named are sent for from Virginia, so that I have reason to suppose three or four weeks at farthest will release me—however for fear of accidents I have kept the certificate by me, nor do I intend giving it up 'till my Exchange is final.

I find that a prize or two of the Gates's has got in to the Eastward. Shall be glad to know how they turn out—I think they must have cleared us before this—We are all extremely anxious about the Penobscott Fleet, knowing that several King's ships have sail'd about Twenty days since from New York—Your Dam'd Prison ships ought to be better guarded, let them die

as ours do in New York from three to Eight a day,—if no other way follow the example of our Enemy shut them close under deck at sunset and starve them on two oz. of pork by day. Cruelty is oftentimes productive of the best consequences, and terminates in humanity. However, the best way is to exchange our poor fellows who are thus suffering, which will render cruelty unnecessary.

We are told that Mr. [Sam.] W[hit]e has at length *Het* the *Temple* [Hetty Temple], let him bow at the shrine, and if he does not worship with zeal, Fervency and a true manly feeling, I'll venture to say he has not half the Religion about him that attends your Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>. —Good Luck attend them.

We have no news in this quarter but that the Enemy have abandoned their design against Charlestown. General Greene in his letter to me of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst. says "We have certain accounts that the Enemy have returned from before Charlestown and are all gone back to Savanna & Beaufort in Georgia."

A fleet is prepareing to sail from N. York with Troops. We conjecture they must be bound to the Southward as they have taken on Board their heavy Baggage, Artillery, Waggon &c, and the officers lay in from three to five Months' stores—this may be depended on, as I saw a man who left N. York about six days since, haveing been sent there for intelligence.

Remember me to the circle of our friends. Hetty desires her Love to you, as does your Affect<sup>t</sup>. Brother

SAM<sup>t</sup>. B. WEBB.

P. S. We expect Jack to pay us a visit in ab<sup>t</sup>. ten days. I wish Martha was in a proper condition for you

to accompany her here; I think we should have a few social hours. Adieu.\*

FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 12 August, 1779.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I should have wrote you before since y<sup>r</sup> Departure, but [for] the uncertainty of your situation. I embrace this first moment after I am assured of your return to Wethersfield, to assure you that I am rejoiced you have a fair prospect of an exchange, and shall be heartily glad when it is effected. \* \* \* I shan't write him [Joseph Webb] by this post, as I wrote fully yesterday by M<sup>r</sup> Lockwood, tho' I observe what he says in his favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> p<sup>r</sup> post, heartily join him in sentiment, & my best wishes, that the Devil may take the man that prevents an honorable peace. Tell him we begin to do as he wishes with respect to prisoners, as we are absolutely determined no one shall go at large in this Town. I am sorry I can't give you better accounts from Penobscot.† We haven't yet heard of its surrender, tho' I have firm hopes still that will be the event, & if I don't wish it, I wish my right hand may forget its cunning. \* \* \*

The Prizes sent in by the Gates & Beaver are very clever—70 odd hhd's high proof Jamaica is better than 40 kicks in the Britch, nay I

\* "I was one night at our friend, Doct<sup>r</sup> Johnson's, on my return. Found the family as usual. Much inquiry about you. Sally says she intends paying you a visit some time in the Fall. They have been very unhappy with the insults of the common people, but the Doct<sup>r</sup> has at last taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, and people of all ranks seem pleased with it. I presume if he acts with decision he will soon be in great favor, and indeed is a most amiable member of society." *Colonel Webb to Mrs. Simpson, 9 August, 1778.*

† This expedition was one of the disastrous failures that, by diverting reinforcements from the main army, jeopardized the general cause. "The Bostonians have made an unfortunate expedition to a place called Penobscot, where a body of about 800 men from Halifax, under the command of Brig<sup>d</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> McLean, had made a lodgment, as is supposed, for the purpose of getting masts and spars for their shipping. This armament from the Massachusetts Bay, (consist'g altogether of militia,) went there to dispossess them, but were so dilatory in their operations, that Sir George Collier, with a superior naval force to theirs, appearing, occasioned the destruction (by themselves) of all their shipping, and the troops to get off as well as they could by land." *Washington to Lafayette, 12 September, 1779.*

prefer it to 50. I think you had best sing small on this Acc't untill your exchange is compleet, w<sup>h</sup> I hope will be very soon. By several Gent<sup>l</sup> from France, that have been in London, there is but little prospect of those proud fools giving up their Idea of their In-dependance; If it will please the Asses, let 'em stile themselves Kings of America, as they do of France, and I am content they should hold as much power in the one Country as in the other, for I trust one day to find their haughty spirits sufficiently humbled, and when that is the Case I shall be willing to employ their Mechanics, for the dogs are good workmen. But after their wanton brutality in America, with all their arrogance, I'm sure they'l never pretend to anything on the score of Humanity, but what a Savage will be ashamed of. \* \* \*

JO BARRELL

TO MAJOR-GENERAL GATES.

WETHERSFIELD IN CONNECTICUT

13<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1779.

DEAR SIR:

When I was last with you I promised to have sent you a piece in Manuscript wrote with freedom respecting Congress, and another a representation to Congress about M<sup>r</sup>. Lee signed by W. H. Drayton and Wm. Paca—the first of these since I saw you has been published in the News papers—the other I now enclose, it should have been done long before this, but that I have been on a Journey to the Westward from which I have just returned. I hope it will sufficiently alarm the freemen of our Country, and be a means of their choosing in future Men of more virtue and integrity than some of the present members, 'tis time they should be sifted. I am pleased with a prospect of haveing my freedom anounced me in a few days and hope I may not be again disappointed, when I shall have the pleasure

of seeing you. Our news from the West-Indies is pleaseing. I have seen the Capitulation of St. Vincents, and the Philadelphia paper gives an acc<sup>t</sup>. of the Grenades being taken by Count De Estaing—that Admiral Byron came up to rescue it from him, Gen<sup>l</sup>. Grant landed with 2500 Men and made three unsuccessful attacks on the French Troops—Count De Estaing sent five Frigates to block up the English Transports—then went out with his fleet and met Byron, a long & Bloody engagement ensued, the English fleet at the close of the day ran five Mile to Leeward—and 'twas reported had lost five capital ships.—This intelligence comes by a Capt. Robinson in 18 days from Martinico and is credited,—the prevailing opinion is De Estaing rides triumphant in the West Indias. I confess I am led to believe it, if so, the English must loose all their valuable possessions in those Seas. Another account from Philadelphia says the King of Prussia has sent his Ambassador to the Court of Great Britain to act as Mediator between that court, France & America, the truth of these matters you must soon be possessed of—if true I think we may soon set ourselves down in peace—which must be the wish of every good Man—with Compliments to the fair you honor with your Company—& Gentlemen of your family, I am, Sir, your most obed<sup>t</sup>. & very Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>. \*

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

\* From the Cabinet of the New York Historical Society.

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FROM ROBERT HANSON HARRISON.

Aug. 25, 1779.

DEAR WEBB:

I have received your two favours and also have seen your letter to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene—and am exceedingly sorry such difficulties have occurred to prevent your exchange. You will have heard from Mr. Beatty the Commissary—and I am persuaded there was Nothing Settled between him and Mr. Loring with respect to the British Officers, released at Corunna. Besides what he has told me, I have seen Mr. Loring's list of the officers who appear to have been the subjects of their Conference—and none of these Gentlemen are mentioned in it that I recollect. Mr. Loring Must have been Mistaken in his representation. I have mentioned the affair to His Excellency and the Substance of your letters. The result is—that it is impossible for him in general cases to take up any business respecting prisoners, but upon a general scale & system; However, as the prisoners taken by Capt<sup>o</sup>. Newman were not originally subject to the direction of the Continent, as he was not in their employ—and their owners have consented that you & Col<sup>o</sup>. Coates might be exchanged for them—the General does not think that our officers can object to the Measure and will second your views; but as the owners themselves have not particularly designated any other persons and seem to have left it to him from the letters you delivered to make exchanges for the residue—If he interferes at all in the business—the residue must be applied to release our Officers according to their ranks & the priority of their captivity. And let me add, My friend, that this ought to be the case. It is not a liberal or a just policy that Makes any distinction about prisoners of War engaged in the same contest—there should be no distinction of this or that state; but every man taken from the Enemy—no matter by whom—ought to be applied to the release of the first officer of his rank—prisoner with them. My advice to you is to come to this place and without delay. It is very probable there may be a meeting between the two commissioners, when your exchange by your personal attendance may be more easily effected.

P. S.—Bring with you all the original papers from the British Consul at Corunna.

I am D<sup>r</sup>. Webb Y<sup>rs</sup> in haste aff

ROB. H. HARRISON.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH,

MURDERER'S CREEK, NEAR NEW WINDSOR,

24 August, 1779.

DEAR WEBB:

I rec<sup>d</sup> your favour of the 15th instant yesterday, since which have been out in the Country—returned last night designing to go this morning to West Point to General Greene, but my boat being stolen prevents. Tomorrow I shall be with him. Beatty is gone out of Camp, be assured nothing in my Power shall be wanting to effect your release from the Rascals! before this reaches you, the news of Lee's surprising the Garrison at Pauls Hook will be told you. I have not the Particulars, but we have 150 prisoners with little loss on our side.\* I wrote Jo Webb some time since respecting a Chest from New York for Doct<sup>r</sup> Skinner (now with the light infantry) requesting it might be sent on here for the Doct<sup>r</sup>—he often asks me about it. I will thank you to inquire into the matter and write me an answer. Tell Col. Chester I will attack old father Harrison tomorrow. \* \* \* J. WADSWORTH.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE STATES.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 26 August, 1779.

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a list of sundry officers belonging to your State, who have been in captivity and are reported by the commissary of prisoners as violators of parole. A conduct of this kind, so ignominious to the individuals themselves, so dishonorable to their country and to the service in which they have been engaged, and so injurious to those gentlemen who were associated with them in misfortune, but preserved their honor, demands that every measure should be taken to deprive them of the benefit of their delinquency, and to compel their return. We have pledged ourselves to the enemy to do every thing in our power for this purpose; and in consequence I directed Mr. Beatty, the commissary of prisoners, to issue the summons, which you will probably have seen in the public papers. But as it is likely to have a very partial operation, I find it necessary, in aid of it, to request the in-

\* *Writings of Washington*, viii, 27.



terposition of the different States to enforce a compliance. The most of these persons never having been, and none of them now being, in the Continental service, military authority will hardly be sufficient to oblige them to leave their places of residence, and return to captivity against their inclination; neither will it be difficult for them to elude a military search, and keep themselves in concealment. I must therefore entreat, that your Excellency will be pleased to take such measures, as shall appear to you proper and effectual, to produce their immediate return. This will be rendering an essential service to our officers in general in captivity, and will tend much to remove the difficulties, which now lie in the way of exchanges, and to discourage the practice of violating paroles in future. I am, &c.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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JOSEPH WEBB TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

WETHERSFIELD, Sept. 1, 1779.

MY DEAR SIR:

The trunk you Wrote to me about was immediately on the Rec<sup>t</sup> of your Letter forwarded to our Friend Hubbard (the charges attending said Trunk is charged to Doc<sup>t</sup> *Skinner*)—I have been for these 15 or 16 Days at Canaan Salisbury, the Mannor of Livingstone and Round amongst our Cursed old affairs such as Morgages, Securities, Iron Works &c—I blush and am truly asshamed when I reflect that I have not Wrote you since you left us.

I should be more unhappy still if you thought it out of disregard Neglect to a Gentleman I look upon as one of my first *true* & Valuable Friends, (but after our mutual acquaintance I know you can't have the most distant *Idea* of the kind)—I can truly say I have hardly been at home since your leaving Hartford—I am to day at New London to-morrow at Salisbury, then Boston & am building a farm House at Colechester which has likewise taken up much of my Time, I need not add that I have plenty of Business almost everywhere else that takes up too much of my Time from my friends, but to you who knows me so well I think too many apologies Unnecessary—Therefore can only say that I am still the *J. W.* the same Friend & am happy of a line from you when you have leisure & see fit to trust me with Intelligence, or in short even only Chit Chatt Letter,—one thing

I must allow appearance of Neglect of answer<sup>s</sup> Your Letters when on Business is at this time against me. you Wrote for Courtney's Sublime & beautiful, it was from home Ever since I have Endeav-  
 or'd to find it but without success. I am now told its at Hosmer's, so soon as I get it home it shall be sent you—I now send you the Pupil at pleasure by the same author which will please you—this brings me to the wish that our Friend Watson's Types may come safe, His prospect is good at present. He of late tho<sup>t</sup> they were lost in ——\* but since find Dr. Franklin Ship<sup>d</sup> them in the Alliance & hourly Expects them—when we shall be happy to show our Friend-ship to Watson more than by outward appearances.

I wou'd have the above Two Books republished, I wish you to take Care that Mr<sup>s</sup> Lawrence has the Reading of the Pupil & may I ask your particular attention to Return me the Book's for the above purpose when you return which I am told by your good Lady is soon expected.

Mr<sup>r</sup> Fingall I can not meet with ; † it worthy of being Republished—indeed I have some others that wou'd be of much benefit both to the publisher & the public at large—how sincerely I wish to see a good printer Established at Hartford such as a one as we have often Chatted of—Even such a one as We think Watson—but this Dam'd Junto with their dam'd puritanical Jes[uitical] faces ruin everything—all seams dormant, but Curse the Rascals, they are not past find-  
 ing out yet too Wicked to be come at. P. S—y. is in the party, & I believe many others that one would blush to think wou'd be Con-  
 cerned—This will be handed you by Col<sup>o</sup> Chester & Webb to whom I referre you for all the new's of the Day in this Quarter—Please to Remember to our Friends Gen<sup>l</sup> Green & Colonel Biddle whose po-  
 liteness & attention to me when I was at the Army I remember with most grateful Heart—Their Hospitality shall not be forgot.

I am their & your

Most aff. Friend

J. W.

We are Just told that Arburthnot is arrived at York—& what is bet-  
 ter that Mumford has another prize of Turtle & fruit arrived—you'll  
 please to come in season to take some of the dirty green peices. ‡

\* A word that cannot be deciphered.

† Some words omitted in the *MS.*

‡ From the Wadsworth *MS.* in the possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, of Hartford.

## FROM BARON STEUBEN'S REPORT.

Remarks of the Inspector General on Col. Webb's regiment :

This Regiment is in seven companies and is too weak to form a batalion, the only fault I can find with it—being in the best order of any I have yet seen at the first review. The arms are really a model for the army. The Regiment marches perfectly and has a military air.

Colonel Webb deserves particular credit for the superior order in which he has kept this regiment.

Extract from the Report

ALEX HAMILTON

Aid De Camp.

H<sup>d</sup> Q<sup>rs</sup> Sept. 22 1779.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL BEATTY.

HEAD QUARTERS, WEST POINT,  
23 September, 1779.

SIR:

I have received your report dated the 22d of your transactions with Mr. Loring, on the subject of exchanges. Mr. Loring's answer to your first proposition revives the old question of a composition of privates for officers, which has been so repeatedly and so fruitlessly agitated, and which can now only tend to embarrass the relief of prisoners on both sides. It seems, that the more we do to remove the obstacles in the way of exchanges, the more solicitous the enemy are to contrive new ones, and revive the old ; as if they expected at length to fatigue us into compliance with their unreasonable demands. I know not with what face of justice or decency they can depart, whenever it suits a particular interest, from all those principles, which have been agreed upon between us, and have uniformly governed our exchanges. The only established rule of exchange hitherto has been "officer for officer of equal rank, and soldier for soldier." The settled disinclination of the enemy to fixing general and permanent rules, adequate to all the cases of captivity, have obliged us to content ourselves with partial and particular exchanges ; and from everything that has happened, their ideas are so remote from ours, that there is little reason to expect any future

negotiation would be attended with more success than the past, or that we should even be able to unite in a Tariff, which would have no other object than the relief of prisoners on terms of equal advantage. While this continues a secondary motive with the enemy, and the augmentation of their force by a large accession of privates the ruling one, nothing of that kind can be expected. If we, therefore, renounce particular exchanges on the former plan, the prisoners will have no other prospect before them, than that of hopeless captivity.

I would wish you in your answer to Mr. Loring, to represent these things to him in a decent but pointed manner, to make him sensible of the inconsistency of his conduct, and the ill-consequences it must produce ; informing him at the same time, that we will not hereafter make any exchanges whatsoever, unless they extend to officers and indiscriminately, on the footing which has heretofore obtained. The instructions I have already given you, on the subject of composition, are not to be exceeded ; and I would wish the question of privates for officers to be avoided, as I am certain from the unreasonableness of the enemy on this head, that it can answer no other purpose, than to perplex and impede the business. If in treating of a Tariff, Mr. Loring persists in pressing Conway's cartel as a model, he can be very justly told, that the circumstances of the parties in the present war differ much from those of France and England, at the time of treaty, and that these are the only proper standard by which to regulate our argument.

You will insist on your second proposition, informing the enemy, that this mode is not without reference to their wishes, but to discourage the practice of breaking paroles, and establish a distinction between the violators and the scrupulous observers : that their interest can in no way be affected by it, and consequently they can have no reasonable objection. As to the third answer, you will explicitly inform them, that I have nothing to do with those persons, not military prisoners, who have broken their paroles, either to exchange or return them ; that I do not consider them as proper subjects of military capture, in the first instance, nor hold myself bound to restore them to a state of captivity, in which they were first placed, contrary to the usages of nations.

Col. Webb's exchange by composition we cannot claim as a matter of right, but I wish every method in our power to be taken to induce

the enemy to consent to it. The pretext of not being willing to continue partial exchanges is forced and ridiculous ; the more, as there are such recent instances in the cases of Edmundstone and Featherstone. You must plead the constant practice heretofore ; the generous treatment shown to the prisoners taken in the Eagle ; the obligation in point of honor and justice, upon the enemy to return an equivalent ; and the proposals, they have made at different times for particular exchanges by composition. You will observe to them, that the gentlemen taken in the Eagle are not under a parole, but absolutely released and at liberty to act ; that by an authentic act of their consul at Corunna they have incurred a debt, which they cannot without a flagrant breach of faith refuse to pay ; that the exchange, so far as it depends on us, is already made, and that they have no choice but to make a return. You will demand an explanation of what they mean by "the former principles ;" whether it is, that they are ready to return an equal number, of equal ranks, on the *former principle of equality of rank*, or whether they refuse to make a return for these, unless the terms of their first proposition are complied with. After you have prepared your answer in the spirit of these instructions, you will let me have a view of it.

I am &c

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HARRISON.

WEST POINT, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1779.

DEAR SIR :

I inclose you a commission for Lt Col<sup>o</sup> Huntington and the rest of your officers. They are the only sort *circumstances* will admit of being sent at this time. You know the reasons—and they will answer all the purposes of any other kind. The case of your officers is far from being peculiar—there are many others without commissions. For a particular cause no commission is made out for your self—it will not operate any injury to you.

Mr. Beatty has received the General's instructions upon the subject of Mr. Loring's answer, in which your release is attended to & urged. I sincerely wish it may be effected ; but from the mulish obstinacy of the Enemy and the idea they have, or affect to hold,

that we shall receive far more benefits from your exchange than from that of any other officer—and that we don't mean to prosecute the business of exchanges farther—I cannot say the prospect is so flattering as to promise a certainty of success. They will be compelled however at any rate to explain the meaning of their answer on the subject of the prisoners taken in the Eagle packet—and to say explicitly whether their accounting for them is to be connected and involved with other exchanges or any conditions. Nothing can be equal to their prevarication & disingenuity.

I am D<sup>r</sup>: Sir Affcty  
ROB. H. HARRISON.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL GREENE.

WEST POINT, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR COL:

I received your favor of the 23d the same day you wrote it. I hope you are fully convinced of the temper and disposition of the two Gentlemen at Head Quarters. Did I not tell you which of the two was the more candid and sincere? Depend upon it, you will ever find him so. Since you was here, I have said nothing upon the subject, but you may rest assured, I shall do you all the service in my power. However, I told you before, and repeat it again, it is difficult to carry a point with a man when it is against his popular interest; but the General is a man of a million, and I doubt not, will, do you justice, in due season.

I believe the general Officers intend to send in a Memorial to Congress, upon the Grievances of the officers of the Army. What it will produce I cannot say. Perhaps a disagreeable quarrel.

I have not time to add, only that I am with great regard, your most obedient humble ser<sup>t</sup>:  
NATH: GREENE.

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SILAS DEANE TO SIMEON DEANE.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept<sup>r</sup>: 28<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I have not received any Letter from you, for several Weeks, and had it not been for the setting out of M<sup>r</sup> Gerard, and other Events, I should at this time have been to meet Our Brother at the East-

ward. I set off positively Tomorrow, shall return, as soon as possible, and then set out to see you, in Virginia, whence I propose embarking for France. A Lee's Commission is superceded, and Mr Jay appointed Plenipotentiary to Spain, by which the whole of the Family, are disposed of, though The Mischief, they have done, is in some instances irreparable yet their Dismission is a favorable Event, and gives almost universal Joy. I say almost, for the Junto tho broken are not destroyed. The removal of these men is some satisfaction to me, & in part repays me for what I have suffered, & the Indignities thrown upon me whilst persuing my Opposition against them; I pray to have the earliest Information, of the Arrival of the Fier Roderigue, in which Ship I hope to be able to embark for France, and have written to Mr D<sup>e</sup> Francie on The Subject pray put him in mind of it if you see him I have nothing particular to add but am as [            ]

My Dear Brother Yours

S DE[ANE].\*

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

OCTO 4<sup>th</sup> 1779.

DR. BR. :

Wright and Riley are not yet ready for a settlement, but will they say soon, the moment I can have the Acct<sup>s</sup> duplicates shall be forwarded to you. The Washington has sent in two Oystermen, palitable if not profitable, was left in chase of a Schooner lumber

\*From the Cabinet of the Connecticut Historical Society.

Of the unfortunate differences among the American commissioners in Europe, a very interesting chapter could be written. The fault was almost entirely with Arthur Lee, whose jealousy and suspicion were directed against any one who seemed to stand in his light. He was the instrument of Deane's downfall; and while he ruined his own usefulness, he succeeded in largely neutralizing the efforts of the commissioners in France, and in embroiling Congress in a quarrel that brought no little discredit upon that body. Deane had been before Congress, and made a partial statement: but was ordered to return to France under a promise of having his accounts passed upon there.

Deane returned to Philadelphia on the 16th of October, and after a short stay went to Virginia to embark.

loaded, remember your Hum<sup>le</sup> Serv. is yet a poor prisoner I hope the Scoundrels will soon pay for their ungenerous conduct to others as well as to me.\*—The arrival of Count De Estaing on the Georgia Coast is certain, Congress received letters from him dated 6<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>.—We expect to hear of him this way ere long. I shall have an opportunity of writing you more fully in a few days—my Love to the Circle and assure yourself of the Affect<sup>s</sup> of Y<sup>r</sup>. B<sup>r</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, Wednesday, Octo<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

The Bearer Colonel John Beatty sets of this morning for Rutland and Boston, he is *my friend*, and a cleaver fellow, your notice of him will oblige me, he stays only two days in Town—if you have leisure chat with him about my Exchange, he is Commissary General of Prisoners and has the management of the Corunna certificate for me, he can inform you how the matter stands—be kind enough to press this Idea,—*that the Owners of the Privateer insist on my Exchange at all events*,—I am sorry the name of Coates has ever been mentioned, as he has no Military Rank,—Report says the French fleet are off the Hook, that they are

\* “Your letter p<sup>r</sup> this post informs me you are once more return’d to Bro. Jos., & I’m sorry still a *poor prisoner*. I wish ardently those dogs may pay for their cruelty to you, and think if you are the man I take you to be, you will positively effect your exchange from the Certificates I gave you, & that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you still before Winter. I wish you would hurry Ryley & Wright for the settlement of the Washington & Gates prizes.” *Joseph Barrell to Colonel Webb, 7 October, 1779.*



expected is certain, Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington has ordered all the Boats on this river to be collected, and some new ones Built, for further particulars I refer you to Coll<sup>l</sup>. Beatty haveing only time to beg my Love to Sally Abby, your little family & friends,

Yours

Affectionately

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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JOSHUA LORING TO COLONEL BEATTY.

NEW YORK, Octo. 12, 1778.

SIR:

I was deceived into a Belief that some Agreement was at hand and that difficulties were surmounted, I am sorry to observe with yourself that you have only overcome every Aversion to Altercation & Asperity.

I demand the immediate return to Captivity of all Officers or Persons admitted by us to Parole.

Presuming yourselves may think it too flagrant a Violation of Right to withhold & protect those men who have broken their word of Honor I expect they be restored without any further delay. Upwards of Seventy remain unaccounted for by our Estimate and upwards of fifty even by your own.

The Officers taken in the Eagle packet we consent to exchange immediately Rank for Rank, as also those officers of the Convention mentioned in the enclosed list. You must take Credit for them out of the Violators of their parole.

We have to demand that a Person may reside at Philadelphia upon the footing on which M<sup>r</sup>. Pintard resides here, and to ask that under such Restrictions as you may judge necessary, he may be permitted to visit the Prisoners in other parts of the Country.

Further proposals of Exchanges on your part as well as ours must be put off until such Gentlemen as are on parole return and those who are with you contrary to parole are restored or accounted for.

I am with due respect &c.

JOS: LORING  
Com. Gen<sup>l</sup> Pris<sup>r</sup>

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

MURDERERS CREEK, NEAR NEW WINDSOR,  
15 October, 1779.

MY DEAR SIR:

I rec<sup>d</sup> your favour of the 7<sup>th</sup> instant. We ——\* D'Estaing, yet we are very impatient to hear of his success at Georgia. If he comes we must have some hard knocks, and your lads that burn for Laurels may have a chance to reap them. I am sorry you are not in a situation to be active. Your affairs are never out of my Mind, and I lose no opportunity to hint your situation—be assured I am never to busy to the affairs of my friend S. W.—Sebor is here, but is to return with M<sup>r</sup> Deane, & goes to France so that affair is over. I have explicitly told Congress that I shall serve them no longer than the end of this year.† What they will say I know not—I wish to part friends but fear a storm, however am prepared to meet it. I have wrote Jo<sup>s</sup> Webb an answer to his Letter on the subject of his Works. it has been in my Power to serve him and I hope still is, but I cannot approve his letter to me it ought to have been clear & Particular in his own name, & his terms fixed. I have told him so. He may think hard of it, but he must remember what I told him. I cannot involve myself, and Dance's past actions give me no hopes of his being punctual. If you should come to Camp when D'Estaing arrives, I shall see you & will then conclude on some Plan of employing the stock Sebor was to have used. My love to the Family, & all Friends—farewell. Many compliments attend you from the Circle of friends.

Your sincere friend

J. WADSWORTH.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL GREENE.

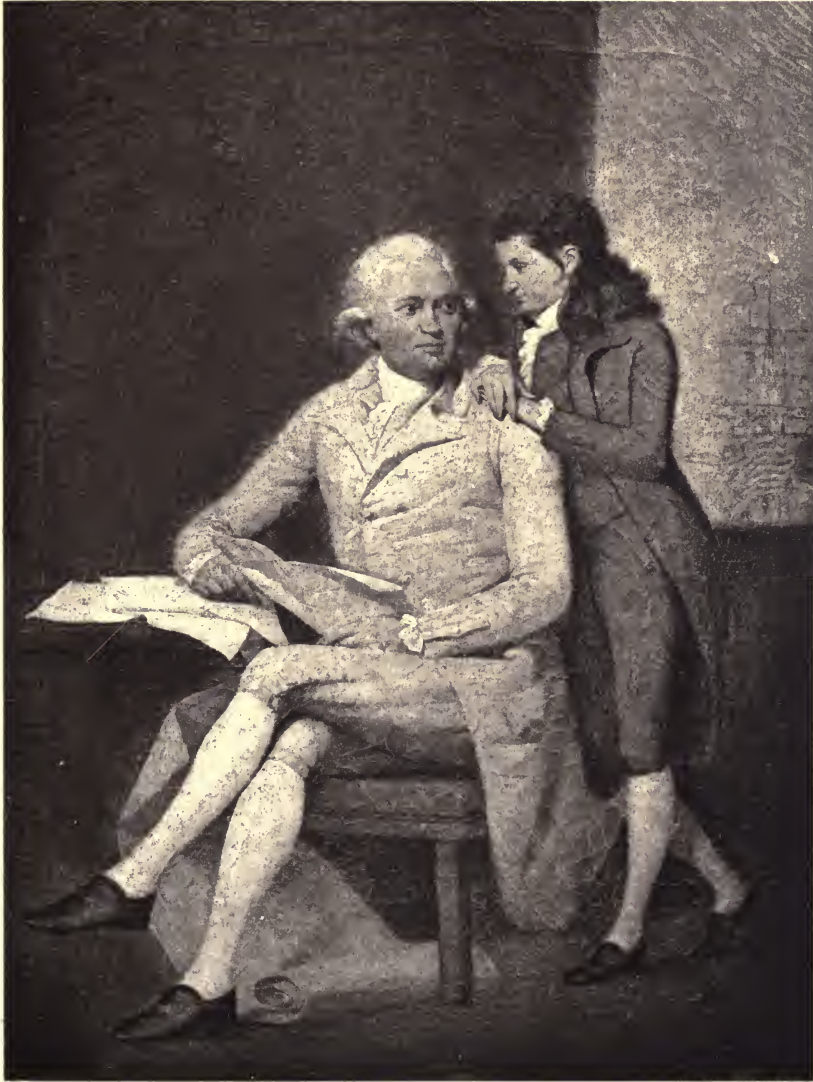
WEST POINT, Octo. 19, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

Your brother's obstinacy deprives me of an opportunity of writing a full answer to your letter. I have been endeavoring to prevail on him to stay to day, but cannot. The desire of being thought a man of great business, or his passionate fondness for his wife, has over-

\* Illegible.

† *Writings of Washington*, VIII., 124.



A. W. H. S. & Co. Boston.

*Jeremiah Wadsworth  
and his son.*

*From a painting by John Trumbull*



ruled all my arguments and persuasions. My loss will be his family's gain; and all that I can say about it is, he is a very obstinate clever fellow.

With respect to your own concerns, I can give you no new advice, but wish you to pursue the policy recommended, which was obstinately to preserve in claiming your right of exchange upon a principle of private equity. You must be moderate but steady in this demand. You know the difficulty and the great bar to the business. This will follow you like your shadow. However, I think you will succeed at last.

There has been a new difficulty arose respecting rank, between you and Col. Sherburne: but I imagine this will vanish upon examination. I hope you are, philosopher like, prepared for all events.

Count d'Estaing is laying siege to the Capital of Georgia. There is flying reports that he has succeeded in part. I wish he may fully accomplish his designs. He is shortly expected here with an intention to co-operate with us in an attempt upon New York. I am not sanguine in this expectation. It is a great object, but the Count will not I fear be detained long enough, to give success to the business. It will be an up-hill piece of work, and terminate in a Winter Campaign if attempted. *But this under the rose.* I have intelligence from Providence that the enemy are evacuating Newport. This will add new difficulties to the enterprize upon New York. However we are in good health and high spirits, fit for almost any undertaking. Small difficulties will vanish before us, if the Count shall agree to co-operate with us in an attempt upon the city.

I hope you have been fortunate in your private concerns. You must keep that business as secret as possible. Depend upon it, you are both                      and delicately situated in that business.

I am with good wishes for your health & prosperity, your friend & humble serv<sup>t</sup>

NATH: GREENE.

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FROM COLONEL BEATTY.

FISHKILL, 24 October, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

After much Fatigue, a severe wetting, a wild goose chase after my Boy, one oversett & twice being mired, I arrived here this evening.

I dont know that I ever was more thankfull, or felt more happy in returning to the army, than in the present Instance.—But do not Imagine from this, that I am forgetfull of my Friends in Weathersfield, or insensible of the many civilities received at their Hands; it has made an impression not easily erased, and I only wish an opportunity of rendering a suitable return.

In point of news I have only to Inform you, that on Wednesday night, the Enemy evacuated their Works, on Stoney & Verplanks points. It appears they went off in some Hurry, as they have left some stores & a large quantity of Pioneers Tools. They have attempted destroying their works, & which they in part compleated—they also set fire to their Barracks; which were extinguished by our Troops, who very shortly after took possession of the Posts—I am at a loss to know, on what principle to account for this manœuvre. It would suppose the Count was on the Coast—yet of this we are wholly Ignorant—it is not impossible—as their Intelligence must be much spedier than ours—& Rivington in a late paper acknowledges Sir James Wallace's being taken by a French 74—I give you this as mere Conjecture, having been here only a few minutes & meeting with this opportunity—as the Bearer waits, I cannot add more, than that I am with the greatest esteem, Dear Sir, your most obed<sup>t</sup> Hum<sup>o</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY.

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MAJOR-GENERAL PHILLIPS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

BETHLEM, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

SIR:

Upon reading your Excellency's letter of the 30th of September, delivered to me by Major Skinner, I did not hesitate at communicating my sentiments to that gentleman relating to an exchange of prisoners at large, and particularly as such exchange was connected with the Troops of Convention. My conversation on this matter with Major Skinner arose on the instant of reading your Excellency's letter, and it was my real and genuine opinion. I know not whether Major Skinner may have thought proper to inform you, Sir, of what I have said, and I therefore take the liberty of troubling your Excellency with this letter.

Uninformed as I am of the variety of matter, conversations, and meetings which have passed on the subject of exchanges, it would ill become me to attempt at positively judging what may be Sir Henry Clinton's real feelings on this subject; but being perfectly well acquainted with the uprightness of his way of thinking and the humanity and compassionate turn of mind he so fully possesses, I am free to decide, as my belief, that the *relief of captivity* has been on his part the constant primary and prevailing motive of all his transactions with your Excellency concerning either partial or general exchanges of prisoners made between the two armies: and as far as I am able to give an opinion, by what I have read in Publick Prints, I must conceive Sir Henry Clinton has wished only for exchanges upon mutual advantages and upon terms of equality, equity and honour.

I will be free to own, Sir, that I have no doubt of your Excellency's generous and liberal sentiments, and I really imagine you have, Sir, equally with Sir Henry Clinton a desire for a general Exchange of prisoners of war.

The reasons which have hitherto prevented this humane business from being brought to a fortunate conclusion have been owing, as I am given to understand, to the mode adopted by Sir Henry Clinton for an exchange of the Troops of Convention, and it leads me, Sir, to give you my opinion upon that particular subject.

Whatever officers of either army may have been made prisoners of war, upon their being exchanged, join their respective regiments and go into immediate actual service both in Sir Henry Clinton's army and that commanded by your Excellency, such exchanges are certainly made upon terms of mutual advantage, equity and honour, governed by considerations of humanity for the suffering officers and pursued with a view to the good of the service to which such officers belong.

Now, I must be allowed, Sir, to give it as my free opinion that the situation of the Troops of Convention differs in many respects from that of Prisoners of War, very materially so as it relates to exchanges officer for officer only without a consideration for the soldiers, inasmuch as the American officers so exchanged would immediately join their several corps or be otherwise directly employed in the American service as your Excellency and the American Congress might

think proper, whereas the officers of the Convention being thus exchanged would not become of any use to the King's service ; it would indeed be an agreeable matter to them as individuals, as they might go to Europe and live with their friends and relations, but could not by any means be employed in the King's service, as the regiments to which they are attached in their several ranks would still remain in a state of captivity. Therefore, Sir, it appears to me that this mode of exchange for the officers of the Troops of Convention would prove a most partial one in which the King would not gain the service of any one officer and your Excellency and the American Congress would on the contrary receive your officers thus exchanged into every positive act of service which might be required from them.

If I am right in this description surely, Sir, it will appear evident to the whole world that Sir Henry Clinton has never evaded or avoided a general exchange of prisoners, but has been impelled to resist the dictates of his humanity and to refuse agreeing to partial exchanges which must have appeared such from your Commissioners having constantly insisted upon this mode of exchange for the officers of the Troops of Convention.

Having written thus freely upon the subject, a subject in which I acknowledge to be very much interested, I will go still further and suppose that the campaign being nearly ended the subject of an exchange of the Troops of Convention might again be brought on and pursued, perhaps, with more success than formerly, under which description I will offer, as I did the last winter to your Excellency to meet any gentleman of your family, and enter with him upon a private conversation on this matter, which need never become a publick subject unless such private discourse may fortunately prove so agreeable to both parties as to make it the basis of a public discussion for a general exchange of prisoners.

At any rate I will freely acknowledge that I am solicitous for the exchange of some few officers whose remaining in their present situation is of the greatest detriment to their healths and their fortunes, and I will request to know your Excellency's sentiments thereon, as, if I have your consent, I propose to solicit Sir Henry Clinton in their behalf, and they may be exchanged against any particular American officers, prisoners of war that your Excellency may chuse.

I should not have taken up so much of your Excellency's time



had you not, Sir, by your letter and message by Major Skinner, given me reason to suppose you would excuse it.

I have the honor &c,

W. PHILLIPS.

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FROM COLONEL BEATTY.

HEAD QUARTERS, 27 October, 1777.

DEAR SIR :

I had the pleasure of scrawling you a Line from Fish Kill Sunday Evening on my arrival there, but fear you could not read it as it was scarce legible to myself. I wish I could dispense with the disagreeable task of writing this Letter or forbear affording you the pain its inclosures must give you ; sensible however of your Philosophy and of its becoming my Duty to inform you sooner or later, I have thought best thus early to inclose you a copy of Loring's Answer. I have this day laid it before the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chief and await his further Instructions thereon. I am as yet able to judge nothing of what may be done here and am equally at a loss to advise what you are to do, —perhaps no time is to be lost and an enclaircissement should be required of Congress for the detention of Philips and Riedesel with their families.

This I am confident has ruffled their tempers and is the occasion of the remanding of the American Pris<sup>rs</sup> thus far it concerns you and the other Gentleman's honour (who came out upon those Terms) equally to investigate and report to New York the ostensible reason of this delay, for I do assure you, the General with ourselves are alike ignorant of it ; but I conceive you are particularly involved in that part of Loring's answer, where they offer an Exchange of the Officers taken in the Eagle Packet upon Terms highly injurious to you—*Such* as I do not believe we shall consent to and *such* as I am sure you ought never to submit to while possessed of the original certificate. This Intimation in confidence & presume it will rest with you.—Pray let me hear from you whatever may be your determinations thereon & rest assured you always have a Friend in D<sup>r</sup> Sir, your aff<sup>t</sup> Hum<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL GREENE.

WEST POINT, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

Col. Beatty delivered me your letter last Evening.

Should there be any serious opposition to your claim in point of Rank, my little influence shall not be wanting to set you right.

Great political characters generally govern themselves more by maxims of policy than by what is called private justice; and upon this principle you are to interpret their actions and intentions. The rights and claims of individuals have but a feeble voice, and are faintly heard amidst the clamour and noise of contending parties. In vain will you plead the merit of past services, personal sufferings, or sacrifices, when those pleas and those claims are opposed by superior interest.

The doctrine of politicks is not unlike the laws of nature, where the weaker is ever obliged to give place to the stronger.

Happy he who has a powerful interest to support him, and trusts not to private virtue, to contend with pairing interests.

The secret springs of human actions, are difficult to investigate; and the wishes and intentions of a thorough paced politician not easily discovered. But I think we may pretty fairly conclude that when we find a delay in obtaining justice, and obstacle upon obstacle hove in our way, that there is some interest opposed to our wishes. I will not say that this is your situation, but leave you to think and judge for yourself.

Col. Beatty whose letter will accompany this, will be a messenger of ill news to you. Mr. Loring has made a demand of all the Prisoners on Parole, to return to captivity. This I suppose is in consequence of General Phillips & Riedesel being refused the liberty of going into New York. I think it will be your first business to bring this matter to an explanation, both with the General and the Congress. I would never agree to Loring's proposition, nor give up the Parole of the prisoners belonging to the Eagle packet upon that footing, and I would urge the General anew to demand my exchange immediately if I was in your place.

The summons must be peculiarly disagreeable after such bright prospects of an exchange as you once had. Human life is chequered with evils. It often happens when we are swimming on with the tide

of good fortune, we are shipwrecked in full view of the haven of our happiness ; and again when we are ready to sink into ruin, we are delivered when we least expected it ; and sometimes from a quarter whence we could have had no hopes. It is the business of a soldier and a philosopher to be prepared for whatever may happen.

Whatever services I can render you, shall not be wanting to accomplish your wishes.

The Enemy is in the State of New Jersey. They landed at Amboy and have been at Brunswick and Middle Brook. We have no particulars of their depredations. They are said to be about 5,000 strong.

General Sullivan, Lord Sterling and General Wayne are said to be on their march to check their ravages.

We have no news from the southward and are almost ready to despair of the Count's coming ; indeed we are apprehensive he has met with some misfortune. We are all impatience to hear from the State of Rhode Island, as we have great reason to think that place is evacuated.

Make my compliments agreeable to M<sup>r</sup>. Webb and his Lady, and Col. Chester and his Lady.

Trust but few
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Many are good companions who are very unfit to be trusted with the secrets of friendship.

Yours sincerely

N. GREENE.

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BARON RIEDESEL TO WILLIAM FITZHUGH.

BETHLEHEM, 1 NOV<sup>r</sup>., 1779.

SIR :

When I had the Pleasure of becoming acquainted with you and your Lady at Bath, to whom I, and Madame de Riedesel present our kindest Compliments, I had not the smallest Idea of entering into a Correspondence with you from this Place. But a few Days after your departure from the Springs, Colonel [Theodorick] Bland communicated to me a Letter from His Excellency General Washington, signifying that Maj<sup>r</sup>. General Phillips and myself, with our respective Familys, had permission to go to New York, in which Letter, He also prescribed our Route.

Under the firm confidence of General Washington's resolutions which I ever thought consistent with those of the American Congress, I undertook, notwithstanding what I had suffered, the very long Journey towards New York, and after much fatigue and detriment to my Constitution, being attacked with a continual slow Fever, I arrived together with Maj: Gen! Phillips in Thirteen Days at Elizabeth Town, and had anticipated much happiness from the hopes of a speedy Cure, by the change of Air and advice of good Physicians, which I was sure of finding at New York: You will easily imagine what was my astonishment at seeing two Hours after my arrival at Elizabeth Town a Resolve of Congress, that we should not be admitted into New York for the present, but wait further Orders, adding that we should be removed immediately to Chatham, and from thence, have been ordered to Bethlehem where we now are.

Although I never could have conceived such a Resolve after the positive declaration of His Excellency General Washington, which determined our undertaking the Journey, I should with every degree of Patience, submit to the will of the American Congress, if the very impaired State of my Health did not render my situation very critical. I am in the need of the advice of skillfull Physicians a strict Regimen and particular conveniences for my reestablishment, all which are almost impossible to be had in this Country, and the longer I remain here without this very requisite assistance, the more I find my Complaints gain ground, which if I am obliged to return to the Climate of Virginia before being entirely recovered I fear may endanger my Life.

It is not for me to Expatiate on the reasons which the American Congress may have to detain Maj: General Phillips and myself, but am convinced whenever that Body may be informed of the very Ill State of my Health; an exception will be made and permission granted for my going into New York, at least for the time it may require to re-establish my Health, especially when it is considered that my residence there can in no way prove prejudicial to the Interests of the Continent.

I have hesitated making a representation to the American Congress, as I am perhaps entirely unknown to that Body; but His Excellency General Washington having been the Cause of my undertaking this great Journey, it is to Him that I have addressed

myself, setting forth every Circumstance, and am persuaded from His proper manner of thinking that He will make the most favorable applications to the American Congress in my behalf.

The honor I have had in forming an acquaintance with you and the high Idea I have conceived of your character has induced me thus freely to describe my situation to you as a Friend, of the good effects of whose Friendship I am the more perfectly assured from your being a Member of the Body, and whose influence I am convinced will be employed on every occasion to second and support any representation of General Washingtons in my Favor; for which I shall ever acknowledge myself greatly obliged and esteem myself singularly happy to have it in my Power to testify my gratitude, and request you will be persuaded of the very respectfull sentiments with which I shall ever be, Sir, Your most obliged and

Very obedient humble Servt.

(signed) DE RIEDESEL.

P. S. Having mentioned to Gen. Phillips that I have the Pleasure of writing to you he has charged me with his warmest Compliments & respects to you & Mrs. Fitzhugh.\*

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TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.†

MEMORIAL IN BEHALF OF OFFICERS, PRISONERS OF WAR.

PHILADELPHIA, 13th Nov., 1779.

SIR:—

It is with pain and reluctance I now trouble your Excellency on a subject, interesting to the unfortunate servants of the Public in general, who are in captivity, and to the Supreme Council of the United States, as

\* From a copy among the Webb MSS.

On September 28th Congress had decided that "it is highly improper, under the present circumstances of our affairs, to permit any of the officers or persons aforesaid to go into New York; and the board of war are hereby directed to detain them until the further order of Congress." Five weeks later this resolution was rescinded, and the British officers released on parole. The first act was a blunder, placing Washington in a very delicate and annoying position.

† Samuel Huntington.

the Guardian of their officers, and to myself as an individual. To the Wisdom and Justice of Congress I must now appeal, & beg their attention to the following particulars:

In May last, two Brigadiers, five Colonels and a Major, Prisoners of War to the British Army, were permitted by Sir Henry Clinton, to retire to their friends in the County on Parole, on condition that Gen'l Phillips and Reidesel should be allowed to go into New York on the same terms. Brigadier-General Thompson and myself, by Letter bearing date May 20th, requested Congress that the above named Gentlemen might have permission to go into New York, and a Committee was appointed and made their Report. Congress thereupon passed a Resolution on the 3d of June, empowering His Excellency General Washington, to make such Parole Exchanges as he tho't proper; in consequence of which, orders were immediately given for Generals Phillips, Reidesel and Families to proceed to New York. They some time since arrived at Elizabeth Town on their way, and there received a Resolution of Congress ordering them back to Pennsylvania.

It is now six months since we left New York, and have been in constant expectation that those gentlemen would be permitted to return thither; but unhappily find that in consequences of their being detained, Sir Henry Clinton has issued a positive order that all American Officers now in the country on Parole, return immediately to their captivity in New York: Enclosed you have a copy of Col. Beatty's orders for that purpose. This not only effects the two

Brigadiers and five Colonels, who came out on that condition, but many others who have been indulged in the same way. In behalf of the whole and by advice of several general officers of the army & others, I have without loss of time, repaired to this City to request that The Hon'ble The Congress would be pleased to permit General Phillips and Reidesell to go into New York agreeable to the Resolution of Congress and the order of General Washington—not doubting, but that the Reasons which induced Congress to detain them for a time, are now at an end.

I trust it is needless to enumerate the many inconveniences and difficulties, which will attend the American officers in captivity, in case these gentlemen should not be permitted to go in. Should it be tho't necessary to mention the particular difficulties to which they will be subjected, I shall be happy to have an opportunity of laying them before your Excellency or a committee of Congress.

Should Congress have no objection to those gentlemen going into New York, I beg that an order may be given as early as may be consistent with the other important affairs before them. Your attention to this matter will greatly oblige the unfortunate officers in captivity, myself in particular, now anxiously awaiting a decision on this subject.

I have the honor to be with the utmost Respect,

Your Excellency's most obed't

& very Hum'l Serv'.

SAM'L B. WEBB.\*

\*From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 395.

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 FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CONNOLLY.

16 November, 1779.

SIR:

Altho Congress have resolved to exchange me for any Lieut : Coll : in the service of the United States ; yet I have some reason to believe that a Colonel has been required by the Board of War—Should this, their requisition prove fruitless (which very possibly may be the case,) my setting out with you in the interim for Elizabeth, would undoubtedly expedite the accomplishment of our mutual Wishes ; & could not prove prejudicial to the design in hand should it succeed ; as I would then be only so far advanced on my way—

I think (sir) from your peculiar circumstances, should you urge these reasons they could not avoid producing the desired effect.

I am sir Your most obed. Servt.

JN<sup>o</sup> CONNOLLY.\*

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 MAJOR-GENERAL PHILLIPS TO SIR HENRY CLINTON.

BETHLEHEM, Novr. 20th, 1779.

SIR:

Yesterday afternoon Colonel Webb of the American Service arrived at this place from Philadelphia ; he brought me a letter from the American Board of War, a Copy of which I enclose, by which you will perceive, Sir, that I am with Major General De Riedesel at liberty to renew my journey and to go into New York.

Colonel Webb being in New England and read in the Publick prints an Account of my being detained ; he immediately set out for General Washington's Head Quarters to receive the Generals instructions for his return to New York, Colonel Webb conceiving, upon a principle of honour that being suffered to visit his friends upon his parole, under a condition of Major General De Riedesel and myself being allowed an equal favour for ourselves and our respective families that he ought, upon our being detained, to return to New York and he writ to Brigadier-General Thompson upon the subject.

Upon Colonel Webb's arrival at Head Quarters a few days ago he was informed by the American Commissary General of Prisoners that a summons had been sent to him and others [of] the American

\* See *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, xiii, 61, 153, 281.



officers Prisoners of War requiring their immediate return to New York in consequence of Orders thereon from your Excellency—This by no means can lessen Colonel Webb's propriety of conduct and I have further to add that to the force of this Gentleman's representations at Philadelphia may be ascribed our being suffered so soon to renew our journey to New York.

Under this description permit me, sir, to suppose that the generosity of your mind may influence you to postpone your intentions concerning the return of those American Officers into New York, they are unquestionably entirely innocent relating to the detention of Major General De Riedesel and myself, and General Washington has declared to me by letter that he knew not the reasons which had actuated the American Congress in their conduct on this occasion—It remains yet unexplained.

It would be presumption in me to say more upon this subject, knowing perfectly well that, upon your Excellency's humanity and judgment, will depend the fate of the American Prisoners of War War absent upon their parole.

I send this letter by an Officer who, I hope, will have a liberty of going into New York, and by him I will request to receive your Excellency's Commands upon my arrival at Elizabeth Town.

I shall set out from this place immediately on the arrival of Colonel Hooper from Philadelphia, who is to attend me and Major General De Riedesel, I imagine it will be on Tuesday next, and Your Excellency will easily conceive that I shall not be long upon the Route.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's most obedient most humble servant

W. PHILLIPS.

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JOSHUA LORING TO COLONEL BEATTY.

NEW YORK, 24 November, 1779.

SIR:

Major-Generals Phillips & Riedesel having come within our Lines, Brigadier-Generals Thompson, Waterbury, & Col<sup>o</sup> Webb are hereby exempted from the summons lately given for all your officers at home on Parole to Return, and as soon as the two Generals arrive at New York, Col<sup>o</sup> Magaw shall have permission to go out. And I shall

be ready to account for the Suittes of those General Officers as before agreed on.

The Remainder of your Officers at home on Parole, we expect will come in agreeable to their Summons.

I am, Sir, with due respect &c

JOS<sup>A</sup> LORING  
Com<sup>Y</sup> Gen<sup>L</sup> Pris<sup>RS</sup>.

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TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

NEW HEMPSTED, 10 MILES FROM KING'S FERRY,  
Tuesday Eveng. 30th Nov. 1779.

DEAR WADSWORTH :

Enclosed my friend you have a letter to *one* of the best girls in the world,\* if you go to Philadelphia its all in your rout to Biddles, and from that to Trenton & let me add the nearest way, in that case call and see the Dear Charmer in a state of Exile, say for me all your lively imagination could suppose I should say for myself was I present, and *notice* I have said in my letter that you would not forget the Miss —— should you not see her, send the letter by a carefull hand only— Should you see Skinner or Beatty I beg you'll not forget what I told you this day, I do not wish them to consult Head Quarters about my Exchange in the Certificate, but in case my offer is accepted of—viz— two Lieut. Colonels & Majr Bankby late of the 35<sup>th</sup> they will act as private Characters, & my friend, or immediately dispatch an Express to me, informing Loring a certificate of their Exchange will be forwarded.

In December 1777 you sent me a Horse by Sergt Weston (rather a Bay Mare) for my Waggon. Lt Col Livingston borrowed him the Jan'y following to go to

\* Miss Bancker.

Boston—before his return I was obliged to go into New York, since I heard nothing of the mare 'till this day after parting with you my Boy informed me, that Churchill the Soldier of mine that is w<sup>t</sup>. Livingston told him—that Livingston had got the mare, and said it was a present from you—now as this mare must stand charged against me I tho't it my Duty to inform you where she was,—you know the mare—Remember me with Sentiments of Esteem to Genl Greene Lady & family & the circle of our acquaintance—Lets hear from you soon &

believe me sincerely y<sup>r</sup> friend &

obed Servt

SAML B WEBB.

Excuse the dirty blotted sheet I have been writing on—I have no other.\*

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL PHILLIPS.

NEW YORK, Dec<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>, 1779.

DEAR SIR:

I take the opportunity of a Flag going to Elizabeth-town to inform you that I am arrived here among my friends ; and as my time, as you will naturally conclude, has been hitherto engaged in receiving the civilities and attention of my friends, I have not had an opportunity of entering upon business of any kind. I do not, however, forget the conversation we had on the subject of exchanges ; and I beg leave to repeat to you that I shall be extremely happy to be instrumental in forwarding so desirable an object for both Armies.

You will please to remember that you promised on your return to the American headquarters, to mention to General Washington our Ideas on the subject ; and you assured me that I should hear further from you relative to this business. I shall be very glad, as I mentioned to you before, to meet, with the consent of Sir Henry Clinton,

\* From the Wadsworth MSS. in the possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, of Hartford.

any gentleman recommended by General Washington, to talk with upon these matters at any time, or in any manner most agreeable ; and when I have the satisfaction of knowing that this measure will be adopted, I will then ask General Sir Henry Clinton's Commands to enter upon the subject of exchanges with such gentlemen. This I shall do with much pleasure and cheerfulness, beginning it as a matter of private conversation first, which may hereafter be resolved into a public discussion, should our Ideas on the subject fortunately happen to coincide, and that I obtained Sir Henry Clinton's consent upon the occasion, whom I do not intend to trouble upon the affair until I hear from you.

It will give me great pleasure if, through your and my means, any measure should be adopted which may tend to the relief of Captivity on both sides.

I am, Sir, with much personal respect, your most obedient most humble servant

W. PHILLIPS.

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TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

WETHERSFIELD 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1779.

DEAR WADSWORTH :

I am again at the old Mansion with the usual feelings of a Prisoner, seeing my Regiment has if possible made me doubly anxious for an exchange. The Gentlemen of my Regiment assure me Sherburne is seriously determined to dispute Rank with me, certain I am, he must have his advisors of some weight otherwise he never would attempt so unjust a step. I beg leave to trouble you with the particular situation and request your aid to support me in my absence. I had the Rank of major in June 1775, Lt. Col. in June 76 and full Colonel in Jan<sup>y</sup> 77. Sherburne was a Major in 75 and continued as such till Jan<sup>y</sup> 77 when he was appointed to a Regiment, tho not 'till weeks after my appointment, and I had gone into the Country on the

Recruiting service in 77; he never hinted an Idea of being an elder officer,—I am told his only pretensions are that he went out a Major in 75 & I a Lieut,—true, I was Chester's Lieut. about a month, but my only inducement for taking that Commission was the Man's goodness who commanded the Company—but suppose I had had no Commission till my Lieut. Colonelcy my promotion from that day went ahead of him. Col. Meigs was a major in the same situation, I ask'd him if he had in Idea to claim Rank of me he disdained the tho't, & laugh'd at Sherburne's attempting it.—If it was once admitted there would be no end to disputes, for on the same principle I have a right to claim Rank of Brigadier Gen<sup>l</sup>. Gist, he was a Volunteer at Cambridge when I was a Major, several other similar cases I could name but think them needless.—I have troubled you thus far on this head, supposing you may often fall in Company where the subject may be mentioned—in February I intend going to the Army for a month or two when I will endeavor to have the matter fix'd—I have wrote General Green on the subject, after chatting with him, be so obligeing as to write me.

I wrote you on my way home and enclosed a Letter for Miss B. which I hope you have received.

Mr. Colt tells me he mentioned to you his purchase of Powder and prospects of the great profit arising thereon—your Hum servt. had dip'd in the same way, the powder was sold by Mr. Barrell for more than double the cost, but Judge our disappointment when by the last post we hear that the powder is all condemned and turned on our Hands, & that article since fallen one half—& geting lower, Doelittle deserves to be

hung, we are in hopes to make him do us Justice, but I have my doubts,—this my first Essay on Speculation, Dam the luck. The Experiment is to sail in a few days—I think she might do well. West India goods continue to rise amazingly—money depreciating, public Virtue totally damn'd—Morals of good men effected, —Public men & Public measures like the Money, in short every thing is—as nothing should be,—No steps taking for reinforcing our Army against another Campaign,—members of Congress and their Puppies throwing the whole country in a state of Stupidity—with an Idea our Salvation is to be work'd out in Europe this Winter,—I wish for better times.

Yesterday I saw Mr<sup>s</sup> Wadsworth and your little family well,—let me hear from you soon, make my Comp<sup>ts</sup> to Gen<sup>l</sup> Green & Lady, to Co<sup>l</sup> Williams &c—and accept those of the circle here—We celebrate St. Split G—t at our friend Chesters tomorrow, next Evening have a family Ball here, thus we kick away old Time, & heartily wish your Company,—don't forget to save your *convenient* Camp furniture for me, particularly the Silver Cups, and on all occasions believe me most Sincerely Your friend & Obliged

Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup>

Capt. Talbot in the Sloop Providence or Argo a few days since being off Huntington,—house'd his Guns and men, went into the Harbor—boarded and bro<sup>t</sup>. of the Armed Brigg—formerly the Middletown Capt Sage,—a 20 Gun Ship in sight, he came of clear & has arrived at New-London with his Prize.

I left at your Quarters at Murderer's Creek when I went for Philadelphia, p<sup>r</sup>. Boots, Shirt Casimer Waist-coat &c—which is somewhere with your Baggage—I'll thank you if you'll let your Boys take care of them for me.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Mr. Hubbard informs me the Express sets of early to morrow—I have only time to inform you the news of Talbots success is without the least foundation—tho: reported here as currently as our Success at Charlestown last Summer—we have frequent Instances of this kind in the Country—I think more than ever—

Should this meet you in Philadelphia make my best Compliments to Mrs. House—M<sup>r</sup>. Trist—& to the pretty Miss Ross.—\*

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, Dec'r 11<sup>th</sup> 1779.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

After an absence of near Six Weeks a long Journey, much trouble and expense to the tune of more than £700 Law. M<sup>y</sup>, I am again at the old mansion, almost worn out with rideing; for my pains I have obtained Liberty to continue out in Parole, no Exchange, altho I have offered Two Lieut Colonels and a Major out of the Certificate. it seems determined I am to remain in this very unhappy situation, which way to turn or what to do, I know not.

Looking over your letters to my Brother dureing my absence I find you frequently mention the settling

\* From the Wadsworth MSS. in the possession of J. F. Morris, of Hartford.

our accounts with the Agents of the Washington and Gates, when at home seldom a day pass'd but I press'd them to let me know the state of accounts, as often they promised, but none has yet appeared; the fact is these new-made Gentry know not how to dispatch business, and were they ever so much disposed neither of them could make out their accounts to be understood, however I've press'd them so hard they have at length hired a Man who is preparing their Books for a settlement, they shall have no peace 'till its done, after which if nothing material happens you will be troubled a few days with my Company in Boston. I am happy and congratulate you and Sally on the addition to your family, you ought to be thankfull, as the times are, that there was not two or three.

The Powder condemned,—my first assay in the speculateing way, ill luck seems to stick close to me, one satisfaction is I did not dip so deep as some others.

[SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.]

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL RAMSEY.

NEW YORK, December 14, 1779.

SIR:

From the present appearance of affairs, there is the greatest probability that some Officers will be permitted to go out to Philadelphia on the subject of an exchange in a few days—As you are equally interested in this subject, your interest with Congress and presence is wished for and could you be in Philadelphia about two weeks hence, it would perhaps answer a valuable purpose.

I am, Sir, your most obed<sup>t</sup>. hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

NAT: RAMSEY.\*

\* Endorsed "Examined, J. Loring, Com. Genl Prisrs."



## GENERAL PHILLIPS TO GENERAL CLINTON.

NEW YORK, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

SIR :

I had the honor to report to you, Sir, my having received a letter from the American Colonel [George] Mathews, expressing a desire of having a conversation with me respecting Exchanges, and giving as his opinion that so humane a purpose might be attained upon terms of equal advantage to both the British and American armies.

Having received your Excellency's permission to converse with Col. Mathews or any other American officer, I have to inform you, Sir, that I have had frequent meetings with several of those gentlemen prisoners of war, and the result has been our presuming to commit to writing some proposals towards a general exchange in which the prisoners of war on both sides and the Troops of Convention are included.

We have attempted to do this upon the most liberal principles, and have endeavored by all possible means to put away every exceptionable matter which might create delay or set aside the operation of a business in which humanity is so materially concerned.

We have taken the liberty to draw up some memorandums to serve as a basis for a negotiation, and we have been so impressed with the rectitude of our way of thinking on the occasion that we have ventured to sign our names to the paper, meaning to have it presented on my part to your Excellency, and on theirs to General Washington, meaning, also, that the completion of so fortunate and so happy a purpose may be concluded between your Excellency and General Washington by each of you granting powers to an officer or officers from the British and American armies to meet and settle finally the matter so that a general exchange may immediately follow.

Should you, Sir, receive favorably the paper I have the honor to present you, I am to request as a part of this transaction that your Excellency will permit four American officers, prisoners of war, Col. Mathews, Col. Maygaw, [Magaw] Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col. Ramsay & Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col. Ely to go to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington to make on their parts this proposal for a general exchange, they signing a parole to return to New York on the twenty eighth day from their setting out from hence, they supposing it may require that time to settle a business of such serious consequence, they meaning however to return as much sooner as possible.

I take leave to offer myself still further in the prosecution of this matter and not conceiving it at all derogatory to my situation or parole, will, with great pleasure, should your Excellency so approve, become one of the officers on the part of the British to meet in commission those American officers whom General Washington shall send on his part.

I cannot help permitting myself to express the great satisfaction I feel at having been thus far instrumental to what I am sure has ever been a principal object with your Excellency, and if I should under your Excellency's orders be able to complete this humane object, I shall esteem it among the most fortunate events of my life, it will compensate for the misfortune I have suffered, and render me perfectly happy. I have the honor &c

W. PHILLIPS.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL GREENE.

MORRISTOWN, Decem. 21<sup>st</sup> '79.

DEAR SIR:

Your polite and agreeable letter of the 8th came to hand last Evening. An Express goes to Hartford this morning, and your great anxiety to hear from Camp induces me to write you a line, altho' I am crowded on every side with business.

Col. Sherburne has been frequently at my quarters since his arrival, but I have had no fair opportunity of opening the subject to him. The principle I am told upon which he claims rank of you is, that you had no rank from being aide-de-camp; and he has but too much foundation for this opinion, from the sentiments of the Gentlemen at Head Quarters on this question. It is an opinion that I always opposed, as repugnant to reason and common sense, that a person might have rank, and yet not have it. You may rest assured that nothing on my part shall be wanting, to do you justice, and I shall esteem it a pleasure to have it in my power to serve you.

I have heard nothing further respecting your exchange, and know not how to mention the matter to the General respecting a meeting with General Phillips. Such a meeting may produce some good consequences, but I really don't believe the General would be very fond of the measure. In your next I beg you to be more particular respecting your own exchange, and in what you wish me to aid you.

We shall be happy to see you at Camp, where you will find the true military spirit, justice and generosity. The great body of the People you know are contracted, selfish and illiberal; and therefore not calculated to harmonize with a noble nature like yours. It is astonishing when one takes a view of human nature (even in this free Country) to see how much it is under the dominion of ignorance and prejudice, bound down to rules and modes of behavior that have neither pleasure nor profit to recommend them. But where am I running upon a speculative subject?—Not less than a dozen people are waiting while I gallop you this letter, for it cannot be called writing. I must stop short and wish you good by, and beg my kind compliments to Mrs. Webb and her jolly husband—Please also to remember me to Col. Chester and his family; in doing this you will not forget to couple Mrs. Greene with me, who is an admirer of the happy circle at Weathersfield.

The Commissary's and Forage Departments are in a damnable situation for want of money. Col. Wadsworth is at Philadelphia swearing like a disappointed *Few Turk*. General Arnold's trial comes on to-day, he has not arrived this morning but is hourly expected.

With esteem & regard, I am yours sincerely

NATH. GREENE.

I thank you kindly for the Patterns you have bo't for me for a pair of small Cloth and Waistcoat, and wish you to forward them.

*We talk of an assembly here.*

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

CAMP IN MORRISTOWN, 24 Dec., 1779.

DEAR WEBB:

Your favor of the 11th Instant came safely to hand. Permit me to thank you sincerely for it, as it took me to Weth'f'd while reading it. You will by the date perceive that we are in camp, tho' expect if good weather, to have the Men's Hutts so far completed that they may go into them on Sunday or Monday. The officers hutts are not begun, nor will they be meddled with till the men are covered. My own Hutt will not be meddled with till after the officers have finished theirs. The severity of the weather hath been



I observe that with a steady attention to our purpose, you have with temper and liberality set aside any subject of litigation which might obstruct the desirable relief from captivity which is in view.

The ground work of a cartel with which you present me I have perused, and deriving from its appearance of equity a hope of its being compleated, I give my freest consent to those Gentlemen whom you name departing on their parole to return in twenty-eight days.

You have prevented my wishes in offering yourself as commissioner, should a negotiation take place; and I accept your services. thinking with you that it will incur nothing derogatory to your situation on parole. I have the honor &c

H. CLINTON.

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL PHILLIPS.

WETHERSFIELD IN CONNECTICUT, 25<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>, 1779.

SIR :

The distance from Elizabeth-town to this place prevented your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> from reaching me till last Evening.

Our Army being on the March at the time I was on my return from Jersey prevented my paying that attention to the business we conversed on that I intended, however Sir you may depend such is my desire to render the situation of the unfortunate on both sides more agreeable that nothing on my part shall be wanting to bring about an Exchange,—for that purpose it was I related to some of my friends in the Army what passed between Us at Elizabeth-town, and was anxious that such a meeting as you was pleased to name should take place, not doubting it would be a means of removing the present obstacles to a General Exchange. I shall again write on the Subject and hope you may soon have proposals for a meeting. In a few weeks I

shall set of for Jersey—when I will do myself the Honor of writing you further on the Subject. Be pleased to mention me with Sentiments of Esteem to General Riedesel—The Gentlemen of your & his family,—with Compliments of the Season I have the Honor to be with all Personal Respect & Esteem, Sir, Your Most<sup>t</sup>. Obed<sup>t</sup>.

Most Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
SAM<sup>t</sup>. B. WEBB.

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MAJOR-GENERAL PHILLIPS TO COLONEL MAGAW &C.

NEW YORK, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

GENTLEMEN :

It is with the greatest satisfaction that I have delivered to you his Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup>. Sir Henry Clinton's permission for your going to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington, the humane purpose which carries you there will in every event do credit to your feelings as men and as officers.

I cannot help supposing that your negotiation will meet with success, and as the proposals for an exchange are founded upon so large a base, I apprehend the superstructure may very easily be completed ; and if I am to be connected with the future proceedings, you may depend I shall exert every endeavour for an attainment in which I am concerned with so many suffering persons.

I am convinced General Washington will view our transaction in the clear and fair light it merits, and I am persuaded the Congress will also see this matter as you, Gentlemen, will offer it to them.

To observe upon this proposed exchange politically, surely the great contest between Great Britain and America will scarcely feel the event, excepting in the instances of humanity and liberality, which this business, if it succeeds, will produce ; I need not observe militarily upon it as Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington's knowledge of the subject and his good sense will give it its true explanation.—The prisoners of war are out of the question in any argument, and the two divisions proposed to be exchanged of the Troops of Convention taken in the fullest Idea will give us very few privates, and of those many of them

will be to be discharged from the service ; and above two-thirds, if not all of the rest sent, at the opening of the Spring to Canada.

I am sure it is unnecessary to expatiate particularly upon the sad alternative, supposing this matter breaks off ; you will immediately perceive, reflecting upon it, that it must be attended with a recall into captivity of all the American prisoners of war, and most probably a General Assembly of them, from every part of America, on Long Island. This will in course be followed by my returning with Major Gen! De Riedesel to the troops of Convention, and you must be convinced with me that the present prisoners of war, or otherwise, of both parties, as well as those who may be made so in future ; will become wretched sufferers during the continuance of the present unhappy war.

I cannot help testifying even in this letter the respect in which I hold the conduct of his Majesty's Commander in Chief in America, who has again most generously offered himself, willing to join with Gen! Washington in a plan for a general exchange ; should it fail, I am persuaded you will agree with me that it will be scarcely possible to renew again any proposals of terms, and I am free to declare to you gentlemen, that, for myself, I had rather perish in the wilds of Virginia than to become a party to any indignity which might arise upon such an occasion ; and in giving these my sentiments, I know I shall be joined by every officer and soldier in the King's service, prisoners of war and Troops of Convention.

I cannot close this letter without acknowledging the fairness of your proceedings with me on this interesting occasion, and how much you have pursued, with a steady adherence to your own cause, the dictates of humanity and liberal minds.

I am &c

W. PHILLIPS.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

CAMP NEAR MORRIS TOWN  
29 December, 1779

DEAR WEBB :

A few days since I wrote you by my old friend Col<sup>o</sup> Scammell, since which have not been favour<sup>d</sup> with any of yours. At that time I wrote you about forwarding the Clothing, now in Store, must again

wish it done if Possible, Particularly the small Clothing, as we are in very great distress for the want of it. Our Men are very destitute of clothing, and entirely so of State Refreshments. I wish it was better attended to by the State, as the Money, if the men had it, would not Purchase those Refreshments here, which are highly necessary for their Comfort.

Col<sup>es</sup> McGaw, Ely, Ramsay, &c. came out of N. York on Parole three days since with Propositions from Sir Harry Clinton for an Exchange—they laid those Propositions before his Excellency yesterday, but as yet have not received his Answer, if they do not effect it, they will return again soon.—Cap<sup>t</sup> Williams is on Detachment at *Paramus*, where (he writes us) he is most agreeably situated. I expect his return in about a Week. Our Men's hutts are so nearly compleated as to receive nearly all the men under cover—to-morrow God willing they will leave their tents & the officers will begin on theirs.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Wyllys who delivers this, goes on to meet the Committee for settling the Depreciation, hope Justice will be done & the Army be satisfied.

My most friendly Compliments attend the Circle in their Winter's Pleasures.

The Gentlemen of the Regiment Present their Compliments to you, & wish your speedy exchange to join the Reg<sup>t</sup>

I am, dear Sir, yours most sincerely

EB. HUNTINGTON.

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PROPOSITION FOR AN EXCHANGE.

[Enclosed in Washington's letter to Congress, 4 Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1780.]

It is presumed proposals for an exchange may be opened to be finally agreed upon by the two commanders in chief of the British and American armies under reciprocal terms and mutual faith of equity, equal advantage and honour.

First—To exchange in the first instance officers prisoners of war, rank for rank, but should officers of similar rank not apply the exchanges to be made in dissimilar ranks according to a valuation as may be agreed to hereafter; Private soldiers prisoners of war to be exchanged against private soldiers prisoners of war in the same manner.



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Secondly—To exchange in the second instance the troops of convention, officers and privates by corps alternately as may be fixed upon by lot, or otherwise, between the commanders in chief of the respective armies according to a valuation of privates against officers as may hereafter be agreed to, that is to say American officers for British and German officers of equal ranks as far as they will apply, corps by corps, and then dissimilar ranks, according to a tariff to be settled for that purpose, the exchange of privates of such corps to be settled in the same manner.

Thirdly. That upon such exchanges being agreed to, should a balance in American officers prisoners of war remain on the part of the British, such officers to have liberty to reside with their friends upon parole until exchanged; but supposing the balance to be against the British and that the troops of Convention or others should not all be exchanged that, after leaving a certain number of officers, as may be directed by the British commander in chief with the remaining corps, the rest to have liberty to go and reside with their friends in Europe or otherwise until exchanged, and such officers so to be left may at the option of the British commander in chief be relieved from time to time by an equal number of officers of equal ranks. This indulgence of parole to be extended generally to such officers of both the British and American armies as may hereafter be made prisoners of war, and it is to be hoped that exchanges upon the plan now proposed may constantly take place and as immediately as circumstances will allow, but should any difficulties arise, or any future proposals of exchanges, and that the exchanges be rejected by either party, the officers so on parole to be liable to be called into captivity at the orders of the British or American commanders in chief, provided the Commander in chief so calling shall be prepared at the same time actually to deliver up such officers belonging to his army as had been permitted to go on their paroles, except such as may be in Europe, which necessarily requiring some time for their recall, an equal number of equal rank to be suffered to remain on parole until the arrival of such officers from Europe.

Fourthly. A tariff or valuation to be founded for officers against privates, by which the estimation of officers against officers of dissimilar ranks will be settled, and it is apprehended it may not be an improper method to do this by opposing a certain number of privates

against serjeants and the lowest rank of officers, viz: Ensign or Second Lieutenant and so on to the highest ranks.

Fifthly. That should it fortunately happen that an exchange takes place, such part of the troops of Convention as come within it to be marched immediately to Elizabeth Town by the most convenient route, or to such other place as the two commanders in chief may appoint, there to be met by an equality of American prisoners of war and the exchange to take place directly upon the mutual faith and honour of the two Commanders in Chief.

Sixthly. That all officers prisoners of war on both sides be exchanged according to the rank they held when taken, and the officers of the troops of Convention according to the rank they held at the treaty of Saratoga.

Seventhly. That the American officers prisoners of war taken by the British forces in Georgia and South Carolina be suffered to go out on their paroles, after being mustered and certified to by a British officer or Commissary, and the principal American officer prisoner there; that he be immediately exchanged for British and German officers who have been made prisoners of war in those parts. The American private soldiers prisoners of war to be exchanged as far as they apply against privates of the British army made prisoners of war in those parts in the same manner, the remaining American private soldiers prisoners of war to be exchanged against such private soldiers prisoners of war of the British army as may be in other parts of America, and the remaining officers to be exchanged against British officers prisoners of war, should there be any left in other parts of America to apply, and then finally against an equal number of the troops of Convention according to the terms mentioned in the foregoing articles: and as the suffering the American officers, made prisoners of war in those parts to go to their families upon parole, proceeds from liberal motives and an unwillingness to order them to this part of America, it is to be expected that no delay be made in the final exchange of them against the troops of Convention, to prevent which it is proposed that General Washington should send such powers to the American officers there as may render the mustering the officers absolute, and that on the certificates and receipts of American officers prisoners of war, who have thus been suffered to go on parole, being sent to the American commanding officer at

Albemarle barracks in Virginia, that officer shall be empowered to direct an exchange of a proportionate number of the troops of Convention who will immediately march according to the route and manner already described to New York : to effect this more certainly an officer of the troops of Convention might go from Virginia to Georgia and return with the proper certificates. Should there by any accident be any mistakes in such certificates, they are to be rectified as soon as discovered.

Eighthly. That on these exchanges being agreed to by the two commanders in chief and their taking place, General de Riedesel to be exchanged with the first division of the troops of Convention, Major Gen! Phillips at the head of the second division, then Lieutenant Gen! Burgoyne, and after him the third division. By this it is to be observed that the troops of Convention are to be formed into three divisions for exchanges, not meaning, however, to stop the progress of exchanges, but to allow of the divisions being exchanged in parts as far as numbers will apply.

Ninthly. Rather than defeat so humane a purpose as that now in contemplation, it is to be wished that the discussion concerning the exchange of officers of the militia not taken in arms, and the troops taken at the Cedars, may be put off for the present. That the officers of militia not taken in arms have the same benefit of parole with that of Lieut. Gen! Burgoyne.

The following tariff it is imagined may be adopted by the Commanders in chief of the British and American armies, it having been calculated with every attention to mutual advantage, equity and honour.

## PROPOSED TARIFF.

Lieutenant General	1044
Major General	372
Brigadier General	200
Colonel	100
Lieut-Colonel	72
Major	28
Captain	16
First Lieutenant	6
Second Lt. & Ensign	4
Sergeant	2

Corporal, drummer, fifer, private soldier, volunteer	1
Adjutants and Quartermasters to reg <sup>ts</sup> and corps to be exchanged as first Lieutenants supposing they bear no other commission—otherwise by the commissions they bear in their respective corps.	6
Surgeons to reg <sup>ts</sup> and corps.	6
Mates do do	4
Chaplains to be always given up on both sides without exchange.	
The staff of the armies, comprehending adjutants and Quartermaster-Generals with their deputies and assistants, aids de camp, and majors of brigade, to be exchanged according to the rank they hold in the army.	
Surgeons of the General Hospital to be exchanged as Captains	16
Deputy Commissaries General to be exchanged as Captains	16
Deputy Paymasters General to be exchanged as Captains	16
Their deputies and assistants as First Lieutenants	6
W. PHILLIPS, Major General.	
ROBT MAGAW Col.	
GEO. MATHEWS Col.	
JOHN ELY “	
NAT <sup>l</sup> RAMSAY Lt. Col.*	

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

MORRIS TOWN, 6th Jany, 1780.

DEAR WEBB:

I wrote you a few days since pr Capt Wyllys since which have not been favoured with any of yours. I impute it to want of time & Opportunity—Since I wrote you pr Cap<sup>t</sup> Wyllys, we have been much distress<sup>d</sup> four days without Meat in our Brigade & Six in some others, & by the Prospect before us, it is only a Prelude to greater

\*This proposition was submitted to Washington, who referred it to Congress, not thinking himself authorized to take any steps without their orders. He thought it was more reasonable than any heretofore offered by the enemy, and might be improved into an agreement that would give the desired relief. See his letter to Congress, 4 January, 1780, in *Writings of Washington*, viii, 152. On January 13 Congress renewed the full powers for exchanging prisoners with which he had been invested by its resolution of 5 March, 1779, and Washington intimated to Colonel Magaw his readiness to appoint commissioners.



(X)

Dear Son,

I intended myself the  
Pleasure of delivering the enclosed Letters, the  
Weather & fatigues of my journey must apolo-  
gize to Miss Webb, to whom you will  
please to make my best respects — to  
you no apology is due, unless the one  
which wd to give you last January when  
I was so often near in without calling, "full of  
Business"

As I do not hear that  
you will yet acknowledge you got the Share  
of Hymen, I am silent on that Subject, tho'  
I might with propriety congratulate you, on  
the Step you expect, were it yet more in Pros-  
pect — for if Love does not lie more awarntly than  
the war did, you have a certainty of twice as  
much Happiness as you can ever desire —

May the Lord in infinite Mercy (tho' his  
mind and reform you & if possible (which I  
much fear 'is not) you worthy the hand & heart  
of Miss B — is the sincere prayer

Yr. Son,

W. S. W.

of Miss B

Colo. B. Webb

Sufferings as the Provisions rec<sup>d</sup> Yesterday by the Comm<sup>y</sup> will afford not quite two days' Allowance to the Army, & no other Beef within Reach, unless we make a Seizure on the Property of the Inhabitants—which is very disagreeable to our Worthy Gen<sup>l</sup>—Our men bear it with that fortitude which becomes the Christian & freeman—tho I am fearful, their resolution will not be Competent to the task, should the Evil remain long—Yesterday we drew 114 Coats 117 Vests, 12 breeches, 52 Shirts, 52 Hatts, and 52 Stockings, which are to be delivered to Men inlisted during the War—the Supply is too small to do *them* Justice & you must think the others are not without their Wants. I wish the State would furnish some Overhalls, Shoes, Shirts, Stockings & Vests as we much want them—If the State expect to reinlist any of their troops, it is highly necessary that the Encouragement be fixt on soon, & that a proper Supply of Cloathing & Refreshments be forwarded; I believe it will be in my power to recruit the Reg<sup>t</sup> if the Depreciation is soon made good, familys at home supplied, & a bounty of 3 or 4 Hundred dollars given,—untill then it is in vain to attempt it—We have nothing new in this part of the World, except a *Report* that Pensacola is taken—but as yet it is not Confirm<sup>d</sup>—I wrote a tantalizing letter to Sally & Hetty inclos<sup>d</sup> in your last about our Assemblys—to add let me tell you that we expect to open them the first of Feb<sup>y</sup> or the 3d, which is the Anniversary of the Grand Alliance.

My Compliments &c to the Circle, & Permit me to subscribe myself—

Yours Sincerely

EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

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FROM AARON BURR.

[RARITAN,] 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1780.

DEAR SAM:

I intended myself the Pleasure of delivering the enclosed letters—the Weather and fatigues of my journey, must apologize to Miss Webb, to whom you will please to make my best respects. To you, no apology is due, unless the one which used to serve *you* last summer when you were so often near me without calling, “FULL of BUSINESS.”

As I do not hear that you will yet acknowledge yourself the slave

of Hymen, I am silent on that subject, tho' I might, with propriety, congratulate you on the bliss you expect, were it yet merely in prospect; for if fame does not lie more arrantly than she ever did, you have a certainty of twice as much happiness as you can ever deserve. May the Lord in infinite Mercy (to her) mend and reform you, & if possible (which I much fear) make you worthy the hand and heart of Miss B[ancker], is the sincere prayer of

A. BURR.

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

MORRIS TOWN, 22d Jany, 1780.

DEAR WEBB:

By my friend Wadsworth, I shall just say that two days since I moved into a Hutt, not my own, for that is not built, but into Capt Walker's Hutt, that I may be near to drive on my own—Was I to undertake to tell news I should Hobble myself—for we have none—forgive me—Genl Arnold's tryal will be Completed in two days, as he hath given in his defense and a very Spirited one—the Court are forming their Judgment and it is expected that he will be acquitted with Honour. Jos: Reed attended the tryal & made a very Elegant Speech to the Court\*—Col Beatty is to be the Subject of a C. Martial (the Judge Advocate informs me) for getting Cloth for a Womans Cloak from N. York, which the Genl has some time since forbid in his Orders. I do not know enough of the Matter to say more—My friend Wadsworth can say more to you about the Reduction of Regiments than I know, as he is but three days from the Fountain of Knowledge. I have sent a line to him to drive with me this day, I wish he may Come, but have not rec<sup>d</sup> an Answer. As the Month of Feby is at hand I must expect you soon, unless you will Permit me to expect a little from your Promise of Coming or less, than from your Promise of Writing—For I Assure you I expected Several Letters before this time, but have received only one, which I have answered by five or Six, indeed that one from you, is the only one I have rec<sup>d</sup> from Connecticut since I left it, & I expect it will be the Last—As to the Statten Island Frolick & the Starving the Army, ask Wadsworth—I can assure you I am very Sorry that I was one of the Party—The Weather for four Weeks past, has been Severer than

\*Arnold, *Life of Benedict Arnold*, 237.



ever was known here for so long a time—It is necessary that you send, or rather bring on all your Accounts of Clothing Issued in '77 or 8, as Mr. [Nathan] Beers expects to Close all Clothing Acct<sup>s</sup> with the Auditors soon, it is really a Matter of Consequence, as well as Settling the Recruiting Accounts. I am fearful you do not sufficiently dread the delay.

Make my Compliments &c to Miss Webb, Hetty, Abby &c, & to the Family at the Mansion.

A Letter about Nothing. God bless you. Adieu.

EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

I hardly dare mention it, but it is true

Command<sup>t</sup> of the Brigade.\*

By all means bring on a Pair of *Files* as we have a Gentleman in the Brigade who pushes elegantly & will teach me with Pleasure. Remember.

23d. When I had finish<sup>d</sup> my letter Yesterday, I was waiting to see Col<sup>o</sup> Wadsworth before I closed it, but instead of that Pleasure I rec<sup>d</sup> a line from him, that he was that Instant setting off for Hartford. I was *grievously* disappointed, but put up with it with all the fortitude a Chagrin<sup>d</sup> Man could do.

23d, 12 oClock at Night. I now expect to forward this by Major Woodbridge, who was so polite as to Call on me this Even<sup>g</sup> & inform he shall set out next Tuesday—should anything occur I shall make an addition to Morrow—I wish you to tell friend Jos. a line from him would be agreeable, as I am fearful his Unwillingness to offend me is the reason he hath not wrote before. Very Sleepy, Adieu.

3 oClock. 25<sup>th</sup>. This moment I receive orders to go on Command, I suppose to [Staten?] Island again, but know not—Two Twelves & Eight Sixs march<sup>d</sup> off with the detachment, I shall overtake them before I sleep you may depend on it.

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PLATT TO JOSEPH WEBB.

Sunday Afternoon, 30 January, 1780.

Mr. Platt's Compliments wait on Mr. Webb—he is informed by a line rec<sup>d</sup> from Gen<sup>l</sup> Parsons last evening, that the Committee at the

\*A blind reference to which I can give no explanation.

School House, request his attendance there on monday, 2 oClock, to give them some information respecting the prices of goods &c &c—He is sensible he can be of very little service [to] them, as it will not be in his power to afford them much information on that head ; but willing to gratify them, by complying with their request, & to show every mark of respect, in giving them what little information he can, has agreed to meet them—He is sorry the consequence will be, the treating his friends with a degree of impoliteness he would wish to have avoided ; as it will necessarily deprive him the pleasure of seeing them Tomorrow as he proposed—He hopes, on this occasion Mr Webb will excuse him, & apologize to his brothers & Mr Deane—He assures them, that had he not considered them, as those of his friends, who he was certain would readily give him that additional proof of friendship, by pardoning a freedom of this kind—The call of the Committee should not have been heard at present—Mr Platt hopes however to have the favor of Mr Webbs & the other Gentlemen's company at dinner Tuesday next.

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FROM CAPTAIN WALKER.

HARTFORD, 6th Feby , 1780.

DEAR SIR :

By way of apology for not writing you before which I should have done, had I not been inform<sup>d</sup> you was on a Tour of Pleasure at Boston, therefore thought you would not get my letter very soon—should have wrote by the last Post had I known of your being at Home. However, let what I have now wrote & my embracing the earliest opportunity serve to convince you it was not for want of attention.

I left the Reg<sup>t</sup> the 21st day of last Month and am happy to say in much better circumstances at that time ; than they had been for weeks before, our situation in regard to Provision, was such as I never wish to see again, short Commons ever ought to be avoided & when it cannot, the consequences are to be dreaded in an Army ; that you well know—however I can with pleasure inform you (and what I think will give you no small satisfaction) that the Lads bore it with the greatest patience & fortitude.

We considered the severity of the season, the difficulty of transportation, and were willing to make all allowance possible.

My Good Friend, it required allmost the wisdom of Solomon to conduct at these times & the Virtue of the Angel Gabriel to surmount the difficulties, which to appearance, come upon us as it were in a Moment.

After our long March you may well think our Men were rather destitute of cloathing—after our arrival we begun & completed our Hutts which destroyed our cloathing still more, & to my certain knowledge we had not more than Fifty Men in the Reg<sup>t</sup>: return<sup>d</sup> fit for duty, all for the want of Cloathing, many a good Lad with nothing to cover him from his hips to his Toes save his Blancket, some wanting one thing & some another, but the most general complaint was shoes. Once we did not experience these hardships though we had greater reason to expect them than at this time, when the Publick were convinced for three years past they had an Army depending upon them for subsistence.

As to Provision before I left them they had a full supply for the present & cloathing they receiv<sup>d</sup> some, though inadequate to their wants. In short my good Friend our sufferings were such as I did not expect at this day, & such as is past my Art with Pen, Ink & Paper to describe or even give you an Idea of our feelings upon the occasion.\*

Am inform you set out for Head Quarter's soon, hope you will take Stratford in on your way that I may have the pleasure of seeing you & spending a little more time in chat upon matters & things. I hear an exchange is like to take place which is my most earnest wish should be effected that I may once more have the happiness of seeing you at the Head of your Reg<sup>t</sup>: where you have been long expected & much wish<sup>d</sup> for.

The Family join with me in their best wishes for your health &

\* In October, 1779, Washington described clothing as a "superior temptation" to recruits, and the supplies were inadequate. Late in January he wrote "With respect to provision, the situation of the army is comfortable at present on this head, and I ardently pray, that it may never be again as it has been of late. We were reduced to a most painful and delicate extremity." *Writings of Washington*, VIII, 183. The patience of the army had been sorely tried, and at one time the soldiers ate every kind of horse feed but hay.

happyness & respects to your Brothers & Sisters—make my Compliments to the good People at Col. Chester's & excuse this scrawle coming from one who remains with esteem

Your Friend & Humbl<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. WALKER.

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FROM SAMUEL ALLEYNE OTIS.

BOSTON, 11th Feby '80.

DR. SIR:

I promised you should hear from me again soon, and indeed if you have half the pleasure in reading that I have in writing, you will not be offended.

Your misfortune in falling through the ice was greater than your loss of reputation as a steady young man, greater than you suffered in health by drinking good wine, and even exceeded in any inconvenience from that "Busy dog Cupid." Indeed falling into the water will as well cool one's courage this extended season as the lover's leap over a 90 foot precipice. I don't say the acre [ache?] would be as permanent. I however did [del<sup>d</sup>] your message faithfully. I drank tea with B—y, D—s. I do assure you that the remembrance was acceptable—a blush suffused itself over that lovely face, & the fire of Heaven is hardly more dazzling than her Eyes.

The other object of your particular attentions J—y, K—x received with a different smile the favourable mention of her by Colonel Webb. "Impossible he should think of me. It must be my sister"—with a hesitation as if she feared I shouldn't recollect my mistake. I wish these were all the impressions you have given or received.

Affairs at Ten Hills are in a sad train and your friend must Pink Morris,\* suffocate himself with the smell of tar or twist a strand or two of tar and hang himself. Lucky for me, however, if I can transfer my affections & sip the sweets from flowers promiscuously, or if you please can buzz like the diligent bee from Pink to Rose and anon to the violet, though could I meet with a real honeysuckle, I could draw the sweets for life. A sly fox this Morris and an old soldier, for whilst I thought he was manœuvring on the banks of the N.

\* L. R. Morris. The Temples lived at Ten Hills.

River or the Dee, he carried on his operations on Charles River. God bless her, I believe she is a good girl, but am not sufficiently acquainted to know her merits personally. I shall never love her less for being Morris, Mrs. Webb or any other mistress.

I must repeat my acknowledgements to you and the Captain for you kind invitations. If I come into the vicinity of your mansion or quarters, some very uncommon circumstances must occur to prevent my calling upon you the first in my list.

We had the most brilliant assembly last evening that has been known for many years; Such a blaze of beauty almost overpowered the senses. Poor little Innocents—not a soul of them put on their holiday countenance to harm any one, not a soul of them, and now they dress, but only look pretty because 'tis fashionable, but eno' of the little villains. They are as much plague as profit nine times in ten.

I suppose you are preparing for head quarters. May you find things agreeable, and with compliments to all friends,

Subscribe,

Your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. A. OTIS.\*

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

MORRIS TOWN, 16<sup>th</sup> Feby, 1780.

DEAR WEBB:

Your fav<sup>r</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> Instant with two Inclosed came safe to hand—am happy to hear that so many of mine went safe to you, tho' am certain that there are several which have not been acknowledged—the letters which were enclosed to me I put under Cover, & sent them by a trusty Serg. who return<sup>d</sup> yesterday with all of them under Cover of one from M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker to Miss Bancker & them under Cover

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 258.

Samuel Alleyne Otis was a brother of the famous orator, James Otis. In 1778, he was a deputy clothier-general under the Continental Congress, and also a member of the Massachusetts Board of War. He assisted in the convention of 1780, that framed the constitution for the State, and in 1784 was made speaker of the House of Representatives. He is best known as the first Secretary of the United States Senate—dying in Washington in 1814.

to me. I shall forward the same to Morrow to Mr. Lott for Miss Bancker, where she is at Present on a Visit, as appears by the Super-  
scription.

In Expectation of your being here soon, this will be my last, & from your *known Punctuality* am doubtful whether this will find you on the Road or at Wethersfield, but be that as it may, will figure a line or two, & thank you for your long friendly Letter just acknowledged, and note it by Paragraph as I have it before me. The Cloathing you mention I was Oblig<sup>d</sup> to draw to cover the Nakedness of our poor distressed Lads.—As to the recruiting of the Lads it is almost impossible, as the money is good for little or nothing in this part of the World, much less than when we came here, & from that, they judge it will soon, very soon be good for Nothing. If the Assembly & Committee work Spiritedly & Speedily am in hopes to detain some of those good Lads, whom I believe to be the best men in the World, but it is their speedy & Liberal Measures only, that can do us any good in Recruiting.—As to the Gen! Exchange I wrote you some time since, that it was on the Tapis, but at Present known no more—So it appears by your letter that your little Parties of two & three are to be Called Dances, am very sorry that Sally & Hetty should be so taken up with the thoughts of a Dance, as to believe themselves in one, because they have three dancers & a *fidler*—think of the Assembly list 130 Subscribers & 165 Ladies on the List—The first bill is 12,000 N. Jersey—thus much for the Assemblies.

*My Hutt*—Ah my Hutt—it is building & will be till nearly the first of next Month, then Sir I expect to open the Doors & welcome every Guest that Comes with Stores, doubly to pay what he Eats & drinks while with me— I expect to have about a Dozen fine Girls to drink tea with me the first Afternoon. I think friend Webb you are very fortunate, I believe you to be the only Man in Weth<sup>d</sup> who is not, & hath not been for a long time froze— Pen & Ink also— It must have been d-d Cold Weather in Connecticut to freeze every thing so Close even the Mills of the Houses, which used to go best in Cold Weather. I must suppose, that the reasons of the Mills freezing is want of use. A Man who goes to Mill as often as the wants of the family require, will always find the Stores in Order, & the Sluice sufficiently open for Grinding— It makes me feel unhappy for those who get no *Grist* this Wether—but knowing your friendly disposi-

tion, I think you will endeavour to remove their Complaints, if they make any— When you come to Camp, do you bring a letter from each & Every of my Weth<sup>d</sup> friends, *Girls & Women* not Excepted.

I wish to give my love to the *Dancing Circle* & others with you & believe me to be—

Yours Sincerely,

EBEN HUNTINGTON.

P. S. Money nor Promises will reinlist the Band.

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FROM HIS OFFICERS ON LONG ISLAND.

FLAT BUSH, 24 February, 1780.

DEAR COLONEL:

We have yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst. before us, are happy to hear *once* more from our friends. The Officers Prisoners from the State of Connecticut, have applied for permission for two Gent<sup>l</sup> to go out on Parole in order to procure supplies. But no indulgence of that nature will be granted, therefore we have to beg you will endeavour to send us such necessary articles, as we may want, & shall procure permission for [them] from the Commanding Officers in New York to be sent us, which we shall send you when ever obtain'd. We expect this will find you in the Jerseys, where the Commissioners are to meet in order to settle the Exchange. *God grant* that they may succeed. The permission we'll endeavour to send by Gen. Silliman, who we are told is to be exchange'd. Riley & Hopkins has plenty of "the Old Virtue" left yet. Your requests are complied with respecting the Horses.

We are, Dear Col<sup>o</sup>, with the highest sentiments of regard your  
unfortunate Officers

EDW<sup>d</sup> BULKLEY

ELISHA HOPKINS

JOHN RILEY

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FROM JONATHAN WILLIAMS.

BOSTON, Feby 24, 1780.

DR WEBB:

Inclosed is a Letter for Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, the Case of Wine, which I hope was taken particular Care off, went according to your directions. I leave it to you to acquaint Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington the mode of

my sending it, I am sure you will make the best off it & lay me under many Obligations which I already anticipate.

This Letter has been wrote for some time but I knew not till to-day that it was sent on.

Appropos Sampson in the Packet is arrived at the vineyard he brings this Story, that Ireland under pretence of opposing an Invasion from France & Spain, requested a Supply of arms & which they got to the amount of 40,000 & then remonstrated, prayed for a Redress of Grievances, & asserted their Rights to a free Commerce, with a hint that if this was not allowed them, they would redress themselves.\*

That Sir Joseph Yorke had left the Hague in a *Hurry*, and that the Parliament were assembled in a *Hubbub*.

I wrote this in a hurry, however I will write with more leisure another time if you will adopt me a Correspondent. I want to commence an Intercourse with one that can from his Situation be able to inform me, & all the News that is interesting to you here you shall be supplied with in a homespun Dress If you approve the Choice I have made for a Correspondent.

I am your most Obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

JON. WILLIAMS.†

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FROM CAPTAIN WALKER.

STRATFORD, Feby 27th, 1780.

DEAR SIR:

Knowing your anxiety for the welfare of your Reg<sup>t</sup>, & your great desire for having it Recruited; induces me at this time to offer you my sentiments upon the Subject: as I am inform<sup>d</sup> you expect to go on to Head Quarters this week, & my business being such as will unhappily prevent me the pleasure of seeing you in this Place.

The prospects of recruiting in the Country as well as with the Army you must be sensible are very dull at present, though I am confident there are a great many Recruits may be got among those

\* Lecky, *England in the Eighteenth Century*, iv, 491.

† Jonathan Williams married Grace Harris, a niece of Benjamin Franklin. His son, also named Jonathan Williams, was a commercial agent in France of the Continental Congress.



whose time of service has expired this Winter, and others, especially these State Regiments that are now raising to send down to the Line, if proper encouragements are offer<sup>d</sup> & pains taken.

I heard Gen<sup>l</sup>.Parsons propose a plan & such as I believe he means to adopt in his Brigade, on his return to the Army—That was, to send into this State a Number of likely Serjeants & some Musick under the care of some officers & let them go from Town to Town also among the State Troops & beat up for Recruits. You must be sensible that there are numbers of Men now only waiting to know what is done for the Army & what Bounty is given, to encourage them to enlist

Our Regt is on as good footing as any now in the service from this State, & I think might stand a good chance to recruit would the officers exert themselves.\*

All this I offer on the strength of your being exchanged, which I suppose is allmost a certainty & be assured is the most earnest wish of your sincere Friend & Humbl<sup>e</sup> Servt.

J. WALKER.

N. B. Excuse the above scrawl as it was written in great haste.

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FROM MAJOR TALLMADGE.

WETHERSFIELD, March 6, 1780.

DEAR SIR:

Just about the time of your departure from this place our Committee were obliged to memorialize the Assembly on the subject of recognizing the general and staff officers belonging to this State as part of the Conn. Line. In consequence of this *Wadsworth*, of the Assembly Committee, and [Heman] *Swift, Smith* and *myself* were called before the House. This afforded the very opportunity which I long wished for of exposing the Jesuitical conduct of a man who had rendered himself odious in the eyes of every honest man. After answering the questions proposed by the House we had the oppor-

\* Webb's regiment was thus reported on:—"This Regt is well kept & Disciplined; their Arms & Accoutrements were this inspection the Cleanest of the Division; their Cloathing is in good order.

"The above is a true state of the Regt as inspected by me March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1780.

" P. REGNIER, Sub Inspector."

tunity of laying before the House sundry letters signed by General W——h in behalf of the Committee, which being designed for answers to questions of moment proposed by your Committee, we were not able to find any meaning or honest principle in them, and of course (to the great disappointment of a certain person) we laid them before the Assembly as a sample of candour with which, under the auspices of W——h, the settlement was like to be conducted. Unfortunately, the Assembly were as much puzzled to explain the letters as our committee. In the pause of our observations before the *House*, Mr. W——h was handled sometimes without mittens. Indeed, the House, I believe, suggested that his objections to our proceedings were rather *captious* than otherwise. I have not seen their last resolution in consequence of our application, but I am told they have taken all the staff officers into the Con——t Line and excluded the general officers. This appears to be an odious distinction, but I am convinced the Generals will do better with the Continent than this State. I hope we have now got almost over embarrassments.

Since you left us we had an agreeable *hop* at Mr. Lockwood's. A choice collection of ladies attended. As usual, the number was rather too great.

We have no news of moment from the Eastward. Our Assembly rose last Thursday. If I should attempt to tell you what business they had done, I should be as long in telling you what they *needed*; as they repealed almost the whole acts of the session. When you reflect that every paragraph of a bill can be *debated* and *passed* the House, and then the whole be *negatived*, I need not enter into a more particular description of their proceedings. I am told they have determined to make good the £10 notes issued in '77. Of this you may take advantage, and I wish you would purchase as many as you can find in your travels for yourself and me. Some of them have doubtless been carried into N. Jersey, and the possessors would be glad to get rid of them.

Make my compliments to General Greene, Colonel Huntington and friends, and be assured that I am

Yours Sincerely

BENJ TALLMADGE.\*

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 294.

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL ST. CLAIR, AND LIEUTENANT-  
COLONELS EDWARD CARRINGTON AND  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

## INSTRUCTIONS.

GENTLEMEN :

The powers herewith authorize you to proceed to Amboy on Thursday the 9th instant, to meet commissioners on the part of the enemy, for the purpose of settling a General Cartel. You will perceive what has been already done in this business by the papers accompanying this. \* \* \* The only instructions I have to give you are these, that you transact nothing under your commission but upon principles of perfect equality and on a national ground. If the enemy will not treat with you on this footing, you will put an end to the negotiation. But after your official business is over, I wish you in private conversation to enter into a discussion of the proposals, so as to remove any difficulties they contain, and prepare the way for some future particular agreement, which may give relief to our officers and men in captivity.

If you enter into a general Cartel, you must of necessity include the southern prisoners ; but, if you are obliged to confine yourselves to what I now recommend, you will avoid including them. The proposals appear to me generally liberal, though in some respects exceptionable. The tariff, however, is moderate enough. Having entire confidence in your judgment and discretion, I think it unnecessary to enter into a detail of the exceptionable parts ; persuaded that they will readily occur to you, and that you will take proper steps to have them amended. The settlement of accounts is a point of importance and difficulty. As the matter now stands, I am unable to give you any explicit directions on the subject. If you are like to enter into a general Cartel, you will immediately advise me, and I will obtain further instructions from Congress. If this is not the case, you will hardly be able to draw any engagements from the enemy on this head, and you will perceive this point is not to be made a preliminary nor ultimatum. You will do the best you can, endeavoring by all means to engage The British Commissioners to advance a sufficient sum of money to pay the debts of our officers for board and the like, and enable them to leave their captivity. You will communicate to me from time to time any matters you may

desire my advice upon, and it shall cheerfully be afforded. I sincerely wish you a successful and honorable issue to your commission.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

Given at Head Quarters.

MORRISTOWN, 8 March, 1780.\*

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FROM COLONEL BEATTY.

WESTFIELD, [March, 1780].

MY DEAR SIR:

I am thus far on my Road from Morristown to Amboy where Commissioners are met on the Business of Exchange—an opportunity presenting to Danbury, I send this to Maj<sup>r</sup> Stagg's care & flatter myself it will reach you tho perhaps late. As you are party concerned, I think it necessary to inform you that yesterday Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen'l Philips, Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Gorden & Norton of the Guards, on the part of the British, & Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen'l St. Clair, Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Carrington of the Artillery, & Col<sup>o</sup> Hamilton of the General's Family on the part of these States, met at Amboy to attempt once more the effecting a cartel, for a general Exchange of Prisoners—Each party appear sanguine in their expectations on this subject; but so frequent disappointments has learned me to doubt everything—the propositions are indeed new & bordering nearer to principles of equity & mutual advantage, & I confess I should be ready to believe they would be established; were not a liquidation of accounts to be confounded with their Negotiations & which I fear will marr the whole; as you may rest satisfied the Enemy will carefully avoid a settlement of acc<sup>ts</sup> which in their consequences must involve them in a heavy debt & the transfer of a large sum of money. Were not this the case, I should flatter myself with announcing shortly to you, an acc<sup>t</sup> of your Exchange—but I go down diffident & wish I may return believing—

My pen is so intolerably bad, that I am obliged to break off—& have only to entreat you will present my Comp<sup>s</sup> to your Brother's

\* The Commissioners met at Amboy, and from the beginning found themselves blocked by the defective powers of the British representatives, who could only pledge the private faith of Sir Henry Clinton. A cartel, to be of permanent operation, should rest upon national authority and national faith; but this foundation could not be given by the British, and the meeting became a mere informal conference.

good Family & others my friends in Weathersfield—I beg you may write me & Expect a line upon our breaking up—

I am with great Esteem

Dr Sir Yours sincerely

JN<sup>o</sup> BEATTY.\*

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FROM WILLIAM ERSKINE.

PHILAD<sup>a</sup>, March 25, 1780.

DEAR WEBB:

Had there been any half hour since I came, that I could safely say I was sober, I do assure you I would have appropriated that time to you, but so far from that, that the fumes of the past Evening are never out of my head before the next days dinner, & so on alternately, however I'm now determin'd to leave off this life of riot & for once become a sober citizen. The life led here at present, if possible exceeds what you saw in Boston, indeed since I came here it has been one Continued round of pleasure w<sup>ch</sup> is not much in favour of my sprained *Leg*. it has not been in my power to take as much Care of it as I did on the road, and I have now some thoughts of taking another Journey that I may have time to recover as I'm sure I can never get well here.

I have never been able to get Col. Stewart to the Hatters—when his engagements are over I expect he will attend to it, and as soon as the hat is finish'd I will send it to Camp with the first safe hand. I have got a fashionable button & loop for it. \* \* \*

I most sincerely wish you the Beggars benison of a Guinea always in your pocket—

I am with much Esteem,

Dear Webb, your Friend &c

W. ERSKINE.

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 30 March, 1780.

DEAR SAM:

I Have received several Letters from you w<sup>ch</sup> are yet unanswered, not for want of regard you may justly conclude.

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

Bro. Jo has sent me Wright & Ryley's Acct w<sup>ch</sup> I have settled in my books, & Charged you what you Received of them, & by the time you Return from Camp you'll find your Acct ready at Jo's.

I wish your next may inform me that the prospect of your exchange has not vanished, as has formerly been the case, but that you are once again a free man; & then for an opp<sup>y</sup> to return the dogs what you owe them. The only excuse for Nicholson,\* is that he was on the eve of Matrimony, and perhaps so elated with the prospect that he Knew not what he promised. He is married, & has since he sailed sent in a very good prize, loaded with *Rum you dog*. Smedley † in the Recovery has also sent us a Sloop with that same sort of Liquor, & I hope the Hawke will not be behind hand. The Bills upon these Vessels, run up beyond all account and such is the Situation of the Paper Money that I fear 'twill not go much longer. The Congress do more to ruin it, than all the [       ] besides by their Resolves & Re-Resolves; & happy for them if they die the same. this last Manœuvre of promiseing Bills has nearly ruin'd the whole; as many people had sold their Effects & procured Money to purchase Bills, and now finding none coming they gave any price for any thing, to get rid of the dying Child. \* \* \*

J. BARRELL.

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WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

HEAD QUARTERS, MORRISTOWN, 31 March, 1780.

SIR:

I have the honor to inclose the report of the proceedings of the commissioners appointed to meet at Amboy, the 9th instant, for the purpose of settling a general cartel, by which Congress will perceive that the present attempt has been as unsuccessful as all the former, and from the same cause.

In January I was honored with a letter from the Minister of France, informing me of his having received advice from Europe, that the

\* James Nicholson commanded the frigate *Trumbull*, of twenty-eight guns, built by the order of Congress at Chatham, on Connecticut river, and manned at New London.

† Probably Samuel Smedley, who commanded the Connecticut brig *Defence* when she was wrecked in 1779 on Goshen reef, within sight of New London.

Court of London, on account of the difficulty they found in procuring men, had instructed their commander in chief here, to treat with us on a national footing rather than fail to obtain a reinforcement to their army by the release of their prisoners in our hands. He added that he had communicated his intelligence to Congress, and that Congress had requested him to transmit it to me, as a matter which ought materially to influence the measure we were about to take on the subject of an exchange.

Though I was strongly persuaded beforehand, that there was a mistake in his Excellency's information, and that the advantages to be reaped by the enemy from that proposed Exchange, would not be a sufficient inducement to a step of the nature it imported, which I took the liberty to signify to him, yet I thought it my duty to make the experiment, as well from motives of respect to the communication, as from the possibility of its being well founded. I therefore directed our commissioners to take every method to ascertain the Enemy's views on this head, and, if the British commissioners did not come with national powers, to decline doing anything with them in an official capacity; but after satisfying themselves that nothing was to be effected on a larger scale, they were instructed to enter into private conversation on the terms of a particular exchange. This letter No. 2. will shew what was done in consequence. Congress will perceive that their proposal was not accepted by the gentlemen on the other side, who insisted on the exchange being at all events extended to one half of the second division of the convention troops. This was a departure from the plan concerted between General Phillips and Cols. Magaw, Matthews, &c.

If Congress think that humanity requires or policy permits us to accede to the enemy's ultimatum, I shall be happy to execute their orders; but it is a point of so much delicacy and importance, that I cannot forbear earnestly requesting I may be excused from deciding in it. On one hand, the acquisition of so many men will be of great moment to the enemy, if they meet with success to the southward; on the other, I see not how we shall be able to maintain our officers in captivity, and the expence is no trifling consideration. I think it necessary to observe, that if the enemy's proposal should be accepted, it may be June before the prisoners are delivered—but perhaps it will be judged advisable to delay a determination 'till the

probable issue of southern affairs is a little unfolded. I have the honor, &c.\*

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

FROM CAPTAIN BULKLEY.

FLAT BUSH, 30th April, 1780.

DEAR COLO:

I am very much obliged to you for the Attention you have paid, in endeavouring to send in some Necessaries, but it seemeth that permission could not be obtain'd; unfortunate for us as our Supplies of Cash is verry nearly expended, perticularly my own having lent

\* Read in Congress, April 6th. Referred to Scott, Houston, and Ellery. The above committee discharged Octr. 13, 1780. Referred to Sullivan, Bland, and Matthews.

"This attempt for a general cartel and exchange has proved ineffectual, as every former one had done, founded on an objection to the powers given by Sir Henry Clinton; and your Lordship will directly observe the great object of the American Congress is to mark some public act, in which General Washington may be concerned with Sir Henry Clinton in character of equality with Great Britain, on principles of nation against nation at war; and the positive declaration of the American commissioners on this matter fully evinces the fact, and that a general cartel can never possibly take place on any other ground, which it may be imagined will never be suffered by Great Britain. In a number of attempts to release the troops of convention, the matter has broken off under several descriptions. At one time the American Congress would not exchange the troops in corps; at another they were willing to exchange private soldiers to a certain number, but it was never understood what number or in what manner. Interested as I have been, it has led me to hold conversations with a number of American officers, proving to them that the troops of convention stood under a particular description, and that exchanging the officers without the men against American officers prisoners of war could not be considered as equal, the American officers going to an immediate activity of service, and the convention officers not doing so, as the regiments to which they belonged would still be in captivity; and, however eligible and convenient for the officers themselves, it would be of no advantage to the King's service."—*General Phillips to Lord George Germaine*, 25 March, 1780.

"Those officers, who have not been indulged with furloughs should be preferred, as they will have an opportunity of visiting their families and friends, and looking into their private affairs at the same time. Captain (John) Webb, the Bearer of this, who is under the necessity of resigning, if he cannot obtain leave of absence, would be content with going home upon those terms. He represents the situation of his family in such a manner, that I wish him to be indulged, if possible, at any rate."—*Washington to Major-General Robert Howe*, 13 April, 1780.



out some Cash, expecting a Supply of that Necessary from the Public, (but I suppose permission cannot be procured.) as I have very little prospect of being exchanged during this unnatural Rebellion, I wish you to be so kind as to send me my old Bay Mare if she is in order; should she be in a Situation not proper to be sent hear, pray Purchase me a genteel good saddle horse and send him the first good opportunity. I think permission will not be refused for horses, as the British do not at this present eat them; having plentiful Supplies of good Beef, &c. Mr. Hopkins tells me he has wrote for a horse; it may be convenient to send them both together, Sir you know our situation and consequently can feel for us; you know likewise a good horse will help to whirle away time more agreeably, therefore do not neglect to do me this great favour.

Have not as yet heard anything about the Bill of exchange you Mention. Intend to do everything you request, if in my power so to do. You mention that the Military Assemblys are truly Brilliant; I wish I could say that my situation was so; why do I say anything about my situation, I am suffering for my Invaded country; send me the good horse and I am Brilliant. The Officers have Jointly petitioned the Governour & Council for Supplies; and sent it out by General Silliman who has promised to accompany it with his favourable Representation, I am sure you will give your assistance in a Matter so Necessary. I suppose a part of the Scripture will be verified in this request. *Ask & You shall Receive* (perhaps twenty dollars). It is hard to support the Carrecter of an Officer with the small Supplies we have rec<sup>d</sup> from the Public, as it is to make Brick without Straw. (enough of this)—

Your good Mutual friends at the half way house are well and continue to be the same as they use to be, except a perticular shake of the head when it was mentioned that you and a Miss B[ancke]r was about to do you know what. the rest of our acquaintance are generally well and make their Compliments.

Please to make my respects to Colo. Huntington and the Officers of Your once happy Regiment. my best Compliments waits on all friend that inquire; and on your and my Brother Jose, God Bless him, tell him, that I ever intended to have wrote and done many things for him which the want of a good opportunity has prevented.

I am Dear Col<sup>o</sup> most Sincerely yours

EDW<sup>p</sup> BULKLEY.

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FROM THOMAS WOOSTER.\*

HARTFORD, 12 May, 1780.

DEAR SIR:

I suppose you well know that for some reason or other, the officers of our Reg<sup>t</sup> had never receiv'd their Commissions when I left the Reg<sup>t</sup>; and as I have thought of going to Europe in the Fall, should be much obliged to you if you will take the trouble to get my Commission made out, and send it me, tho, I suppose there has been one made out some time ago, tho', I never receiv'd it; you know a certain person if he had it, and thought it would be of any service to me, wou'd not have delivered it me, except he was oblig'd, for which reason I never have applied for it before; the reason of my wanting to have it, or that I imagine it might be of service to me abroad, by gaining respect, if not Friends. I should also be glad if you cou'd get me an honourable Discharge from Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, as I never had one, nor was muster'd out as a supernumerary, tho: perhaps the Major might consider it in that light, but I never receiv'd the year's Pay, which was allow'd to supern<sup>y</sup> Officers, nor indeed never desir'd it, as I did not enter the service for the sake of pay, or Rank, and I imagine shou'd not have quitted it, untill the war was over, if you had not been so unfortunate as to be taken from it. I beg you will let me know whether you comply with my request by the first opportunity and in the mean time remain, you most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.

THO<sup>s</sup> WOOSTER.

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FROM MANNING MERRILL.

WETHERSFIELD, May 15th, 1780.

Monday Morn<sup>g</sup> 9 o'Clock.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup>:

I have the Pleasure to inform you that Friday last the *Hawk* Returned to N. London, & Brought in with Her a Ship from London bound to N. York which she took off Sandy hook—Her Cargo is 300 Tons Coal, 20 Tons Rigger, 108 Bolts Duck, & sundry Other Articles which the Cap<sup>n</sup> had not time to mention when He Wrote—(which was at the Mouth of the Harbour;) she Mounted 20 Guns.

\* Wooster was commissioned a captain in Col. Webb's regiment, 23 February, 1777, and retired as supernumerary Captain in April, 1779.

Viz—6—9'es, & 4—4'es & 6'es—& 10 Wooden—360 Tons burthen, but unfortunately there was 2 Privateers in Sight which its supposed will draw  $\frac{3}{4}$ th but Verry underservedly as they was of no service nor did they Come Up untill she had struck—the Hawk behaved Gallantly, & Rec'd the fire of Her 2 stern Chasers for 2 Hours which Cutt Her Riggen & Sails prodigiously—when Coming within 30 yards he made every thing Ready to lay Her a Board, which the Ship perceiving thought best to Strike, to prevent the Shedding of Blood—the Hawk has taken 4 other Prizes in C<sup>o</sup> 2 of which they Ran a Shore on Long Island & the People made their Escape—the Other 2 have Arrived but of no great Value—she Sales fast & is much liked. Mr. Webb set off for N. London yesterday, to take the Necessary Care, as he is Agent.

We have been Expecting you Home for some time past, which has prevented any of the family from Writing. Mrs. W. expressed a Desire to send forward a Letter but was prevented, when she found it must go the Post. Miss W. seams anxious for your return, & oft mentions a desire to see Boston before the Season is so far advanced Y<sup>r</sup> Sister A[bigail] is well & sends her Love Jointly & severally with the family. Sally says she wants to see You & you must Come Home—as she has almost forgot her education—but a few days will Revive it as she has the same spirit Remain<sup>g</sup>—the little Miss is in a fair way to match Sally with a little of your *Tuition*. I am Dear Col<sup>o</sup>. in haste.

Yours Affcy

M. MERRILL.

P. S. friends are all well in Boston & Express a desire to see you.

Governor Trumbull has not Come in so fully as could have been Wishd—he had not a Majority of Votes by 70, but its generally believed the Assembly will put Him in—*old Marshalls* Candle is near out—as he is one of our new lighted Gentry, but there was near 300 fools that Voted for Him as Gov<sup>r</sup>.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BLAGDEN.

HARTFORD, May 25, 1780.

DEAR COLONEL:

I went to Weathersfield this morning in Expectation of the pleasure of seeing you there, but found your brother, with the Ladys, Mr. Deane and Major Talmage Just mounting for a Ride to Windsor.

Capt. Webb Just going for Head Quarters, I take the opportunity of Communicating in the Confidence of that Friendship which I entertain for you, some Matters in which it may perhaps be in your power to serve me.

You know my Reasons for leaving the Army, and I have an opinion that you do not disapprove of them, I thought Retirement, more Hon'ble than Service, under an unworthy Commander.

As I was Ever fond of a Military Life, and Entered very early into the service, I made a Great Sacrifice in Giving up the Rank I had acquired, but my Consolation was, that the Gen! Approved of it.

Now my Friend, what I would Wish of you is, that as your situation places you near, and frequently in Company of His Excellency and the Generals, you would take Occasion to mention your friend; not as Coming from him, for your own delicacy will point out to you the impropriety of that, but as a Spontaneous Idea of your Own.

I cannot ask anything of the Gen! nor will I of Congress, and yet I wish to take a part in this Summer's Campaign— Your Good friend Gen! Green has doubtless many occasions, of Employing in his department those who have served in the Army; If you think it worth while I beg you mention me to him— In short as you know me, and what will sute my turn, do for me in the same manner you would have me do for you in the same Circumstances.

I am my D<sup>r</sup> Sir,  
your Obliged Hu'ble Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM. BLAGDEN.\*

JOSEPH WEBB TO A COMMITTEE FROM CONGRESS.

MORRISTOWN, 2 June, 1780.

TO THE HON<sup>R</sup> THE COMMITTEE FROM CONGRESS NOW SITTING AT MORRISTOWN.  
GENT<sup>N</sup>:

Having lately Erected a very extensive & Compleat set of Tan Works, & provided an English Workman of the first Abilities to superintend & Manage the different Branches of tanning Currying &

\* Samuel Blagden was engaged in the party that went from Connecticut in April 1775 to take Fort Ticonderoga, and afterwards served in the northern army as an aid to General Wooster. As a Lieutenant-Colonel he was in Sheldon's Light Dragoon's, and resigned in August, 1779. He does not appear to have again entered the army.

dressing Leather—I am led to offer my best service to the Public in Tanning any Quantity of Leather not exceeding Two thousand Raw Hides, which shall be Tanned & Curried in most Compleat English Manner for one Half—The Public being at the Expence of a man to superintend the delivery of the Hides to my Order and the Carriage from the places of Slaughter to the Tan yards in Wethersfield—which last Service I will undertake to do at the rate of one Shilling p<sup>r</sup> mile for Every *Tonn* of Raw Hides payable in Hides at Two pence half penny p<sup>d</sup> and I will procure a proper person to Superintend on the best Terms in my power and Receive payment for His Wage in Hides as aforesaid—M<sup>r</sup>. Webb likewise makes this other proposal—that He will Receive from the public any Quantity of of Raw Hides not exceeding the above Quantity at His Works—Superintending the Delivery & the Transportation paid as above (to Have it tan'd & Curried in the best Manner as the Hides may best answer for ; & for every Thirty pounds of Raw Hides so Deliv'd to pay in one pair good Merchantable Large & well made Soldiers Shoes—Deliver'd at the Works to the Order of Congress—The orders of Congress may have a proportionable Quantity of Harness & other Leather instead of Shoes at the said proportion of thirty pounds for one pair of *Shoes* as may best suit the public—or be most agreeable.

Mr. Webb also begs leave for the Quantity of Raw Hides as above, superintendance & Transportation being paid as above—to make one more proposal, *Viz.*—

To Tan & Curry the Hides in the very best manner & for to receive the Hides at Two pence half penny p<sup>r</sup> pound free of charge & to give his Workmen orders to Tan the Hides as may be most suitable—either Sole & Harness or upper Leather : & when finished Mr. Webb will pay for said Hides as above in Leather as follows :—

Sole Leather at fifteen pence, Harness & Saddle Leather at Eighteen pence—Upper Leather in like proportion—

Mr. Webbs most Respectful Compliments waits on the Gent<sup>m</sup> & begs they wou'd take His proposals into Consideration & give him an Answer this Afternoon—As He waits from Returning Home only for the Answer—Shou'd it be agreeable M<sup>r</sup>. Webb wishes for the very first Hides in Order to Make this utmost dispatch.

I am Gent<sup>m</sup>

Your Most O<sup>b</sup> H Servt

JOS. WEBB.

## WEBB'S OFFICERS.

Arrangement of Col<sup>o</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb's Regiment and the dates from which the officers are to rank.

Samuel B. Webb	Colonel	22 August 1777
Ebenezer Huntington	Lt. Col <sup>o</sup>	} 10 October 1778
Vice Livingston resigned		
John P. Wyllys vice Huntington	Major	10 Oct <sup>r</sup> 1778
Edward Bulkley	Capt <sup>n</sup>	1 Jan <sup>y</sup> 1777
Joseph Walker	Capt <sup>n</sup>	22 August 1777
Samuel William Williams	Capt <sup>n</sup>	23 March 1778
Elisha Hopkins	Capt <sup>n</sup>	} 10 Oct <sup>r</sup> 1778
vice Wyllys promoted		
John Riley	capt <sup>n</sup>	} 10 July 1779
vice Whiting—dead		
Roger Welles	Capt <sup>n</sup>	} 9 April 1780
vice Hart—resigned		
Timothy Allen	Capt <sup>n</sup> Lieu <sup>t</sup>	9 April 1780
Nathan Beers	Lt.	23 March 1777
* Samuel Mears	Lieu <sup>t</sup>	} 13 March 1779
vice Solomon Mears resigned		
Ebenezer Frothingham	Lieu <sup>t</sup>	} 27 May 1779
vice Giles Mumford, resigned		
Huntington Tomlinson ensign		5 April 1780
* John Meigs	Lt.	15 Feby 1778

Excepting to the above Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Huntington claims Rank from 12<sup>th</sup> May 77 vice Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Meigs Prefer<sup>d</sup> from Col<sup>o</sup> Sherburne's Reg<sup>t</sup> to a Colonel in the Connecticut Line—

Camp June 5<sup>th</sup> 1780

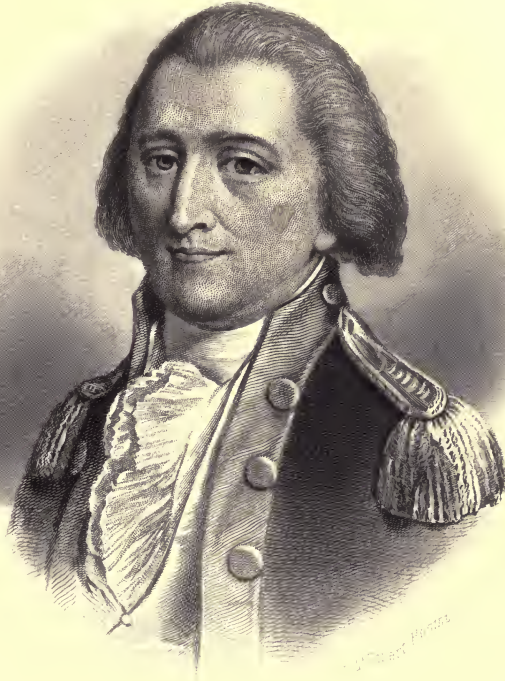
EBEN HUNTINGTON Lt Col<sup>o</sup> Comm<sup>d</sup>

## JOSEPH WEBB TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

WETHERSFIELD, 11 June, 1780.

AR :

I wish to know if any Express goes soon to Head Quarters, as I wish to Write—I was Sorry it was not convenient for you & Col<sup>o</sup> Dyer to come & drink Tea with me last Evening, as I wanted to paint the late distresses of our truly small, but gallant Army—I



*Ebenzer Silliman*





doubt not your Excellency has a full knowledge of common fame, that they are in want

but I beg leave to say I believe the Commander in chief's letters do not one half paint their late wants. His delicacy is too great—is it not full Time for each State to exert her self to her full proportion of abilities; to supply Monies & ample Supplys of Magazines?—do we fully reflect the Art; Cunning & Abilities of Our Enemies?—is it not Time to be Sensible of our tottering Situation in the midst of plenty?—Excuse me Dear Sir for asking these seeming impertinent Questions—but I have of late seen our Virtuous Army—I have to acknowledge I think the Country have shamefully Neglected their duty

I have lately been at the Army and am much surprized affected and truly distressed—had I abilities to speak or write I should think it my duty to rouse the Assembly, Rouse them to their duty, and to Exert her power at this very Critical moment—I fear Government is too timid of her power or abilities—our Militia Law is not the plan for War, it may do for peace—pardon me for saying too much on the subject; but I feel for my General, for my Bleeding Country, at a time when I think they have a glorious Opportunity to End the war as we cou'd wish—Neglected I fear the Golden Opportunity will be lost.

I am your Excellencys Most Obt

H Servant

JOS WEBB\*

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JOSEPH WEBB TO A COMMITTEE FROM CONGRESS.

WETHERSFIELD, 14 June, 1780.

GENTLEMEN:

Your Letters to our General Assembly with some Letters from His Excellency I deliv'd in Three days after I left you, and as far as my Abilities wou'd allow painted the distressed situation of the Army—and am in hopes they are rousing from their stupidity, provision is going on from every quarter—I much fear they will not be able to supply the proportions of flour, but I must own I believe they will exert every Nerve—but our government or any other Republic gov-

\* From the *Trumbull Papers* in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

ernment are too timid and slow for a Warlike people—but for further particulars wou'd beg leave to refer you to our Friend Col<sup>o</sup> Wadsworth who left this for Morristown the very Evening I got home—Shou'd you Comply with my proposals, I can only say the sooner the better both for the public Advantage and my Workmen—I find by Examination a great plenty of returning Teams—that the Hides might at once be Order'd to my Order. I suppose from Expence of Carting, I am told there yet remains large Quantities of Hides at Fishkill—I have just seen the Commissary of Hides for this State—who is much pleased with the Prospect of my Works Being Supplied, and will give you Any recommendation of the Workmen you please to require—I Expected to have gone to Fishkill myself—but when I found your Letters and the General's of such importance I push immediatly for Hartford—as I said before I will Contract for to have the whole on both sides of the river, or only the Two thousand as you may find Agreeable—But really by what I can Learn its Time there was some better regulation—The Hides are careless and ill taken off—and ill taken care of afterwards—I can only say I wish to Learn from you an the Subject as soon as may be, I will confess I was chagrined you was not prepar'd and ready to finish the Affair when I was at Morris—but I well know you have your Hands full of trouble and perplexities.

I am gentlemen with Compliments

Your Most Ob H Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JOSEPH WEBB

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LEWIS MORRIS.

HEIGHTS ABOVE SPRINGFIELD, June 17, 1780.

Look at the direction of the enclosed, and if it does not produce a train of the most agreeable sensations, I will never forward you another. Fortunate man to be thus blessed with the affections of one of the first of her sex. It is not the characteristick of a benevolent mind to be envious of another's happiness, but situated as I am, I could wish to shake hands with you under similar circumstances.

I need not assure you how sensible I am of the confidence which you have placed in me, and how ready I shall be to oblige both yourself and the lady upon every occasion. I am sure you are sufficiently convinced of my friendship and disposition to serve you.

I have not had it in my power, from the constant duties in the field, to assist Major Claiborne in forwarding the wine. I will write him upon the subject, and press him to forward it.

The Enemy continue precisely as they were, & they have completed a bridge of boats across the sound, but whether they mean to retreat or make a daring and serious attack upon our army I cannot say.

My best respects to your brothers and sisters, and believe me dear Sir,

Your sincere and affct Friend

LEWIS MORRIS JUN<sup>R</sup>.

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JOSHUA LORING TO MAJOR SKINNER.\*

NEW YORK, 21<sup>st</sup> June 1780.

SIR:

I have received the Commands of His Majesty's Commander in Chief, His Excellency General Sir Henry Clinton to propose to you an Exchange of all British and German Prisoners of War now in your hands according to the certified lists settled between me and M<sup>r</sup>: Beaty at Amboy: against an equal number, Rank for Rank, of the American Prisoners of War on Long Island, including such as may be at home upon their paroles, and Violaters of parole in the due order of their Capture. I have to propose also that such Officers of the Troops of Convention as are now actually on their paroles in New York may be exchanged Rank for Rank against an equal number of your Long Island Prisoners of War, excepting only Major Gen<sup>l</sup>: Phillips and Major General Riedesel and such Officers of their families as they may chuse to be with them.

You will no doubt take General Washington's Commands upon this Matter immediately.—And on our Officers being suffered to go to any ready place of embarkation for New York, an equal number of American Officers shall be sent from Long Island in exchange for them.—His Excellency General Sir Henry Clinton has No objection to Lieut<sup>l</sup>: Col<sup>l</sup>: Ramsey being opposed to Lieut. Colo<sup>l</sup>: Conolly in an Exchange, supposing this Offer of a general One is accepted of.

\* Abraham Skinner was a deputy Commissary General of Prisoners. In September, 1780, he was appointed Commissary General of Prisoners.

I have not received any Answer to my Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of May proposing to you an exchange of all the privates—prisoners of War in our possession in New York.—I am directed to repeat that offer, and am ready to deliver these Privates amounting to Five Hundred for an equal number of the Prisoners of War in your hands as follows— —

Non Commissioned Officers and Privates taken at Stoney Point—  
(of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry.)

The Soldiers of the Artillery according to the enclosed List.—

The Soldiers of the 42<sup>d</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Regiments, who have been a long time Prisoners at Fort Frederick, and Winchester in Maryland. The remainder to be made up from our prisoners of War of the longest Capture.

If this meets with General Washington's Approbation, I shall be ready to carry it into execution immediately at such place, as our respective Commanders in Chief shall please to Appoint, and I hope that Motives of humanity will urge that no further delay be made to this proposal. Hitherto your Prisoners have (by great attention and expence) been kept from Sickness, but it will be impossible when the hot weather sets in, for them to continue so, as they have scarce any clothing to keep them clean and healthy.

I am Sir With due respect Yours &c. &c.

JOS<sup>PH</sup> LORING,  
Com<sup>dr</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Prisoners.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL GREENE.

CAMP, PRECKNEES, NEAR PARAMUS  
July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1780

DEAR SIR:

I was made happy by your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> of last month. There is a mixture of pain and pleasure to hear at the same time, the danger our friends have been exposed to, and their happy escape from it. You have been ill, but have got well. The alarm was no sooner [given?], than joy succeeded it, from your recovery.

I return you many thanks for your polite attention to Mrs. Greene, I must remain your debtor until you will give me an opportunity to escort Mrs. Webb in the same way, and I can assure you nothing would give me greater pleasure.

Camp & Refuge near Paines  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 1780

Dear Sir

I was made happy by  
your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> of last month.

There is a mixture of pain and pleasure to  
hear at the same time, the danger our friends  
have been exposed to, and their happy escape  
from it. You have been ill, but Louie  
got well. The alarm was no sooner given,  
than you succeeded it, from your recovery.

I return you many thanks for  
your polite attention to Mrs Greene. I must  
remain your debtor until you will give  
me an opportunity to escort Mrs. Webber  
the journey, and I am ever your

nothing would give me greater pleasure  
to be not afraid of Matrimony, but me it  
will not injure you. They who engage  
in this connection, live for themselves,  
I hope who avoid love for others. My great-  
est Lopper is of the social kind, and I  
am here a mind peopled of your sensibility  
must enjoy the most retired pleasures  
from so tender a connection. But the giddy  
and unthinking laugh, the pleasures  
of the rational and the wise have always  
been the best of both; and though as it may  
appear, I firmly believe, that Matrimony  
is generally speaking, improves our capacities  
as well as enlarges our society.

The Enemy have left this State,  
and upon the whole have wrought things to

levelled. Since you left Morris's  
Henry Clinton arrived, and made some  
demonstrations as if he intended an attack  
upon West Point, but have not attempt-  
ed it. He is said he is now on the borders  
of West Chester, ~~destroying the bridges~~  
of that County, to prevent our availing  
ourselves of it hereafter, should we  
have any offensive operations in con-  
templation against New York. —

The Congress are dreaming  
as usual: your very good friend Sir  
Roger is playing his old game of little  
tricks, and pursuing his former policy of  
penning his opponents into the  
lapole for America, he finds enough of  
his

has been to join him to form a minority in the House

The Committee of Congress have almost all got such, and we are almost such of them all, except Schuyler, the only true friend of what they know to be right. Populocracy is the bane of American Liberty, and if a different policy is not pursued hereafter, ten to one but it proves our ruin.

Accept to make my respectful compliments to your Mother & Family.

I am with the  
greatest respect  
Your most obedt  
humble Serv  
Wm. V. V. V.

From the office of the Capt. of  
the 1st Regt. of the 1st  
Mass. Artillery  
1788 -  
Answered at 11 o'clock  
Col. Webb



Be not afraid of matrimony, trust me it will not injure you. They who engage in this connection, live for themselves; those who avoid it live for others. My greatest happiness is of the social kind; and I am sure a mind possessed of your sensibility must enjoy the most refined pleasures from so tender a connection. Let the giddy and unthinking laugh; the pleasures of the rational and the wise, have always been the sport of fools, and strange as it may appear, I firmly believe that matrimony, generally speaking, lessens our expenses as well as enlarges our felicity.

The Enemy have left this State, and upon the whole, have no great things to boast of. Since you left Morris[town], Sir Henry Clinton arrived, and made some demonstrations as if he intended an attack upon West Point, but dare not attempt it. It is said he is now in the borders of West Chester, destroying the forage of that country, to prevent our availing ourselves of it hereafter, should we have any offensive operations in contemplation against New York.

The Congress are dreaming as usual; your very good friend Sir Roger [Sherman?] is playing his old game of little tricks, and pursuing his former scale of penny happenny politics; and unfortunately for America, he finds enough of his kidney to join him, to form a majority in the House.

The Committee of Congress have almost all got sick; and we are almost sick of them all, except Schuyler. The other two dare not do what they know to be right. Popularity is the bane of American Liberty, and if a different policy is not pursued hereafter, ten to one but it proves our ruin.\*

Please to make my respectful compliments to your brother and family.

I am with the greatest respect, your most obed<sup>t</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup>

NATH: GREENE.

\* The members of this committee were Philip Schuyler, John Mathews and Nathaniel Peabody. They were vested with very important powers, and constituted the Committee on Co-operation. Journals of Congress, April 6, 12, 13, 1780. *Writings of Washington*, viii, *passim*.

FROM MAJOR TALLMADGE.

CROMPOND, July 6th, 1780.

DEAR SIR:

Since my arrival at camp (which was on the third day after I left you), a variety of avocations has prevented my writing to my friends as often as I could have wished.

I have just returned from H'Qu'rs at West Point, where I found & left your brother Jack in health and happy.

Since the arrival of Sir Harry from Carolina, and the alarm which spread thro' the country in consequence thereof, on acc't of your fortresses on the North River I am happy to assure you that our affairs at the garrison wear a promising aspect. Much credit is due to the State of Connecticut for their exertions in forwarding supplies, and I believe more to Governor Clinton for the seasonable reinforcement which he sent to the fort. From a government so modelled, and a Governor so zealously engaged in our cause, everything within the reach of human exertions may be expected. Did you not know the spirit of the Constitution of this State, and particularly the powers of the Governor in military matters, I would relate to you some of his proceedings towards the militia in the late alarm, where pecuniary satisfactions will not atone for breaches of military orders, and the rich are obliged equally with the poor to take their tour of duty or suffer military sentence and execution, no man hopes to escape, and of course all are willing to assist.

General Washington has retired or advanced from the Clove down to the Kakiat 'tis said on account of forage.

We have this day been informed that the French Fleet have arrived at Rhode Island. God grant it be true, as I long to be in a more active sphere. I am tomorrow going on an enterprise down to the Line with a very respectable command of horse or foot. I hope the next account you hear from me may relate some achievement. Being on an advanced post, our duty is, of course, severe, subject to frequent alarms and little rest. I have often wished for Miss Webb's faculty of living without sleep, that duty might not affect me.

My best wishes attend Mr. Webb and lady, Miss Webb, Miss

Abby, and our friends at Chester-Hall. I am happy at camp, but a sight of them all would make me happier still.

Adieu my friend and believe me,  
with sincerity, your friend,

BENJ. TALLMADGE.

P. S. Compliments to Mr. Deane ; should write, but have not time.

P. S. My love to little Sally Ab—. The enclosed parody or answer to the song called the banks of the Dee, please to present to Miss Chester, as she may probably take the trouble to learn it.\*

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WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

HEAD-QUARTERS NEAR PASSAIC,

10 July, 1780.

SIR:

\* \* \* \* \*

With respect to an exchange of prisoners, I most earnestly wish that Congress, apprized of our affairs in the fullest manner, and of the prospects of the campaign, had been pleased to determine the point themselves. But as they have not done it, and they have thought proper to refer it to me, I cannot but observe, if motives of policy are ever to prevail over those of humanity, they seem to apply at present against a general exchange. As to officers, their Exchange either on the principle of equal rank, or of composition where that will not apply confining the exchange on that of composition for *officers only*, is favored both by policy and humanity, and therefore in every point of light it is to be desired ; and there is now a negotiation on foot between us and the Enemy in consequence of a late proposition from them for the exchange of all their officers, who are prisoners of war, and for such of those of the Convention (Generals Phillips, Riedesel, and their families excepted), as are in New York on parole, for an equal number of ours of their rank and in order of their captivity ; which, if carried into effect, will give relief to a few. But the exchange of privates, though strongly urged by humanity, would certainly be against us in a political view. It would throw into the Enemy's hands a very respectable permanent augmentation to their present force, already great, while it would add but incon-

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 295.

siderably to ours, as no small proportion of the Men, we should receive, would not belong to the Army, and Many who should at the time, would probably be soon released from it by the expiration of their Enlistments. This is one among the innumerable ill consequences that result from short enlistments. Indeed, if the case were otherwise, and the whole of the privates, the Enemy have to exchange, were enlisted for the war, the advantages derived from an Exchange would not be equal at this time. These would be on the side of the Enemy, on the supposition that offensive operations will be prosecuted on our part, as every Man given them would in such case be equal to two received by us on the lowest scale of calculation. These considerations seem to make the release of the privates ineligible for the present ; but Congress will decide themselves with respect to the business. If they think that their exchange should be deferred, or if we should not be able to effect that of the officers, I should hope every exertion, which our circumstances will authorize, will be made to render their situation easy and comfortable. They have a claim to this, and nothing in our power should be omitted to effect it.\*

General Lincoln informed me, when he arrived here, that from some correspondence which had passed between him and Sir Henry Clinton, he hoped his exchange might be effected for one of the major-generals of the Convention ; and for this purpose he wrote to him just before his departure for Boston with my approbation. The proposition falls within the principle of equality of rank, by which exchanges between us hitherto have been governed ; and his release will not be injurious to the claims of any other officer of ours in captivity, and therefore it appeared to me not objectionable. I hope it will be considered in the same light by Congress. I have the honor to be, &c.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON

\* When this letter was considered in Congress, a resolve was passed, "That General Washington be authorized to effectuate an exchange of officers, either on the footing of equal rank, or on composition, or both, as the cases may respectively require, confining the exchange on that of composition of officers only, and having due regard to the order of captivity; such exchange to be rendered as extensive as possible in its execution, so as not only to include, on the part of the enemy, prisoners of war, but also the officers of the convention troops, now on parole at New York."—*Journals*, August 7th.

P. S. I forgot to mention above that one of the Enemy's late propositions extends to an exchange of the Privates in New York—This I could not effect in the severe weather in the beginning of February but a change of circumstances has since disposed them to think it expedient and to make the offer. They affect to place it on the mere footing of humanity.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ABRAHAM SKINNER.

HEAD QUARTERS 12<sup>th</sup> July 1780.

SIR:

Inclosed you will receive a Copy of a Letter from M<sup>r</sup>. Loring the British Commissary of Prisoners, to your self, of the 21<sup>st</sup> of last month, which was transmitted me by Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Phillips while you were absent from the Army. You will Perceive by this, that Sir Henry Clinton has proposed, an exchange of all the British and German Prisoners of War in our hands by which from the subsequent part of the Letter I understand Officers are only meant according to the Certified lists settled between M<sup>r</sup>. Loring and M<sup>r</sup>. Beatty at Amboy—and also of such Officers of the Troops of Convention as are in New York on parole, except Major-General Phillips and Major-General Reidesel and such Officers of their families as they may chuse to retain with them for an equal number, rank for rank, of the *Prisoners of War* in their hands on Long Island, including such as are at home upon their paroles and who have violated their paroles, in due order of their Capture, and that Sir Henry Clinton has agreed to exchange Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel Ramsey for Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel Conolly. I accede most cheerfully to these propositions under the restrictions mentioned below—and regret that your business at Philadelphia has delayed for some days, the necessary measures being taken to carry them into execution. You will therefore pursue immediate steps for bringing forward all the *Officers* Prisoners of War, to Elizabeth Town, and will expect their Exchange as well as that of the Convention officers in New York, save those excepted above, on the terms proposed. You will inform M<sup>r</sup>. Loring immediately of our agreeing to his proposal on this head—and that their Officers will be sent in as soon as possible.

With respect to the proposition for the exchange of privates—You

will request M<sup>r</sup>: Loring to favour you with a List of their names—of the Corps and Regiments to which they belong and of the place and manner of their Capture—after which you will receive further instructions on the subject.

The exchange of Lieu<sup>t</sup>: Colo<sup>l</sup>: Ramsey may not perhaps be in the order of Capture, but the State of Maryland insisting on it for Lieu<sup>t</sup>: Colo<sup>l</sup>: Conolly, whom they took & claim as their prisoner—it must be made—

That there may be no misunderstanding in this business—transmit M<sup>r</sup>: Loring in time, a List of our Officers whom we are to receive from them in exchange, which you will take care not to mention any of those for whom we do not consider ourselves accountable either because they have not been determined violaters of parole or been allowed as proper Subjects of Military Capture.

Lieu<sup>t</sup>: Governor Hamilton and the officers taken with him at Detroit can't be comprehended in the Exchange as his rank is not settled and they are under the direction of the State of Virginia—

With respect to the Officers taken in the Eagle Packet—our former propositions concerning them must be adhered to. Colonel Webb must be released for them the first, on the proper ratio—and the remainder be applied to the relief of other as formerly directed—

I am Sir

Yours &c

G<sup>o</sup>: WASHINGTON.

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, Sunday Evening,

16th July 1780.

DEAR BARRELL :

Your letter of the 6th Instant is with me and we have since been waiting a private conveyance to write you particularly which has not offered. I write now only to inform you that B. Deane, J Broome, J Wright, Merrill and myself embark on Tuesday next on Board the Sloop Gates for Newport with a view of seeing the

French Fleet and Army and passing a little time tête à tête wt. our friends—if you Joseph Barrell with half a dozen other cleaver fellows from Boston will take it in your heads to meet us there you'll make us happy—and I have't a doubt you may find some business in the speculateing way which will make it worth your while,—as I am told their is many goods come out in the Fleet, don't hesitate—come if possible, we shall stop in at New London, and probably it will be Fryday or saturday before we reach Newport,—whether you come or not write to that place by the Post—remember all single letters to me come *post free*, therefore never be afraid of writing—my Love to Sally—Joe, Hannah & the circle with and about you, let me see you at Newport when you shall see how much and with what Friendship

I am your Affct Bro

SAML B. WEBB.

FROM LEWIS MORRIS, JR.

CAMP, July 22d, 1780.

DR SIR:

Your favor of the 17<sup>th</sup> came to Hand yesterday. The enclosed was sent off by Express immediately. I wish it was in my power to return you an answer from her for every letter I forward. But you must consider that she lives in a remote part of the country and that opportunities seldom offer from that Quarter.

I cannot but think you imprudent to venture to New Port by water, and an under some little apprehension for the consequences—Admiral Graves has sailed from New York with a superior fleet, with an intention to block up the French, and will no doubt effect it for some time—'till the second division arrives.

My respects at home,  
and believe me &c.,

L. MORRIS JUN<sup>R</sup>.

## ARRANGEMENT OF WEBB'S REGIMENT.

IN COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS CAMP BREAKNESS

July 23, 1780.

The Commander in Chief having laid before the Committee, an act of the State of Connecticut, which is in the Words following, to wit,—

“At a general Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut in America holden at Hartford on the 2<sup>d</sup> Thursday of May Dom 1780.”

“Upon the Memorial of Ebenezer Huntington Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Commandant of the battallion of the Army of the United States raised in this State, of which Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb Esq<sup>r</sup> now a prisoner of War, is Colonel, shewing to this Assembly that altho said battallion hath received bounties, refreshments, and all allowance—as the eight battallions raised in this State have had and received, notwithstanding they have not been explicitly adopted by this State, and added to their line, in the aforesaid army, which is inconvenient to this state, and to said Battallion as per Memorial on file”—

“Resolved by this Assembly, that the aforesaid Battallion in the Army of the United States, raised in this state, and Commanded by Samuel B. Webb Esq<sup>r</sup> as Colonel, be and the same is adopted, claimed, and declared to be one of the Battallions of this State, in the army of the United States, and of the Connecticut Line in the said Army, and the Congress of the United States, and the Commander in Chief of their Army, are desired to consider said Battallion as being part of the Line of this State, in said Army, and to order and treat them as such accordingly.”

A true Copy of record annexed by

GEORGE WYLLYS, Sec<sup>y</sup>

*Resolved*, by and with the advice of the Commander in Chief, that the regiment whereof Samuel B. Webb Esq is Colonel, now Commanded by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Ebenezer Huntington and one of the additional Corps, be and is hereby, annexed to the Connecticut line in the Continental Army, and shall hence forth be Considered and called the 9<sup>th</sup> regiment in the Connecticut Line of Continental troops, provided that nothing herein contained shall be considered as taken to be a credit to the State of Connecticut for more of the non Commission'd officers & Soldiers than were Citizens of that State, at the time of their engagement in said Corps.

PHIP. SCHUYLER

JN<sup>o</sup> MATHEWS

NATH<sup>l</sup> PEABODY—



## GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ABRAHAM SKINNER.

HEAD QUARTERS, July 24<sup>th</sup> 1780.

SIR:

I have received your Letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant inclosing a copy of one from Mr. Loring the British Commissary of prisoners of the 19<sup>th</sup>. I find by his Letter that the Enemy intend to connect the exchange of our officers and privates prisoners at New York and Long Island, and to make the release of the former depend on that of the latter. This is evidently the object at which they now aim. It is inadmissible and what I will not accede to—Exchanges from the first that took place between us to the present time, have been conducted on a very different principle, and it was never attempted in any case before to combine the release of Officers and Men together, except in the instance of the Convention Troops; and the propositions contained in Mr. Loring's Letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> of June whatever communications he may have thought it proper to give since are separate and distinct with respect to the business, and do not in the most distant manner hint at any relation between them. You are therefore to govern yourself entirely by his proposition of the 21<sup>st</sup> of June and by my Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> of Instant with respect to the Officers—

As to the privates prisoners in New York about whose exchange the Enemy appear solicitous at present. It might be remarked that humanity required it much more strongly—when it was proposed and urged on our part on the 3<sup>d</sup> of February—and that they thought proper then to decline it and not to give any answer upon the subject 'til the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. But waiving all considerations of the Motives which induced them then to decline, what they now would accede to—You may ascertain with Mr. Loring and obtain Lists from him, of such as are really prisoners, whom we shall deem as such and fit subjects of Exchange. This will be a good and necessary preliminary step, and such as will facilitate their release.

In consequence of directions I have just received for the purpose you will propose to Mr. Loring to exchange any Brigadier-General belonging to them in our hands, for Brigadier-General Du Portail, who was taken at Charles Town, and if the proposition is agreed to, you will take immediate measures for releasing the Officer given on our part—and will obtain an order for the liberation of Gen<sup>l</sup> Du Portail for his safe conduct to Philadelphia, or Some part of Jersey,

if Sir Henry Clinton should indulge him with a passage by Water, or if not, till he arrives at such place in North Carolina as he may mention.—

As Lieu! Gen! Burgoyne is not with the Convention Troops—and the Enemy have no other officers of ours of his Rank to exchange for him; and as they have several of our Colonels prisoners to them, who can never be exchanged on the principle of equal Rank; I wish you to propose for the Mutual relief of the parties, his Exchange for our Colonels as far as it may extend, according to the Tariff or Grades which were discussed and thought reasonable by our respective Commissioners when at Amboy last, beginning first with the Officers of this rank prisoners in this Quarter, referring one to be exchanged for Col. Cockler and extending it to the relief of those prisoners in the Continental Line at the Southward, as far as it will reach, according to the Seniority of their Capture, and where this is equal, the dates of Commission Must govern.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

HARTFORD, 25 July, 1780.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I hope you had a happy Jaunt by Water & arrived safe & Pleased with your Reception—I wish I was there to purchase the Hides. it wou'd be of much consequence to me—indeed I can supply them with better Leather by & by, than any other person—to receive those Hides immediately from the French when new & Green are vastly before Dry Hides from the Camp—

I have hardly tho! of it long Enough to lay any Regular Plan which way to propose, or what to do, as to Business I know you will not attend to it—to Come to Newport I know not how to, but if they will wait for me & you Advise I will Come immediately—perhaps it may be worth my while—Hides I wou'd buy & pay off in something of Supplys or Leather or Bills only allowing me a Small Time—this between you & me is worth an Object of Persuing, but I hardly know how—I can supply them with Some Leather in seven or Eight Weeks.

I hope you have Wrote me before this, I would not be so short

but the Bearer Col<sup>o</sup> Wadsworth is waiting—I believe He wou'd do everything for me if he was certain of Dennys fullfilling—He has received a Jealousy that I fear He never will get rid off—He loves our family beyond a Doubt & has a respect & friendship for us—He cou'd at once get me the French Hides which wou'd be of real Friendship—but His fear of punctuality I believe will prevent His doing or saying anything about the affair—but you may depend I shall after the Expen<sup>c</sup>e I have been at attend most punctually to make such Returns as will please

but Enough has been said if I can get well & good—to bow & Cring too much I can't yet Submit to—

I will receive the Hides in Returning Vessels—on the Terms I do for the United States or pay for them [as] is Customary.

There has no Letters arrived for you ; if they do, they shall be Given to Hetty—Colo B— family is well. I have Rec<sup>d</sup> a few things from N. Haven.

Believe me yours

J. WEBB.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

CAMP TAPPAN, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1780.

DEAR WEBB:

Inclosed you will receive the Returns you wish for, except of those men enlisted since Jan<sup>y</sup> last, which do not pass through my hands, but are immediately to be settled with the P[ay] M[aster] Gen[era]l in Camp. For that reason have made no mention of them to you.

In my last I made some mention of the uneasiness of the army ; it hath not totally subsided, nor do I think it will soon. They seem willing to suffer any Change thinking it cannot be the worse for them. The officers of your Reg<sup>t</sup> feel [e]very uneasiness at the neglect of the Board of War, in not forwarding the commissions agreeable to the Arrangement long since sent on. His Excellency has wrote them once or twice about it.—Day before yesterday I had an Interview with him, stated the disagreeable situation of the Reg<sup>t</sup> , but more particularly of myself in having the Command of the Reg<sup>t</sup> , and having my Reputation at Stake for their good conduct ; when we have not Officers enough to attend to the Police of it.—He said he was sensible of their Situation, & would immediately write the

Board of War on the Subject. I shall expect an Answer next Week. If they do not make the Promotions ask'd for, the Officers will Resign. They are fully determin'd not to remain in such a situation any longer. We have only four duty officers in the Regiment, & are order'd to have 9 Companies agreeable to the Arrangement of the Army—one of which are in the Infantry; which leaves two companies to each officer in the Regt, instead of three Officers to a company. My Candle is nearly expired,—and this I borrowed from Gen'l Howe's quarters, to compleat my Returns & give you a line. I have not been able to command a Candle for Six Days past. We have no News from the Southward or N. York, worth mention.

My love to the *Good People* of my Acquaintance with you. Tell them God Bless them; it is Saturday evening & I always think of my friends.

The candle dies this moment; I shall be scarcely able to close the letter & it must go at Daylight.

God Bless you. Adieu. 11 o'clock *Saturday eve.*

EVEN HUNTINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

HEAD QUARTERS, — MILES FROM FORT LEE,  
August 24<sup>th</sup> 1780.

SIR:

I am now to acknowledge the honor of your Excellency's dispatches of the 9<sup>th</sup> which I received four or five days ago, and which I have been prevented answering before, by a variety of pressing business—

With respect to the exchange of Officers—I beg leave to refer Congress to the Inclosures No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 which comprehend the correspondence which has passed of late, between us and the Enemy on the subject—and by which they will perceive the footing on which the business stands—and that I have been doing already all in my Power to accomplish their wishes on this head. I expect General Lincoln will be in Camp the 10<sup>th</sup> of next month, from a Letter I received from him yesterday, with a view of meeting Gen. Phillips on the 12<sup>th</sup> at Elizabeth Town, agreeable to their mutual desires and a proposition which has passed between them for the

purpose, where I will direct Mr Skinner, the Deputy Commissary, to attend and endeavour to effectuate an exchange on the principles, and to the intent Congress have mentioned in their Act of the 7<sup>th</sup>— I shall include the case of General Burgoyne in my instructions to him, presuming it will be agreeable to Congress, if I do not receive a Letter from them, expressive of their sense to the contrary. His exchange, I think, under all circumstances, for our Colonels, who cannot be released on the principle of equal rank, would be a very fortunate event, but it is one I do not expect, from the little estimation in which they seem to hold them. If an exchange is going into, I would observe the rule of seniority will be departed from, in the instance of Colonel Webb and Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Ramsey. The prisoners taken in the Eagle packet were captured by a private vessel, whose owners have expressed a desire and insisted that the former should have the benefit of them, so far as it should be necessary for his own exchange, and the State of Maryland have claimed the release of the latter for Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col. Connolly, who was taken by them, as other States had done in like circumstances. The exceptions in favour of these two gentlemen, are founded on these reasons. In every other instance of exchange, where similiar causes have not existed and been insisted on by the States—the business, so far as it has been directed by me, has uniformly been conducted on the principles of equality of rank and priority of Capture. I am exceedingly happy that measures are taking for the support and accommodation of our prisoners and I hope their situation in future will be more comfortable than it has hitherto been— \* \* \*

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

CAMP TEN EYCK, 4 miles from Hackensack, 2 miles from New }  
 Bridge, opposite Fort Washington, 30th August, 1780. }

DEAR SIR:

Our news is small, tho' possibly I may tell four days ago a duel was fought between Lt. Peyton \* and another officer, both of them

\* Mr. Horace Edwin Hayden, whose *Virginia Genealogies* contains an account of the Peyton family, suggests that this was probably Dade Peyton, a cornet in Col. Stephen Moylan's regiment of Light Dragoons, raised in Pennsylvania. He was made a Lieutenant, 2 June, 1779.

Maryland Horse; Peyton was killed, the other wounded. The next day a duel was fought between Baskenridge Wm. Livingston & a Mr. Stack, volunteer in the Marechosa [Marechaussée] Horse. Livingston was killed & buried the night before last at Hackensack. I pity poor Eliza.

I have not yet been able to obtain the commissions from the Board of War agreeable to the arrangements long since made out, nor doth it appear probable I shall soon. It embarrasses me very much. The officers are very much dissatisfied at the neglect. They think the board do not intend to fill the vacancies.

The Right wing of the army, except the 2d Conn. commanded by Maj. Gen'l Greene, went on a foraging party last Saturday & to obtain provisions for our starved army Down Past Powles Hook to the Point of Bergen next Staten Island, and without any molestation from the enemy they obtained considerable forage & some beef. The rascality of our troops was equal to the British. They plundered the inhabitants villainously, and I believe offered that violence to some for which the British are universally condemned. One of the Pennsylvania line was immediately hung up for his conduct without ceremony.\*

\*“It gives me pain to inform Congress, that we are again in a most disagreeable situation with respect to provision of the meat kind—and we have not from any thing I can find, any good prospect of being either entirely relieved, or of being tolerably well supplied within a reasonable time. A great part of the troops on the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> were without any Supply of this Article, and the whole on one of these days; and Since, those that have received, have had but the most scanty pittance, and chiefly such as has been exacted from the exhausted Stores of the Inhabitants. The circumstances we were in determined me, to proceed with the Army to this place yesterday, with a view of attempting some relief from a Forage—and we have now parties detached into the Country below, into Bergen and Barbadoes Necks, to collect any provision that may be there. I dont expect but little Income from the measure, as these places from their Contiguity to the Enemy, will probably be found much drained,—any thing however will be acceptable, and will contribute to silence the complaints of the Troops I have written to Governor Trumbull on our situation, and entreated him to use all his influence to assist us. The State of Flour is such, as to afford us a daily supply, but even our prospects of this Article are by no means such as to make it certain that this will be the case long, especially if we are obliged to continue issuing an increased quantity on account of the failure of meat.”—*Washington to the President of Congress*, 24 August, 1780.

You will think it strange that the army at this season should be starving, but I can assure you that the troops previous to the time above mentioned, and while that party were out, rec'd no meat. For six days they rec'd only  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. Pork (for meat), and that was taken by force from the inhabitants. They received their flour daily, but no meat but what I mentioned in the six days. Your own feelings will be too keen on the relation without their being aggravated by one who was a sharer in the distress.

We are now in a country in which paper money is not worth a straw. We have nothing but what the Commissary Store affords us & God knows that it is poor enough; beef sometimes tho' not always and that very often poor, which we ought not to expect at this season. You must change your Congress, that new system may be formed for your army. They cannot exist as an army otherwise.

Make my love to Mr. Webb & family, Peter Colt, &c., James Lockwood, &c., & believe me to be yours, &c.

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR-GENERAL LINCOLN.

HEAD QUARTERS, 10 September, 1780.

SIR:

By a letter I have received from from Sir Henry Clinton, of the 4th Instant, I find that the interview, which has been proposed between you and General Phillips, is to take place on the 19th of the month at Elizabeth Town. I presume Sir Henry Clinton informed you of this by the letter I now transmit; and I need not add, that it will give me the highest pleasure, if you can effect your exchange, either for Major-General Phillips or Major-General de Riedesel.

From the prospect I had, founded on the correspondence which I had seen, that there would be a meeting between you and General Phillips on the subject of your exchange, and the earnest desire I had of extending this business still farther, I was induced to inform Sir Henry Clinton, by a letter of the 26th ulto., that "I should direct our Commissary of prisoners to be present at the time, who would be instructed to execute with the Commissary on his part, if he should think proper to send him, an exchange of Officers, prisoners of War, on the footing of equal rank or composition, so far as the

number in our hands would admit, and to include also the whole of the Officers of convention now on parole at New York or in Europe." General Clinton has answered my letter, and informed me, that "His Commissary of prisoners should attend." I shall accordingly order Mr. Skinner, our Deputy Commissary of prisoners to be at Elizabeth Town on the 19th, who will be fully instructed to carry my propositions to Sir Henry Clinton into execution. The business, as to the main points, will rest on the most simple footing, and such as Mr. Skinner is perfectly acquainted with. He has also a familiar knowledge of the few more particular cases, which can arise on the occasion, as he has been long in office, and has not only had repeated instructions, but has acted upon the subject. From these considerations, I will not give you any trouble in the matter, more than to wish you to interest General Phillips, as far as you can with propriety, if you should find it necessary, to promote and countenance the exchanges, which are mutually interesting to both parties. Before you set out for Elizabeth Town, I will show you the instructions, Mr. Skinner will receive. I am, &c.\*

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

\* A meeting took place at Elizabethtown, according to the tenor of the above letter, between General Lincoln and General Phillips; but the parties could not agree, and nothing was effected, either in regard to the personal exchange of these two officers, or a general exchange proposed in the instructions to Mr. Skinner. There was a misunderstanding as to the object of the interview. General Phillips had got the idea, that he and General Lincoln were to discuss the whole subject of exchanges, and also the appointment of commissaries to reside with the respective armies, and said he went out with powers to that extent; whereas General Lincoln had no other authority than to make an arrangement for his own exchange. "I shall decline giving any opinion upon this fruitless meeting," said General Phillips in a letter to General Washington, "but I must be allowed to acknowledge my extreme surprise, that it should be conceived by any person necessary for General Lincoln and myself to confer upon the matter of his partial and personal exchange, which depended so entirely and absolutely upon Sir Henry Clinton and your Excellency, and might have been settled by the receipt and return of a letter on either side."—*Elizabethtown*, September 23d. The mistake was on the part of Sir Henry Clinton, because, in his letter on the subject of the meeting for an exchange of prisoners, he had said that Mr. Loring, the commissary, would be sent out for the purpose, and had not mentioned General Phillips as being designed to take any other part, than that of concerting his own exchange with General Lincoln. He wrote a letter to Washington dated the 19th,



## GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ABRAHAM SKINNER.\*

HEAD-QUARTERS, 17 September, 1780.

SIR :

It having been agreed that an interview should take place at Elizabethtown between Major-Generals Phillipps and Lincoln on the subject of their exchange, I was induced, from the earnest desire I had of relieving the Prisoners on both sides, so far as circumstances would admit, and in compliance with the directions of Congress, to inform His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton on the 26th ulto., that "I should direct our Commissary of Prisoners to attend at Elizabethtown at the same time, who would be instructed to execute with the Commissary on his part, if he should think proper to send him, an exchange of Officers, Prisoners of War, on the footing of equal rank, or composition, as far as the number in our hands would admit, and to include also the whole of the Officers of Convention on parole at New York, or in Europe." The interview between the two Generals is to be on the 19th instant, when Sir Henry Clinton has informed me in answer to my letter, that "His Commissary should attend."

You will, therefore, proceed to Elizabethtown, on the 15th instant, and meet the Commissary on the part of Sir Henry Clinton, or other Officer deputed by him, with whom you will make, or endeavour to make, under the restrictions and exceptions heretofore mentioned, an Exchange of *all* the Enemy's *Officers, who are prisoners of War* in our hands, and also of all the Officers of *Convention* on parole in *New York, or in Europe*, for an equal number of ours of like rank, according to the order of their captivity; and, when the principle of equal rank will not apply, you will exchange them on the footing of composition; confining the composition to Officers *only*; and according to the value or tariff treated of and judged reasonable by the Commissioners at the last meeting at Amboy. In the Exchanges on the principle of composition, our Officers next in rank to those belonging to the Enemy's Army, who cannot be exchanged on the

the day on which the meeting took place, stating that he had entrusted General Phillips with full powers respecting the business of exchange. But General Washington was absent when the latter arrived in camp, nor was it received till it was too late to send similar powers to General Lincoln.

\* Deputy Commissary-general of Prisoners.

principle of equality, are to be included, and in the order of their captivity.

The above are the general rules, by which you are to conduct yourself in the execution of the proposed business, and which are to operate *only* in general with respect to our Officers, prisoners in this quarter, and for their benefit, whose long captivity gives them a claim to the public's first attention. There is, however, besides the exchange, which it is hoped Major-Genl. Lincoln will effect of himself, either for Major-General Phillips or Major-Genl. Riedesel, and which falls within the principle of equality, the case of Brigadr.-Genl. Duportail, whose release, being particularly directed by Congress, must be attempted and effected, either upon one or other of the foregoing principles, tho' it would be best if it could be obtained on that of composition. The case of Lt.-Colo. Ramsay and Connolly is also to be particularly attended to, for the reasons formerly given you, and likewise Col. Webb's, if the several officers taken in the Eagle packet are comprehended in your transactions, & which, upon every principle of justice, ought to be the case. If there are any other instances of Exchanges out of the general and customary line, about which you have received any orders from Congress or the Board of War, you must of course regard them and comply with their directions, or at least endeavour to carry them into execution.

You are perfectly acquainted with all the circumstances respecting Violators of parole, and know who have been adjudged such, and who have not, and the order and manner in which they are to be accounted; and also the characters for whom we do not conceive ourselves accountable. It is therefore unnecessary for me to observe further with respect to these, than that the Instructions, you have had repeatedly concerning them, are to govern you on the present occasion. We have in Canada a Lieut.-Colonel Stacey, a prisoner belonging to the Massachusetts line, who was taken at Cherry Valley on the 11th of November, 1778. He is to be added to your list of Lt.-colonels, and exchanged whenever it comes to his turn, having regard to the time of his captivity. You will also recollect the captains, who are Hostages, and endeavour at their release.

An exchange of *all* the Officers, prisoners of War in our hands, and also of *all* the Convention Officers on parole in *New York* or *Europe*, is what is earnestly wished. But if you find you cannot

make it so general as to comprehend the whole, make it as extensive as you can. You will report your proceedings to me and the Exchanges you may make, specifying the names and ranks of the Officers on both sides. I have mentioned your Instructions to Major-General Lincoln, who will facilitate the execution of the Objects to which they extend, as far as he can, by endeavouring to get General Phillips to countenance the business either wholly or partially, if it should be necessary. \* \* \* I am, dear Sir, &c.\*

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON

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ABRAHAM SKINNER TO JOSHUA LORING.

ELIZA TOWN, Sept. 21, 1780.

SIR:

Agreeable to his Excellency General Washington's instructions to me, I am to propose to you the exchange of *all* your officers, who are prisoners of war in our hands, and also of *all* the officers of convention on parole in New York or in Europe, for an equal number of ours of like rank, and according to the order of their captivity; and where the principle of equal rank will not apply, I will exchange them on the footing of equal composition, confining the composition to officers *only*, and, according to the value or tariff treated of, and judged reasonable by the Commissioners at the last meeting at Amboy.

That in the exchange, on the principle of composition, our officers next in rank to those belonging to your army, who cannot be exchanged on the principle of equality, are to be included, & in the order of their captivity.

These are the general principles, by which I am to be governed in the execution of the proposed business, and which are to operate only, in general, with respect to our officers, prisoners in this quar-

\* Mr. Skinner met the British commissary, but they could not agree upon any plan of exchange within the range of the above instructions. Mr. Loring, the British commissary, said the proposals would be accepted if the privates then prisoners in New York were included. On the 8th of October, General Washington wrote to Sir Henry Clinton: "This is perfectly agreeable to me, and I have accordingly directed our commissary to take the most effectual and immediate measures to carry into execution the exchange as well as those privates as of the officers."

ter, and for their benefit, whose long captivity gives them a claim to the public's first attention.

There is, however, the exchange of Brigadier Gen<sup>l</sup> Duportail and Lieut. Col. Laurens, who were taken at Charleston, which I am also directed to make ; and also the exchange of Col. Webb and Lieut. Col. Ramsay, upon the terms heretofore proposed.

It is wished, that the exchange of *all* the officers, prisoners of war in our hands, and also of all the convention officers on parole in New York or Europe may take place, but if we cannot make it so general as to comprehend the whole, we will make it as extensive as we can.

I am, Sir,

AB<sup>M</sup> SKINNER,

Com<sup>y</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Pris.\*

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JOSHUA LORING TO ABRAHAM SKINNER.

ELIZABETH TOWN, 22 Sept. 1780.

SIR:

You must naturally imagine, how much I have been surprised, at the receipt of your letter dated yesterday, containing proposals of a general exchange of the officers prisoners of war, without any consideration of the unfortunate privates ; you will please to recollect that the proposal of the exchange of the American privates, prisoners of war in New York, came first from you in last February, on which an express vessel was dispatched to his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, in South Carolina, for his orders concerning this matter, which were obtained early in May ; on the sixth of which month, I writ you, consenting to an exchange of the privates, as far as the American privates, prisoners of war in New York went, as also of all the officers, rank for rank, or otherwise by composition, where similar ranks did not apply. This offer for an exchange of officers and privates was repeated in the month of June, by the orders of the king's commander in chief in America, he being arrived at that time from South Carolina at New York. Some time in July, you proposed an exchange of officers without privates, & desired a meeting with me at Staten Island, to adjust any doubtful matters, that

\* From the Sparks MSS. in Harvard University.

might arise upon the subject. Willing, on my part, to do any thing for the humane purpose of an exchange, which his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton had expressed to have very fully at heart, I obtained permission to meet you, but unfortunately, finding you positively instructed not to make any exchange of the privates, prisoners of war, I was under the necessity of informing you, that I could not engage in a business that had so inhuman a conclusion. I repeat, therefore, my surprise, that you should meet me again at this place with the same ungenerous proposals.

I have now, on my part to inform you, that I am prepared and ready to make an exchange with you of all the British and German officers, prisoners of war in your hands, for an equal number of American officers, prisoners of war on Long Island, rank for rank, and when similar ranks will not apply, to pursue the exchange, on the footing of composition, according to the value or tariff treated of and adjudged reasonable, by the commissioners at Amboy; and that, in the exchange, on the principle of composition, the officers, next in rank to those who cannot be exchanged on the principle of equality, may be included, and that General Washington's principle of justice, respecting the American officers, prisoners of war first taken, to be first exchanged, may be pursued. In this exchange, will also be included such officers, prisoners of war, as are on parole on both sides, as also the American officers, violators of parole, in their order of capture.

I am also instructed and directed to make the exchange with you of the officers of the troops of Convention, who are on parole in New York, or in Europe, and also of the officers taken on board the Eagle packet, with an exception to Major Gen<sup>l</sup> de Riedesel, Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Phillips, and Lieut. Gen<sup>l</sup> Burgoyne, and, on the subject of these officers, I am ordered to inform you, however it may happen respecting the immediate exchange of the two Major Gen<sup>ls</sup>, that of Lieut. Gen<sup>l</sup> Burgoyne cannot come into contemplation, or be admitted of, until two complete divisions of the troops of convention are exchanged, agreeable to a plan conversed upon, between the commissioners at the last meeting at Amboy, copies of which plans of exchange, the commissioners on both sides had, for the perusal of their superiors. Lieut. Genl. Burgoyne can only, therefore, be exchanged with the third or last division of the troops of convention.

I am to inform you that this exchange of officers, as now proposed by me, can only take place with the exchange of privates, prisoners of war on both sides, as far as the number of the American privates, prisoners of war now in New York, and according to the plan, given by me to you, in my letter of May and June last, upon this subject.

I am also further to inform you, that I came to Elizabethtown, prepared to settle with you the plan for the immediate exchange of the British and German troops, under the treaty of Convention of Saratoga, against the American troops, under Major-General Lincoln taken at the surrender of Charleston, upon which subject, Major-General Lincoln and Major-Gen<sup>l</sup>. Phillips have met at Elizabethtown.

I have been ordered to pursue this, under the instructions of Major-Gen<sup>l</sup>. Phillips, who directs me to inform you, that he is ready to give me full authority and advice upon this matter, for the carrying such an exchange into immediate act; supposing you to have any powers from your superiors to enter upon that business.

The making a general exchange, of both officers and privates, is so full of that humanity and generosity, which ought to subsist between armies, that I will not expatiate upon it; nor need I enlarge, upon the constant attention we have had, to carry those compassionate purposes into execution, it will be left to a dispassionate world to judge of.

But I am to inform you, that after having kept a considerable part of your prisoners of war, for above twelve months, at New York, and the whole above six, at a very great inconveniency, and at a still greater expense; it becomes necessary, that we should be released from both the one and the other, and, if your superiors are cruel enough not to suffer the men who fight their battles, to be exchanged, we shall be under the necessity of sending them to some other parts, where they may be lodged and fed, under every description of humanity, but without being of that inconveniency and expense, as I have before observed, they are to us, in their present situation.

I am &c

JOSH<sup>A</sup>. LORING

Com<sup>ry</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>. Pris.\*

\*From Sparks MSS. in Harvard University.

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MAJOR-GENERAL LINCOLN TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

CAMP, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1780.

MY DEAR GENERAL:

I take this early opportunity to inform Your Excellency that, in the late interview, no exchanges took place, and that I see little prospect that any will be effected, while the Idea remains, that officers only are to be the subject of it.

In the course of Consideration with General Phillips, (for nothing more took place between us relative to a general exchange of Prisoners as I early informed him that I was not authorized to go into that matter) I found that he supposed the reason, why we declined the exchange of privates was, that we were unwilling to throw into their hands, in the middle of a Campaign, such a reinforcement as they would receive by an Exchange of all the privates—To obviate this difficulty he mentioned, that the exchange of privates might be postponed to some future day, say the first of December, sooner or later as should be agreed on, but so as not to Act this Campaign—This I hope will remove the objections which have existed against a general Exchange of privates—I think policy—justice and humanity point to the propriety of exchanging them, if not Immediately, yet at the close of the campaign. Your Excellency will permit me to offer the reasons on which I ground this opinion.

The Men now prisoners of War (excuse the personality of my situation) are those, who, from an attachment to the Liberties of America engaged in her cause, from a reliance, that they should not only find every support from their fellow Citizens in the important contest, but that they should enjoy all the immunities and blessings peculiar to the Soldier, in the power of the people to grant—that an Exchange, when made prisoner, is one of the rights of a Soldier, none I think will deny—and that he may claim a release when just and reasonable Terms can be had.

The long and distressing Captivity which many of the prisoners have endured, the severe sufferings to which many of them are now reduced from nakedness and hunger, their constant attendants, and the want of almost every convenience and necessary of life, the miseries of which are augmented and embittered by the narrow limits of a loathsome Gaol, and their having no assurance that their sufferings will soon have an end—call for redress.

The prisoners pained with regret became sore—their minds are soured, and their friends and connexions think them neglected by the public. This may prevent the recruiting our Battalions, and cause a disrelish for the service. Every thing of the kind, I think, should be avoided, and never more necessary than at the present day, when it seems to be the general voice that our only safety and the Freedom of America (under the Supreme Arbiter) depend on an Army raised for the War. If we should refuse to exchange the privates on the proposals made of man for man, it must, I think, operate Powerfully on the minds of those, who other wise might engage in the service, when they reflect how uncertain are the events of War, and that it may be their lot to become the prisoner, and to be destined to a miserable and perhaps to an endless Captivity: and when the Enemy shall have published their Declaration of our refusal to accede to an equal and fair Exchange, we may find it a matter of much difficulty to justify ourselves to the World at large, who will naturally enough suspect us of injustice, in not fulfilling our public engagements, as they will accuse us of wanting humanity in neglecting those very Men, who have stepped forth to arrest our rights.

The daily decreasing of the number of the Convention Troops, by deserting to the Enemy, for which we have no Compensation, and the great Expence to which we are exposed for the support of them, and of our Officers and Men Prisoners of War with the Enemy, must have their weight in urging to the propriety of an Exchange.—

To the foregoing reasons, in my humble opinion sufficient of themselves, permit me to annex an apprehension for our unfortunate Prisoners now in New York. The Enemy, supposing themselves authorized by our refusal of an Exchange, may under pretence of economising Provisions, providing for their own safety, or some other plausible reason, have our Prisoners removed to some distant and consequently disagreeable situation, where they may be subjected to less expence &c: Should an event of this kind take place, retaliation is hardly in our power, as all parts of the Continent are equally agreeable to the British.

I hope, Sir, on a review of the matter, as the objection of reinforcing the Enemy this Campaign is removed, a general exchange will be adopted, by which, many of your Officers and Men, now



suffering under the most miserable Captivity, will be released, and once more have the honor of fighting under Your Excellency's particular Command, in support of that Independence of America, which induced them to quit the sweets of a domestic life for the toils of a Camp, which no one will re-enter with more cheerfulness than him who has the honor to be, with the highest Esteem Your Excellency's most obe<sup>t</sup> & houn. Ser<sup>t</sup>

B. LINCOLN.

FROM MAJOR TALLMADGE.

HEADQUARTERS, TAPPAN, Sept. 30th, 1780.

DEAR SIR:

I must acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of the 12th and 16th inst. ; am sorry I did not receive them in season, that I might have had the pleasure of seeing you on your way to New Jersey. Benton has gone into New York with the horses, etc., agreeable to your request.

You have doubtless heard before this of the rascally conduct of Arnold. He has gone to the enemy, where I think his misery, which must ensue, will be complete. Poor *Andre*, who has been under my charge almost ever since he was taken, has yesterday had his trial, and tho' his sentence is not known, a disgraceful death is undoubtedly allotted to him. By Heavens! Col. Webb, I never saw a man whose fate I foresaw, whom I so sincerely pitied. He is a young fellow of the greatest accomplishments, and was the Prime Minister of Sir Henry on all occasions. He has unbosomed his heart to me, and indeed, let me know almost every motive of his actions so fully since he came out on his late mission that he has endeared himself to me exceedingly. Unfortunate man! He will undoubtedly suffer death tomorrow, and tho' he knows his fate, seems to be as cheerful as if he was going to an assembly. I am sure he will go to the gallows less tearful for his fate, and with less concern than I shall behold the tragedy.\* Had he been tried by a Court of ladies, he is so

\* "I am thus far [Haverstraw] on my Return from Head Quarters, where I have finished my last Duty to *poor Andre*, of whom I wrote you particularly before. I have begged this scrap of paper of Gen<sup>l</sup> Wayne . . . to inform you that Major *Andre* was hanged on the 2<sup>d</sup> instant, 12 o'clock. His conduct was un-

*genteel, handsome, polite* a young gentleman, that I am confident they would have acquitted him.

But enough of poor *Andre*, who, tho' he dies lamented, falls justly. I am happy to find he has wrote to Sir Henry Clinton, in which letters he speaks highly of our treatment towards him, and takes off the idea of his being under *sanction of a flag* when he was taken, which has been told by Arnold to Sir Henry, that our conduct in punishing might be censurable. I think that his letter to General Clinton will effectually ruin Arnold with the enemy.

Jos. Smith, an accomplice with Arnold, I also bro't on with me; he is now under trial.\*

paralleled on the occasion. He met death with a smile, cheerfully marching to the place of execution, & bidding his friends, those who had been with him, farewell. He called me to him a few minutes before he swung off, and expressed his Gratitude to me for my Civilities in such a way, and so cheerfully bid me adieu, that I was obliged to leave the parade in a flood of Tears. I cannot say enough of his fortitude—unfortunate youth; I wish Arnold had been in his place." *Major Tallmadge to Col. Wadsworth, 4 October, 1780.*

\* Joshua Hett Smith was tried for connection with Arnold, and suspected complicity in his treasonable relations with André. On the last meeting between the American general and the agent of Sir Henry Clinton, André was taken to Smith's house, where he remained a day, expecting to return to the *Vulture*, a British vessel then lying in the river. André was in British uniform, and as it was thought necessary to disguise him, Smith lent him one of his own coats, retaining the British coat, which was afterwards produced at his trial. In the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb* is noted the following tradition:

"My uncle, John Webb, a Captain of Cavalry, was, like my father, a frequent visitor of the Beekman Manor House, during the campaign on the Hudson; and having slept there on one occasion, Mrs. Beekman says, 'On leaving in the morning, he said to me, "I leave my valise, which contains all the money I have and my uniform. I'll send for it; but do not deliver it without a written order from me." On the following morning, I heard John Smith [an error for Joshua], a neighbor, whom I always suspected, ask my husband for Major Jack's valise; and he told me to get it from the Major's bedroom. I called out, enquiring of Smith, if he had a written order from Major Jack, for the valise? He answered, "No; but you cannot doubt that he sent me." I told him he was a good-for-nothing fellow; and bade him go about his business. It subsequently turned out, that Smith, at that moment, had charge of Major André, and wanted Major Jack's uniform, in order that he might pass our lines as an American officer. André was arrested on the following morning.'"

The following letter from Joshua King, a lieutenant in Sheldon's regiment of

Of news we are entirely bare. I conclude you are so taken up with the agreeable prospect of connubial life that you can hardly pay attention enough to read a letter from your friend—a man who would not risk anything for such a Banker would deserve never to Light Dragoons, is little known, and mentions a casual meeting, without recognition, between André and Colonel Webb:—

RIDGEFIELD, July 9th, 1817.

DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 9th is before me. I have noted the contents, and am sorry to observe the indignity I feel at the idea of being obliged to translate a foreign language to obtain a true history of any part of our revolution. The facts, so far as I am acquainted with them, which it is the object of your letter to obtain, I will state according to the best of my recollection.

Paulding, Williams and Van Wert I never saw before, or since that event. I know nothing about them. The time and place where they stopped Major André, seems to justify the character you have drawn of them. The truth is, to the impudence of the men, and not to the patriotism of any one, is to be attributed the capture of Major André. I was the first, and only officer, who had charge of him whilst at the Head Quarters of the 2d Regiment of Light Dragoons, which was then at Esq. Gilbert's in South Salem. He was brought up by an adjutant and four men, belonging to the Connecticut Militia, then under the command of Lieut. Colonel Jameson on the lines near Tarrytown, in character under the disguised name of John Anderson. He looked somewhat like a reduced gentleman, His small clothes were Nankeen, with handsome whitetop Boots—in fact his undress military Clothes. His Coat purple, with gold lace, worn somewhat threadbare, with a small brimmed tarnished Beaver on his head. He wore his hair in a queue, with a long black beard, and his clothes somewhat dirty. In this garb I took charge of him. After breakfast my Barber came in to dress me, after which I requested him to undergo the same operation, which he did. When the ribbon was taken from his hair I observed it full of powder; this circumstance with others that occurred, induced me to believe I had no ordinary person in charge. He requested permission to take the Bed whilst his Shirt and Small Clothes could be washed. I told him that was needless, for a Shirt was at his service, which he accepted. We were close pent up in a bed-room, with a Vidette at the door and window. There was a spacious yard before the door, which he desired he might be permitted to walk in with me. I accordingly disposed of my guard in such a manner as to prevent an escape. While walking together he observed he must make a confidant of somebody, and he knew not a more proper person than myself, as I had appeared to befriend a stranger in distress. After settling the point between ourselves, he told me who he was, and gave me a short account of himself, from the time he was taken in St. John's in 1775, to that time. He requested a pen and ink, and wrote immediately to Gen. Washington, declaring who he was. About midnight the express returned with orders from Gen. Washington to Col. Sheldon to send Major André immediately to Head Quarters. I

be happy. All must approve your choice; but you only will be benefitted by the bargain. God bless you, and if I believed she remembered me as well as I do her, I would send her a thousand compliments.

started with him, and before I got to North Salem Meeting House met another Express with a Letter directed to the Officer commanding the party who had Major André in charge. This Letter directed a circuitous route to Head Quarters, for fear of re-capture.—Gave an account of Arnold's desertion, &c., with directions to forward the Letter to Col. Sheldon, and I did so; and before I got to the end of my journey I was joined by Capt. — and after by Maj. Tallmadge and Capt. Rogers.

Having given you this clue, I proceed with the Major's own story. He said he came up the North River in the Vulture Sloop of War, for the purpose of seeing a person by Flag;—that was not, however, accomplished: of course he had to come ashore in a Skiff, and after he had done his business, the wind was so high, the Dutchman who took him ashore dare not venture to return him on board. The night following the Militia had lined the shore, so that no attempt could be made with safety. Consequently he was obliged to shift his Clothes, and was furnished with a Continental Horse, and Gen. Arnold's pass, and was to take a route by Peekskill, Crampound, Pines Bridge, Sing Sing, Tarrytown, to New York.

Nothing could disturb him in his route, until he arrived at the last place, excepting at Crampound; he told me his hair stood erect, and his heart was in his mouth, on meeting Col. Samuel B. Webb, of our army, plump in the face—an acquaintance of his. He said the Colonel stared at him, and he thought he was gone, but they kept moving, and soon passed each other. He then thought himself passed all danger. Whilst ruminating on his good luck, and his hair breadth escape, he was assailed by three bushmen near Tarrytown, who ordered him to stand. He says to them, I hope, gentlemen, you belong to the lower party. We do, says one. So do I, says he, and by the token of this ring and key you will let me pass. I am a British Officer on business of importance, and must not be detained. One of them took his watch from him, and ordered him to dismount. The moment this was done, he said he found he was mistaken, and he must shift his tone, He says, I am happy, gentlemen, to find I am mistaken. You belong to the upper party, and so do I. A man must make use of any shift to get along, and to convince you of it, here is Gen. Arnold's pass, handing it to them, and I am in his service. Damn Arnold's pass says they. You said you was a British Officer; where is your money? Gentlemen I have none about me, he replied. You a British Officer, and no money, says they. Let's search him. They did so, but found none. Says one, he has got his money in his boots, and there they found his papers, but no money. Then they examined his saddle, but found none. He said, he saw they had such a thirst for money, he could put them in a way to get it, if they would be directed by him. He asked them to name their sum for to deliver him to King's Bridge. They answered him in this way. If we deliver you at King's Bridge, we shall be sent to the Sugar House, and you will save your

To your Sister Hetty please make my compliments, and to any person of my acquaintance.

In haste, believe me, Your friend, and most Obedient servant,

BENJ. TALLMADGE.\*

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

CAMP TAPPAN, 1st October, '80.

DEAR WEBB :

Your favor of Yesterday's date was handed me last Even<sup>g</sup> very unexpected, for which I thank Miss Banker. You ask about Arnold, I money. He says to them, if you will not trust my honor, two of you may stay with me, and one shall go with a letter which I shall write. Name your sum. The sum was agreed upon, but I cannot recollect whether it was five hundred or a thousand guineas, the latter I think was the sum. They held a consultation a considerable time, and finally they told him, if he wrote, a party would be sent out and take them, and then they all should be prisoners. They said they had concluded to take him to the commanding Officer on the lines. They did so, and retained the Watch, until Gen. Washington sent for them to Tappen, when the Watch was restored to Maj. André. Thus you see, had money been at command after the imprudent confession of Maj. André, or any security given that the patriots could put confidence in, he might have passed on to Sir Henry Clinton's Head Quarters, with all his papers, and Arnold's papers into the bargain. I do not recollect to have seen a true statement of this business in any history that has fallen into my hands.

If my memory serves me, Arnold solicited and obtained the command at West Point, in consequence of his being an invalid; and the reason why his negotiation was not completed by Flag of Truce, I will state what Gen. Washington told to the French Ambassador, Luzerne.

He started on his route to Hartford, and dined, with Gen. Arnold, at Haverstraw at Joshua Smith's where Arnold and André met. Gen. Arnold showed him a Letter from Gen. Robinson directed to Gen. Putnam, or Officer commanding West Point, requesting an interview by Flag on business of the first importance to the United States. Gen. Arnold asked Gen. Washington if he should go and hear what he had to say. Gen. Washington replied that it would be very improper for the Commander in Chief of a Post to meet anybody himself. He could send a trusty hand if he thought proper. But he added, I had no more suspicion of Arnold than I had of myself. This accounts for Maj. André's failure by Flag, and his subsequent movements.

I have thus far complied with your request, giving you such facts, viz: What I have heard from the mouth of Maj. André, and what I heard Gen. Washington tell the French Minister soon after the execution of Maj. André.

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 297.

can only say that last Saturday he deserted to the Enemy without Compleating his hellish Plott, which was to deliver up the Post at W. Point. M<sup>r</sup> André of the Brittish Army, an Aid to Sir Henry & Ad<sup>l</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> to the Army at the Request of Arnold sent from N. York to meet Arnold which he did at Joshua Smith's and there rec<sup>d</sup> every plan & return from Arnold which he wanted.—On his return to N. York he was taken below all our fixt Guards, by two persons who live by Plunder on the Enemy & had Virtue Suff<sup>t</sup> to withstand every offer of reward he would make, or any threat for refusing to let him pass altho he had a Permit from Arnold. It was the most *fortunate* train of good *fortune* in detecting Arnold that could Possibly have happen<sup>d</sup>—the Particulars which you wish would take a Volume, & I am utterly unable at this time to give them to you Correctly. Sam<sup>l</sup> Wyllys hath not been gone two hours—& Epaphras Bull lies snoring on the Ground. Gen<sup>l</sup> Lincoln was not able when he met M<sup>r</sup> Phillips at Elizabeth Town to agree to an Exchange of families. I hear nothing said of a Gen<sup>l</sup> Exchange.

Wyllys & the other officers whom I recommended are Promoted & feel happy.—Give my love to Betsy, Hetty & the rest of *your* family; tell them God bless them. I wish to be at the N. Branch, but I do not expect it. If honest Dick & his Lady are with you let them know I remember my Old N. York friends. Your Gun you sent for is now at Weth<sup>d</sup> sent there last Spring by John Burnham.

I have a great deal to say to you, and had we not (the last Even<sup>g</sup>) drank our *Sweethearts* & Wives in some very fine Cherry I would finish the Sheet, I can not add to the Scroll, only by once more giving my love to the dear Girls, & subscribing myself your friend

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

Jack Wyllys, Williams Walker & Epa Bull desire their Compliments, I believe Bull is honest, tho' he is not quite awake.

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FROM RICHARD CARY.

SUNDAY MORN<sup>g</sup>, 1 October, 1780.

DEAR WEBB:

We all agree that it will be equally as pleasing to attend you to Brunswick the next week as this, and indeed had it been a disappointment, the cause would to Mr<sup>s</sup> Cary & myself have produced all

that heartfelt delight & joy that a sincere friendship to such deserving persons is capable of exciting in our breasts. You will there fore naturally conclude that we cheerfully acquiesce in postponing the jaunt—for myself I shall only say that I expect to set off the beginning of the week for Phil<sup>a</sup>, & therefore fear I shall not have it in my power to be present at the solemnity; but whether I am or not, I shall cordially participate in my friends prospects of future happiness; and most ardently pray that the ceremony may be the introduction to an unchangeable scene of conjugal Bliss, which shall last for many many happy years.

M<sup>r</sup>. Low & M<sup>rs</sup> Cary join in best regards to all the Ladies & yourself, with, D<sup>r</sup>. Webb, yours most faithfully. You may depend on it, *mum's* the word.

R<sup>p</sup>. CARY.

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FROM ABRAHAM SKINNER.

H<sup>p</sup> Q<sup>rs</sup> 1 October, 1780.

MY DEAR COL<sup>o</sup>

I am happy in [the] opportunity of telling you that the result of the last negotiation of exchange has produced a Letter from Gen<sup>l</sup>. Lincoln to his Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington, who means to refer it to Congress. I think this the critical moment; I shall set off tomorrow or next day for Phil<sup>a</sup> with the Dispatches from Head Quarters on this important Subject & could wish to see you before they are delivered. I am sure much Depends on the success that may attend them and your weight & influence with Congress is of the utmost consequence.

The Enemy are threatening to send the Privates to Hallifax or West Indies, but say nothing of the Officers. God only knows what may be their fate, it may be worse than it is, but their present situation is intolerable. I need not say any more, your own feelings will suggest the rest. I am with unalterable esteem & friendship, your ob<sup>t</sup>. Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

AB<sup>m</sup> SKINNER.

Com. Gen. Pris.

My Pen is bad & I am in haste.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT HOWE.

ORANGE TOWN, 3 October, 1780.

DEAR SIR:

Captain Webb has refer'd to me the propriety of Resigning, at least he has ask'd my advice upon the subject, & seems to intend asking yours: I have given it as my opinion that he ought not to resign, and I flatter myself you will concur with me. To say nothing of the appearance of quitting the service when America seems most to want his assistance, what would be the consequence to himself; would he not be liable to every Draft of Militia, and perhaps be obliged to Head them, & thereby run the Risque of losing his Reputation or sacrificing him self, but if the American Cause is near a man's heart, & surely it ought to be so, how can we reconcile to Honour, Patriotism, or Honesty, the retiring from service when a Diminish'd Army & Exhausted Finances, clamour loudly for the Extraordinary Exertions of every Patriot, and even for that of every Individual possess'd of the least spark of private virtue. In short, on whatever side I contemplate this Question (even as a publick one) I conceive that to resign his Commission at this Period is to act unworthy of himself, and so I am convinced it will be construed. Added to this, his Rank places him on the Brink of Promotion, and the post of Honour is a Military Station, indeed so many Circumstances combine to point out to me the impropriety of his Retiring, that loving him as I truly do, I would not have him do it by any means, and knowing your love for your Country, your Regard for him, and your nice sense of honour, I doubt not you will concur with me in sentiment, & join to dissuade him from a measure which may not only wound his Reputation, but gratify his Enemies. If you come this way, be assur'd you will make me happy in giving me as much of your company as you possibly can, being, Dear Sir, with Sentiments of Respect and great Regard,

Your most ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. HOWE.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ABRAHAM SKINNER.

PARAMUS, OCT<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1780.

SIR:

I find by your report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ultimo of the proceedings which took place at Elizabeth Town in your late meeting with the British



Orange Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1780

Dear Sir

Carpenter Webb has referred to me  
the propriety of purchasing, at least he  
has asked my Advice upon the subject  
& seems to intend asking you: I have  
given in as my Opinion that he ought  
not to do so, and I flatter myself  
you will concur with me. I am  
nothing of the opinion of quitting  
the service. Your Council seems not  
to be of <sup>his</sup> ~~our~~ opinion, that would  
be the consequence to him self; I would  
be not to be able to serve. I am of  
Militia, & would be obliged to

Head them, & throw over the Misque  
of being his Purveyor or Sacrificing  
himself, but if the American can  
is more a mens hery, & surely is  
ought to be so, how can we reconcile  
to Honor, Patriotism, or Honesty, the  
retiring from service when a Diminished  
Diminished Army, & Exhausted  
Resources, Claim on Comrades for  
the Extraordinary Exactions of  
Every District, and here for that  
of Every Individual of the  
best checks of private Birth  
in them on the other side of London  
can be let this Justice (comes  
a public one) of Justice then

to resign his Commission at this point  
is to be well worthy of himself, & so  
I am convinced it will be considered  
added to this his thank & felicitations  
him on the break of promotion,  
& the rest of Heaven is a military  
Station Station, indeed so many

circumstances combine to point  
out to me the impossibility of his  
resigning, that loving him as  
truly do, I would not have been  
able to say means, and in doing  
you love for your country, your  
regard for him, & your  
true sense of honor, I doubt  
not you will concur with me in  
sentiment, & join to dissuade  
him from a measure which

may we only reward his Protection,  
be gratify his Prayers. If you can  
this way be assur'd you will make  
me happy in giving me as much  
of your company as you possibly can  
being Dear in little Vertues  
of Mankind & your Prayers  
your more obliged  
Th<sup>r</sup> Slave

Wm. G. Brown, Esq.  
Camp at Orange, Va.  
October 3. 1782

Commissary, that the Enemy are willing to go substantially into the exchange of Officers Mentioned in my letter of Instructions to you of the 17<sup>th</sup> provided the exchange is extended to our privates who were then Prisoners of War in New York, and according to a plan their Commissary furnished you with in May and June last. This proposal, with respect to the privates, is perfectly agreeable to me, and so I have informed Sir Henry Clinton; and you will take the Most effectual and immediate Measures to carry it into execution, as well the exchange of those Privates as of the Officers, as before directed. If the exchange of Lieutenant-General Burgoyne and Major-Generals Phillips and de Riedesel cannot take place at the same time, we shall have only to regret it, as it will prevent relief to themselves and many others. The proceedings which required the particular Exchanges to be made which were mentioned in My letter of Instructions of the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, remain unaltered, and therefore they must, I presume, be still attempted. In the instance of Lieutenant-Colonel Ramsay and Colonel Webb, their exchange must be effected, as the footing on which the business stands with respect to them can admit of no Alternative. You are fully informed of it. Indeed, in the case of the former, the point has been explicitly agreed to by the Enemy for Lieutenant-Colonel Conolly; and, in the case of the latter, if he is not exchanged, the Officers of the Eagle Packet cannot be released. I wish you to expedite the business as much as possible.

I am, Sir, &c

G<sup>o</sup>. WASHINGTON.

P. S. Though the Enemy may not consent to exchange, at present, Lieutenant-General Burgoyne and Major-Generals Phillips and Riedesel, yet possibly they may be prevailed on to exchange one of the two last for Major-General Lincoln. You will endeavour to effect the release of the whole by every decent and becoming argument, as it will relieve so many of our Officers: But, at all events, attempt the exchange of one of these two for General Lincoln.

I have not yet received the determination of the State of Virginia, with respect to Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton; and therefore there can be no stipulation for his exchange.

I hope the State, to whom I have written, will give me information in time on the subject.

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TO GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITON,  
16 October, 1780.

Agreeable to my promise I have enclosed your Excellency a certify'd copy of Major Moncrieff's Letter to M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker by which you will be convinced there can be little doubt but she will be able to settle her business to her mind—provided she gets to New York before 'tis known what connections are form'd in her family—that once known, it might be made use of to keep her out of her just dues. 'Tis therefore I take the liberty to request your Excellency to forward the permit as early as conveniently may be; and as it is not impossible but M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker may meet with some effects which she left in New York, she would esteem it a favor, a Note might be added giving her permission to bring them out, with a few necessary's for her family's use, which she may probably obtain there from people who are in her Debt.

I am with much respect & esteem, your Excellency's most obed<sup>t</sup>. most Humb<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

P. S. M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker desires me to present her best Compliments & to assure your Excell<sup>y</sup> that she has no intention or desire of bringing w<sup>t</sup> her a single article, but for her family's use.

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REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

The Committee to whom General Washington's Letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Instant with Sundry other Papers were Referred beg Leave to Report :

That considering the Sufferings of the American Officers and

Soldiers in Captivity ; The Expence and Difficulty of Supporting and guarding the Convention Troops, and the Daily Desertions which take place among them, Principles of Humanity and Policy unite in Pointing out the necessity of a general Exchange upon Liberal and Equitable Terms. Your Committee submit the following Resolutions, viz :

That General Washington be authorized and Instructed to effect an Exchange of all Continental Prisoners of War and now in Possession of the Enemy ; and of the Hostages given in Canada—as well as of all officers on Parole and officers violators of Parole : or Militia actually taken in Arms and remaining prisoners of War for an equal number of the Convention Troops—and other Prisoners in our hands, Rank for Rank, and where Similar Rank will not apply to Pursue the Exchange on the Footing of Composition according to the valuation or Tariff agreed on by the Commissioners at Amboy in March Last.

That the Exchange of Officers next in Rank to such as cannot be Exchanged on the principles of Equality be considered and Exchanged on the Principles of Composition.

That all Prisoners taken by the American Forces in the Northern Department and permitted to return Home on Parole be considered and Exchanged agreeable to their Rank and order of Capture.

That the Expence Incurred for Removing and Supporting the Convention Troops from the time of their capture be adjusted by Commissioners to be appointed for effecting said Exchange and the Balance (after Deducting the Expence due for Support of our Prisoners in the hands of the Enemy) paid prior to the Exchange of any Part of said Troops.

That General Washington empower the Commissioners appointed on his Part (in Case any Dispute should arise Respecting the Support of the Convention Troops) to Submit the same to some Proper arbitrating Power for Determination and to give Hostages as a Security to Refund in Case every part thereof shall be adjudged to have been over paid.

But in Case the Commissioners which may be appointed by the British Commander in Chief will not accede to the Above Terms The Commissioners appointed by General Washington may propose to them the Exchanging said Troops without payment of Expence

upon their Submitting the Same as aforesaid and giving Hostages for securing the payment of such Sums as may be adjudged fully due.

That all officers be Exchanged according to the Rank they held at the time of Capture ; & Such of the Military as have no Regimental Rank by Composition to be settled by the Commissioners.

That a Brigadier General be Exchanged with each Divisions of the Convention Troops—one Major General with the first & one with the Last Division and that Lieut. General Burgoine be Included in and Exchanged with the Second Division as his remaining to be Exchanged with the Third or Last is altogether unmilitary and inadmissible.

That Hostages be Mutually given as a Security that the Convention Troops & Those received in exchange for them : do not bear arms Prior to the First Day of May next.

That General Washington be Informed, it is not the sense of Congress to make this last article an ultimatum ; unless from the Present State of our Army the Improbability of his being Joined by the French Troops ; or other Circumstances ; he shall be convinced that the Convention Troops will by the exchange be put in a Situation to Act with the British Army, at the Southward Prior to our having an Equal Force in readiness to oppose them.

Resolved, that the Commander in chief be directed to insist upon the Exchange of those persons prisoners of War under the Capitulation of Charles Town alluded to in their resolution of the 23d day of September last.\*

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

NORTH BRANCH RARITAN, 29th Octo., 1780.

DEAR BARRELL :

My friend Col<sup>o</sup> Cary gives me an opportun<sup>y</sup> once more to tell you I am in a state of existence, my long silence you must please to attribute to unavoidable

\* This report, or the resolutions based upon it, were not entered on the *Journals of Congress*. It was brought in on October 16th, read on the 18th, and re-committed, Mr. Hill being added to the committee. It passed November 7th. The members of the original committee were Sullivan, Bland and Mathews.



causes, for be assured I have no friend whose good opinion and Friendship I more ardently desire than yours 'tis not customary for me to make professions, my actions must speak for me—my late seeming inattention might induce you to think I had forgot my friend Barrell—'tis therefore I say I am still your warm friend S. B. Webb—the cares of life you know crowd daily & hourly on *us*, Mortals—a late change\* in my situation will prevent my passing that time with you this Winter I had promised myself (for all particulars I must refer you to Col<sup>o</sup> Cary); however one of these odd days I intend to parade myself at your Door with

\* In this month Colonel Webb married Eliza, daughter of Richard Bancker, one of the "leading merchants of New York, and the largest owner of lands in the Kayaderoseras Patent, which included the region about Saratoga." He died in New York city, 18 April, 1775, and his widow, Sarah, removed to New Jersey, on the Raritan, where Colonel Webb wooed and won the daughter.

Gerrit Bancker was in New Amsterdam as early as 1655. In 1657 he removed to Beverwyck, where he resided till his death, which occurred in February, 1691. His wife was Elizabeth Dirkse Van Eps, a sister of Jan Van Eps, one of the founders of Schenectady. On Gerrit Bancker's death, his widow removed to New York, and engaged in trade, by which she became wealthy, and left a large property to her children Evert and Anna. Anna became the wife of Johannes De Peyster, of New York, in 1688. Evert succeeded to the mercantile house, living in Albany, where he held many official positions of trust. In 1686 he married Elizabeth Abeel, daughter of Stoffel Jarse Abeel, and had many children, of whom seven were living at the time of his will, 1734:—Elizabeth, born 29 July, 1693, who married Gerrit Lansing; Christoffel, born, 27 October, 1695; William, born, 28 October, 1699; Jannetie, born, 28 August, 1701, married Harmanus Schuyler; Adriaan, born, 10 October, 1703; Gerardus, born, 1 April, 1706; and Johannes.

Christoffel, or Christopher, son of Evert, married in 1719, Elizabeth Hooglant. In his will are mentioned the following children: Evert, Adrian, Richard, Christopher and William. William resided on Staten Island, married Anna —, and had children:—Catharine, Elizabeth and Hendrick. Richard remained in New York, and in 1764 became a freeman of the city. He married Sarah Duyckinck, and had one child, Eliza, who married Colonel Webb. A sister-in-law, Mary Duyckinck, is spoken of in Mrs. Bancker's letters to the Colonel, as "Aunt Polly."

more than One Sister, one you are well acquainted with. *I hope* the other will prove equally agreeable.

Surely, my Dear Sister; methinks I hear you say I ought to have told you this before my leaveing Wethersfield, believe me my Sister it was a matter I had not fully determined on, *that & that* only was the cause of my not writeing you on the subject, to Hetty's letter I must refer you, had I leisure I would write you a separate letter—but Col. & Mrs. Cary are both with us and set of early in the morning for Boston, politeness as well as Inclination induces me to pay them attention—e'er long I hope you will be acquainted with your new Sister,—I flatter myself both you and Mr. Barrell will love her—however you must remember I am partial, the common fame says she is not unlike Hetty in Disposition and Manners, this I am sure will not be unpleaseing to you.

Remember friend Joe you are to keep at least *One* Bottle of Sattisfaction for me, my Mouth waters at the Idea—tell all your good family I love and Esteem them, say to Otis God bless him—I am almost unpardonable for not writeing him—but tis too late this Evenḡ. I'll chat enough in one hour when I see him to make up for twenty letters.

If you have any Business at Philadelph<sup>a</sup> this Winter command me,—direct for me at Morristown New Jersey to the care of Jacobus Vanzandt, Esqr. All single letters reach me Post free—I cannot close without telling you a general Exchange is agreed on—at least so General as to release about 150 of our unfortunate Officers on Long Island—it will take place in about three weeks—your Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>. is of the happy number

—so that I shall probably have the Honor of leading my Reg<sup>t</sup>. the next Campaign.

Joy to you my friend on the glorious turn of affairs to the Southward—you will know the particulars before this can reach you. Remember me to all friends, and be assured that I am with warm

Sentiments of Esteem Most

Affectionately Yours,

S. B. W.

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FROM MAJOR TALLMADGE.

TOTOWA, Nov<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1780.

MY DEAR SIR:

Capt. Webb this moment informs me that there will be an opportunity to send you a line tomorrow.

Since the new Establishment of the Army has come out in Gen<sup>l</sup>. Orders, the field officers of the different Lines have been very busy in fixing on those who command the new Regiments for the War. The Provision for the retiring Officers is so ample, that I am sorry to say, there seems to be an emulation among our eastern officers who shall go home, rather than continue in Service. After the great Pains General Washington has taken to provide some honorable Compensation for those Officers who retire, for their past services & sufferings, such a requital would wound him very sensibly. However there is this Check upon them, that none can retire with the benefits promised, until the new regiments are compleatly officered. I am this afternoon informed that the field officers of the Connecticut Line have been together & that *Col. Wyllys*—*Col. Swift*, *Col. Webb*, *Col. Meigs* & *Lt. Col. Sherman* are proposed as the Commanding officers of the new Regiments. Was I to give you my opinion, I should advise that you immediately repair to Camp, for the purpose of assisting in compleating the Arrangement. There are many things, such as the rank of a Reg<sup>t</sup>. the field & other officers arranged to it, &c, &c, which would be well worthy of your attention—I am informed, this day, by some of our officers just exchanged, that you are at length liberated—I hope it may be true.

I intended, when I crossed the North River, to have rode as far as Princetown before I returned, and of Course should have called on you. A Letter from the Gen<sup>l</sup> of this day, on particular business obliges me to return tomorrow.

It is said there is another Embarkation taking Place, destined to Virginia.

Col. Sheldon is very honorably acquitted—You will see his whole Tryal in Print.

Please to make my Compliments to Miss Webb and your *Dulcinea*, if She even remembers me.

In a few months, according to Custom I shall expect to hear, by a Line from you. In the interim am, Dr. Sir, with friendship

& Esteem

your most obdt Servt

BENJ<sup>A</sup> TALLMADGE.

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PROPOSITION FOR AN EXCHANGE.

NEW YORK, 4 November 1780.

Propositions by Major General Phillips who has the authority to declare from His Excellency General Sir Henry Clinton that they shall be ratified, supposing them to be agreed to on the part of the Americans.

That, after the Exchange of all the Officers Prisoners of War, and Supposing the proposed partial Exchanges of several Officers of the Troops of Convention as carried out by Mr. Skinner should take place, there will remain a considerable number of American Officers Prisoners of War on Long Island, among whom will be one Brigadier and eight Colonels: Major General Phillips, therefore, offers to Exchange all such Officers for a Division of the Troops of Convention to be composed of Corps in the manner proposed at a meeting of the Commissioners at Amboy to the Amount of the Value by Tariff of the remaining American Officers Prisoners of War on Long Island.

Major General Phillips further proposes a General Exchange of all the Privates Prisoners of War British and German against an equal number of American Privates Prisoners of War in Charlestown, as, also, of all the Troops of Convention, Officers and Privates, against an equal number, Rank for Rank, or by composition, of the Ameri-

can Officers and Privates Prisoners of War in Charlestown, South Carolina.

These Propositions are referred to the Consideration of His Excellency General Washington.

Major General Phillips delivers this Paper to Mr. Skinner the American Commissary of Prisoners in order that he may lay it before General Washington.

W. PHILLIPS.\*

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TO JOSEPH WEBB.

CAMP TATAWAY, 13th [Nov.] 1780.

MY DEAR BR

Number 52 was from the North Branch of Raritan the 29th of October which I hope is with you. I am sorry again to repeat I have received but one letter from you since I left home. It makes me uneasy. It looks too like forgetfulness. Every opportunity I have had has been improved. You certainly can get letters on to the army so that I know not what excuse to make.

\* "I have the pleasure to inform Congress, that, at the late meeting of the respective Commissaries, the exchanges of about one hundred and forty of our officers, and all our privates in New York, amounting to four hundred and seventy-six, were effected. Among the former are Major-General Lincoln, Brigr.-Generals Thompson, Waterbury, and Duportail, and Lt.-Colo. Laurens. Sir Henry Clinton having made a proposal of exchanging a further number of the Convention Officers, without attaching men to them, I have acceded to it, by which we shall liberate all our officers in this quarter, except one brigr.-general (Irvine), Nine Colonels, one Captain, and thirty-nine Lieutenants. An offer is made by Sir Henry Clinton to exchange all those, for a division of the Convention Troops, by Composition where Rank will not apply. To this I have refused to accede, unless Lieutt.-General Burgoyne is taken into the account. If they will agree to this, he alone will liberate nearly the whole of them. They have further proposed a general exchange of the Convention Troops, Officers and men, for our prisoners of War at the Southward. I have not thought proper to enter at all upon the business of southern prisoners, because I have but a very imperfect state of them, and because I perceive by the powers granted to Major-General Greene, that he is at Liberty to negotiate the exchange of prisoners in that quarter."—*Washington to the President of Congress, 7 November, 1780.*

I wrote the Baron Steuben at Philadelphia to leave the balance due you in the hands of Mr. Seagrove or Mr. Erskine, but I am apprehensive my letter did not reach him before he set out for the Southward. If so, I know not when you'll get it, or where I shall get some necessary supplies.

Yesterday the commander-in-chief congratulated me on being once more a free man :

The new arrangement has taken place in the Connecticut line as follows:—Swift, Durkee, Webb, Butler & Lt. Col. Comd'g Sherman, but Durkee must, I think retire. He is almost superannuated, and 'tis generally supposed I will be second. I intend this day to solicit leave of absence till Spring in which I hope to be gratified. In the mean time I take this early opportunity to request you will, during the Winter, be providing some necessary stores for me in the Field, such as: Spirits, Sugar, Coffee, Tea, &c., &c. 'Tis more than probable I shall be with you part of the Winter. My inclination leads me to be with you—my last contained reasons why I could not. You'll make my love to Sister Webb, to Abby, and all our friends. Your sisters in New Jersey desired me to remember them to you all.

I am your very sincere & Most affectionate Brother,  
SAM'L B. WEBB.

The arrangement for the next campaign stands thus:

1.	{	Col. [John] Durkee Lt. Col. [Thomas] Grosvenor Major [Willis] Clift.	}	To consist of the 3 <sup>d</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> regiments incorporated.
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|----|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | { | Col. [Heman] Swift<br>Lt. Col. [Jonathan] Johnson<br>Major [Theodore] Woodbridge          | } | The 5 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> incor-<br>porated.                |
| 3. | { | Col. [Samuel B.] Webb<br>Lt. Col. [Ebenezer] Huntington<br>Major [John Palsgrave] Wyllys. | } | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> .                                     |
| 4. | { | Col. [Zebulon] Butler<br>Lt. Col. [Ebenezer] Gray<br>Major [Eli] Leavenworth.*            | } | The 6 <sup>th</sup> with a few offi-<br>cers from the other<br>regiments. |
| 5. | { | Lt. Col. [Isaac] Sherman<br>Major [David] Smith.<br>Major [Benjamin] Throop.              | } | The 1 <sup>st</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> incor-<br>porated.†               |

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 20th Nov., 1780.

DEAR SAM:

Your favor of the 29th Ulto. came to hand this day Pr Col<sup>o</sup> Cary ; the Contents I Note, and very sincerely give you Joy on your Entrance into that State of life which is always honorable, & sometimes the most happy. I speak from Experience & feelingly upon the Subject, w<sup>ch</sup> to me has been abundantly so. I want much to see the new Sister, for if common fame ever speaks truth, I'm persuaded I shall love & esteem her, & when you Parade at my Door, I shall give her the first Welcom ; in token of w<sup>ch</sup> give her forty Kisses of the best Kind, & tell her I will cheerfully double the number when opp<sup>y</sup> offers. I am sorry & glad that an exchange is like once more to give you opp<sup>y</sup> of acting the man, & doing service to your Country. But when I think of the tender connection, you are now engaged in, & that your dear Betsy must feel the separation tho' duty calls, I feel for the tender sex & the more so, as they are the more tender & lovely. You, I'm sure, will therefore conclude that on the present Occasion I shall be sensibly affected ; but I pray God the blessings of Peace may soon restore you to those arms w<sup>ch</sup>, if a pure Affection warms the heart, will most assuredly give you a foretaste (& not a

\* This is an error, as Leavenworth retired. Abner Prior was the Major of this regiment.

† From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 127.

small one neither) of that State where Pain is banished, & mutual love reigns uncontrould.

I never suspected your attachment of friendship. Indeed a similarity of Hearts are never suspicious; & I trust after the Parading you mention that your Conduct will be such as the grave Cits, may approve, & the Rational amusements of a friendly Circle where the amiable sex make the happiness, will be far preferable to the midnight Revels, that nearly ruined your bro. Barrell as you imprudently supposed the last Winter. But you were mistaken; your bro. Barrell Knows how far to go with those Gentry w<sup>ch</sup> always looses their charms when Compared to the Circles above hinted at.

No doubt the Cares of life crowd upon us mortals and the State you are now in they will thicken, but then remember you have a Partner to share & lighten them, & I've always found if I had peace at home, the cares of the world never gave trouble for a Moment. For when the Confidence of a friend can be depended on, the Cares of life vanish like the "baseless Fabrick of vision."

I hope you will some years hence be able to say amen to this Assertion, for a happy Union will fully empower you to do it.

A Bottle of Satisfaction is next the wall; it shall be broach'd to welcom your better self; but, mind me, none of your *he males* to guzzel down 3 or 4 of an Evening.

Otis will be with you speedily as he sets off for Phil<sup>a</sup>—say in a very few days.

Adieu; my best affection to Sister Betsy, Sister Hetty, &c. Don't let Hetty be offended that [I] name Betsy first; for older or not she has the preeminence being MARRIED, w<sup>ch</sup> always takes the right hand of the Single Dames.

I am Sincerely as always Y<sup>r</sup> Friend & Bro.

JOS BARRELL.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL CLINTON.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 20 November, 1780.

SIR:

I am authorized by Congress to propose a meeting of commissioners, for the purpose of effecting an exchange of all Continental prisoners of war now in your possession, and of the hostages



given in Canada, as well as of all officers on parole, and officers violators of parole, and militia actually taken in arms and remaining prisoners of war, for an equal number of the convention troops, and other prisoners in our hands, rank for rank ; and, where similar rank will not apply, to pursue the exchange on the footing of composition, according to the valuation or tariff agreed on by the commissioners at Amboy in March last. In this business will of course come into contemplation an equitable adjustment and payment of the accounts of the convention troops. I think it necessary to apprize you of this circumstance, that there may be no misapprehension, and that, if the commissioners meet, they may come clothed with proper powers to render the meeting effectual. I request your speedy answer ; after which, the time and place of meeting may be regulated.\* \* \*

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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FROM JAMES SEAGROVE.

PHILA. 25<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1780.

DEAR WEBB :

I thank you most cordially for your Letter of the 28th Ult, as it convinces that my friend Webb has not entirely forgot there was such a being as Seagrove. I can readily excuse your not answering my two Letters whilst a Prisoner on Long Island, as it might have been attended with disagreeable consequences to you should the Enemy have known it. Believe me Sam, Time or the perplexing and very disagreeable Scenes I have gon through since we parted, has not in the least lessened my Esteem for you—and it will ever ad to my happiness to hear of your prosperity. I hope you are again a Free Man, I mean that you are exchanged—for if I am to believe repoart you are more a Captive then ever—to that Dear sweet Girl Miss

\* Sir Henry Clinton assented to the proposition contained in this letter, but suggested that the adjustment of accounts should not be limited to the convention troops, but extend to all the prisoners that had been made on both sides during the war, as well British as American. Concerning this point Washington replied that he had written to Congress on the subject; but, since it would take much time to collect and arrange the accounts, he thought it best not to appoint commissioners for the purpose till this should be done. In the meantime the business of exchange might go forward, according to the principles upon which both parties were agreed.

B—— my old acquaintance. Indeed we have it here that you and she are one—I cannot think it ; or surely you would have mentioned it. In your next pray empower me to contradict or confirm it—the latter will be most agreeable.

As I am a Prisoner of War on Parole to this State I cannot promise myself the pleasure of seeing you or the Lady's in Jersey, and when we poor Devils taken in Charlestown are to be Exchanged I know not.

I am sorry to inform you, that Baron Steuben left this Ten days before I rec'd yours, and is now with the Army in N<sup>o</sup> or S<sup>o</sup> Carolina—and as I cannot find any person here to settle his affairs, I now inclose the letter you sent for him.

I had a few lines from Jos. Webb a few days since which gave me pleasure— Please present my best respects, Love & Compliments to Mrs. B——, Aunt Polly, Miss B—— or Mrs. W——b, and Miss Webb who I understand is with you.

Erskine Desires his Compliments. He sails in a few days for France—Constable is with our Army in Virginia. I shall be glad to hear from you, and when you come this way I shall expect to see you to talk over the days we have seen.

I am, Dear Sam, Yours Affecty

J. SEAGROVE.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

WETHERSFIELD, 27th November, 1780.

DEAR WEBB :

When I last wrote you, it did not enter my mind that so long a time would have Elapsed without seeing or hearing from you, but soon after I wrote, the Reg<sup>t</sup> left Head Quarters for West Point, which Place I left on the Regiments arrival, & with an Expectation of not seeing them again this Winter, but flattering myself that I should have seen Col<sup>o</sup> & Mrs. Webb, & sister Hetty at Wethersfield, as at that time I had great suspicions of a Clandestine Marriage, as I used to tell you when at the Hutts—I wish you to give my love to Betsy & Hetty, tell them their presence at Wethersfield is absolutely necessary to make us happy this Winter, as to your being here, you *may* suppose we can do without you, if you will give us the other

good people with you. Last week we began the little family Dances for the Winter, Brother Jack gave the first, a very Clever one, but I must Confess twould have added much to it, to have had your Company, & let me tell you, yourself & the Circle with you, were mention<sup>d</sup> more than once. By letters from Camp, I find myself again Arranged in the Army, it was unexpected & unwishd for ; it was unexpected, as I had inform<sup>d</sup> Maj. Wyllys of my (almost) absolute determination to resign when I left Camp, but on the second thought determin<sup>d</sup> to wait till the arrangements should take place to be left out, & Retire with the Advantages which should be given to Officers Arranged out ; As I understood the Resolve of Congress, if the Officers can not agree among themselves to stay, the Seniors are Oblig<sup>d</sup> to stay, or rather that they are to be Arranged in, & must either stay or resign which gives the younger Officers the opportunity to retire if they Choose it. I have wrote Col<sup>o</sup> Tilgham [Tilghman] to know what are the Sentiments of His Excellency about the Resolve, as I would wish most earnestly to be one of those who retire, and rather think I shall resign if arranged in.—Pray can you tell what *kind* of a Corps of officers yours will be? Are they equal to the task? I am very unacquainted with the 2d Regiments Corps of Officers which I am told is annexed to yours & therefore if you have made a Judgment wish you let me know it. As yet I have not hear<sup>d</sup> where Winter Quarters will be for the Army, but have Conjectured it will be not far from W Point, as that Post must & will be the Principal Object for the Enemy, & Certainly the most Eligible for the Remains of our Army to retire to not only to be near the Point for the Security of that, but to Secure itself from Surprise, which it will be Subject to after the Levies are discharged. Wherever they are God bless them.—Wishing you Joy, Ah! Joy indeed, & Eliza all that you can either ask or Wish. I shall wish my love to your little family, of Wife & friends, & Subscribe myself

Yours Sincerely,

EBEN HUNTINGTON.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT HOWE.

JUST ON THE MARCH ON TOTOWAY

27<sup>th</sup> November, 1780.

MY DEAR SIR:

May the single be married, and the married happy, is an old

adage to which thou hast tossed off many a Bumper. In which class I am to rank thee, I know not (for it is matter of speculation) but in either or both I wish thee felicity. I have not had the honor to be much acquainted with the Fair one who has attracted thee, but what I did know of her excited me earnestly to wish to know more, nor has that wish subsided. I thought I discovered in her an agreeable Blending of Gaiety and pensiveness, of frankness and Reserve. Such a commixture cannot fail to produce that delicate medium of character, conduct and disposition, which must give felicity to and receive it from a Man of Honor and sentiment, and with which therefore, *you must* be happy; be you both as much so, as I wish you, and you will be full as much so as you need to be.

Jack Webb, who will deliver you this, would be a clever fellow, had he not the capital Faults of washing his hands in warm water, & running to the Fire when he wipes them. He has received a Lecture for this, just this moment, and has promised to do so only once a month, & by the time that period revolves I hope he will forget it. You may judge how faulty I think him when these are the greatest faults he has. Another fault, tho' not quite so magnificent, is his straddling with his back to the fire and displaying his stern to it by drawing the skirts of his coat aside, which, as he is already too lean abaft, he had better avoid, lest the draft of the chimney and heat of the fire should by shrinking him increase this defect. I send him to you but remember you must not detain him too long. I hope to visit you this Winter—if not pray visit me. I am, Dear Sir, with Respectful compliments to Mrs. Banker and Miss Banker alias Mrs. Webb & with great Regard, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely.

R. HOWE.

My compliments to Mr. Wilson & Family.

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITAN,  
NEW JERSEY, 27th Dec. 1780.

D<sup>r</sup> BARREL :

A few days since I was favor'd with yours of the 20th Ult by Mr. Otis which afforded me peculiar satisfaction,

as I had not since leaving Weth<sup>d</sup>. heard anything of you—Yes, Barrell, I am among the list of old folks, a Married Man, & be assured I only regret, that so many days and Years have been spent without knowing the happiest State this world affords, and I have every reason to hope it will continue while my life lasts—that I am a Soldier is in the Eyes of some of my friends a misfortune because I may the sooner quit this Stage. 'tis a misfortune in my own eyes but in two cases—one that my Country should require Men of the profession and the other that I am debar'd the domestic ease and comfort which otherways I might enjoy—but I hope to live thro all the troubles of the War, and yet partake of many a social Glass with You—Your new Sister is fond of you and Sally, tho unknown. I flatter myself you will one day or other be equally fond of her, she begs me to tender you both her Love & Compliments,—a fond Mother and she the only Child is all that prevented my taking her to Wethersfield (and perhaps to Boston) this Winter. I should delay it no longer than the next Spring but then my duty will call me to the Field, I hope it may be the last Campaign and a very honorable one to America.

The Certificate which you favor'd me with finally has affected my Exchange, you therefore again have my warmest thanks, & thro' you I beg to tender them to others my friends owners of the late Vengeance, Privateer.

Stick to your promise keep a Bottle of Satisfaction for your new Sister (this has some self in it) I shall have a share, and unless the fortune of War disable me—it shall be the next Winter,—but should it be my

unfortunate lot to add to the number who have fallen in this Countrys cause, you may then drink it to my Memory, for even in Death I hope to do honor to my friends.

Hetty has wrote Sally—this will answer as well for her as for you, tell her I love her most heartily, and wish both you and her every felicity in this World and that which is to come.

Br. Jack leaves us this day he will take charge of our letters, and talks of paying you a visit—the Circle join me in Compt<sup>s</sup> of the season, you will please present mine to all those who have a friendship for Yr. Affect. Brother

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM SAMUEL ALLEYNE OTIS.

PHILA, Jan<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

What a weight of obligation. Ruminating in retirement at a distance from all who knew or cared a farthing for me.

“How poor is the friendless master of a world,” thot I, when my very serv<sup>t</sup> entered with your very obliging letter. The usual pleasure of breaking the seal was succeeded by a glow of gratitude. There vanity, spite of sober effort, was on the wing, and tickled most sweetly.

And is it possible my departure could occasion a moment’s regret to the ladies? Really, you have an opinion of my discretion, such a communication is enough to puff one into a Coxcomb. But for my knowledge of *yours*, & the goodness very conspicuous in the countenances of the amiable circle round your breakfast table, which leads me to attribute the favorable opinion to your candor rather than to my merit, could I be furnished with an equipoise for the vanity that unavoidably arises upon the occasion? And now to the point. Why, there, with the frankness you use, I inform the ladies “you did not press me to stay,” but on friendship’s hallowed shrine, I s——r, I staid not a moment the less with you on that account; nor in the least would it have retarded my calling upon you on my

return had your favor of the 22d. ult<sup>o</sup> never reached me. I could easily forgive an omission when my ill-timed friendship called a son of Mars from the arms of Hebe's beauteous Sister. For could I expect even civility? When my rashness with a man less generous would have made a sacrifice to the Cyprian Queen, whose mysteries I had, although inadvertently, disturbed. Surely I had most reason to apologize at least to *one* of the ladies, whose pardon I implore. For you, as you never have, and acting yourself, never can offend, I, of course, have nothing to forgive. And if you, as your interest is very prevalent with one of the Ladies, will get me a pardon; in the name of friendship, I attribute what is passed to forgetfulness. Let a general amnesty take place, so we can get *all the* ladies to say—amen—

The slave of business, I can neither command my own time or movements, and take it not unkindly if I don't promise when performance may be impracticable; But your family have so many inducements, that those who do not call upon them, when opportunity admits, are rather objects of compassion than resentment, for neglect of happiness which incurs its own punishment.

There is a dead calm in politics, & a dearth of news. Therefore, after compliments of the season—many—many happy years to you & your friends, permit me to assure you I am, very sincerely, your friend and ob<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM. A. OTIS.

Hope the Cap<sup>t</sup> got home unhurt in body or heart the day we parted.

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COLONEL WEBB'S ORDERS ON REJOINING HIS REGIMENT.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS, 7<sup>th</sup> Feby 1781.

It is with singular satisfaction the Colonel has it in his power, again to join his Reg<sup>t</sup>.—the Honor and welfare of which has always been near his Heart.—He takes this first Opportunity of returning his most sincere thanks to the Officers for the great care they have taken in supporting a Discipline which has done Honor to themselves & to the Regiment at large, in which he

thinks himself an equal sharer.—The cheerfulness with which the Soldiers have endured the many unavoidable hardships merit the approbation & Thanks of their OFFICERS and their COUNTRY.

He most earnestly recommends to the Officers a steady and constant attention to the Discipline of the Regiment,—the time is fast approaching when we shall again take the Field—let us exert ourselves that no Regiment may appear in superior order to us, to obtain this—nothing is more absolutely necessary than the Strictest attention by Officers to the internal police of the Reg<sup>t</sup>. —they must be answerable that the Non-commissioned do their Duty and that they are properly supported in the Execution of it—the Col<sup>o</sup> flatters himself the Soldiers will continue to behave in a manner becoming the Characters of Men who are exerting themselves in support of everything dear to freemen, they will continue to recollect they are not Mercenarys, fighting for a foreign Prince, or for extent of Dominion—but for that which is dearer than life—their Liberty. At the end of the War we trust a gratefull Country will honorably reward their Noble exertions, and hereafter they will be handed down to future Generations, as Men who have [preserved] themselves and their Posterity from the vilest Servitude.

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL PARSONS.

CAMP, 7<sup>th</sup> Feby, 1781.

DEAR GEN<sup>l</sup>:

Enclosed you have a list of Eight Men who are naked—and quite a burthen to the Reg<sup>t</sup>. . I mean if I



have your approbation to Discharge them tomorrow. The Bearer Asa Leonard waits on You in. his Sunday-go-to-Meeting Dress—his time not expireing 'till the 7<sup>th</sup> of May I dare not discharge him without your order—If you'll be so obligeing as to lend me a Gallon of Spirits & a few Potatoes I'll see to repay you soon.

I am D<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. affectionately Yours,

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

Serjt. Flower	Naked time expires	6 <sup>th</sup> April
Joseph Porter	Do Do	10 <sup>th</sup> April
Jerizah Thayer	Do Do	2 April
Dan <sup>l</sup> . Holt	Do Do	3 April
Capt. Sam <sup>l</sup> . Bement	Do Do	18 <sup>th</sup> Feby
John Parker	Do Do	21 March
Amos Chapman	Do Do	20 <sup>th</sup> March
Nehemiah Barns	Do Do	21 <sup>t</sup> March.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL PARSONS.

7<sup>th</sup> Feby '81.

General Parsons Comp<sup>t</sup> to Col. Webb informing him he is of Opinion the Service will be benefitted by Discharging all the Men named within, the Bearer included. The Spirits &c are at Col. Webb's Service when he sends for them.

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FROM CAPTAIN BULKLEY.

WETHERSFIELD, 16th February, 1781.

DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> last came safe to hand, be ashured every attention shall be paid as you have requested, as nothing would give me greater pleasure then to see your Regiment appear Brilliant and cleaver, and every exertion in my power has and shall be made for that purpose, but am sorry to say Ill fortune and former

exertions has put it out of my power to do what my soul had the greatest desire, I declare to you on the honor of a soldier and Gentleman I have been under the Necessity of borrowing every shilling I have had since my return from Captivity to purchase the Necessaries of Subsistence, and am now reduced to less than three shillings, and where to git the next I no not, and what makes my situation wors than bad, and destitute of the real comforts of life (is not this an Irish histe). I have not as yet got two such boys as you Mentioned but shall do my best endeavour, but I have my fears. Have inclosed a Copy of Printis Stores Receipt for your perusal and satisfaction, and wish to have your Orders concerning him, he or some body deserves to be D——.

Yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant to Capt. Hopkins was by him presented to me last evening, in which I saw your Order for either Cap<sup>t</sup>. Hopkins, Riley or myself, to repair to Camp without delay, I cannot conceive you ment either Riley or myself to Join unless it was our choice, therefore shall stay untill your particular order arrives, and for the following importante Reasons, which are these:—our debts on Long Island and in New York are unpaid, our honors at stake, and will be wounded and Tarnished in such a manner if not paid soon as will cause me wish I had not been born. 2<sup>nd</sup> We have a prospect of Receiving a Small Supply from Jona and his Apostles, and we have apointed Capt. Riley to go into New York for the purpose of settling our debts of honor, which business he is [to] go upon as soon as possible. 3<sup>rdly</sup> My own perticular reason for not wishing to Join at this time is, all my futer happiness in this world in a great Measure depends on my staying hear untill the campaign opens. You sir cannot but know that my domestic affairs are in a disagreeable Situation, my Acc<sup>ts</sup> unsetled and if not adjusted now perhaps never will be, nor cannot be, if any Accident should happen to me, therefore am persuaded you will see the propriety and Necessity of my staying at home untill the campaign opens. 4<sup>thly</sup> I am administrator on Mr. Pomeroy's Estate and am under Obligation to have it settled imediately 5<sup>th</sup> I have not a Single articule of stores, nor any Money to purches them with, no, not enough to wet the parchement you was pleased to send me by Captain Williams, which ought to be done in a proper Maner. After all that I have said above (which are facts) Which way can I leave home, how can I



No VIII  
ANNALS



Wing Smith

git to camp, if I had the greatest desire, without Stores or Money to pay the Necessary expence of Traveling to camp. 6<sup>th</sup> and lastly, if your Order cannot be countermanded in respect to my Joining the Regiment imediately, you lay me under the disagreeable Necessity of sending back the Commission you have lately honored me with, and will effectually put it out of my power to serve my Country in this way, and of having an Oppertunity of doing honor or dishonor to the Commission I have lately received.

I am Dear Sir your Sincere friend, And Most Obedient and Most Humbl Servt  
EDW<sup>P</sup> BULKLEY.

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM S. SMITH.

HEAD QUARTERS, [NEW WINDSOR,] Feby 18<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

DR SAM<sup>L</sup>:

Upon my arrival at Morris Town I found Letters from his Excellency and the Marquis the contents of which render'd it necessary that I should set off immediately for Camp, and deprived me of the promised pleasure of visiting your *family* as I intended; but as I am the person disappointed, I conclude an appology to you is in some measure unnecessary, therefor.

I am inform'd that the arrangement of your Line is return'd to have some alterations made, if I could get my name enroll'd I should be happy & as I must consider myself at present a member of the state, I think my pretensions not slightly founded.

There is a Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Johnston in your Line who I am inform'd wishes for an opportunity to retire. I should be happy to give him one by taking his place in the Line. It can injure none of the inferior officers and the superior I flatter myself would have no objection. I am told they have conversd upon this subject, & no objections were started except by Lt. Col<sup>o</sup> Gray. His reasons I am not acquainted with, therefore cannot give my sentiments upon them; but am a little dubious whether they will stand a strict scrutiny. If they should refer to its being a president that might hereafter prove injurious, that may be easily obviated, as there is no Gen<sup>l</sup> at present in the army in a similar situation; & as I mean to enter upon no other consideration than by a unanimous consent of the field officers, it will be setting an example that will in my opinion rather be of

service than otherwise. I intended to have waited on you this morning, but am detain'd in order to join the Marquis, &c.

If you will inform me after consulting on the subject how matters stand, I shall acknowledge myself obliged.

Laurels & Life attend you is the wish of

WM. S. SMITH  
&c. &c.

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FROM ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

22 February, 1781.

MY DEAR SIR:

From different occurrences since your letter to the General arrived I have seen no favourable moment to present it. It shall try its fortune to day and you shall hear from me tomorrow. Assure yourself that whatever depends on me shall be done.

M<sup>rs</sup> H——s compliments.

Adieu

A. HAMILTON.

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FROM ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

HEAD QUARTERS, 2 March, 1781.

D<sup>r</sup> SIR,

With some difficulty, the General has in part consented to your wishes. Col Hazen is going to Philadelphia on business—the small number of Colonels now with the army makes him unwilling to let you be absent till he returns. When he returns, if you can obtain General Heath's permission, it will be agreeable to The General. You may make use of this letter to him.

I wish I could have got the matter placed on a better footing.

I am with great regard

Y<sup>r</sup> friend & Ser.

A. HAMILTON.

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL HEATH.

HUTTS, 3<sup>d</sup> March '81

MY DEAR GEN<sup>l</sup>:

Some days since I obtained Gen<sup>l</sup>. Parsons's permission to leave Camp, prior to which I had wrote

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hamilton requesting that I might not be limited to the first of April, on acc<sup>t</sup>. of my regimental Acc<sup>ts</sup> being unsettled, owing to my unfortunate Captivity—to leave these, if any misfortune should attend me during the Campaign, would involve my friends in extreme difficulty, to which I added several other weighty and important reasons, all of which are minutely communicated to General Parsons,—my request was that the matter might be submitted to you or him,—& I am sorry the difficulty of passing the ferry for several days past, has prevented me the happiness of waiting on you, as time will not permit my entering so minutely into my peculiar situation, as I should, could I have had the honor of seeing you,—I am now setting of for Jersey, notwithstanding the letter which I yesterday received from Col<sup>o</sup>. Hamilton, a Copy of which you will find herewith,—Pardon me my Dear General for the liberty I take in earnestly soliciting your sanction on my conduct,—nothing would induce me to it, but the letters I have received acquainting me of M<sup>rs</sup>. Webb's being unwell—& her Mamma, in a dangerous situation, haveing been confined to her bed for more than a fortnight past,—had the Commander in Chief not left Camp I would have seen him, & I am confident when I had told him the situation of my family & that my Reg<sup>t</sup>. consisted of only 24 fit for Action—with a Major & a large proportion of Officers with them, he would not have objected to my absence,—Col<sup>o</sup>. Durkee is purposely detained in Camp by General Parsons that I should go,—Tis impossible my Dear Sir for me to be so particular as I wish—I hope you may have an opportunity of seeing Gen<sup>l</sup>. Parsons,

who can inform you all I wish,—I wish your answer, if I should be gone Major Wyllys will forward it to me— with respectfull Sentiments of Esteem & Friendship I am my dear Gen<sup>l</sup>.    Your friend &

Obed<sup>t</sup>. Humb<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. Webb.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter to Col<sup>o</sup> Hamilton, which I have left open for your perusal, if you think proper you'll seal & forward it to Head Quarters against his return—if otherways destroy—

I am faithfully yours

S. B. W.—\*

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL PARSONS.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITON,

7<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

DEAR GENERAL :

I wrote you the day before I left Camp, & again from Cacaatt [Kakiat] on my way here,—but fearing the latter may miscarry I am induced to trouble you again on the same subject,—the mode which necessity obliged me to take in leaveing Camp makes me extremely unhappy for fear General Washington or Gen<sup>l</sup>. Heath may think I have treated them with disrespect,—Col<sup>o</sup> Hamilton's letter of which I enclosed you a Copy, came to hand after I received my leave of absense from you, had not General Washington have left Camp, I would immediatly have waited on him, confident that when he knew of M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker's illness,—the smallness of my Reg<sup>t</sup>. , & that you had detained Colonel Durkee

\* From the *Heath Papers*, in the Massachusetts Historical Society.



in Camp, he would immediately have granted my request,—he being absent I wrote to you and General Heath enclosing each a copy of Col<sup>o</sup> Hamilton's letter nameing my situation, I told him that I must go even at the expence of my Commission, and wish'd so far his sanction, that should any fault be found, he would be my friend,—after leaveing Camp on my way here I received his answer acquainting me that had the General left it to him entirely he would not have objected to my going, but as he signify'd a desire that I should stay his return from the Eastward he dare not pretend to give me leave,—this I knew was out of his power, nor could I expect any thing more from him than to fairly represent my situation should the General think my conduct blameable,—but such is my anxiety that I have not enjoyed a moment's peace of mind since I left Camp, yet such was the circumstances that was I to do again I should think my Duty obliged me to take the same steps, in full confidence that my Superiors would think my reasons sufficient—On my arrival I found Mr<sup>s</sup> Bancker very ill, tho: something better than she has been,—Mr<sup>s</sup> Webb's illness was occasion'd by an unfortunate fall you will readily conceive what I have reference to,—and can easily Judge the situation of the family when I tell you they are separated from all their friends, and not a Man but Myself in the Circle—I have been thus particular, my Dear General, to convince you the necessity there was of my being here, and to induce you to prevent my being hereafter blamed,—should General Washington take up the matter as a disobedience of orders, it would make me one of the most wretched beings in the World—even

to receive a reprimand from him would be next to Death,—I acknowledge with the warmest effusions of my Heart that I have long experienced your friendship, and am sorry that this occasion should offer to cause you further trouble—but relying on your usual goodness I now take the liberty of requesting as a particular favor, you will be kind enough to write His Excellency as soon as he arrives in Camp, acquainting him that prior to Hamilton's letter I had obtained your permission to go,—that as he had gone out of my reach, at a time when the situation of my friends call'd my immediate attention I had gone before his return,—here my Dear Sir you can add that my Maj<sup>r</sup>. was in Camp & agreed to continue 'till either myself or Lt. Col<sup>l</sup>. Huntington returned, & that my weekly return was only 24 Men fit for Duty—But why should I dictate to a Man of your Sensibility,—confident I am you are convinced my reasons were the most urgent nature, and I can not doubt your Friendship.—I am led to believe that General Washington supposed Maj<sup>r</sup>. Wyllys gone with the Infantry as he was appointed to that command, this might cause him to desire my continuing a few days longer in Camp. Heav'n forbid the General should suppose I would ever disobey an order of his, I have presumed to deviate in this instance upon supposition that could I have seen him and offer'd my reasons he would not have objected,—had you been in Camp I should have found a friend to advise with. Never had I greater reason to ask it than on this occasion, my Character is at Stake which is dearer than life, and on you depends in a great measure my future happiness. I shall without delay attend to the busi-

ness I before mentioned to you, and will as early as possible join my Regiment,—I wish not to be absent for a moment longer than I can get my Accounts in tolerable order, which I hope will be by the middle of April,—I will thank you to converse with General Heath on the subject,—he has full power to gratify my wishes,—I shall anxiously wait my Dear Sir to get a particular letter from you on the Subject,—if you write by the Post direct for me at this place to be left at Mr. Vanvaeter's, Rariton Bridge,—Pardon me my Dear Gen<sup>l</sup>. for the liberty I have taken on requesting you to take so much trouble on my acc<sup>t</sup>. —if a grateful Heart can ever repay you, it will not be wanting,—that every felicity may attend you is the ardent prayer of, my Dear Sir,

Your very Sincere friend and Most

Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM JOHN PHILIPS.

CONNECTICUT CAMP, HIGHLANDS,  
21st March, 1781.

DEAR COLONEL:

Affairs in Camp since you left us, have proceeded in the same old routine.—Recruits arrive but slowly, and I am sorry to say that very few of those which have, are fallen to our share; the mode prescribed in general orders has by no means been adopted—the recruit has been suffered to chuse his regiment to serve in, and that choice has generally been directed by the Officer conducting them to Camp; none of ours (commissioned or non-commissioned) have been employed in that service, for which reason but seven or eight men out of upwards of one hundred have joined your regiment; this is the only reason which I can think probable (in short 'tis a damn'd Connecticut trick!)

The Companies from Susquehanna have arrived, and have been disposed of in the same manner, not a single man has fallen to us ; the moment General Parsons arrives, I am determined to enter a pointed complaint against such conduct, and should that measure prove insufficient, shall desire his leave to wait upon his Excellency, who, in that case, shall not want *proper* information : I wish to know your sentiments as to furnishing the Regiment with leather Caps, if possible, as you well know the difficulty of procuring *Hats*, but the former I imagine, might be had from Connecticut ; I know of no other chance of procuring a uniformity in that part of dress.

We have no late news from the Eastward, you have doubtless heard of the embarkation of a considerable part of the French troops ; that England has declared war with Holland ; and I wish I could add the prospect of Pay for the Army ; it seems our *wise Assembly* are much nonpluss'd about that same thing called Pay ; they never ought to have had any thing to do with that, or indeed any thing else that had reference to the army.

Two Captains have lately joined, Parsons and Allen ; Hopkins I am informed is gone Eastward with General Howe, if so probably I may differ with him, as you are acquainted with the reasons which he urged for his absence ; your party for deserters, I am told, has met with success, and that they are on their way to Camp ; I have not a word from H—g—n, nor know I what he is about.

We enjoy ourselves here as well as we can ; I am just returned from a ramble upon one of our highest hills, where we had made a match at firing the pistol. I feel fatigued, and wish you a good night—a much happier one than will fall to the share of

Your friend and humble servant,

JOHN PHILIPS.\*

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FROM JAMES SEAGROVE.

PHILA., 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

DEAR WEBB :

I have receiv'd three of your favours, the last dated the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. : and am truly ashamed of my indolence in not having wrote you be-

\* Col. Webb was then on the North Branch of the Rariton, New Jersey. The letter was intercepted by the enemy, and printed in *Rivington's Gazette*, 11 April, 1781.

fore—but so it is, when a Man has not anything to employ him he contracts those habits, which on reflection gives him pain, and makes him appear inattentive to his friend. It is more than probable I should have sum'd up resolution to have given you a line before, but the want of any thing Novel, agreeable or interesting has in a great measure prevented—and sorry am I to think that at this moment I am equally destitute. News such as it is we have in abundance—but little dependance can be placed in report, certain it is we are at the eve of important events. Lord Cornwallis and Genl Green with a few Miles of each other, both acting with much caution, and their force nearly equal, if any odds Green has it. Arnold at Portsmouth, intrenched with abt 1500 or at most 2000 Men. The French Fleet gon there with 1200 Grenadiers the Marquis Fayet 1500 Lt Infantry—Genl. Guest 500 Continentals from Maryl<sup>d</sup> and abt 4000 Virginians under Muhlenberg & Weedon—are the force to attack him—those with the assistance of the shipping I think must do his business. Hope and wish they will attack him without delay, as we have much to fear from the arrival of the British Fleet from Gardners Bay with the late embarkation of Troops from New York. If we are so fortunate as to Capture Arnold and push on 2000 Good troops immediately to Green, Cornwallis must fall; as he is upwards of 300 miles from Charlestown, & 200 from any seaport. His advance into N. Carolina was in my opinion rash, and may prove his ruin. The war between England and Holland no doubt will be in favour of America in General, but individuals feel it very severely. This Town has already lost by the capture of St. Eustatius not less than half a million pounds Hard cash—and I am sorry to say that I contribute to this, not less than £2000 St<sup>g</sup>.

I am affraid I shall be puzzled to get your Port wine and Beer, but if in Town for sale you shall have them & the Corks by way of Trenton to go from thence in a Wagon which brings up some goods of your Neighbour Jn<sup>o</sup> Shaw who is the bearer.

Inclosed you have some of our late prints for your and the lady's amusement. Please present my best regards to M<sup>rs</sup> Webb, Miss Webb, M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker & Aunt Polly—nothing would give me greater pleasure then to pass a week with you and them, but remember I am bounded by the Delawar. I am to thank Jos. and you for the care of my Mare—as I am totally unhorsed, and the pleasant riding

season coming on,—I shall be obliged if you will send her to me by first safe hand with what expenc you have been at. Colo Moyand [Moylan] is at Lancaster, forwarding on his reg<sup>t</sup> to the Southward. I know not whether he gos or not. I should think not as his Reg<sup>t</sup> is but small at prest .

We are in momentarily expectation of interesting news from Green and the Marquis—God grant it be agreeable.

I wish you Health and Happiness & am with expectation of hearing from you by every oppty.

Dear Sir, your affect Friend

J<sup>s</sup> SEAGROVE.

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FROM COLONEL MOYLAN.

PHILSKILL WEDNESDAY  
28 March 1781

DEAR SIR :

The bearer will deliver you a Letter which my Waggoner brought with some things for you from Philadelphia, he returns this evening or to-morrow morning with my heavy baggage as my rout will be to the Southw<sup>d</sup>. M<sup>rs</sup> M. will accompany me to Lancaster. She anxiously wishes to see the Ladies of your family before she goes, can't you bring them with you tomorrow to dinner, it will give this family, and it will give me great pleasure if you do—a vessel arrived at Phila<sup>a</sup>, saw the french & Brittish fleets engaged last Wednesday off the Capes of Virginia—their force was very near equal and the honor of each so materially engaged that it must be a bloody conflict. Adieu my dear Webb

believe me truly yr<sup>s</sup>

STEPHEN MOYLAN.\*

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FROM GOVERNOR CLINTON.

POUGHKEEPSIE, 3 April 1781.

DEAR SIR :

Your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ultimo was handed to me a few days ago at Albany—I flatter myself it is unnecessary to say anything to in-

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

duce you to believe it would give me pleasure to serve you or any of your Friends & that you will believe me when I assure you I am unhappy in not being able to comply with your Request in Favour of Mrs Banker—Besides the Impropriety of my granting a Pass to a Person not residing in the State I have been under the disagreeable Necessity of refusing Similar Indulgencies to so many in like Circumstances with Mrs Banker that an interposition in her Favour would place me in the most disagreeable Situation such as I am sure you would not wish. I shall be happy to see you—And the Reason which prevented it when you wrote me being now removed I hope soon to have that Pleasure.

Yours sincerely

GEO. CLINTON.\*

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FROM MAJOR WYLLYS.

CONNECTT CAMP, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1781.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup> :

Your's of the 7<sup>th</sup> March is just now come to hand— I sincerely condole with you upon Mrs. Bancker's & Mrs. W[ebb]'s illness. I have been both at H—d quarters, & at General Heath's but know of no fault found with your conduct in leaving Camp—Since my last we have had upwards of thirty recruits joined us some of them good Lads—the former measures adopted in the distribution being in *some degree* altered—Gen<sup>l</sup> Parson's not yet arriving in Camp has delayed my intended proceedings—he has been for some days upon a sick bed at Reading—we fear dangerously ill—it is unfortunate for us—but however, be the distribution at present as it may, at the opening of the Campaign the Regiments in the Line must & will be levelled—*some Gentlemen* are apprehensive of it—& will probably not be pleased with it.

We have began to put our Recruits (most of them) and some *old Soldiers* into inoculation—a measure absolutely necessary, as the infection is spread over this part of the Country—I am only sorry that it will postpone the disciplining the Recruits—who have been put under the Drill upon their joining.

We have no news here but what must have reached you ere this.

\* From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.

Capt<sup>s</sup> Bulkley & Williams arrived in Camp the 2d Inst.—friends all well at Wethersfield—Salmon in great plenty—I have taken Bulkley into our Hutt, as I found it not good to be alone—He with the other Gentlemen of the Reg<sup>t</sup> present their Compliments to you. The Assembly of Connec<sup>t</sup> have imposed taxes for our payment—but I have little faith in receiving it soon—it will be next to impossible for me to exist here longer than the 1st of May—at least with any appearance of that *decency* which I have ever wished to keep up in *your* Reg<sup>t</sup>. it will be difficult to draw on H[un]t[ingto]n he has wound himself up in Committee business—and is prepared to ward off every attack—and I can find no prospect unless you alleviate the difficulty by your presence—Gen<sup>l</sup> Parsons will not probably be here this month—my dilligence & attention to the Reg<sup>t</sup> shall not be wanting while I am *able* to tarry with it. Please to present my best Compliments to Mrs. & Miss W— and believe me

Your sincere friend & humble servt.

JNO. P. WYLLYS.

FROM LIEUTENANT PARSONS.

HARTFORD, 6th April, 1781.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup>:

By the enclosed papers you will se my determination, which has been unavoidable. I have therefore only to express my feelings on the occasion, which are unhappy. Having had the Honor of serving under your order with the Gentlemen of your Reg<sup>t</sup> adds much to the natural regrett I feel at leaving Service, and the Polite treatment I received from your self will indear to me the remembrance of that short but happy portion of my time, and for which I request you to accept of my warmest thanks.

Having had the misfortune of wounding myself will prevent my coming to the Reg<sup>t</sup> soon, for which reason I have to request a recommendation from your self to the Commander-in-Chief for my Dismission. This I wish to be done as soon as may, as it will be a matter of Delicacy at the opening of the Campaign. I should have sent sooner but had not opportunity. If you think proper to mention my being disabled from doing Marching for some time by my wound, I shall be glad, though I do not offer that as a reason.—I shall come to the Reg<sup>t</sup> as soon as I find my self able to settle any



matters that may be necessary. I should be very glad to have my Dismission forwarded to Hartford and Lodged at the Printing Office. Request my Respects to Maj<sup>r</sup>: Wyllys & Officers of the Reg<sup>t</sup>: and should think myself obliiged to have an Opportunity to divide with Any my rural fare. Wish glorious and immediate Conclusion to the War and an Honorable Settlement with the Army.

Am with the greatest Respect, Your obedient Humble Servt.

JABEZ PARSONS.\*

FROM MAJOR WYLLYS.

CONNECT CAMP, 18 April, 1781.

DEAR COL<sup>l</sup>:

Major Throop yesterday arrived from the Marquis's detachment and I am *obliged* to take up the tour upon the old appointment. I set off to-morrow for Hartford in order to put myself, in some degree, in a condition to take the *field*. I saw Col<sup>o</sup>: Durkee, who now commands the Line, this evening—he desired me to make you his Compliments, & inform you that he “wished to see you in Camp as soon as you can conveniently come on.” Indeed the welfare of your Regiment will require your presence soon—it is impossible to draw H[unt]n[g]t[o]n from Connecticut. Gen<sup>l</sup>: Parsons is not yet able to take command—he still continues at Reading. Recruits may soon be expected in considerable numbers. Yourself will judge of the necessity of your being here in season. I am extremely sorry if my going upon this tour shall oblige you to leave your affairs in a manner different from what you should wish—but I could not, consistent with a Soldier's honour, have refused it.

I have received no letters from you, excepting one dated the 7<sup>th</sup> March. I have sent you three or four different packets—one of which I apprehend was carried into N York with the post—it consisted of a number of Letters from different persons. If I shall not see you at Camp before my return from the Eastward, I will do myself the pleasure to call upon you in my way to the Southward.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>: , your's sincerely

JN<sup>o</sup>: P. WYLLYS.

The Field officers send Comp<sup>ts</sup> & wish to see you.

\* Lieutenant Israel Strong also applied for his discharge on the 27<sup>th</sup>, adding, “I could wish to come my self But I have not money a nuf in the world to Bare my Expences to the Reg<sup>t</sup>: nither is it in my Power to get it.”

## COURT MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS.

7 May, 1781.

A Gen<sup>er</sup> Court Martial Held by Order of Major Gen<sup>er</sup> Parsons for the tryal of such prisoners, as shall be brought before them.

Col<sup>o</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> B. Webb President.

Cap <sup>t</sup> [Samuel] Comstock	Cap <sup>t</sup> [Richard] Sill
Cap <sup>t</sup> [Thomas] Converse	Cap <sup>t</sup> Dustin [Durkee?]
Cap <sup>t</sup> [Stephen] Potter	L <sup>t</sup> [Ephraim] Kimberly
L <sup>t</sup> Taylor	L <sup>t</sup> [Thomas] Starr
L <sup>t</sup> [Nehemiah] Gorham	L <sup>t</sup> [Reuben] Sanderson
L <sup>t</sup> [Samuel] De Forrest	Esg <sup>n</sup> [Abner] Cole.

Thomas Langley Collyer is Committed to Guard for Corresponding and giving or attempting to give intelligence to the Enemy. The Prisoner pleads Not Guilty to the Charge. I James Darby being sworn do testify that the letter now before the Court Sign<sup>d</sup> by the name of Thomas Langly Collyer was found on me when taken and that s<sup>d</sup> Collyer gave me that letter to carry to Long Island and that Collyer advised me in My present situation to go to the Enemy & s<sup>d</sup> Collyer desired me to cut out the name which I did & that I the s<sup>d</sup> Darby was Virtually to inform Col<sup>o</sup> Ludlow the same particulars Contained in the letter—

The Prisoner pleads in his defence that he never advised s<sup>d</sup> Darby to go to the Enemy & that he wrote the letter only in part that he never wrote to Col<sup>o</sup> Ludlow before & said that he had no vue in writing the Letter—This Prisoner throws himself upon the Mercy of the Court.

The Court after Considering the Evidence and Circumstances are of opinion that the Prisoner is guilty of a Breach of the 19<sup>th</sup> Article 10<sup>th</sup> Section of the Articles of War—& do there fore Sentence him to suffer *Death* more than two thirds of the Court agreeing therein.

SAM<sup>l</sup> B. WEBB, Pres<sup>dt</sup>

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1781.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL PARSONS.

REDDING, 7th May, '81

DR SR

I have received the Proceedings of the Court in the Trials of Beardsly, Turner, Newman & Collier, but the last Trial is imperfect,

the Letter on which the Conviction Seems to be founded, not being inserted in the Proceedings or sent with them, that the Evidence on which you have convicted him does not appear ; this you will Supply by sending the Letter.

To Morrow when the Provisions are ready to move you will please to order an Escort for them, how large you will judge ; a guard with the Prisoners to Litchfield & Symsbury must be sent to Morrow if possible, and a Guard retained at Danbury with the Prisoners, until the remaining Part of the Prisoners are ready to be mov'd when all the Guard will escort the Provisions on, together with such Prisoners as remain in the Guard House. These Directions you will please to give to the Officer who relieves you, when the Guard removes the Court martial will adjourn until they are orderd to Sit again in Camp. I think it will be proper to desire Dr. Rogers to attend the Persons who are capitally convicted.

I am St. , Yr Obedt Servt .

SAM<sup>l</sup> H. PARSONS.

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FROM ENSIGN BOOTH.

STRATFORD, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1781.

DEAR COLONEL :

I have wrote you twice before but the persons that I sent By did not Reach camp, and have Returnd them to me again. I have been very anxious in haveing some direct oppertunity to send to the Regt , But am fearfull that I shall not meet With any till my furlough expires, if not I shall imbrace the Earliest I possible can. My indisposition of health has been such almost ever since I left camp that it has Renderd me Unfit for almost any kind of duty, I have also mett with a very misfortunate accident by hurting my hand and Arm so that it renders it at present intirely useless, and am fearfull it will be some time before that I have the use of it Again. Also the situation of my family being such that it is impossible for me to continue in service, as my wife has for all the Campaign past experienced a long train of sickness, And it is doubtful whether she ever Recovers her health again as her disorder is some what similar from almost any of the female sex, Which in the first place was occa-

sioned by the fall of a horse in Octr '79. I think it my duty under the Circumstances of my family to Retire from service, as I am very much Reducd by the continuance of the war so that I cannot without any pay which is remaining due furnish myself with Cloathing which is decent, being destitute of Parents to Give me or family any Assistance, tho it gives me great pain to leave a Regt in which I ever have been happy in serving ever since I have had the pleasure of being incorporated with.

Dear Col<sup>o</sup> I send Inclosed my resignation and Commission which would wish might be Completed as soon as Possible. Under the many disagreeable Circumstances Which I Labour under, I have the highest expectation to think that the Col<sup>o</sup> will give me every possible assistance in obtaining my permission to Retire; and it always will be esteemed by me as a peculiar favour. I have not any Accounts to settle with the publick nor Regt, only my pay.

I am sir with Every sentiment of honor Your Humb<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

NATH<sup>l</sup> BOOTH.

I could wish the Col<sup>o</sup> would do me the favour to wright me soon as I shall wish if possible to have my permission to Retire in a short time. I shall endeavour to Join the Regt as soon as Able but cannot under my Present situation Continue in Service.

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STRATFORD IN CONNECTICUT, May 12, 1781.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON:

After Serveing my Country six years in the glorious cause of Liberty, am at length reduced to the Necessity of Solissiting your Excellencies permission to retire, a distressed family now calls me from the field, Being almost destitute of any [of] the Necessaries of Life to support them, by Reason of sickness which they have experienced all the last Campaign and is still continueing upon them, so that it calls upon me by every sacred tie of humanity to Relieve their distresses as much as lyes in my power, which I cannot do whilst in service, as I am greatly Reduc<sup>d</sup> by the continueance of the war so that I am not able to furnish myself with Cloathing & other Necessaries that are decent and needfull whilst in service. Neither can I do it without my pay which is Remaining due Being destitute of



THE  
WEBB  
HOUSE



A. W. Egan & Co. Boston.

*The Webb House at Westburyfield.*

Parants to give me or my family any Assistance I have also devoted up the best part of my days with Cheerfulness in the Service of my Country, which has very much hurt my Constitution and much diminished my private interest.

Under these distressing Circumstances which I have mentioned, I have the greatest Reason to think your Excellency will be pleased to grant me permission to retire from service.

I wish your Excellency and Army under your Command and all our Allies every possible success in the several departments which they Command, and hope soon to see American independence established to her upon such lasting foundations that no power can destroy.

I am with every Respect your Excellencies most Obedient and Hum! Serv<sup>t</sup>

NATH<sup>l</sup> BOOTH,  
Ensign 3<sup>d</sup> Conn<sup>t</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> .

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#### THE CONFERENCE AT WETHERSFIELD.

On May 8th the Count Rochambeau learned of the arrival at Boston of the frigate *Concorde*, with Count Barras and Viscount Rochambeau. For months the American army and its French allies had been reduced to inactivity, because they were not strong enough to cope with the enemy. Plan after plan was conceived, only to be laid aside, for the second division of the French army had been delayed, and its active co-operation was essential to success. Rochambeau at once wrote to Washington asking for a conference, at any time or place he might name, and expressed the wish that the French minister, Chevalier de la Luzerne, might also be present. Washington named Wethersfield, Connecticut, as the place, and the twenty-first of May as the day. He selected Wethersfield in preference to Hartford, because the State legislature was in session at the time, and might occasion some inconvenience. The French commanders acquiesced in this arrangement, and set out from Newport. Washington left New Windsor on May 18th, accompanied by Generals Knox and Duportail, and reached Morgan's tavern forty three miles from Fishkill Landing, after dining at Colonel Vanderbergh's. Pursuing his journey on the 19th, he breakfasted at Litchfield, dined

at Farmington, and on reaching Weathersfield, went to the Webb house, where he and his suite were entertained.

“Hartford, May 29th, 1781.—On Saturday the 19th. inst. his excellency General Washington, accompanied by Gen. Knox, Gen. Du Portail, and their respective suites, arrived at Wethersfield; being escorted into town by a number of Gentlemen from Hartford and Wethersfield. As he dismounted at his quarters he was saluted by a discharge of thirteen cannon, by the corps of artillery, under the command of Cap<sup>t</sup>. Frederick Bull. On Monday the 21st. inst. his excellency the Count de Rochambeau, commanding the army of his most Christian Majesty at Newport, Gen. Chastelleux, and their suites, arrived at Wethersfield. They were met at Hartford, by his Excellency General Washington, the officers of the army, and a number of gentlemen, who accompanied them to Wethersfield, where they were saluted by the discharge of cannon. Every mark of attention and politeness were shewn their excellencies, and the other gentlemen of the allied armies while attending the convention.”—*Connecticut Historical Collections*, 55.

Two short diaries remain of this conference, and I give the extracts in parellel columns.

General Washington.

20<sup>th</sup> Had a good deal of private conversation with Governor Trumbull, who gave it to me as his opinion, that, if any important offensive operation should be undertaken, he had little doubt of our obtaining men and provision adequate to our wants. In this opinion Colonel [Jeremiah] Wadsworth and others concurred.

21<sup>st</sup> Count de Rochambeau, with the Chevalier de Chastellux, arrived about noon. The appearance of the British fleet, under Admiral Arbuthnot, off Block Island, prevented the appearance of the Count de Barras.

22<sup>d</sup> Fixed with Count de Rochambeau the plan of campaign. \* \* \*

23<sup>d</sup> Count de Rochambeau set out on his return to Newport, while I prepared

Governor Trumbull.

Lord's Day, May twentieth. Went with Cap<sup>t</sup>. Fred. Bull in a carriage to Wethersfield—attended divine service with General Washington per tot diem. Mr. March preached. Mat. 7. 3—blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Monday, twenty first. Fair—invited to Col. [John] Chester's.

Tuesday, twenty second. Fair—dined with General Washington, Rochambeau, &c. at Stillman's.

Wednesday, twenty third. Fair—dined at Colyer's with the Generals—



and forwarded dispatches to the governors of the four New England States, calling on them in earnest and pointed terms to complete their Continental battalions for the campaign at least, if it could not be done for the war or three years; to hold a body of militia, according to the proposition given to them, ready to march in one week after being called for; and to adopt some effectual mode to supply the troops when assembled with provisions and the means of transportation. I also solicited the governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut earnestly for a loan of powder.

24<sup>th</sup> Set out on my return to New Windsor.

supra public expence. Guards—artillery.

The conclusions of the conference are printed in the *Writings of Washington*, ix, 251, *et seq.*

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FROM WILLIAM S. LIVINGSTON.

BEVERWICK, 28th May, [1781.]

DEAR WEBB:

I have not heard a Syllable from John, Joe or yourself since you left us. The Girls returned from Raritan Yesterday. Betsey is well. I used when in the Army it is true to ride in the Night to get Home, but I never sent 184 Miles two Men on Foot for a Letter.

I came from Phil<sup>a</sup> on Sunday. The Marquis informs Congress Major-General Phillips of the Brittish is dead.\* Green also writes that he is again before Camden and has not *a Doubt* of takeing it.

There has been a Mutiny in the Pennsylvania Line at York Town previous to their Marching. Wayne like a good officer quell'd it soon as Twelve of the Fellows stepped out & perswaded the Line to refuse to March in Consequence of the Promisses made to them not being complied with. Wayne told them of the Disgrace they brought on the American Arms when in Jersey in general & themselves in particular. That the feelings of the Officers on that Occa-

\* He died at Petersburg, 13 May, 1781.

sion were so wounded that they had determined never to experience the like & that he beg'd they would now fire either on him & them or on those Villains in front. He then called to such a Platoon. They presented at the Word, fired and killed six of the Villains. One of the others badly wounded he ordered to be Bayonnetted. The Soldier on whom he called to do it, recovered his Piece & said he could not for he was his Comrade. Wayne then drew his Pistol and told him he would kill him. The fellow then advanced and bayonnetted him. Wayne then marched the Line by Divisions round the Dead & the rest of the fellows are ordered to be hang'd. The Line march'd the next Day Southward—Mute as Fish.

Please to desire Joe or Huntington to send my Trunk on by your Waggon. Give my love to the Officers with you & believe me

Yours sincerely

W. S. L[IVINGTON].

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FROM RICHARD DEMERY.

NEW YORK SUGAR HOUSE, June ye 5<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

HONOURABLE COL<sup>o</sup>:

I am a poor unfortunate Soldier Entirely destitute of Money or Cloathes and Cant Look for any relief without some assistance from the Reigt. I must Beg you to inform Capt. Bates, and Ensign Booth, (who are well acquainted with my Circumstances) that I am a prisoner and that my present Circumstances Renders my imprisonment Extremely tedious and hope they wont forget me and try to Get me Exchanged. Otherwise to send me some Money and Cloaths as soon they Conveniently Can for which favour I shall make it my Constant Care to Serve you.

RICHARD DEMRA\*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO JOSEPH WEBB.

NEW WINDSOR, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

DEAR SIR:

Inclosed is my Measure for a pair of draw-Boots [Horse-skin] to be made of the Leather Manufactured at your Works—The Measure is exact, and I should be glad to have the Boots well made—neat—

\* He was in Captain David Parson's company, in Colonel Webb's regiment.

and sent to me as soon as possible, with the price in specie, which shall be immediately forwarded to you.—

Upon my return from Weathersfield I found M<sup>rs</sup> Washington extremely unwell, she still continues low and weak, but will set out for the Southward as soon as she can bear the fatigue of the journey ; she joins me in compliments and best wishes to yourself, M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Webb—I cannot conclude without assuring you that I have a high sense of your politeness and attention to me while I was at Weathersfield—and that I should at all times be happy to see you at head Q<sup>rs</sup>

I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir, Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup> & Oblig<sup>d</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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FROM DOCTOR HENRY LATIMER.

DEPT<sup>y</sup> ADJ<sup>t</sup> GEN<sup>l</sup>s QUARTERS  
19<sup>th</sup> June, 1781.

D<sup>r</sup> SIR :

It was my Intention to have called at your Regiment, to give some necessary Directions respecting those who have the small Pox, but the Wind blowing hard, & the Tide ebbing, has rendered it impracticable ; have therefore to request you to order such as have the Small Pox (reported to be therein) to be immediately sent to the Small Pox Hosp<sup>l</sup> in the rear of the New Hampshire Brigade, with some carefull persons to prevent them having any communication on the way with such as may not have had them.

If you can also send a Person to Murderer's Creek to-morrow, I will endeavour to procure some stores for their use, as well as several others, who are already in that Hospital.

I am, Sir, with Respect, your H<sup>ble</sup> Servant

H<sup>y</sup> LATIMER

Phy<sup>s</sup> & Surg<sup>n</sup> Flying Hospital.

P. S. I will be particularly obliged to you, if you hear of any others having the Disease besides those of your Reg<sup>t</sup> , to order them also to the Hosp<sup>l</sup> , that we may, if possible, prevent the Disease being communicated.

TO JOSEPH WEBB.

CAMP AT PEEKSKILL,

Wednesday, June 27, 1781.

MY DEAR BRO:

Your letter of the 18th inst. Br. Jack sent me yesterday. I have wrote you several times on the subject you mention and have now enclosed a letter calculated for you to shew the Governor which I earnestly entreat you will as soon as possible.

Mrs. Bancker can go by the way of Elizabeth Town which will save a great deal of trouble; besides, I am sure it would not be agreeable to Gen'l Washington to have any flags passing on this side at present, but from the Jersey side there will be no difficulty.

Doct'r Cochran left the Raritan on Saturday last, when he called to see Mrs. Webb and found her yet in a low state of health: so much so that she is most of the time confined to her bed, but has had no return of raising blood since I left her. I flatter myself with proper care, she will 'ere long regain her health—Hetty and the rest of the family were well—Brother Jack has been disappointed about going after her, on acc't of our taking the Field. It is fortunate on acc't of Betsey's illness, and I am truly sorry her friends at Wethersfield should be so very urgent for her coming home this season—However, as it is, Br. Jack will take the earliest opportunity to conduct her home. As for me, it will be out of my power, till the campaign is over, to leave my Reg't, as Major Wylls is with the Marquis, and Lieut-Col: Huntington has this morning been detached to serve with Col. Scämmel on the Lines, and probably will be absent most of the season.

This, however, gives me no pain—I can do as well without him as with him.

At the close of the campaign, my present intention is, if Mrs. Webb's health will permit, to see you at Wethersfield and possibly pass the winter there with you.

I have wrote you on several subjects since I left you, which you have not noticed. It would add much to the pleasure I take in writing if I could obtain answers—You have twice acknowledged the receipt of my letters and given no answers to many requests they have contained—If you have leisure I'll thank you to look them over when next you write.

I have enclosed, for the perusal of you, Chester and other friends, the present order of Battle—You can show it to those you think proper, and will readily see the impropriety of giving out any copies.

Our march towards Kingsbridge depends on a number of circumstances—We are at present destitute of every necessary but provision—The Qr. Master's department cannot furnish horses to move a single Brigade; beside this, our present numbers will not justify our taking a critical position—Connecticut, 'tis universally said, for two years past has done nothing at all—Her supplies have been trifling—her promises great—and her exertions a Puff. Of this our present weakness in men is a shameful proof, and I am sorry to say that they are now taking every step in their power to cause a total dissolution of the Line.

The Committee have returned, and was the Assembly's conduct known, I should dread the consequences—Everything, at present is quiet—The Committee

have laid their report before General Parsons, he, before the Commander-in-Chief, and measures are taking by then that the Line may not know the present prospects respecting their pay, &c., until some steps are taken to shew the State the folly they are running into—Heaven smiles on us and holds our Freedom and Peace while our Country is doing (seemingly) everything in its power to bring eternal infamy and disgrace on themselves and us.

On this you may rely—If the present moment is not taken to do justice to those who are sacrificing their all in the cause of justice, steps will be taken which will be truly alarming—Without aggrevation I do assure you, when the verdict of the Assembly is known, I fear a general mutiny—All is kept secret yet, in hopes General Washington will take the matter up, and get a new Assembly called.

Time will not permit my being more particular on this subject. I intended writing my sister, your other self, but cannot at present; yet I hope to hear from her when a good conveyance offers.

Present my love to her and Abby and the two little prattlers—Remember me to Chester and the good people of his family & be assured I am affectionately,

Your friend and Brother,

SAM'L B. WEBB.\*

If convenient I wish you to purchase me half a quintal of Good Codfish.

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 130.

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TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL TILGHMAN.

PHILLIPSBURGH, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1781—

DEAR SIR :

The enclosed was presented for my approbation this Morning—I truly believe the situation is as Mr. [Isaiah] Betts represents,—& tho' I am short of officers I cannot but say I am willing he should be discharged, as I am confident he cannot on several Accounts make an officer like appearance, he was a Serjant in the old Second promoted & incorporated into My Reg<sup>t</sup>.—he has only been a few days with the Reg<sup>t</sup>. am therefore Unacquainted with his Abilities,—however I sincerely wish many valuable officers may not be obliged to leave the Service, for the same Reasons Mr. Betts offers. If some exertions are not speedily made by the State to supply the Line with Money and adjust their pay for 80 &c.—I am persuaded more two thirds the officers will leave us,—nor are the Men so easy as I could wish.

I am Sir Your Most obed<sup>d</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

CAMP AT PHILLIPSBURGH,

July 13<sup>th</sup> 1781

DEAR WADSWORTH :

It was my intention to have seen you again before you left Camp,—but Duty forbids,—I have already fully explained to you the motives Mr<sup>s</sup>. Bancker has in going to New York—you'll will perceive it is a matter of Consequences to me, I have therefore to request

your personal application to our worthy friend Governor Trumbull for a permit for her to visit New York,—the earlier the better—my hurry and our present situation apologize for this Scrawl,—be assured I am with sincerity yr. friend &

Obedt. Ser<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.\*

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SMITH.

HEADQUARTERS, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1781.

MY DEAR SAM:

I have spoke to his Excellency agreeable to your request, and have obtained with great difficulty permission for you to visit your amiable connections on the banks of the Raritan. Nothing, my friend, but the particular situation of Mrs. Webb (which I painted in as lively colours as I was capable) could possibly have induced the General to comply with the request. He considers his character as well as yours in some measure at stake, and therefore requests you will not exceed the period you mentioned to me.

Tell the good ladies when you leave them, that they must not expect to see you again, until the end of the Campaign & remember me to them *separately* and collectively as particularly as you think proper, and accept of the assurance of friendship from

WM. S. SMITH.

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TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF CONNECTICUT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF SAFETY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The Memorial of Sam<sup>l</sup>. B. Webb humbly sheweth That he is married to the Daughter of M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker, & that she was before the Warr a resident in New York City, where she left behind her, as she fled in great trepidation from our Enemies the British Troops, sun-

\* From the Wadsworth MSS. in the possession of Mr. J. F. Morris, of Hartford.



dry Papers & Documents relating to the Estate of your memorialists Wife,—which being in the Hands of a person going to Europe can not be recovered but by M<sup>rs</sup> Banckers going into the City of New York—Your Memorialist therefore begs your Honours to grant Permission to M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker to go through the Connecticut Lines into said City & return into this State with said Papers, as there is no other possible Means of obtaining them, & the fortune of your Memorialist & Wife depended on their being speedily obtained—Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honours to grant his request & he as in duty bound shall ever pray

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB\*

CAMP PHILIPSBURGH

July 20, 1781

TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SMITH.

CAMP, 3<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1781.

DEAR SMITH :

The day before we march'd from Peekskill I informed His Excellency that I thought myself injured in my Rank with respect to Col<sup>o</sup> [Heman] Swift, & requested a Board of Officers might sit to determine the justice of our Pretensions.

The Gen<sup>l</sup> told me it was impossible at that time to attend to matters of Rank, & intimated that my reasons for asking a Board should be committed to writing, from that time to this I have waited in hopes Col. Swift would submit the matter to any two or three Generals of our own chooseing—but find he will not,—I am led to believe that he refuses this in hopes His Excell<sup>y</sup> will refuse a Board on the Subject—I cannot

\* From the *Trumbull Papers* in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

however suppose this will be the case, as my reasons for asking it are I conceive better founded than any others have been,—Boards of Officers were sitting in '78 & '79 for the settlement of Rank throughout the Army, at this time I was in Captivity & therefore could not lay in my Claims, nor had I ever the most Distant Idea Col<sup>o</sup> Swift would claim the Rank of me, what president he has to suppose he will obtain it, I am unable to say, conscious I am if justice takes place he will not.—In '75 I had the Rank of Major, in '76 that of a Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup> both before he held any commission in the Continental Army. In '76 Col<sup>o</sup> Swift came out from the State of Connec<sup>t</sup>. with a Reg<sup>t</sup>. of Levies to serve until the 25<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup>. following—when they were of course disbanded; in Jan'y 1777 he was Created & I promoted to the Rank of Col<sup>o</sup> in the Continental Line of the Army,—it has so happened we never have been in Service together untill this Campaign—had it have been otherways, & I neglected haveing the Rank settled untill the present Period—I should not be surprized if a Board should be refused,—But when his Excellency is informed of these particulars I doubt not he will order One.

Let me request therefore you will be kind enough the first Opportunity that offers to speak to him on the subject. It injures my feelings exceedingly to have it stand in the way it now does,—I am sorry to be thus troublesome to His Excellency or to you, but you will readily conceive it a matter of consequence & therefore excuse it.

I am, my Dear Sir, Your friend & Most obed<sup>t</sup>.  
Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

P. S. Had I been with the Line last Fall at the Time they were Incorporateing and arrangeing the officers I have reason to suppose Col. Swift would not have been arranged before Me.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 1781.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

Our Friend J. W[adsworth] & self have hove in a Petition to the Gov<sup>r</sup> & Council & have obtained the permission for Mrs. Banker. I am sorry you forget her Christian name—but We'll send it *Blank*—there's much Delicacy to be used in the Affair, comeing from another State, our Friend J. Chester wou'd not have Voted for any other person—He's anxious for fear Gov. L[ivingston] & Gov. T[rumbull] may differ on this very affair—say but little untill it's accomplished.

Wadsworth will forward you the Paper's. I have been this Day after them ; Gov. Trumbull says they shall be ready this Eveng. We are extremely sorry to hear of the illness of our Dear Sister Betsy. I wish she was here—will she soon be able to Ride with Hetty—you had best to contrive to get here—B[arnabas] D[eane] talks of going to Hartf<sup>d</sup> yet uncertain either ; untill Spring I have the refusal of the House for you—Wadsworth soon goes to Camp—who can tell you more particulars—The Raven is Just arrived Cut all to pieces. How different our Fortunes from our *Neighbors*? I hope you'll have an agreeable Campaign—suppose you get Hetty to Camp with one of the others perhaps I cou'd get her home.—have you Horses & Carriages provided. I cou'd send Horace on to Camp to go quite to The Branch—by the bye I am excessive Angry with Rich<sup>d</sup> He borrowd of me a Sadle with a promise to Return by the Waggon & Horse which is not done. Can you yet Spare me McDermot Mare or not—do not make it inconvenient to Y<sup>r</sup> Self—send me the Sadle from Rich<sup>d</sup> , or Give orders to purchase one on his Acct<sup>t</sup> , as He has used me ill, quite so— when I meant to Oblige him—

[JOSEPH WEBB.]

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TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF GENERAL OFFICERS.

CAMP, NEAR DOBB'S FERRY,

11<sup>th</sup> August 1781.

GENTLEMEN :

It was my misfortune in the Fall of 1777 to be taken a Prisoner by the British and detained from Service until the present campaign—during my Absence several Boards of Officers were appointed to Settle the Rank of Continental Officers in different Lines of the Army, —my Absence prevented me Laying in my Claims, this I hope Gentlemen will sufficiently apologize for the trouble I now give you,—Col<sup>o</sup> Swift and myself have never been in Service together until the present Campaign, nor has it ever been determined which ought in Justice to be the Senior Officer,—he in my Absence the last Fall was arranged before Me, without my haveing the least notice of the time or place of the Meeting,—had I been present I presume it never would have hapen'd,—In the first Stage of the present War I entered the Field with my Countrymen, and as early as July 1775 obtained the Rank of Major—in June 1776 was promoted to Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup>: at both these periods if my recollection does not fail me Col<sup>o</sup> Swift was moving in the Civil spheres of Life—the latter part of 1776 the States were call'd on for a number of Regiments to reinforce the Continental Army—with One of these from the State of Connecticut Col Swift entered the Field to continue in Service until the 25<sup>th</sup> of December following, when his Regiment was Disbanded,—In January '77 Colonel Swift was Created and myself promoted to the Rank of Colonel in the American Army,—these Gentlemen to the best of my

Knowledge are the true State of Facts,—nor did I ever Imagine Col Swift would claim the Rank of me untill I saw it in the present Year,—nor do I now conceive he has the least foundation in justice to suppose he will obtain it—however from some hints I have rec'd Col<sup>o</sup> Swift flatters himself with the Idea that you Gen<sup>l</sup>. will consider him entitled to rank from the date of his State Commission, I am convinced that you not Viewing his Situation thro' the same partial mirror that produces these reflections will allow nay even (I hope the expressions will be excused) determine that Col<sup>o</sup> Swift from that Commission cannot claim rank beyond the 25<sup>th</sup> of December at which period his Military rank sunk in oblivion with his reduced reg<sup>t</sup>. —here the Gentleman Grasping at another Straw will observe that some time in November the State of Connecticut voted him the command of one of the 88 Battalions; this I allow but that they were to spring into existance on the Morning of the first of January 1777 and in reallity were not known in a millitary point of View Previous to that period, Col Swift undoubtedly [will] readily acknowledge. I would therefore Gen<sup>l</sup>. infer that Col<sup>o</sup> Swift was absolutely and in every sence of the Word taken from Civil life and placed at the Head of a Reg<sup>t</sup>. whilst I was promoted from the proper Millitary Line to the same Grade; & consequently can with strict proprietary assert that I am the Senior Officer & entitled to every advantage that may originate therefrom —I beg leave to add that it so happened that Col Swifts State Commission absolutely was for him to serve untill the first of Jany 1777 even that could not possibly give him the least cause in justice to claim the rank of me.

You are Sensible Gentlemen, that the love of our Country,—and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Rank we obtain are the only motives which can induce us any longer to endure the Fatigues of the Field,—it gives me singular pleasure & Satisfaction, the Commander in Chief has gratify'd my feeling by appointing a Board of General Officers to Determine a point in which I am so particularly Interested,—In your good judgment, & justice I have the utmost Confidence,—and am with much Respect & Esteem

Gentlemen Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup>.

Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GEN<sup>T</sup> OF THE COURT:

I was asked the other day by a member of this Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board, with particular emphasis, whether I acknowledg'd Col. Swift to be appointed by the assembly of the State of Connecticut in October to the Command of one of the 88 Battallions, I gave him to understand that I did not doubt it. Upon retireing, calmly considering the Question, Viewing the Objects to which it might tend; and the trifling baubles that Co<sup>l</sup>. Swift has bouy'd himself up with, It immediately occurred to me that he might possibly also catch at this shadow, and date his Existence as a Continental Co<sup>l</sup>. from the period upon which the resolution passed.

Considering it my duty Gen<sup>t</sup>. to endeavour to obviate any reasons that Col Swift may offer in support of his usurped rank (which I flatter myself I have hitherto fully accomplish'd) as well as to counteract the force of any observations that the reduced State of his re-

sources may hurry upon his imagination, and induce him to make, I would upon this subject observe (tho' it in some measure appears too absurd to merit attention) that should Col Swift once more float on the surface of Ideal Superiority supported by this vote of October 76 and claim rank from the date of it, I request, nay I am Confident Gen<sup>l</sup>. that your delicacy will induce you to convince him that his opinion is erroneous with as much tenderness as you are capable and for myself I promise not to smile tho' it is a laughable Claim, for should this Circumstance be attended to, that State that convened their assembly first after the recommendation from Congress to raise the new army, would have insurd to its officers seniority of rank to all others upon the Continent and the order of Congress fixing the first of January 77 as the period from which the Commissions of the army were to be dated, would not have claim'd nor even merited our attention. I will now beg your attention while I relate a circumstance that occur'd in the Pennsylvania Line exactly similar. Viz whilst that line was serving under Gen<sup>l</sup>. Wayne to the northward in the Campaign of 76, Cap<sup>t</sup>. Menzies either Lead by duty or inclination return'd to Philadelphia where he apply'd for a Commission as Major on the New Establishment (the assembly being at that time setting) which he obtain'd & when he return'd to the Line and the Commissions in General were forwarded Menzies appeared the elder instead of the youngest Major, this was considered and complain'd of as a Grevience, and I think the resolve of Congress passed in consequence of it, this Gen<sup>l</sup>. was then presented with a Commission agreeable to the resolve dated the first

of January when instead of his being the Senior he became the Junior Major in the Line.

From these Circumstances Gentlemen should Col Swift make this Claim, you must be convinced of the impropriety of attending to it.

As for the Certificate he produces and his observations upon it with respect to my pretentions, It is very plain that this Gent is his last feather, which I am confident is in my power to pluck from his crest with as much ease as I have done those with which he at first appeared plumed. I am also convinced that the observation will strick you Gent<sup>t</sup>. so forcibly that you will not hesitate one moment in giving a decided opinion. It is but a slender thread that now supports him, i. e. a Certificate obtained of my appointment, this I will venture to say does not merit and I am confident will not meet with attention from this Board as it is not Certificates or appointments, that you Gent<sup>t</sup>. will form your opinion upon for they have too frequently appeared to be erroneous & are only rectified by Subsequent Commissions, it is Commissions & those only that must guide your opinions, the articles of War, which are handed to us as a rule for our conduct in the Settlement of rank &c particularly point out an attention to the date of Commissions, & have nothing to do with far fetched Certificates or appointments, when Commissions have an existence.

With permission Gentlemen I will a moment for the sake of argument allow the validity of the Certificate produced and observe that Circumstances at the time might not admit of its being given previous to the date with which it appears. But as it was the intention of



the power from whom the appointment originated that it should have rec'd an existance six or 7 days before it did had it been at that time consistant with the public interest, the power referr'd to removes the inconvenience that may originate therefrom, by giving a Commission bearing a prior date to the Certificate; which buries the Certificate in oblivion; and nothing but the Commission in a Military point of View has or can afterwards have an existence.

You will undoubtedly Gen<sup>t</sup>. from hence conclude that as Col Swifts Commission and mine bear the same date of January the first 77 & that my prior pretensions to rank in the Continental Line (which have been produced & clearly proved) are superior to his, that seniority of rank was originally & is at present my just one. I have not the least doubt but I shall have it confirmed by the unanimous Voice of this Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board; & shall not unless Col Swift starts some new Phantom tresspass any longer upon your patience but submit it as it now stands to your impartial Judgment.

L<sup>t</sup>. Col Sprout was serveing as a Major in the Line of the Army after the Battle of Princeton, & while the Army lay at Morris-town and Chatham, after which he rec<sup>d</sup> his appointment as Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup> & takes Rank from the 1<sup>t</sup>. of Jan'y 1777 with other Instances that can if necessary be produced.—

Generals Glover & Patterson will I presume recollect knowing of my appointment while at Trenton; the latter If my recollection does not fail me I conversed with on the Subject. L<sup>t</sup>. Col<sup>o</sup> Scull was offered by me when at Trenton a Company in my Battallion, which he would [have] accepted, but was offered a Majority

directly after. It cannot be supposed that His Excellency intended Major Lee to have the Rank of me in the 16 when I was then serving as a Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup>. The Instance between L<sup>t</sup>. Colonels M. Jackson & Weston & Colonel Marshall are instances which claim the Attention of this Board.

If I mistake not Col<sup>o</sup> Putnam is another instance. Indeed I can claim as a Pres<sup>t</sup> the settlement of Rank throughout the Massachusetts & every other line of the Army.

Read Over—that part where I say circumstances would not permit its being given sooner.—then name the Reasons of my continuing at Head Quarters so long after my appointment &c. &c. These particular[s] I conceive are necessary to convince the Board my appointment was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Swift endeavoring to make it appear it was not till after the 5<sup>th</sup>.

I believe I was officially appointed the same day with Major Lee.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM S. SMITH.

CAMP DOBB'S FERRY, 18<sup>th</sup> Aug., 1781.

Not a stone, my dear Sam, shall be left unturned, that can possibly tend to promote your interest. While I think justice holds the reins of government and rules your actions, which I am confident it has hitherto done, every exertion that can possibly be made you may expect from your friend

Saturday morning

WM. S. SMITH,

A. D. C.



Dear Sir  
Read the enclosed Kings Ferry  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1781

Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> I recd at Boston River therefore  
as totally out of my power to pay you the Visit that  
you in your usual friendly manner requested.

I should have been happy had duty admitted of my  
following my plan, which friendship dictated, viz. of  
paying you one more visit in view to my departure  
- but it proved it very repulsive, as to the  
sending the matter with Swift I will give you  
my opinion fully upon the Subject after I have  
had some conversation with Genl. upon our route  
If any thing upon the Subject turns up favour-  
able I will keep you the closest intelligence  
I can. Should I see you friends in the way  
I will report to them what you wish of  
I can with propriety express my Deas  
upon that Subject, you will much oblige  
me Webb by paying some little attention to my  
Brother should it be in your way.

Forward the enclosed to my Father &  
you will oblige your friend

W. D. Smith

C. D. Webb

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM S. SMITH.

HEAD QUARTERS, KING'S FERRY

August 22d, 1781.

DEAR SAM<sup>l</sup>:

Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> I rec<sup>d</sup> at Croton River, therefore totally out of my power to pay you the visit that you in your usual friendly manner requested.

I should have been happy had duty admitted of my following my plan, which friendship dictated, viz: of paying you one more visit previous to my departure, but I found it impossible. As to renewing the matter with Swift, I will give you my opinion fully upon the subject, after I have had some conversation with the Gen<sup>l</sup> upon our route. If anything upon the subject turns up favorably, I will waft you the earliest intelligence of it. Should I see your friends in the Jersey's, I will report to them what you wish, if I can with propriety express my Ideas upon that *Subject*. You will much oblige me Webb, by paying some little attention to my Brother, should it be in your way.

Forward the enclosed to my father; & you will oblige, your friend

W. S. SMITH.

in a hurry.

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FROM MRS. JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 31 August, 1781.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

Your friendly Letter dated August 2d came safe to hand and met a grateful wellcome. I began an answer by Colonel Wadsworth, but a bad pain in my head obliged me to Leave it unfinished. Let me now assure [you] it afford'd me much pleasure tho' am truly grieved to hear you speak so discouragingly of poor Mrs. Webb's situation: and am anxious lest your fears should have too much foundation in reality—it is no doubt a great agrevation to her in her present troubles that you should be obliged to Leave her and to share the Hazards of this too cruel War, tho' her anxiety on your account I dare to say cannot eaqueal what you Must necessarily feel on hers. I pray Heaven to remove it by restoring her to Health and preserv- ing a Life so truly and deservedly valuable to you and to all her

friends. I very much Esteem her Character, tho' have never had the happiness of a personal acquaintance I cannot but flatter my self I shall have the Felicity of seeing her att Wethersfield this fall. Our last accounts being more favourable gives us room to Incorage an expectation so pleasing—you will not neglect leting us hear through you from Both Sisters as often as in your power. Hetty has not wrote a Line for many Months past. I feel the dear Girl's Absence severely—but perhaps ought not to complain since no one is in fault—I am as I may say alone—Mr. Webb's Buisness is such that he can devote but a small pittance of time to me or the family—he is more perplex'd and hurried than ever—Sister Sally has been Absent some time upon a Visit to Norwich and I'do not expect her return for many weeks, perhaps months, so that I am ever thinking of her and wishing for her; but since she must be absent am happy that she is in a situation to contribute to our good Sisters pleasure and Consequently to yours—present my Love to them when you write—remember me affectionately to Brother Jack and tell him he must Let us know where he is—and how he does—we dayly and hourly expect Mr. and Mrs. Barrell his Buisness requires his presence or I should not put much Faith in his Intending to come, she has so often disappointed us. I should have been happy could the Family have met together att the Old Mansion, but that is a pleasure I fear I shall never Live to Enjoy—Mr. J. Lockwood the Bearer can tell you what is passing with us—I do not think of anything material—Abby desires Love to both you and Jack the Little Girls Sally and Harriet are well—grow Tall fast and begin to be something Like Company—I am told Mr. D[eane] is certainly going to Hartford to Live—we should have a happy Little Circle could you Transport your family to Wethersfield. I hope it will be in your power—in which case you will not hesitate—I should write more frequent but the risque is great, and I wish what Letters you may receive from me may be destroy'd for fear of accident—my many cares have made me Less familiar with my pen than I used to be. but whether I write or am silent be assured I think of you with sincere esteem and am with unfein'd affection your Sister

W—

Sir

Trenton 31 Aug 1704

I just now received your  
letter of this days date inclosing me from  
Governor Clinton.

As to my Sentiments ~~respecting~~  
the obtaining a pass from the British for  
Mr Webb to go under the Sanction of a  
Flagg from Tom's river to Connecticut,  
it is a matter so much out of my  
depart ment that I do not chuse to give  
any Opinion upon it. But as Mr Webb's  
health is in question, I will not chusefully  
give him a pass to go to any place in the  
Enemy's lines which the Physicians you  
mention, or any other Gentlemen eminent  
in the Profession shall certify to me, will  
in their Opinion, contribute to its restoration  
in preference to any place in our Dominions.

Mr Bunker I cannot promise to go  
to New York consistent with my duty to the

public, & my reasons for the refusal, I shall  
expose to George Clinton who is a Gentle-  
man I do not see how oblig'd as any  
man in the world, & also, I am persuaded  
will entirely acquiesce in the bar of conduct  
I object upon these Questions - I am

Sir

Your most humble  
servant

Wm. Livingston

Esq. Will -



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FROM GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON.

TRENTON, 31 Aug<sup>t</sup> , 1781.

SIR:

I just now receiv'd your Letter of this day's date inclosing one from Governor Clinton.

As to my Sentiments respecting the obtaining a pass from the British for M<sup>rs</sup> Webb to go under the Sanction of a Flagg from Tom's river to Connecticut, it is a matter so much out of my department that I do not chuse to give any Opinion upon it. But as M<sup>rs</sup> Webbs health is in question, I will most cheerfully give her a pass to go to any place in the Enemy's lines which the Physicians you mention, or any other Gentlemen eminent in the Profession shall certify to me, will in their opinion, contribute to its restoration in preference to any place in our Own lines.

M<sup>rs</sup> Banker I cannot permit to go to New York consistent with my duty to the public, & my reasons for the refusal, I shall assign to Governor Clinton who is a Gentleman I would as soon oblige as any man in the world, & who, I am persuaded will entirely acquiesce in the line of Conduct I observed upon this occasion. I am

Sir Your most humble Servant

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

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TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITAN, 3<sup>d</sup> September, 1781.

DEAR SIR:

On my arrival at this place a few days since I found Mrs. Webb still in a declining state of Health. Doct<sup>r</sup>. Cochran and Doct<sup>r</sup>. Craig both recommended an immediate change of Air as the only probable means of her ever recovering. Sailing they prefer'd to her moveing by land in her present weak state.—I should long since have removed the whole family into Connecticut, but was in constant expectation that New York might soon be in our possession; finding no im-

mediate probability of that event taking place, it was strongly recommended I should obtain a flag and remove immediately from this by water to Connecticut River,—knowing the Season was fast advancing when this plan could not with safety be put in Execution, without loss of time I dispatch'd a Man to Governor Livingston with your Excellency's letter, and at the same time wrote him requesting he would forward the Permit for Mrs. Bancker to go into New York and added the dangerous situation Mrs. Webb was in, & my desire to convey her by water to Connecticut—There was no room in my mind to doubt his approbation & immediate compliance;—but to my great surprise and Disappointment I received his absolute refusal—A Copy of his letter I have taken the liberty of inclosing for your Excellency's perusal.—To me it appears his refusal is a mere piece of ill-nature; that it can be of no injury to the public I am confident, his only insinuation by this expression is I conceive that Mrs. Bancker may do or say something injurious to the public good,—if this is his meaning, it is cruel & ungenerous, for I do positively assert that Mrs. Bancker's sentiments are those which animate the breast of every honest American, her conversation and conduct ever since evinced it,—I should in the present case treat his refusal with the silent contempt it deserves but in that refusal is blended the Health perhaps the Life of my first friend & Mrs. Bancker's only Child.

[SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.]\*

\* Endorsed "not sent."



Peckskill Sept. 16. 1781

W. W. No. 55

My dear Sir,

I am very sorry to find by your Letter that Mrs. Webb continues unwell & I have shown ~~the~~ Letter to the General who has no Objections to your Request. — but says he has not Power to grant Slaves to Citizens except on the Recommendation of the Chief Executive Authority <sup>of the State</sup> to which such Citizens belong. — you will easily obtain Permission of Gov. Livingston — if you will send it to me, for which there will be Time whilst you are putting things in Train, I will get the General's sanction added to it. without Delay. —

Please to give my compliments to Mrs. Miss Webb & devoutly wish them the Restoration of Health, & you & them, my dear Friends, every Kind & Degree of Happiness — assuring you I am most sincerely your Friend

Chas. Levan  
J. Livingston

Ch. Webb

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM S. SMITH.

HEAD QUARTERS, HEAD OF ELK  
Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1781.

DEAR COL<sup>o</sup> :

The long expected fleet from France is at last arrived, they made their appearance in the Chesapeake, the 26<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> with 28 ships of the Line, and 5000 Land troops which have joined the Marquis, & we hope effectually prevented Cornwallis's retreat to the Carolinas. He observes this and is fortifying himself with the greatest industry. We shall look as stern as the grave upon him about the 14<sup>th</sup> His position is at York & Gloster, in Virginia, on the South and North margin of York River. The fleet on their passage fell in with and captured a Packet from Charlestown bound to Europe, on board of which was Lord Rawdon, the plunderer of the South, returning to bask in the sunshine of Ministerial favours for butchering the patriotic sons of America.

Inclosed I send you a Letter which I wish you to forward. Remember me to Mrs. Webb and Miss Hetty, & believe me, D<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> ,  
Your friend &c

WM. S. SMITH.

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FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL HUNTINGTON.

PEEKSKILL, 16 Sepr. 1781.

MY DEAR SIR :

I am very sorry to find by your Letter that Mrs Webb continues unwell. I have shewn the Letter to the General, who has no Objections to your Request but says he has not Power to grant Flags to citizens except on the Recommendation of the chief executive Authority of the State to which such Citizens belong. You will easily obtain Permission of Gov<sup>t</sup> Livingston. If you will send it to me, for which there will be Time whilst you are putting things in Train, I will get the General's Sanction added to it,—without Delay.

Please to give my Compliments to Mrs. and Miss Webb. I devoutly wish them the Restoration of Health, & you & them, my dear Friend, every Kind and Degree of Happiness—assuring you I

am most Sincerely your Friend &

Obdt Servant

J HUNTINGTON.

FROM CAPTAIN BULKLEY.

CAMP ON THUNDER HILL,  
17 September, 1781.DEAR COL<sup>o</sup> :

I am to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Instant by Chadwick and Belding, the latter arrived on the 15<sup>th</sup> verry unwell, the reason of stay hear so long.

By both of your letters I find M<sup>rs</sup> Webb remains in a declin[in]g state. My dear Col<sup>o</sup> I feel most sensibly for you, and fear ere long you must taste the bitter Cup that I have Drank so largely off. Heaven forbid that so great a blessing should be snatcht from you in the blume of Life—Your letter for Cap<sup>t</sup> Webb have sent to him. Last Tusday we encamped on this Thunder Hill and the same evening marcht for Stamford in Conn<sup>t</sup> with one Brigade. After we arrived within about 7 or 8 miles of our post was Inform'd that the Burning Murdering poor Pittifull set of Dogs had weighed Anchor and made the best of their way to York. As the particulars of this burning expedition is not got to hand I shall refare you to Public accounts for them, reports say 60 or 70 kill'd of the inhabitants in Groton Fort, the greatest part *Murdred* after they had laid down their Armes. The greatest part of New London in Ashes. We return'd to our incampment three day since. The West Point detachment joins us this week. Orders are out for the Army to hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest Notice. I have rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Smith for you, which I have taken the liberty to open. The one inclosed in it to his Father I shall forward the first opportunity. Inclosed I send you four letter with the one from Col<sup>o</sup> Smith. It contains good news. I think M<sup>r</sup> Cornwallis will git the Thorough put taken out of his Eyes this heat. Should this be the case I think M<sup>r</sup> Arnold Burning expedition will be at an end.

I hope M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Webb's health may be so far recovered as we may be hon<sup>d</sup> with your agreeable Company soon. My most respectfull compliments waits on your agreeable Family, who has my best wishes for their prosperity and hapyness.

The Gentlemen of the Reg<sup>t</sup> are well except Cap<sup>t</sup> Riley who is been for 2 or 3 Day unwell—business calls and I must break short off. I am Dear Col<sup>o</sup> with every sentiment of esteem your most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

E B[ULKLEY.]

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SMITH.

HEAD QUARTERS, WILLIAMSBURG, IN VIRGINIA,  
Sept. 23<sup>d</sup> 1781.

MY DEAR SAM :

Fortune Courts us with her smiles, our Troops from the Head of Elk are arrived & landed. We shall advance firmly upon his Lordship in a few days, with near twenty thousand Men.

He is intrench'd but it will not save him. When anything material occurs, if I survive, you shall have the particulars.

Remember me particularly to your friends & believe me to be as usual Your friend

WM. S. SMITH.

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TO JOSEPH WEBB.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITON  
5 October, 1781.

MY DEAR BROTHER :

This day twelve months I supposed myself one of the happiest men in life. I flattered myself with future peace, domestic ease, and happiness for many years to come ; but, alas ! I fear my most pleasing hopes are soon, very soon, to be at an end.

I returned last evening from Philadelphia with a flag of truce to take my sick friend, Mrs. Bancker, Sister Hetty and Miss Duyckink to Wethersfield by Water, and have this day sent for a flag for the same purpose out of New York, having previous to my late journey had assurances from General Robertson the flag should be granted ; but Mrs. Webb has declined so very fast of late, that I fear it is too late even for the sail and change of air to restore her to health.

While life remains there is room for hope, and both duty and inclination lead me to take every step which may be beneficial. The vessel is ready, and if I can

get the permit from New York, and Betsy's health will permit, in ten or fifteen days they will embark for Wethersfield. I have requested leave to accompany the flag. If gratified, or otherways, the day we are ready to sail I shall dispatch a boy with my horses by land.

I shall write Mr. [Barnabas] Deane by this conveyance, and sincerely hope he will not refuse the House, with such furniture as he will not want him self—such as can be transported will be taken with us.

Remember, my Br., that my whole winter supplies depend on you. 'Tis needless to name particulars when I tell you nothing can be carried in by the flag, and when you must be a better judge than myself.

Hetty has had a severe fever, but is again able to walk about. The intended sail will, I think, be beneficial to her.

There is a report that General Greene has had a severe action in South Carolina, in which he gained a very signal victory over the main body of the enemy, but as this wants confirmation, I shall not even name the particulars, further than 'tis said Colo. Washington and every officer of his Reg't save one, is killed or wounded, and that but twelve of his men remain unhurt.

I shall write you again by the Lad who takes on my horses.

Remember me affectionately to all our friends, and be assured of the sincerest affection of

Yr Friend and Br

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.



October 6th.—Mrs. Webb is so ill this morning and continues to grow weak so fast, that at times I am apprehensive she never will be able to move from this. However, I cannot but hope a few days will make her better.\*

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TO HON. WILLIAM SMITH.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITON, 5<sup>th</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup> 1781.

SIR :

I returned last evening from Philadelphia where I have obtained on our part a Flag of Truce for the purpose of conveying M<sup>rs</sup> Webb by water to Connecticut, agreeable to your directions to Mrs. Bancker I enclose the Vessells name & Burthen, the Navigator & Seamen, and the family who are to accompany her, among them my name is mentioned, as M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker tells me General Rober[t]son was kind enough to offer that I should accompany M<sup>rs</sup> Webb. I am under particular obligations to the Gen<sup>l</sup> as well as yourself for this mark of politeness, as it will add to M<sup>rs</sup> Webb's peace of mind to have me attend her, I have no view but to make her passage as convenient and easy as possible, —shall therefore most chearfully acquiesce in any restrictions the General may think proper to lay me under. The Physicians observe that the Season is so far advanced that on M<sup>rs</sup> Webb's account I have't a moment to loose in geting away, I am therefore to request the favor of you to get the Flag & enclose it to Maj<sup>r</sup>. [John] Adam Commissary of Prisoners at Elizabeth Town as soon as possible, in the mean time,

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 132.

I shall be preparing everything on this side with all possible Dispatch. I am truly sorry to be thus troublesome to you,—the unhappy situation of Mrs Webb I hope may be a sufficient apology.

Be kind enough to present my most Respectfull Compliments to His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup>. Rober[t]son & to your good Lady. With much Esteem & Respect, I have the

Honor to be your Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

P. S. As the whole family move with this Flag, Mrs Bancker would wish to take with her part Her Household furniture—rather however than this should by any means be disagreeable to The Gen<sup>l</sup>, it shall be left.

Sloop            Burthen about 40 Tonns.

Samuel Lee, Navigator

Moses Griswould }  
William Winons } Seamen.

In the Flag

Col<sup>o</sup>. Webb & Lady            Two White Men Serv<sup>ts</sup> &

Mrs Bancker                    Two Negro Wenches

Miss Duyckinck

Miss Webb

With Houshold furniture wearing apparel & necessary Stores.

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FROM MAJOR JOHN ADAM.

ELIZ<sup>TH</sup> TOWN, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1781.

DEAR SIR:

I this moment rec<sup>d</sup> yours observes its Contents and attention shall be paid to it, when the Sloop was hired for the Service I



TO VINDICATE  
AMERICAN



A. W. Eison & Co. Boston

Alex Scamman Agt.

laboured under the same difficulty but finding it immaterial, I named her the Elizabeth which I now mean to call her.

I shall send on your Letter for Mr. Smith \* this day by a Flag on purpose that no delay may be in procuring the pasport.

The News from General Greene I have by Letters from Mr. Bradford, it seems to be no wise doubted in Philad<sup>a</sup>. The Enemy have shifted their Incampment on Staten Island and gon to the West end, near to Amboy—some reports prevail that the French Fleet is of the Hook—they seem to be very much Pusseld in New York and on the Island, they have shiped a large quantity of Horses & waggons, which they Pressed from the Inhabitants of Long & Staten Island.

Please to excuse haste I am with all due Respect

Dear Sir Your Obedient Humble Servant

JOHN ADAM

P. S. I have no late paper from New York, the last I seed was not worth the reading.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM S. SMITH.

HEAD QUARTERS BEFORE YORK.

October 10<sup>th</sup> 1781.

MY DEAR WEBB:

Our old friend Scammell paid the last debt of nature on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Hospital at Williamsburg. I have informed you of his being made a Prisoner and wounded—which wound proved fatal, and he is no more to be found in the walks of men. On the morning that the Enemy evacuated their advance redoubts, he being officer of the day, reconnoitred rather too far, fell insensibly among a number of Horse men, who were patrolling the front of the lines they had retired to. Two of them address'd him rather in harsh terms. The one seiz'd his Bridle and the other presented a pistol to his breast. Thus situated, he acknowledg'd himself a prisoner; when a third rode up presented his pistol close enough to burn his coat, and shot him in the back, a fourth made a stroke at him with his sword, but the shot having weaken'd him, he fell from his Horse and the intention of the villian was frustrated. They

\* William Smith.

plundered him of everything he had, and hurried him into their Lines. The officers who were present never interferr'd, nor even after he was carried in did they treat him with any kind of civility or respect. So much for the boasted Humanity of Britains.

Mark it.

Our first parellel is now compleat and our Batteries in full roar. We opened upon them yesterday, 3 o'clock P. M., and have kept up the most sprightly peal ever since that you can form an Idea of.

I think we shall be able to give a good account of them before long. You may depend upon hearing from me when anything material happens. I am as yet well, but like to have lost my Hat by a 12 p<sup>r</sup> yesterday. Remember me particularly to the Good family on the Banks of the Raritan and at Wheathersfield, and consider him as your friend, who is known by the name of

WM. S. SMITH.\*

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TO HON. WILLIAM SMITH.

NORTH BRANCH, RARITON, 17<sup>th</sup> Octo<sup>r</sup>, 1781.

SIR:

I wrote you the 5<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>. from this place requesting a Flag for the purpose of conveying M<sup>rs</sup> Webb M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker and family from Brunswic to Connecticut River, haveing received no answer I am apprehensive my letter has not reach'd you. with much difficulty we have already removed M<sup>rs</sup> Webb to Brunswic to have her ready to embark so soon as the Flag could be received. She is in a very low state of Health, and

\* Endorsed.

"Colo<sup>r</sup> Miles by forwarding this by the first Express to Gen'l Heaths Camp will much oblige

His Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

WM. S. SMITH A D C.

to ye Com<sup>r</sup> in Chief."

sailing recommended by the Physicians as the only probable means for her recovery. I shall ever acknowledge it a particular favor if you will be so obliging as to speak to His Excellency General Robertson on the subject and forward the Flag to me at Elizabeth Town as soon as conveniently may be. The Season is fast approaching when it will be too late to remove M<sup>rs</sup> Webb by water, which makes me extremely anxious to have the Flag as early as possible. I will thank you Sir to direct for one to the care of Major Adams at Elizabeth Town who will immediately send to me. with Compliments to your Lady I have the Honor to be with sentiments of respect & Esteem

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB

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FROM HON. WILLIAM SMITH.

NEW YORK, 22<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1781.

SIR:

The moment I received your first Letter, it was communicated to the General, and the Gratification of your Request only postponed, for Reasons that are not now in your way.

Your two last Letters came to me yesterday, and in answer to a note, I am informed from Head Quarters, that M<sup>r</sup> [David] Sproat will have your Pass port this morning, with Directions to forward it.

I can assure you that General Robertson shewed all that attention to be expected from his Politeness, with the sympathy which so tender a case will always excite in generous minds.

I shall be very happy to hear of M<sup>rs</sup> Webb's perfect Recovery; and with best Compliments to her M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker and yourself, in which M<sup>rs</sup> Smith joins me, I am, Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup>. humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

W<sup>m</sup> SMITH.

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FROM ABRAHAM SKINNER.

ELIZABETH, 25 October, 1781.

DEAR COLONEL:

I congratulate you on the good news from the Southard and I am happy also to find you have your Permission from New York agreeable to your wish; I forwarded it to you yesterday thro the hand of my friend Adams.

Loring is desirous of your bringing a few Extra Turkeys as *your* Sea Stores & I have promised him to get you to do it, he has behaved so politely on this occasion that I think we shou'd not be behind with him. I shall pass thro Brunswick on Tuesday when I hope to have the pleasure to see you. if I shou'd be disappointed permit me to wish you a pleasant Passage & a happy Sight of your friends in Connecticut.

I am Dear Colonel Your Mo. Ob! Hble Sr!

ABM. SKINNER.

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FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAMS.

CAMP PEEKSKILL, Novbr 2<sup>d</sup> 1781.

DEAR COLONEL:

I am informed by Belden, who arriv'd this Evening with your horses—that you sail'd for Wf<sup>d</sup> on Wednesday last—if your Voyage has been as agreeable as I could wish, your self & family are now very happy in a Circle of Wf<sup>d</sup> friends—Am very happy to hear that your Lady enjoys a much better state of health than when you wrote last.—

A few days since I enclosed a letter of yours from L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Huntington to Capt. Bulkley, which conclude you will receive before this finds you.

With this is enclos'd one from Col. Smith; those he wishes to have forwarded to his Father, are gone on—you will excuse our breaking open Letters, as we were very anxious for all the Southern news.—

The Surrender of his Lordship was celebrated here on Wednesday last—an Entertainment was provided in the open field for all the Officers of the Army—where we made use of 120 Gallons of Madeira with a Quantum Sufficit of Spirit &c. A more Sociable time I never



experienc'd—every one was happy—many *perfectly* so—indeed the whole week has been but one continued Hurra—from Right to Left.

As to Regimental matters, they are much in statu quo.—Cap<sup>t</sup> Parsons join'd us in a few days since, is now in Command at new bridge—Lt Taylor with a small Command of chosen men, alias Non Com<sup>d</sup> Officers, has been absent near ten days—what the object of his Expedition is, remains a secret—but as we have heard nothing from him yet—except that he was at Stamford we conclude he will effect nothing.

We most sincerely wish to see you here as soon as the Circumstances of y<sup>r</sup> family will admit. Friend Ned [Bulkley] we expect will return within a few days as he propos'd being absent but a short time

We have Reports here that the British fleet is Returned much damaged—and that is all we know about it—however it is the general Opinion that the young Prince will have but a poor Story to tell his *Dada* when he returns.

With my best Compts to your Brother & family, and the dear Circle about you.

I am with Esteem & friendship Y<sup>r</sup> most humble Serv<sup>t</sup> .

S. W. WILLIAMS.

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FROM CAPTAIN JOHN WEBB.

LOWER SALEM, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1781.

DEAR BROTHER:

Upon my joining the Regiment, I was order'd to this place with Sixty Invalid Horses and Men belonging to the Reg<sup>t</sup>. I expect I shall Command here till we march to Winter Quarters.—

The next day after I sent your Servants from Camp, I wait on Generals Heath and Huntington, they were very happy to hear that you had obtain'd leave to carry your Family to Wethersfield—Gen<sup>l</sup> Heath asks me when you thought of comeing to Camp; I told him if Mrs. Webb was better, you would come as ever you got settl'd in your House—They both wish the Voyage might restore them their Healths—Make my Love to M<sup>rs</sup> Webb, M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker and aunt Polly—and write me how the first is in Health—Also recollect the

affair with Col. Hay, some answer ought to be return'd immediately—

I spent an Evening with Captains Bulkley & Hopkins—they said the officers wish'd for you, but at the same time, did not wish you to leave M<sup>rs</sup> Webb in her present state of Health—they were all well.

Tomorrow I move from this to upper Salem—I shall be one mile and a half only from the main road that leads from Danbury to Peekskill—my Quarters are right South from the Court House in upper Salem.

I am yours Affectionately,  
JOHN WEBB.

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TO MR. AND MRS. BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD IN CONNECTICUT

Sunday Even<sup>g</sup> 25 November, 1781.

Those only who have felt, know how to pity & condole with the afflicted,—to God that I was now with you. I am sure it would afford me much consolation. —I was as completely happy as this World could make me, I am as miserable as Man can be—my Dear Partner, all that was Dear to me in Life is no more to be seen among the Walks of Men.\* She has left us in the early Bloom of life, & I veryly believe is now singing Hallalujahs with the just in Heaven, this my Dear friends is my only consolation in this hour of Affliction. —I wish'd her life for my own sake, I wish't it for the sake of my friends—they must have lov'd her, but Heav'n has forbid it,—the subject is too painfull for me to dwell on, hereafter when the mind is less agitated I may renew it, at present my friends must take

\* Mrs. Webb did not live to see Wethersfield, dying on November 18th. Colonel Webb appears to have embarked with her on a sloop, and attempted to reach Hartford, but it was the 13th of the month before he was in Middletown.

upon them to be more particular. I can only add that I do most fervently wish you my Dear friends ev'ry felicity that this world can afford, and perfect happiness hereafter.—Mrs. Bancker and her Sister beg me (tho: unknown) to tender you their love. Pity & mourn with your afflicted Friend & most affectionate Brother

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAMS.

CONNECTICUT HUTS, Novbr: 30<sup>th</sup>'81.

DEAR COLONEL:

Some weeks since I wrote you by Belden, which letter I expected you'd have found you at Wfd. ; but Lieut. Strong informs that you arriv'd there but a few days before he saw you, from which I fear you must have had a long tedious passage.

He likewise brings the melancholly news of the Death of your Lady—whose amiable Character, without the pleasure of a Personal acquaintance, I find sufficient to Interest me in the Affliction of her friends, whose grief must be exceeding great ; but the sorrows of one possess'd of the most Susceptible feelings, and in that near Connexion which you had but lately form'd must be such, as will require every Virtue to support.

For me to suggest the propriety of an humble Submission under the most afflictive Events, or endeavor to alleviate your present sorrows, with reminding you, that those Virtues and desirable Accomplishments, which so greatly Endear'd your departed friend, are sufficient grounds to believe that they have attended her to those happy Mansions, where only, they cou'd receive their Reward ; would as improper, as unnecessary—since the same disposition on which inclin'd you form the Connexion, which is now disolv'd, will lead you to such Reflections as are becoming the occasion of your sorrows.

But least I should increase that grief, which I wou'd wish to soften—I will only add to this melancholly Letter—that I most Cordially share with you, in your present Affliction—and my sincerest wishes that your sorrows may receive every consolation which

the necessity of your grief can admit—and am with sincere friendships & Esteem Y<sup>r</sup>. Humble Servt.

S. W. WILLIAMS.

P. S. please to present my most friendly Compt<sup>s</sup> to your good Brother & family.

The enclos'd letter to my afflicted friend, I expected to have forwarded by Capt. Bulkley, but as he has postpon'd the journey for a few days—shall send it by Belden, who arriv'd last evening and leaves Camp tomorrow.

The friendly manner in which you mention the reception of my former letters, confers the obligation upon myself—if they afforded the least satisfaction in the distress'd Situation in which they found you, it is all I could wish. And in your present affliction to deny that Consolation which the most Sympathetic feelings of a friend, cou'd afford, wou'd be unfriendly indeed. I am sensible it is only those who have experienc'd the loss that can realize your sorrows—we know them to be severely great, and most sincerely share with you in grief.

As Capt. Bulkley writes you, it will be unnecessary for me to be particular in Regimental matters—indeed I cou'd only say that the men are destitute of Cloaths even to a greater degree than they were last winter—we expect to draw cloathing shortly but it may be several weeks first.—I hope Col<sup>o</sup>. Huntington will come on as soon as he can make it convenient, as it is a matter of consequence to have a field off<sup>r</sup> with the Regt<sup>t</sup>. \* We expect the Lads from the Southward will soon be here—the Invalids fom Colo. Scammell's Detach<sup>t</sup> have arriv'd—we are just beginning a furlough—the Orders are very strict—there is to be 1 field off<sup>r</sup> to each Regt<sup>t</sup>, & a

\* “Captain Williams doubtless gives you the situation of the Regiment—I am sorry it is necessary for you to be troubled with such affairs now—a Field Officer *must* be with the Regt<sup>t</sup> this Winter. I shall tarry some time longer than I otherwise should, had Col<sup>o</sup>. Huntington been present at my arrival—(but I shall not remain for more than a fortnight). I should imagine he ought not *now* to be critical as to the expiration of his furlough.—The condition of our whole Line is at present very disagreeable—the soldiers uneasy for want of pay and cloaths—I wish our Friends in Connet<sup>t</sup> were properly sensible of the consequences which may attend it.” *Major Wyllys to Colonel Webb*, 10 December, 1781.

Comms<sup>d</sup> off<sup>r</sup> to each C<sup>o</sup> constantly present—& only two men from a C<sup>o</sup> on furlough; we have heard nothing from the Serg<sup>ts</sup> which were with you on the passage—it wou<sup>d</sup> be injurious to those here for them to be long absent—you have probably heard that Capt. Parsons has Retir<sup>d</sup>—& that Rogers succeeds him in the Regt. so that we have only three Capts. on the Staff—Gen<sup>l</sup>. Parsons is very sick at Danbury—his Excellency is expected here in a short time, which will afford pleasure to those who have already too long been under the Command of some, we wou<sup>d</sup> wish to be clear of.

I will close this letter with the request of the Gent<sup>n</sup> of the Regiment, whose best wishes attend you, & who sincerely lament your misfortunes—and am with the sincerest Esteem—

Yr affectionate friend—

S. W. WILLIAMS.

CONNT. HUTTS, *December 1st, 1781.*

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FROM WILLIAM S. LIVINGSTON.

BEVERWYCKE, 5th Decr, 1781.

Was I writing to you my dear Webb in the usual Stile of Friendship, and had no other Feelings to express than my own, I should be at, but little Loss, to convey my Ideas; But to feel, as I now feel, and to write you what all of this Family feel, (particularly Cornelia) on the Subject of your late Misfortunes, is a Task for which I confess I am inadequate. You have lost a fond and affectionate Wife, we a sincere and inestimable Friend. Acquainted with her Younger Years we trace the Remembrance of her Virtues with Pleasure, which seem, on recollection to be numbered equal with her Days. Pleased with the Connection she had formed, Scenes of Bliss (the Reward of her Merrit) opened to Our View, and Happiness on Earth (which all who knew her wish<sup>d</sup> to be her Lot) seem<sup>d</sup> to have been destined thro<sup>o</sup> you to have been her Portion. If there is a possibility of being so here, I'm sure she was in the proper Channel to receive it. You knew very early My Sentiments respecting her, you know the Affection of Cornelia, & this whole family for her; and can therefore judge how our feelings must be at the News of her Death; especially when the Distress of one, who has ever been (and we hope ever will be) our sincere Friend, is Connected with the Melancholy

Tale. And while we have lamented with the Husband, I assure you, not a few Tears have fallen for the afflicted Parent, Deprived of a fond and affectionate Husband, a Dutiful & Obedient Daughter was her only Comfort, She too Providence has thought fit to remove, only because perhaps she was too much lov'd, and had not Fate ordained, that all who knew should love, why would she have been so lavish of her Virtues. It is a Comfort however she liv'd to see Connecticut, & your friends. Death on the Passage would have been insupportable. We believe with you she has made a good Exchange & this must prove a Source of Comfort to you & her afflicted Mother. Every wish'd for Consolation in the Power of your Friends to give we know you will receive. Our warmest Sentiments of Esteem & Regard for you & every Branch of your Family is herewith sent you (to which Miss Cornelia adds her Love & Thanks for her Letter) and in particular those of Mrs. Livingston &

Your Sincere & Affectionate Friend,

WM. S. LIVINGSTON.

P. S. Write me as often as Opportunity offers.

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FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAMS.

CONNT HUTTS, December 9th 1781.

DEAR COLONEL:

The Sergt. which was sent into Jersey with your Letters return'd this day, he bro't only one, which will be handed you with this—Mr Lott did not write, but says you may expect a letter from him very soon—as the Sergt who carried your Letters belongs at N. Haven, it will be inconvenient to send him to Wf<sup>d</sup>. shall therefore send another Lad with this—as Capt. Bulkley is with you, it will be needless for me to be particular on Regimental matters; our Lads are so intirely destitute of clothing, that it is difficult to persuade them to take furloughs—which is a sufficient proof that their Uniform is not compleat.

The Light Infantry, and a part of Colo Scammell's Command arriv'd here yesterday. Major Wylls will write you—Capt Betts is not arrived, but is expected within a few days—the other Gent. of the Regt from Virginia are with us, but all expect to be in Connt very soon—if Col<sup>o</sup> Huntington cou'd make it convenient to come

before the Cloathing is drawn, (which it is probable will be within fifteen days at farthest) I think it wou'd be of real advantage to the Regt. . Indeed there is not a month in the year in which it is of more consequence to have a Field Offr with the Regt than the present—and maj: Wylls will remain with us but a very few days—We have nothing of consequence to acquaint you with—we expect a new arrangement of the Army will shortly take place, & it is probable the number of Regts will be reduc'd.—Gen! Lincoln has accepted of his appointment of Minister of War—& remains at Philadelphia with his Excellency, the latter it is probable will not be with us untill late in the Winter—I think it probable that several Sergts in the Line will soon be promoted—wish you to speak to Col! Huntington upon that Subject, that if you shou'd think it proper to promote any of ours, we may not be behind hand—at present the want of offr in the Regt is a real injury to those of us who are with the Regt—but I have only room to request my most friendly Compts to y<sup>r</sup> Brother & family, & other Wf<sup>d</sup> friends and am with sentiments of Esteem  
Y<sup>rs</sup> S. W. WILLIAMS.

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

DEAR BARRELL:

Believe me my friend and Brother when I tell you, your letter of sympathy and advice which has been with me some time, has afforded me hours of Consolation; the very tender and affectionate manner in which you mention my Dear departed Eliza, and your ardent wishes for this afflicting stroke of Providence, being properly sanctified to Us, merit and receive our warmest thanks.—But the Glorious Idea you have given me, of again meeting the Idol of my Soul in the Realms of Bliss has afforded me more real consolation & happy reflections than every other circumstance since her bidding me a last Adieu.—'Tis that which has given me

pleaseing Ideas of Death, and a glorious immortality, and if I know my own Soul he would be a wellcome messenger this very hour, provided I am properly fitted for those rewards in Heaven, which I am confident my Dear Partner will receive.—This World truly appears a mighty void, nor have I the least relish for its greatest enjoyments.—Time no doubt will soften my affliction, otherwise nature could not support the shock, but to forget my once Dear Eliza is as impossible, as it is for me ever to enjoy her company here on Earth again—nor would I wish it—her life and conduct was such as to give the most pleaseing reflections,—her mind and Soul was too great and good to be confined to this scene of trouble and Misery, 'tis therefore I trust our Heavenly Father summoned her attendance to receive the rewards due to the good and Virtuous.—We therefore ought to acquiesce, when in full confidence in her Eternal gain. but alas how hard the task! time and that only must soften our Affliction, & with patience and resignation we must wait that happy, happy period when we shall have a pleaseing reunion with our Dear Departed friend in the Heavenly Mansions of Bliss, never again to be separated.—I could dwell hours on the subject, but it only awakens my grief anew, and will to a Soul of your sensibility be Distressing—a day e'er long will come I hope when I may sit down with you, when in the Bosom of Friendship it will be pleaseing to relate my misfortunes, and name the innumerable Virtues of my Dear Eliza.

Mrs. Bancker and her sister beg me to thank you sincerely for the Affectionate manner in which you mention them—they both flatter themselves the satis-



faction of a personal acquaintance with you & my Dear Sister, to whom tender my warmest Love.—I should write her but hear she has just presented you with another fine Daughter, on which pleaseing event I heartily congratulate you both, that you both may spend many happy days of Domestic felicity, and live to see your dear little ones introduced properly into life is my fervent prayer.

Mrs. Cary and my Eliza from Infancy were strongly connected by the ties of Friendship—from that circumstance (if no other) Mrs. Bancker has a great Love for her. Cary promised to bring her up, but I suppose the want of Snow prevents—I wish it, as I think her company would be a consolation to Mrs. B.—should this take place, I shall endeavor to persuade the latter to return with her to Boston, a ride and variety will certainly be of service to her. I shall in this case accompany her, & of course pass a few days at your Mansion, where I am sure I shall find as much Friendship and Hospitality as any where in Life.

I would have wrote you before, but my mind has not been in a situation to permit it—let me hear from you frequently and be assured that I am very sincerely  
Your friend and Very

Affectionate Brother

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

P. S. Eleven oClock at night—Colo & Mrs. Cary arrived here about two hours past, our Sleighing is quite gone, if it should be good again soon, I know not but I may have the pleasure of seeing You—I wish it—Adieu—

FROM CAPTAIN HOPKINS.

CONNECTICUT HUTTS, 9<sup>th</sup> Jan'y, 1782.

MY DEAR COLONEL WEBB:

I omitted answering your Letter untill this time for the opportunity of giving you a satisfactory acctint respecting the Clothing, as I observed you was anxious concerning it. The matter is determined, the N Hampshire 10<sup>th</sup> Massa. N York & N Jersey Lines are to receive the British Dyed Coats—We have already got a proportion of Shoes, Hose, Blankets & Cloth for Vests & Overalls, the whole is of an excellent quality—I have sett the Taylors at work under the direction of the Serjeant-Major. Have ordered the Overalls made first as they were most wanted, reserving the Vests to deliver with the Coats, as I judged it would be most agreeable to your wishes, as it will have at least the appearance of uniformity—there is no plan that can be adopted to deliver the whole at once, the necessity of the Men are so great. The Reg<sup>t</sup> has met with a change in regard to Officers, Mr [Timothy] Taylor & Mr. [Peter] Robertson have left us for promotion; [Isaac] Strong has gave a finishing stroke to his rascality by Deserting from his arrest—

The Settlement of the Rank of the Subs in the Line, has given the Reg<sup>t</sup> three, viz. Mr. [Martin] Denslow Mr. [Matthew] Gregory & Mr. Lord, who have the Rank of Lieutenants—Mr. Denslow I have directed to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Compy Mr. Gregory the 6<sup>th</sup> & Mr. Lord the 8<sup>th</sup> whenever they return to Camp, at present they are all absent, I hope it will meet your approbation—In my haste I made a mistake & wrote on this side you will please to turn back—Agreeable to the Gen<sup>l</sup> Orders of yesterday this day all the Men in the Line that has not had the small-pox will be innoculated in their respective Regiments. I have given directions respecting the Hutts they are to occupy in ours—I cannot omitt mentioning the real necessity there is of Doctr. [Jeremiah] West's coming on immediately, & I could wish that Capt. Riley & Mr. Meigs might be informed of the propriety of their coming on also. The Gent<sup>l</sup> Present have as much as they can possibly attend too exclusive of what the inoculation will throw on them; they complain, & request me to mention the matter—The closing of the last Years acc<sup>t</sup> has given us trouble when there has been no officers to the Companys The number that goes into the inoculation in the Reg<sup>t</sup> is One Hundred and twenty

one—I don't know if I fully comprehend you respecting the Coats, you say in the same manner as the officers—do you mean to have the pocket open on the outside? I wish to be informed of that circumstance—I conclude My D<sup>r</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> with every Consolable sentiments for your unhappy situation.

Your sincere Friend & very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

E. HOPKINS.

I must beg you to make my respectful Compliments to Mrs. Banker & Miss Duyckinck. I sincerely thank them for their Polite attention :

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FROM CAPTAIN WALKER.

STRATFORD, 13<sup>th</sup> Jan'y, 1782.

DEAR COLONEL :

This letter will be handed you by Lieut. Gorham, who is on his way to Hartford, beg you to notice him as he is in my opinion a Gentleman of merit. Had promised myself the pleasure of spending a little time with you when I went with the General to Hartford ; but the weather unfortunately prevented ; & my business obliged me to return to this Place so soon after that it was impossible for me to make you a Visit, how long before I shall be that way again unless business should call, is uncertain— Was inform'd when at the Eastward that you had thoughts of quitting the service, what new reasons you may have to me are unknown, the one respecting your Rank I cannot conceive of any importance, as it was determined by a Board of General officers, approved by General Washington, & certainly in the Line of the Army it is not Judged to your dishonour : As to the late unforeseen Misfortunes in your family, perhaps may in your Mind at present be thought a sufficient reason. Be assured Sir I feel for you and sincerely lament your Situation. Your prospects were doubtless great and very pleasing : you had arrived at a Situation in life which promised much happiness, & to have them all blasted in a moment must deeply wound your feelings. However Melancholy & distress<sup>d</sup> you may at present feel : yet I must say should be exceding sorry to have you leave us at this interesting Period, if you can anyway make yourself & friends contented.

My most respectfull Compliments to your Brother & Family also  
Col: Chester's

I am Dear Sir with respect & esteem  
your Obed:<sup>t</sup> Serv:<sup>t</sup>  
J. WALKER.

FROM CAPTAIN JOHN WEBB.

KENSINGTON, 3<sup>d</sup> February, 1782.

DEAR BROTHER:

On my arrival to my Quarters I found a letter directed to you, and by the appearance of the Seal, I am lead to believe that it has been open'd—I shall enquire of the Dragoon who brought it, tho' he is a very honest clever fellow perhaps its owing to the badness of the Wax & bringing it in his pocket—I now send you it by W<sup>m</sup> Clark of my Troop.

When I was with you I forgot to mention to you the ungentleman-like behaviour of a Major who I came in with to mess the particulars I'll give you when I come in—I impute it to his ignorance of the polite world—nothing (I may say) but my Damnable Situation in this Corps, would have made me put up with his treatment—He is in my opinion (If Brothers ought to resent any Insults offer'd to their Familys) a Character that our Family ought to despise—I have several times experienced this kind of treatment—If it was such an affront as to justify me to call him to an account, I should soon settle the matter. He has so good an opinion of himself, that he begins to think every person who he visits are highly honor'd by his Company—The lad has by some means or other got a few hundred pounds in his pocket, which is so much beyond anything he ever expected, or had a right to expect, that he don't know how to behave—I was in hopes no one took notice of his impoliteness to me, but I found that several did—I think I have done the Puppy to much honor to have wasted so much time & paper on his Rascally Name—Had not the Miss Smiths been in the Stage I should have given him my sentiments fully on his conduct, but I thought delicacy forbid me to take notice of it before them.

I think a Copy of the letter to Clarkson ought to be copy'd & sent on. Spring is advancing fast, & I think the Sloop ought to be

as soon as the River breaks up ready to sail—Also that Letter to Egbert Benson Esq<sup>r</sup> ought to be copy'd & sent, for fear that the first has not reach'd him—

Present my love to M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker Aunt Polly and my Brothers and Sisters and believe me to be as usual

Yours sincerely

J. W.

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FROM CAPTAIN BETTS.

[HIGHLANDS, February, 1782.]

SIR:

Notwithstanding I joined the Regiment the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> yet the prospects of a field officer's being on soon—has prevented my Writing till this time.

And it is by no means fatigues or any trouble that falls upon me in consequence of Commanding the Reg<sup>t</sup>—that Induces me to Write with respect to it.

but it is the perticular disadvantages ariseing from its being Comanded by an inferior officer—Especially at a time when there is so much depending, and it Cannot be Expected that an officer—who has never extended his Ideas beyond the Command of a C<sup>o</sup> should be able to digest Matters of a Regimental Concern with that decision, which is looked for from those whose interest Consists in studying it. Consequently all the exertions of under officers will not support the Reputation of a Reg<sup>t</sup> nor prevent the sacrifice of their own. Request you will pleas to send such Instructions as you shall think necessary from time to time which shall be as accurately Complied with as my abilities will admit of

Am with Esteem your Ob<sup>d</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

S. BETTS.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Heath Informs me that Lt Col<sup>o</sup> Hunting[ton], has his permission to Continue with his Brother.

Capt. Hopkin's destitute Circumstances with respect to Cloathing—renders it Necessary for Capt. Riley to join as soon as his business will possibly admit.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL HEATH.

HEADQUARTERS, HIGHLANDS, Feby 4, 1782.

MY DEAR SIR:

Your regiment has been without a field officer present to command it, for a considerable time. A large proportion of the regiment being under inoculation for the small pox, and the clothing of the whole to be made up, as well as many other considerations absolutely require the constant presence of one of the field officers. I must therefore request that you or lieutenant colonel Huntington repair to the regiment as soon as possible. You may agree which shall come; but one is indispensable.

I am with very great regard, Dear Sir, Your obed<sup>t</sup> Servant,  
 W. HEATH.

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FROM RICHARD CARY.

BOSTON, 21 Feby 1782.

DEAR WEBB:

I have this moment rec<sup>d</sup> yours, and hearing that young M<sup>r</sup> Blagg is just setting off for Connecticut, I embrace the opportunity of scribbling one line to you just to cover the abbé Raynal's performance\* for you, and the new Constitution † for Col. Chester, which last you will please to present to him with my best regards.

I am sensible your charges against me are too just, but I know you will believe that I am not wanting in affection to my friends. Indeed, I am naturally too averse to writing, but at present my mind is far from being in a state of tranquility—which must be my apology. M<sup>r</sup> Woodward is afraid to undertake your Ring, so I shall commit it to the care of M<sup>r</sup> Blagg.—As to the shoes, I don't recollect anything about them, but perhaps Mrs. Cary does, and they shall be forwarded. M<sup>r</sup> Barrell tells me you think of coming down here before you go to camp, which I am happy to hear. Your

\* "The Revolution of America," by the Abbé Raynal. An edition was printed in Boston in 1781.

† It was in March, 1780, that a convention in Massachusetts completed a State Constitution.

Dear Webb

Boston 21 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1782

I have this moment rec<sup>d</sup> yours, and hearing that Young Mr Blagg is just setting off for Connecticut I embrace the opportunity of scribbling one line to you just to cover the Abbe Reynald's performance, <sup>for you</sup> and the new Constitution for Col<sup>l</sup> Chester which last you will please to present to him with my best regards -

I am sensible your charges against me are too just, but I know you will believe that I am not wanting in affection to my friends. indeed I am naturally too averse to writing, but at present my mind is ~~far~~ from being in a state of tranquility - which must be my apology -

Mr Woodward is afraid to undertake your Ring so I shall commit it to the care of Mr Blagg - as to the ~~papers~~ I don't recollect any thing about them, but perhaps Mrs Gay does and they shall be forwarded - Mr Barrell tells me you think of coming down here before you go to Camp which I am happy to hear - your Barrell of Port is gone on tell your Bro<sup>r</sup>? I shall forward his Madira by the first good opportunity - give my best love to every Body & believe me most affectionately yours

W. Gay, Jun<sup>r</sup>





Barrell of Port is gone ; tell your Bro : I shall forward his Madeira by the first good opportunity. Give my best love to everybody, and believe me most affectionately yours.

R. CARY, JR.

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

CONNECTICUT VILLAGE, 16<sup>th</sup> March, '82.

DEAR SIR :

Your favor of the 3<sup>d</sup> Instant was handed me by Captain [Samuel William] Williams ; as he brought me a large Packet, he was doubly welcome to Camp, I was Glad of his Arrival both on Account of the Packet & his Company. To pay him for his kindness I reported him to the Command<sup>t</sup> of the Brigade for overstaying his furlough, in Consequence of which he has had an hearing before a Court of Enquiry & acquitted with honor ; his reasons appeared to me suff<sup>t</sup> , but by Genl Orders all who transgress must be reported & heard by a Court of Enquiry or C. Martial, however good and Satisfactory their reasons may appear.—By Doctor [Jeremiah] West I informed you of the Surgeoncy being vacant, and requested you to apply to the Gov<sup>t</sup> & Council, but it will be needless, as Doct<sup>t</sup> [John] Cochran is vested with that power on your recommendation to him, & without it can not make an appointment.—The business I expected to have been engaged in when I left Weth<sup>d</sup> is become a matter of very great doubt to me, but at present am not able to say how those matters will be whether my ——\* Expectation will be answer<sup>d</sup> or not. The Certificates & information about the Sick mentioned in your letter will be noticed, but I had previous thereto sent for them & all others who are to be Called by the Generals Order to join their Regiment. I have wrote Gen W— about Mr. Sands' issues, at present we are much dissatisfied and are led to believe we must suffer every inconvenience that is in his power to inflict. Cap<sup>t</sup> [Richard] Sill will be able to inform you about the difficulties Complain<sup>d</sup> of, and which as yet we are not able to get Redress<sup>d</sup> we Expected an Interview with the Secretary at war on the Subject, but his tarry in Camp was so short, that we were disapointed.—I am happy to hear of your intended Reformation which you mention in your letter is

\* A word illegible.

about to take place, & that your Correspondents shall not have that just reason to Complain in future which for a long time they have had. The resolves of Assembly in regard to Compleeting their Quota in the field Appears to me inadequate for the purpose—if as last Campaign they send down their Six or twelve Month Men, they will do Essential injury—they come into the field & spend the three first Months in learning their duty & the rest of their time lie in their hutts unfit for duty for want of Clothing, in hopes by their remaining in that situation the Publick will be induced to discharge them, as they are eating the Provision of the Publick without renderg them any Service, nor will they tho' within forty Miles of their Parents & friends send for any Clothing—you have Six in your Regt<sup>t</sup> belonging to Hartford, who are nearly as naked as when they came into the World, they will not send for Clothing in hopes I shall be induced to discharge them for want thereof, or else give them furloughs to go & obtain it—but instead of that I have directed them to daily fatigue on the Parade of the Regt<sup>t</sup>, nor shall they be discharged one Minute before their time expires on any account. I will punish them in that way as a terror to those who may come after, as an inducement to Clothe themselves (for the term they engage) out of the large bounty's they receive. Is it not possible to oblige them who shall enlist on the resolve of the Assembly to be so provided with Clothing as to be able to do duty during their Service? I have enclosed a letter to you Sister Hetty which you will be so good as to Deliver. Please make my Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker & Miss Duyckinck, & believe me to be yours

EBEN HUNTINGTON.

I am in hopes something will turn up so as to Oblige us to quit this Cursed Vale soon, otherwise we shall be afflicted with greater Punishment, than an Enlightened people ought to suffer. Adieu, Adieu.

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TO EVERT BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, IN CONNECT, March 17, 1781 [1782].

DEAR SIR:

Haveing received no answer to my letter of the 24th Decr I am led to think it has never reached you,

—therefore apprehensive you may think us unmindfull of you, I again acquaint you that we arrived at this place on the 15th of Nov. in a Flag of truce from Jersey Via New York—it was obtained on Acc<sup>t</sup>. of my Dear M<sup>rs</sup> Webb who had been in a Decline most of the Summer, it was recommended by the Physicians as the only probable means left to restore Her to Health,—our hopes were highly flattered that Sailing & a Change of Air would be a means of her again obtaining that best of Blessings, but alas, how were we disappointed, but three days after we landed (the 18th Nov) The Dear Amiable Girl resigned her Breath to him that gave it, & I doubt not has made a glorious change from a World of trouble, disappointment and Misery, for a seat in the Heavenly Mansions of Bliss—But for us the stroke was too heavy—her Mamma here lost her only Comfort, to Betsy's tenderness and filial Affection—the loss of her Pappa, was in a great measure alleviated,—but Cruel Death has deprived her of the Idol of her Heart,—and for myself I was as happy as this World could make, the Scene is Changed, & I am wretched. She was all that Man could wish,—she lov'd her friends and among them you was ever named as one of the first,—but why should I dwell on a so painfull Subject, she's gone and is beyond a doubt happy, her life from Infancy to Death sanctify's the assertion, this is a glorious Consolation, & e're long I hope we may meet her in that World where Sorrow Grief & Pain is never known. M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker is very desirous of writing you herself, but the Subject is more than she is able to bear, her warmest affection attends you your Lady and the family, Miss Duyckinck

who is with us begs to [be] remember'd—for myself; though unknown, on your own Acc<sup>t</sup>. —on acc<sup>t</sup>. of your Connection with her who was once the Dear Partner of my Heart—and with my good Mother, I feel sincerely an Affection which from your merit I am confident will ever increase—that I may be deserving a return of yours is my ardent Wish. Accept my Dear Sir my hearty good Wishes for Your Health & prosperity

I cannot close without Requesting if in your power you will endeavor to visit your Sister at this place, the Season is coming on when the Rideing will be pleasant & agreeable, & be assured that your presence will add much to the Comfort of your *too* afflicted Sister. I would myself take her, in the Carriage and go immediately to Kingston to pay you a Visit, but my Profession forbids.—I am obliged to be with my Regt before the 10th of April,—till when I was busily employed in ranging my Domestic concerns.

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM CAPTAIN WALKER.

MIDDLE TOWN, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1782

DEAR COL:

I have got so far on my way to Wethersfield, where I flattered myself should have the pleasure of seeing you before my return to Camp; but upon my arrival here find the General [Parsons] sets out for Camp tomorrow in order to resign his Commission, shall therefore return with him as far as Stratford and prepare myself to join the Regiment by the 10th of April where I hope to meet you. So you see we go from one degree of grace to another, from the Horse to the Foot. However you well know it is no more than what I have done before, & thank God am able yet and not above doing the duty of Captain.

[Timothy] Bevins who has been with me for a year past will hand you this; he is a Soldier in your Reg<sup>t</sup> a good honest Lad, has served in the Regt from the first, though has not been able to discharge the duty of Soldier, by reason of a Pain at his Brest which he is subject to, he has a Brother who will enlist to take his Place. The lad is about seventeen years of age, & am informed is a strong hearty Boy. should think [he] might be more beneficial in the Regt. than one: wish you would inform Bevins whether you will accept of his Brother or not. also must request you to inform me what your opinion of the matter may be—Suppose you will go on to Camp soon—wish if you would make it convenient you would come by the way of Stratford & I will be your company.

Our good Friend Sally Johnson is on the decline & I fear is not long for this world. Was there yesterday; the Family desired there compliments to their Wethersfield Friend. My best respects to your Brother Family and all Friends

I am Dear Sir your sincere Friend & Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. WALKER.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1782

DEAR SIR:

The Salmon came safe and in excellent Order. His Excellency requests your Acceptance of his best Thanks for the favor. The Gen<sup>l</sup> & Lady are this Day engaged to Dine with my Lord Stirling on the other side the River—upon an Invitation given last week. The Gentlemen of the Family, who will be at Home, will be very glad to see you this Day, & if you come, you will be so good as to stay 'till tomorrow, when His Excell<sup>y</sup> will be Home.

Your most ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. TRUMBULL, JR.

Hump [Humphreys] is gone with the General.

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FROM LORD STIRLING.

FISHKILL, April 23<sup>d</sup> 1782.

DEAR SIR:

I have your letter of yesterday evening accompanying one from

General Patterson on the subject of the Contract and Contractor [Comfort Sands].\*

In Consequence of the letter you mention from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to General Heath, I do suppose some Order has by this time issued, to which we must conform ourselves in our proceedings ; but in whatever mode it is to be conducted, the officers of the army may be assured I shall give them the best assistance in my power in fairly stating their grievances, and in detecting the impositions of the contractor. Whoever is appointed to represent the officers on this occasion, should immediately possess themselves of a copy of the contract, for without it they will be groping in the dark. General Heath has one, which I doubt not he will communicate. They should also possess themselves of every fact, wherein the contractor has deviated from the contract, or attempted it. With these materials, I doubt not their case may be fully and fairly stated, and redress of grievances be obtained.

Be pleased to present my compliments to General Patterson and communicate this to him, in answer to his letter in behalf of the officers.

I am, with much affection and esteem, your most obedient & most humble serv<sup>t</sup>

STIRLING.

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TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

CONNECTICUT HUTTS, HIGHLANDS, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1782.

It has been the misfortune of the Reg<sup>t</sup>. under my Command, as well as my own, to loose by resignation my Surgeon,—an officer which never ought to be Vacant. Doct<sup>r</sup>. [John] Rose who has serv'd as a Mate for long time with reputation to himself, and with perfect satisfaction to the Regiment,—is with propriety a Candidate for the Vacancy. Your Excellency too well knows the absolute necessity we have for experienced Men of this profession to need

\* See *Writings of Washington*, X, 17, 31.

any comment from me. I do heartily recommend him for the present Vacancy, and really wish his appointment may soon take place, that I may have an opportunity of looking out for a Mate. A Young Man who has served his time with Doct<sup>r</sup>. Turner is recommended, after satisfying myself on the subject I will write Your Excellency,—in the Interim, I shall be happy to hear from you respecting Doct<sup>r</sup>. Rose,—with real Esteem & respect I have the honor

to be Y<sup>r</sup>. Excellenc<sup>ys</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

Col<sup>o</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. Connec<sup>t</sup>. Reg<sup>t</sup>.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

WETH., 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1783.

DEAR SIR:

Stephen Kellogg of your Reg<sup>t</sup>. has this day called on me & informed me he has rec<sup>d</sup>. a letter from Cap<sup>t</sup>. Hopkins to join the Reg<sup>t</sup>. immediately; Doctor Olcott tells me he is not able to join if he attempts it, as his Leg is not healed, & if he walks on it at this time he will have a Stiff Ankle, I do not believe it best for him to attempt it, but I have told him I could not intermeddle in the matter or give any Encouragement.

A Certain M<sup>r</sup>. Calpin (If I recollect of your Reg<sup>t</sup>.) is now sick at Glastenbury has once attempted to join and failed & Return<sup>d</sup>. I think he has been returned a deserter, he will join when able but at present is under *Sallivation* for misfortunes of this world. John Goodrich has delivered himself on the Generals Proclamation & will Join in the Course of next week.

I have wrote Bulkley that I am in want of the Horse I had in keeping at New Fairfield & wish him sent me, I wish you could permit Kirtland who was taking Care of him when I left Camp to bring him to me & give him leave of Absence for twelve or fourteen days, for Particular reasons—we have a Report from N York that Great Britain has acknowledged the Independance of these States,

& its Coming so Particular & Circumstantial has induced many people to believe it. I hope it will not discourage the people, already feeble in their attempts to recruit, from any further Exertion. the Story is Plausibly told & Greedily swallowed—I wish Col<sup>o</sup> Grovenor to know that we have Concluded to muster no Negroes & for that Reason I expect that some of them will march to Camp in hopes to be received there as usually they have been, if he knows the reason he will not receive them. Your Sister Hetty has been unwell for some days past but has now got nearly well again. M<sup>rs</sup> E. Chester is unwell & Aunt Polly is afflicted with a bad Cold the rest of the Family are as usual. Col<sup>o</sup> Belden is very ill & not expected to live long. Polly Root is dead as I was informed yesterday. Your Sister Hetty desires me to give her love to you & to tell you she has received your favor & will acknowledge it soon. Sally Chester sends her Compliments to you

I am dear Sir Yours &c

EBEN HUNTINGTON

Since writing the above Cap<sup>t</sup> Riley has called on me with my horse. I understand that no allowance will be allowed me for one Ration & a half if not drawn, if that is the case, I wish some of you who want any Ration & half would draw it & give me the worth of it, as I would not wish Sand benefitted by my omission.

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FROM BARNABAS DEANE.

WETHERSFIELD, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1782.

DEAR SIR:

I Duly Rec<sup>d</sup> yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> & Observe what you Say in Regard to writing Each Other, I have not the Same Excuse to make for myself which you have. The reasons of my not writing has been that I had nothing of Consequence En<sup>o</sup> to take up your attention, or to fill the Side of a Letter, & I am a Verry Poor hand to write Except on Business, I have not the happy Faculty of Writing a Long Letter Ab<sup>t</sup> Nothing So as to be Entertaining.

I am Exceeding Sorry to hear of the Mutiny in Camp & That Serg<sup>t</sup> [Jared?] Bunce is So Deeply Concern'd in it.\* The

\* "Minds soured by distresses are easily rankled—as a specimen of it, the privates of the Connecticut Line were the other day upon the eve of a general



Wretched management of the Publick in Fullfilling their Promises & Engagements to the Arney is the Cause of infinite mischief & They Are Justly Chargeable for the Blood of Those who Suffer by their Neglect. No Country or people Ought to be Free that will not Support the Army that is fighting for their Liberties. I am Sick & Disgusted at the Conduct of our Assembly & the *Honest* Behavior of Congress.

I Can find no Disposition in Either of These bodys to pay their Just Debts, Those who have serv'd them most they Treat the worst & indeed they Cheat all who have anything to do with them. I will not add on this Disagreeable Subject for I should be Branded as a Tory, Traitor & Every Other Odious Epithet Can be Express'd, which is the Case where a man writes Only Truth & his Letters happen to be intercepted & Get into the hands of one of our Printers who are such Violent Fellows that those who will not Lye as bad as themselves & Swear that we are the most Virtuous & best people in the World, Pay Our Debts best & Can Beat all the powers in Europe if we please, That Our Friendship is Sought for all Over the World & Every Power in Europe wishes our Friendship & to be an alliance with us, That Our Congress is the most Respectable Power on Earth &c &c

Now if a man happens to think Different from the Above & Believes the Reverse & Should write his Friends his Sentiments Freely & it Should be known, he is at Once without Further Enquiry held up as the Vilest Traitor & Villain on Earth, which is the Case with my Brother S[ilas] D[eane].

I am determined for my part not to Plague my head with Politicks, yet at the Same Time I cannot help Speaking when I See Such Cursed managements.

I have Recd a Letter from my Bro. S. D. Dated in Gent, Octor. 21st: he wrote Gov. Trumbull at the Same time & Several Others here, his Letter to the Gov<sup>r</sup>: he Desired might be Read to the Assembly & kept on their files as a proof for or Against him in a future Day, when it will be made to Appear whether he is acting the part

Mutiny. The vigilance of the officers discovered it a few hours before they were to parade, and the ringleaders have been tryed and executed." *Washington to Robert Morris, 17 May, 1782.*

of a Faithful Citizen in Warning them of their Danger, or the part of a Traitor & Enemy to his Country.\*

Baron Steuben informs me that his Friend Writes him from Paris that Mr. Deane was Lately there & Staid but Three Days in that City & That he had the Emperor's Protection & staid at the House of his Ambassadors while in Paris. I was exceeding happy that he was on his Guard, & knew the Danger he was in from his Enemies.

Mrs. Banker & Your Sister Hetty Set out for Norwich this Day in

\* It becomes necessary to recall a circumstance that, while not conclusive, points strongly to a lapse of virtue on Silas Deane's part. Dishonored and neglected by the American Congress, his services in behalf of American Independence forgotten, and his offers of continued efforts slighted; in great poverty and distress, he sought occupation in Paris. From this place, either he was approached by agents of the British ministry, or he himself made advances to them, to serve as a negotiator with the rebellious colonies—now independent States. The evidence on this point consists in a letter from George III. to Lord North, dated 3 March, 1781:—"I think it perfectly right that Mr. Deane should so far be trusted as to have three thousand pound in goods for America; the giving him particular instructions would be liable to much hazard, but his bringing any of the provinces to offer to return to their allegiance on the former foot would be much better than by joint application through the Congress; for if, by breaking off of some, the rest are obliged to yield, no farther concert, or perhaps amity, can subsist between them, which would not be the case in the other mode, and the fire might only be smothered to break out again on the first occasion." In July the British intercepted some letters from Deane for America, which were laid before the King. His comment after reading two of them was, "too much appearance of being concerted with this country, and therefore not likely to have the effect as if they bore another aspect." It does not necessarily follow that these letters were prepared with the advice of the British ministry. In August Lord North sent copies to Sir Henry Clinton, the King noting this as the "most likely means of rendering them of some utility." He added: "I owne I think them too strong in our favour to bear the appearance of his spontaneous opinions, but that, if supposed to be authentick, they will see they have by concert fallen into our hands. The means Mr. Deane should have taken as most conducive of the object he seems now to favour would have been first to have shewn that the hands of France are too full to be able to give any solid assistance to America, and to have pointed out the ruin that must attend the further continuance of the war; and after having given time for these opinions to be digested, then have proposed the giving up all ideas of independency, and have shewn that the country is not in a state to subsist without the assistance of some foreign Power, and that consequently so mild a Government as the British one is the most favourable that America can depend upon." Deane had gone to Ghent, an act which, the King thought, showed his conduct to be sincere.

C<sup>o</sup> with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Huntington & his Lady, they have had a bad Day of it & I fear will not get through as it's Verry Rainy. I have No News but what you will hear before this Reaches You, I was in hopes that the British Parliament would have put a Stop to the War in this Country this Summer, but from the Last acc<sup>t</sup>. we have Little Reason to Expect it.

I have wrote you a Long unconnected Letter which I dare say you will be Tired on before you have half Read it, however it will

Whether the alterations in the text in Deane's letters were made in England or after they reached America is immaterial; yet Deane claimed that alterations of serious import had been made before Rivington printed them. In this garbled condition they first reached the hands of Deane's correspondents, and naturally excited great surprise. That Cornwallis had surrendered was not known to Deane when he wrote that the war had been a failure, and urged a reconciliation with the mother-country. Governor Trumbull replied, and laid both letters before the Connecticut Assembly.

On November 26th, 1781, Robert R. Livingston wrote to Franklin, asking whether any intercepted letters from Deane to persons in America had been published in Europe. "Rivington has given us many, which are generally believed to be his." And before a reply could be given, he again wrote (23 January, 1782,) of letters from Deane, delivered by a messenger, confirming the authenticity of those published by Rivington. To John Jay, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs was more full: "Enclosed you have copies of two original letters from Mr. Deane, in which he acknowledges others that Rivington has published, which speak a still more dangerous language. No doubt is entertained here of his apostacy, or of his endeavor to weaken the efforts of the United States, and to traduce the character of the people and their rulers, both in Europe and America. You will doubtless use every means in your power to destroy the ill-effects which his calumnies may have had upon the minds of people with you."

Unfortunately it was no reassuring report that came from Europe. Francis Dana wrote in January to John Adams of an interview with Deane, in which the latter had expressed himself with painful freedom on men and measures in America, and ending with "an apology for the infamous apostate Arnold!" Franklin returned much the same reply. "He resides at Ghent, is distressed both in mind and circumstances, raves and writes abundance, and I imagine it will end in his going over to join his friend Arnold in England." This prediction came true, though Deane took the step of first consulting Jay through Dr. Bancroft on the expediency of his visiting England. This was early in 1783, and gave Jay an opportunity to say that he was no longer a friend of Deane's, that he had heard of his being in the British interest, and that he attributed to a nervous disorder the opinions expressed in the intercepted letters. Deane came to England and there completed the breach between himself and Jay by being on terms of familiarity with Benedict Arnold.

Serve to make my Promise good that I would write you & at the Same time give you the Satisfaction in Thinking that you are not often having such kind of Stuff Sent you.

I Shall not Subscribe my Name for fear of Accidents as I have wrote Freely—

I am Dear Sir, Your Friend And Humble Servt.

[BARNABAS DEANE.]

Miss Duyckinck Sends her Love to you.

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FROM CAPTAIN ROGERS.

FARMINGTON, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

MY DEAR SIR:

By order of General Huntington, I do myself the honor of enclosing you a return of the County of Hartford as made out and completed by a Committee from said County. The General has doubtless wrote you on the Subject.

Yours of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst: was but yesterday received, for which am much obliged to you.

We deeply regret that the Line should be so lost to all sense of honor and military decorum, as to fix a Stigma upon their Character, that time can never wipe away, but we hope the spirited exertions of the Officers will effectually check it, before they proceed to any further measures.

Notwithstanding the low estimation placed by an ungrateful Country upon their Officers yet to them they owe the existance of the Army, and consequently the existance of their Liberty.

Yesterday we had a general Committee of the State to discuss and decide some disputable points, and am very sorry to inform you, that every debate was closed with a hearty *negative* on the part of the State. Today we commence humble supplicants at the Shrine of *democracy* and with trembling hand and quaking hearts implore their [*rest of letter missing*].

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FROM RICHARD VARICK.\*

HP QURS, May 18, 1782.

DEAR COLONEL :

Agreeable to promise & Duty I will send down David Gardner of your Regiment, at present my servant, to be inspected on Tuesday next.

The Gentlemen of the family inform me that there will be no Impropriety in your permitting him to return to me, and as I have no other, nor will Congress's Finances furnish the Means of getting another, you'll oblige me greatly by ordering him back to me as soon as possible after Inspection.

He will want a Shirt or Shirts which I have not in my Power to procure, & if you will permit him to have any other of his Clothes I will attend to it that they shall not be parted with, or even worn, but when Decency requires a Change of his old Clothes. Col<sup>os</sup> Trumbull & Humphreys will speak to you on the Subject.

I am with respect yours  
RICH<sup>d</sup> VARICK.

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 19th May, 1782.

DEAR SAM. :

I was disapointed in not seeing you before you joined the army, as you promised us that pleasure. I now give it over until the close of the Campaign, which I trust will be the last ; but if not, I hope the exertions of this season will drive from our doors the common disturbers of our peace, and if they must wrangle, let it be on British ground.

I wish the Employment of the army may drive from your mind the painful past of the remembrance of your dear friend. Time must befriend us in those calamities, or nothing. A letter lately from Wethersfield tells us Mrs. Bancker's grief is still fresh. I pity her from my heart, but I greatly wonder she grieves so much when in all probibility it is but a little while she will be separated from her darling child. Her loss none but a parent knows, and you can be told by none. I have lately buried my youngest child, a baby too,

\* Recording Secretary at Head Quarters.

as sweet a babe as I ever had and one that promised fair to answer my fondest hopes. He was 4 mos. old, and tho' so young 'twas taking a piece of the heart, but there are things that have to be submitted to.

By a vessel yesterday, in 40 days from Amsterdam, we have assurances that in a few days the Independence of America will be acknowledged by the States of Holland.

We have various reports of the Engagements in the West Indies between the two fleets, but from what I can gather, my opinion is that the French have got the best of it. If this be the case I think the chance is ten to one that Jamaica falls, as I wish it to most ardently.

Friday we had a certain acc't that the Hound, a British 36 gun Frigate ran on shore at Cape Bersue, [?] and is lost. I havent shed a tear on this acc't and I don't believe I should if half their fleet was as safely moored.

The Chatham, a new 50 gun ship is cruising in our Bay and no doubt will do us much damage.

The arrival of the Frigate's Alliance and Dean may be looked upon as a fortunate event. I think we are acting a very stupid part in retaining the lands belonging to the estate. They might be sold for large amounts now, and if you don't want the money it might be laid out in Government securities wh' might be purchased at  $\frac{1}{3}$  their value, and upon a peace they no doubt would rise greatly. You would I think do well to insist on it.

Jo. wants a little spurring in this matter. I have turned it to him and there are difficulties he says in the way. Well, if there are, they might be removed for the present opportunity if lost cannot be regained.

Sally is well and joins in love to you.\*

I am Your friend, &c.,  
JOS. BARRELL.

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 373.

FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

WETHP, 3<sup>d</sup> June, '82.

DEAR WEBB:

This will be handed you by Richard and will serve to acknowledge yours by Cummings, a lad mustered out in Camp after I had receipted for him, I am very sorry the Lad was mustered out in Camp, as I firmly believe him Competent to the duties of a soldier & have receipted him accordingly, & the Class will be excused during the three Years for which he enlisted, & very justly in my opinion—The Size Established for recruits will exclude many who have already served three years in the Continental Army and are fully Capable of doing Soldiers duty as those five feet & Six inches high, the Sending such men back discourages Recruiting & puts the Characters of Mustering Officers in the Country in a very Contempible point of View—If those Officers sent on that business are unworthy of the Confidence reposed in them let them be recalled & censured as unworthy servants, let them make the first example of me, I will not Complain; the mode adopted for filling the Regiments will be incompetent at best but much more so upon the Rules of Measuring, as nearly 3<sup>ths</sup> of the Men obliged by law to do Military Duty are under that size, it is in vain to make an attempt to fix Certain Rules. as no good can arise—I can say without boasting I am as proper a Judge of a Man for a Soldier as those who muster after me, I shall take Cummings to Camp with me & make another attempt to introduce him, I should be willing to Command such men & feel no doubts as to his Ability—The Assembly are displeas'd that you should send Officers into the Country to muster the Recruits & that you should put so little Confidence in them, as to muster them over again, but as I conceive the Letter from Col<sup>o</sup> [Thomas] Grosvenor giving an account of the size to be binding on me & the other Officers to whom I have Communicated them, shall obey them & in Compliance therewith several have been mustered out who have had a regular discharge after serving three Years, which has given great & just uneasiness to the people—

Kellogg will go on with the Waggon but in no measure fit for duty, Sergeant [Francis] Nicholson I saw two days since, he is very thin & feeble I advised him to get to Camp as soon as he Could, tho I am sensible he is not at present fit—I had a line from Winchel yes-

terday informing me of his situation, I have directed him to come in & see me, if he's able I shall send him on—I think as fast as a Serj arrives in Camp with a party he ought to be sent back or another in his place as they are extremely essential at the Rendez-vous and to take charge of the Recruits on their March.

Pratt Called on me about the Drums & M<sup>r</sup>: Pomroy has furnished him with an order for them, in which he promises payment to the man when he is able, but whether it will answer I am in doubt. Col<sup>o</sup>: Durkee died last Week on Wednesday,\* possibly you may not have heard of it—last Thursday we Celebrated the Birth of the Dauphin of France in a pretty Clever way, after a feu de Joy & Salute we made ourselves decently merry & had a pretty Collection in the Eve<sup>s</sup> at Bull's, your Brother Jos. & Myself got home to Breakfast—If in my power to obtain shall inclose you some papers & possibly make an addition which you have no Reason to expect Considering the Proximity of this, nor have you any reason to wish it—Col<sup>o</sup>: Cary & Lady, Miss Brasher & *Grand Son Cornelius* are at your house, I can't say M<sup>rs</sup>: Bancker is Well but is moving, she suffers Melancholly to take too great hold of her, I fear the Consequences unless she gets the better of it soon, it preys on her Constitution and will prove the Consumption, the rest of our Circle are as usual—must request you to give my Compliments to Col<sup>o</sup>: Swift & the Gentlemen of the line, & to the Gentlemen of the 3<sup>d</sup> in particular.—Our Assembly have granted the 5 p<sup>t</sup>: Cent impost requested by Congress with several Reservations as to the application of the monies arising thereon, among the rest that none be applied to the payment of half pay Officers, they have a great Spleen against that Class of Locusts as some call them—M<sup>r</sup>: Aaron Lopez the Jew was drowned last week & his horse in the presence of his wife & Daughter very shockingly—

Adieu Adieu

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

P. S. Will it not be best that the Mustering should be left discretionary with the Mustering Officer & those of us disqualified for that business be ordered to return & answer for our Unfaithfulness & neglect, as the House of Assembly have directed the Governor to write his Excellency on the Subject.†

\* 29 May, 1782.

† From the collection of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of Boston.



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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT HOWE.

ROBINSONS, 6th June, 1782.

DEAR SIR:

General Washington dines with me To morrow he is Exceedingly fond of salt fish ; I have some coming up & tho' it will be here in a few days it will not be here in time. If you could conveniently lend me as much Fish as would serve a pretty large Company for Dinner Tomorrow (at least for one Dish) it will oblige me & shall in a very few days be returned in as good Dam Fish as ever you saw. Excuse this freedom & it will add to the favour. Could you not prevail upon some Body to catch some Trout for me early Tomorrow morning. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir with great Regard

your most ob<sup>t</sup> se<sup>r</sup>

R. HOWE.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 13 June, 1782.

DEAR SIR:

The General [Washington] is this day at the Point, so I cannot decide for his accepting your invitation any further than 'tis very probable he will attend your feast on that day, and will doubtless be glad of a good dinner.

Myself you will probably see if circumstances will admit. Some of the family will, no doubt, attend the General—particular, I cannot determine. I am, yours most devotedly

J[ONATHAN] TRUMBULL [JR.]

A. D. C.

N. B. General Lincoln is with us, and will come with the General if he attends you.\*

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 301. A second note from Trumbull is printed on p. 302 of the same work, but with a wrong date. It said: "The General and lady return their compliments; they are going tomorrow on a visit to Governor Clinton and lady, at Poughkeepsie; their return is uncertain. Should it be the same day, and Mrs. Washington is not too fatigued, she will be happy to accept your invitation.

"Enclosed are the replies to your notes to Generals Knox and Hand. Should the General and lady not be able to attend you, 'tis probable you may see the muzzles of some of the family."

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 FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

 WETHP, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1782.

DEAR WEBB:

By Doctor Ellis I was favored with yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> June with one enclosed for M<sup>rs</sup> Bancker, which I sent her that Even<sup>g</sup> I rec<sup>d</sup> it. I am very unhappy that the recruits which have been sent on, have been so bad as to have so great a number rejected as you mention there has been greater neglect in some of the Mustering Officers I suspect than in myself—since I have introduced the Subject of Musters I would wish to suggest one thing which the Assembly did before they Adjourned, which was this, that in all Instances, where any Recruits have been Mustered out by the Mustering Officer sent from Camp for that purpose for want of Size, they shall be remustered by the Colonels of Militia Reg<sup>ts</sup> & if they shall appear to them to be fit for the duties of a Soldier excepting wanting size, they are to be sent into the State Reg<sup>t</sup> or to one of the State Guards & the Class shall be exempt from all fines or other penalties arising from such Mustering out. the Consequence will be this, they will be sent to Horse-neck, & on any Requisition to this State for Men that Reg<sup>t</sup> will be ordered to Join the Line, in lieu of other Men, that in fact they will answer every purpose to the State, as if they joined the lines. Had Directions been sent to the Mustering Officers to be more particular in their Musters, & broke one or two of us who had been neglectful in our duty, better purposes would have been answered, as the Assembly would have not then taken it up, but they took it up with such Spirit, as to have nearly a Vote for enabling the Colonels of Militia in all Instances to Muster the Recruits, & to Prohibit any Musters by us in any Instances whatever; Since Receiving those Instructions I have Mustered out those who have served two Campaigns in the Connecticut Lines, & one of them a very good Lad who was five feet five Inches high, well made & in my Opinion a *good Soldier*. By a letter from Capt<sup>o</sup> Williams to M<sup>r</sup> Burnham, I am informed that you gave him some Encouragement for an Enquiry, if you intend he shall have it the sooner the better. By an Agreement among the Commanding Officers of Reg<sup>t</sup> last Winter it will be necessary that a Majority of them be United in such Recommendation, will it not be best to recommend Searg<sup>t</sup> Maj<sup>r</sup> White at the same time, I only suggest the matter to you to think of, you will

best Judge whether your Regt. stands in need of any more officers. the Governor & Council have filled the Vacancies recommended last Winter by Gen! Parsons, have Given Grosvenor the Command of Durkee's Regt & Promoted Capt. Warner to be Major of the same, the other Vacancies are not filled, as Gen! Huntington did not know who were entitled to Promotion among Subalterns, I think in the same Recommendation for filling of Vacancies, that of new Appointed Officers ought to be Subjoined— I hear that Col<sup>os</sup> Greaton, Swift & three other Col<sup>os</sup> are Promoted to be Brigadiers, if so it will make a Regt. vacant for L! Col<sup>o</sup> Johnson & another Capt<sup>o</sup> to be promoted.

Your Brother Jos & Lady, Sister Hetty, Mr. Merrill & Mr. S. Chester set out for Boston last Saturday by the way of Norwich, where they proposed keeping the day of our Lord. I expect to get time to be at Norwich a day or two before I go to Camp, but at present it is uncertain.

The wafers you mention I will endeavor to procure & bring to Camp with me, which will not be long first. From the best Information I can Obtain from the different Mustering Officers & from my knowledge of this County I think you may not expect more than 500 Men from this State, as the Assembly have affixed a Penalty of Non-Compliance to the Act for filling up to the Line of 50 Dollars only, which is less than had been given in many Instances for bountys, & when ever the Penalty is less than the bounty to be given, you may rely on it they will spare the purse if they Damn the Country, besides, they save themselves the trouble of looking for Soldiers. As the Women appear to be more zealous for recruiting & keeping up the Army than the men I have proposed to some of my friends that the Classes should have the liberty to hire Women, & that I will not be so strict as to *their Measure*, as I am sure in the present distressed Situation of the Army a Court Martial could not be Convened who would Censure me, tho at same time I would recommend that tall Girls be procured that the Offspring may be five feet Six Inches high. I have tired your Patience—& will Close with Compliments to my friends with you

Yours

EBEN HUNTINGTON.\*

\* On the 24th Lieut. Col. Smith wrote urging Col. Webb to spend a day with

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL HEATH.

June 29, 1782.

DEAR SIR :

Enclosed you have a number of Certificates of the expiration of the term of enlistment of several of my Soldiers,—I have several more whose engagements will be out between this & the 25 of July, however as they may be of some little service, I did not think proper to recommend them at present,—I will thank you Sir to enclose me by the Bearer the several Discharges, some of them will not be due untill the latter end of next week, if its your direction I will keep the Discharges in my hands untill the day they are entitled to them, tho: they are only a trouble to the Regiment.

I am Dear Sir with respect

Your Most obed Serv<sup>t</sup>

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.\*

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FROM LORD STIRLING.

[FISHKILL], July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

DEAR SIR :

I shall be obliged to you if you will get some person of Judgment to examine the ground on the west front of the ground the troops manuevre'd on this morning, in order to discover a good Spring of water, near a Convenient Spot for me to pitch my tent upon, and if necessary, to order a party to open and improve the Spring

The behaviour of the troops this morning, has gained the approbation of the Commander-in-Chief and all our Visitants. I now send it to Col. Swift in Order to be Communicated.

With much Esteem, I am very Sincerely yours &c

STIRLING.

him at Head Quarters, adding: "The Gen<sup>l</sup> and his Lady with 3 of the Buff Heroes are gone upon an expedition up the River, not to return in less than 10 Days." Washington made a visit to Albany and the neighboring posts.

\*From the *Heath Papers* in the Massachusetts Historical Society. General Heath returned the proper discharges, and approved Colonel Webb's resolution.

Dear Sir

July 6<sup>th</sup> 1782. —

W. W. W.  
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I shall be much obliged to, if you will get some person of Judgment to examine the Ground in the <sup>west</sup> front of the ground the Troops Manuevered on this Morning in order to discover a good Spring of water near a convenient Spot for me to pitch my tent upon, and if necessary to order a party to open and improve the Spring.

The behaviour of the Troops this Morning has gained the approbation of the Commander in Chief, and our Visitants, I now send it to Col Swift in Order to be Communicated with much Esteem I am

Very Sincerely yours &c  
H. B. Long



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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, SUNDAY MORN<sup>g</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1782

MY DEAR BROTHER :

I have long intended to have devoted a leisure hour or two to you, in answering your several friendly epistles, but want of conveyance at one time and leisure at others has deprived me of that pleasure,—and sorry I am now to tell you this will only be an apology for a letter. Mr. Craik\* the bearer (Son to the Physician-General of the Army) sets out immediately for Boston, he has been in a bad state of Health and is travelling to the Eastward in hopes of reaping benefit from the change of Air, for the sake of his good Father as well as on his own account I will thank you to notice the Youth while in Boston.—I have been home about Ten days, and set of again tomorrow morning for Camp—my Health the former part of the summer was much impaired, but at present think myself better, while in Camp I was member of a General Court Martial for the tryal of Major General McDougall from the 15<sup>th</sup> of April untill the 22<sup>d</sup> of July, I mention this by way of apology for my long silence, and at the same time do assure you in future you shall hear from me more frequent,—what the operations of this Season will be is yet very uncertain, the french Army is near at hand and ours is to move down to the White Plains this or the next week, if a Fleet comes New York will be our object.—I hope to be early in Winter quarters, when if nothing material happens I intend with Mrs. Bancker to pass a few

\* George Washington Craik, son of Doctor James Craik.

days with you in Boston,—good woman she yet feels very sensibly our *too heavy* affliction,—the subject will ever be painfull to me,—my loss is irrepareable, nor do I ever expect to see that happiness on Earth I have once experienced,—tell my good Sister Sally I receiv<sup>d</sup> her letter in Camp and will the first leisure write her. at present time will not permit, remember me to Hetty I think she might inform us how her health is, I wish much to see you all, Brother Joe: is gone with a flag into New York, Br. Jack march'd three days since for Camp, the rest of the circle desire their Love to you all. Mr. Craik's hurry obliges me to close, after assureing You that I am with sincerity your Affectionate Brother

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

I shall be happy to hear from you when your leisure will permit,—the Jason is safe arrived at New London, Capt. Riley was taken on his homeward bound passage and carried into Bermuda, from there he has returned in a flag. My Comp<sup>ts</sup> to Col<sup>o</sup> Carey.

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FROM MR. JACKSON.\*

TALLERS, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

DEAR SIR;

Lord Stirling's servants are all sick, & have been for some time— He desires me to request of you the favor of a careful trusty non-commissioned Officer or Soldier, for a few weeks, who is capable of provideing for a Table that would admit a few Friends, & who may be entrusted with those Little concerns, though not important are very essential to happy existence. His Lordship ask's it as a favor in you to send him such a Man, either from your Regiment or from the Brigade you Command.

\* Aid-de-camp to Lord Stirling.



Your Horse is in very fine order & in pasture with our Horses, he can remain with them as long as you please.

I am with great Respect, Sir Your Most Humble Servant  
THO<sup>s</sup> FRED<sup>k</sup> JACKSON.

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FROM CAPTAIN JOHN WEBB.

NEW TOWN, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1782.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I am happy in having it in my power to contradict the news you had by Major Warner—My Br: the same day Major W— left Middletown arriv'd home—there was nothing on board the Flagg except two bundles for M<sup>r</sup>: John Smith from M<sup>r</sup>: McCormick—except a few Maggazeens & few other Books sent to Mr. W[ebb] from our Friends in New York—also some trifles sent by your friend Mr. [Miles] Sherbrook to the Children—This shows us how happy our Enemy are to ketch at any thing to injure our Characters—tho' they are contemptible and unworthy of our notice—I think (As there has been so much said about the matter) that he had better publish something in the Paper in Vindication of his Character—you had better write him on this Subject—I have the particulars from Lieut Col<sup>o</sup>: Jameson, who had them from M<sup>r</sup>: John Smith, which place left yesterday at 12 o' Clock—I have wrote you one or two letters since you left this, which I wish you would answer if possible by the first opportunity. I have not been able to hear anything about your Pistols—please to remember me to all Friends, and believe me to be yours Affectionately

J[OHN] W[EBB]

My Br: left Wethersfield the Next Morning after he arriv'd home, for Lebanon at which time, the Flagg was detain'd at Saybrook.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

23 August, 1782.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

It gives me pleasure to find your Regard so great for my Honor & Welfare & I might answer further my Interest. As to the Seizure of the Flag at Saybrook it's as rascaly affair as you have possibly ever heard of—I arrived there in a run of about Twenty hours—Got a Ground on Saybrook bar lay there about three hours, about Ten

Minutes after I got off—we were boarded by a whale Boat commanded by a Certain small-beer young Quack doctr Fields—who said he had heard of our Flag, that she was loaded with British Goods. He had been cruiseing for her Ten Days. I told him that it was an entire mistake as I could convince him—(without hesitation, after asking him to shew his Commission which was signed by Colo McClanan\* commanding New London Forts by *Authority from His Excellency*)—I shew'd him my trunk & the trifles, supposing them of no consequence—nothing like Merchandize—(but presents of trifles sent out to distressd Inhabitants)—without trade or Barter or the cost of any Cash on our Side—I enclose you a List for your satisfaction—I know not what the Law will do—but I find Everybody this way my Friend, & they think I am cruelly used, after fatiguing my self almost to Death & run the risk of my Life in Visiting Hospitals, Provost, &c, & to bring out Sixty Navy Prisoners.

I wish I had more time to Write you—but as I know you must be anxious I write you this—I wish to know your Sentiments—can the Vessel be liable—I should think the Vessel might be Clear'd Instantly, but possibly the Goods may be lost—I have waited on the Gov: & Council but they have no power—The Govern: is hurt beyond description, thinks He's abused, that damages ought to be recov'd of them for hindering the Sick people & Flag coming to their destin'd port of Mid[dletown] or Wethersfield. The Vessel is stript & laid up by those rascals at Saybrook, the Sick sent home in Boats those not well enough to be sent up in open Boats, put ashore to Die or Live at Saybrook—Thus remains the affair at present, I will Soon Write you again—the Saybrook Point people are determined if possible to condemn the articles & Vessel—do Write me fully—when The people come fairly to understand it, I am clear'd & thank't—but the Robbers & pirates condem'd—let the Vessel & Cargo be lost & I can't be blamed by my Friends—I have realy been extremely cautious & prudent. As I have said above I tho: no one could find Fault with my conduct—I own to you the Jaunt has cost

\* Probably Samuel McLellan of the Connecticut militia. In 1775 he entered the service from Woodstock as Major; promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in December, 1776, and to Colonel in January, 1779. He served in Tyler's brigade, under Sullivan, in Rhode Island, 1778, and after Arnold's raid, was placed in the New London forts, with about two hundred and fifty militia.

me more pain, Anxiety, trouble & Vexation, & even danger of Health than I can paint to you—yet had I got home well, I can't but say I met with many civilities & enjoyed much Satisfaction, &c—and upon ballanceing the Acco! I shou'd not have Repented the Journy, for the reflection of helping so many Prisoners is great—but take this with all that these Saybrook point maroon *Curser's* are the least of Gods Mercies, & if possible will do me all the damage in their power & Condemn & make as much Noise as they can—I wish you to set the affair to rights amongst those that wish us well—Write me fully on the Subject—with your Advice & Assistance.

I am Dear Bro Yrs Sincerely

J[OSEPH] W[EBB.]

I have the pleasure to tell you that the Assembly have always Given even to TORIES more than I had in the Vessel—is this Cruel treatment to be put up with? not a Vessel arrives but what brings more Even from the *West Indies*—is every Whale Boat to search all Vessels from Sea that may have three British trifles & condemn Vessel & Cargo—is this the intent & meaning of the Law? shurly No—Yet what can we depend on in such distracted Times as these? I find no body this ways seems to be acquainted with the Nature of flags—how do they conduct with Seizures at Elizabeth Town—suppose a king's flag—She Cant be liable: tho the Goods may I should think. How do they practice—will not Damages lie ags! these pirates for detaining the Flag from going to her Destin'd Port of Midd! —in short make yourself easy; the loss is cruel even shou'd I finely loose, but yet not so as break us of one hours Sleep. I have the satisfaction to think I can paint it in such a light Every one will be hurt—& think I am treated beyond Everything bad—& the Consequences Serious to the public; for who will again go their flag—provided 2 British trifles secreted may Condemn them? after appriseing poor John Smith; \* Hazard † & in short Every thing by presents &c belonge to everybody—they make £157—in which is included Medicins for the Sick—& a Suit of Clothes for me—I am Just going off to New London—& Cant add only I am wishing for

\* John Smith is described as a refugee, “burnt out of a large property.”

† Richard J. Hazard, “a hearty Whig,” who had served long in the Continental army.

knowledge how to Conduct & Your Sentiments how far Flaggs are Sacred, &c &c &c.

Adieu says your afft.

[JOSEPH WEBB].

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TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING.

LT. INFANTRY CAMP, PEEKS-KILL, 26<sup>th</sup> Aug., '82.

SIR :

The Commander in Chief has directed Me to apply to you for Waggons—and other Matters which may be wanted for the Corps of L<sup>t</sup>. Infantry—with which I am to request we may be furnished with all possible Dispatch,—we cannot do with less than two Covered Waggons and Three teams to a Regiment,—one Covered Waggon and Two Teams to the Battalion formed from the York & Jersey Line—making in the whole Five covered Waggons and Eight Teams proper for transporting the Tents;—it will be impossible to do with less than the number mentioned, unless we overload them. The Quarter Master of the Reg<sup>t</sup>. waits on you he has a list of other Articles which are wanted—he accepts the birth on condition he can have a Horse & Tent from the Public,—I can get none to accept on any other conditions,—A Quarter Master to the Brigade is hourly wanted, I am directed by His Excellency to apply to you for one,

I am Sir Your Most Obe<sup>d</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB Col<sup>o</sup>. Comm<sup>d</sup>g

Light Infantry.

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FROM COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING.

NEW WINDSOR, Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

SIR :

I have received your favor of yesterday. I shall see the Gen<sup>l</sup> this morning & know whether a full complement of waggons is to be allowed the Infantry, if he answers in the affirmative, you shall be furnished in the best manner our circumstances will admit : tho' I see no prospect of giving you more than one covered Waggon for the spare ammunition.

Such articles as are in Store will be furnished—camp Kettles as soon as a farther supply arrives, which ought to be this week.

The Adj<sup>t</sup> & quarter master of each Reg<sup>t</sup> must live together in one Tent. I will give them horses while they hold those offices.

Considering that the separate service of the light infantry, will be but of short duration, and that no active service is expected, I wish to avoid as far as possible an accumulation of expense, as I am unable to obtain what is necessary to satisfy demands that are indispensable.

If a brigade quarter master be appointed, he must have a horse, saddle and bridle, and camp equipage. Can not the regimental quarter Master do each for himself, or by turns for the brigade, what would otherwise be required of the brigade quarter Master? Be pleased to think of this and favour me with an answer.

I am Sir Your Most Ob<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

TIM. PICKERING

Q. M. G.

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FROM COLONEL STEWART.

V. P. POINT, Sept. 3, 1782.

DEAR SIR :

The York & Jersey Infantry Companys not having been Inspected for the Month of July, I must request you would Issue an Order for their being ready on the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst, & on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month the whole Corps will be Inspected ; when I presume the Comm<sup>r</sup> in Chief, &ca, will be present. The rolls for the York & Jersey Comp<sup>y</sup>s

I now send, & shall in a day or two forward a suffy for the whole for the month of August. 8 o'clock will be the hour on the 5<sup>th</sup>

I am y<sup>rs</sup> sincerely

W. STEWART  
Col<sup>o</sup> I. N. Army.

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TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

LT INFANTRY CAMP, 4<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1782.

Immediately after your Excellency's orders of the 21<sup>st</sup> of August organizing the Battalions and Reg<sup>ts</sup> which composed the Corps of Light-Infantry, we assembled on the Heights of Peeks-Kill,—by the unanimous Voice of the Field Officers then present, we posted the eldest Captain of a Battalion on the right, the Second on the Left, & so on agreeable to their Rank, having no reference to the States or Regiments from which the Companies were detached—this Mode was in our opinion the only consistent one, no other would have given satisfaction. The York and Jersey Battalion had before their joining us proceeded on the same principle,—Capt. Blicker of the N York Line being eldest has the right, the second New York the Left the two Jersey Companies the Centre.—on their arrival the Brigade was form'd agreeable to the above principle,—my Regiment on the right Col<sup>o</sup> Jacksons Regiment on the Left and Major Formans Battalion in the Centre.—Some days since I found an uneasiness existed among some of the officers of Major Forman's Battalion, that they were not on the Right, claiming it (against every other principle on which they had formed their Battalion) upon the Geographical plan of

encamping,—I have promised Major Forman to lay the matter before your Excellency, but told him unless I received your positive orders I could not think of altering his position, as it was against every rule laid down in the regulations, for a Major Commanding a detached Battalion, to take the right of Colonels Commanding Regiments. Your Excellency's sentiments may prevent much uneasiness.

We are at present obliged to draw our provision from Stony-point, by draughts of two days, the Commissary will not Issue it until the day the provision is due, and then frequently at the close of it—by this means we are out of Provision from the middle of the Second to the close of the Third day, which causes uneasiness among the Troops,—and Might in case of a Sudden Movement be injurious to the service,—If Mr. Sands would order the cattle to be drove near us, the Flour might be transported by water which would remedy the Evil complained of.

The Companies of Infantry being detached from different Regiments, we have requested Due Bills to be given by Companies to prevent trouble and Confusion when the Infantry are disbanded,—this is refused by the Issuing Commissary.

With respect & esteem I am Your Excellency's Most obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

Armourers wanting.

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FROM EDWARD HAND.

CAMP VERPLANKS POINT  
6 September, 1782.

DEAR SIR:

By direction of the Commander-in-chief I send you two of the Lt Infantry Standards, one for the use of your own and the other for Col. Jackson's Regt.

I am very sincerely yours  
EDW<sup>d</sup> HAND  
A. Genl

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FROM MAJOR DAVID SMITH.

QUARTERS, NEAR PINESBRIDGE, Sept. . 7<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

DEAR COLONEL:

Lieut<sup>d</sup> Mansfield return<sup>d</sup> last evening from a tour down towards Kingsbridge—he lay one day within two Miles of the Bridge, conceal<sup>d</sup> his party with a View of intercepting some of the Enemy's small parties, but could not get sight of them.

By an inhabitant which he took up he was inform<sup>d</sup>, that the Enemy were seldom on this side the Bridge, and then in parties of three or four hund<sup>d</sup> strong—That the inhabitants and Army were much distress<sup>d</sup> for water, the drouth being very severe there—A new Camp was forming on the heights south of Harleam plain, extending from River to River—The paper of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst is the only one I have been able to obtain

I am dear, Col? Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

D. SMITH.\*

\* In 1775, David Smith, of Waterbury, was an ensign in the 8th company of Colonel David Wooster's Connecticut regiment. In April, 1776, he was made a Captain and given a company in Colonel Elmore's regiment, doing service at Burnetsfield, German Flats. At Valley Forge he acted as sub-inspector of Varnum's brigade, promoted to Major in March, 1778, in the 5th Connecticut regiment, and served as sub-inspector of the 1st Connecticut Brigade to July, 1781. In 1782 he was attached to the Light Infantry under Colonel Webb.



FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 14 September, 1782.

DEAR BROTHER :

I have your's before me—I am sensible our Enemies may for an hour or two be pleased with the late attack upon me—but it's impossible that a good feeling mind can long retain even a thought that I was imprudent—unless they ungenerously Judge by Events.

The Gov<sup>t</sup> & all ranks of people pity & say I am cruelly used—What the Law will do is uncertain—Thursday fortnight will most likely determine—I have long since found out that Lt Col H[untington] not too much our Friend—yet it's not of the worst kind—it rather rises from his pride & ambition of wishing to Command equal to you—He thinks quite enough of Himself as a *Gent<sup>n</sup>* or a *Soldier*—I will write you when I may have more leisure—The particulars of the Seizure of the *Fersey*—it strikes me as a thing out of all rules of Laws of Nations that Flags shou'd be trifled with—I shall dispute them *Inch by Inch*. Barny [Deane] has moved to Hartford & behaves friendly & Clever—He has lately met with a Heavy loss of a fine Sloop Cap<sup>t</sup> Neason bound to the Havana—taken by a British Frigate & Carried into Jamacia—Cap<sup>t</sup> Charles Bulkley in a 14-Gun Frig<sup>t</sup> from New London (in the Employ of Rogers Hurlburt Gelson & the Refugees living at Haddam—has been fortunate Enough to take a Ship, Brig & Schooner, loaded with Rum, Sugar & Coffee from Jamacia—Total Will be Equal to ab<sup>t</sup> 100 HH<sup>d</sup> Jam<sup>a</sup> Sugar—it makes N. London lively & Clever—I wish you would write me fully what my Friends & Enemies say on the Subject of the Flag—do collect what you Can to help the Cause—I do not believe even in the Jersies they take the Vessel—they must be too sacred (?)—I have wrote the above on a full Gallop—may Heaven bless you, says all your Friends & Connections this way—do Write me directly on the Rec<sup>t</sup> of this & continue to untill I have more leisure. As to M——debt—it has long been paid into ab<sup>t</sup> £10—would you wish me to move half the old Barn on Deane's Lott.

Yrs Sincerely

[JOSEPH WEBB].

Hetty is getting well

## JOSEPH WEBB TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

WETHERSFIELD, 17 September, 1782.

SIR :

After I left Lebanon I went to New London,— & found The Whale Boatmen there, Ready for the trial—but I thought it prudent to have it put off untill I had M<sup>r</sup> Elsworth—I think your Excellency feels for me, I am ill used ; I am hurt—The Sacredness of the Flag is not violated on my side—but much so on theirs—I have been a most faithful Servant in this last *Voyage* to New York to the State of Connecticut—I have deserved better treatment than I have met with—The late Law was made while I was gone to Boston, I never heard of it, untill the Seizure—but yet I can't even think I have offended the meaning of even the last *Law*—as Colo<sup>l</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Clanan has sent you an Extract from one Josiah Smith a bad fellow—which I give you my word is a *bad fellow*—, I take the Liberty to enclose your Excellency, Copies of one or Two Evidences open'd in Court unknown to me—I have the pleasure to tell you *The Friends*,—indeed I may say all ranks of people in Hartford Weth<sup>d</sup> Mid<sup>r</sup> think me injur'd—is it possible that your Flag shou'd be thus treated?—am I thus to be abused ill treated & no remedy.—the Expense is great—This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Time I have been into York, if I have not done to your acceptance—if I have not done well, pray Write me so—blame me fully without reserve—let me urge your Excellency to Write me on the Subject— —as for. M<sup>r</sup> Halsey—. He has taken up against me altho : I Wrote him Two Letters on my first getting home—He possibly will say He was first Engaged on the other side, I may think for myself. The Court is adjourned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>r</sup> at Norwich—What said M<sup>r</sup> Hill—h—[Hillhouse?] to Your Excellency when He last saw you?—it will not bear reflection, I am unjustly treated.—can it be the Spirit of the Law? *No sir* its impossible—the Letter of the Law will condemn any & Everything—what said Halsey—? but why shou'd I trouble your Excellency—I feel too susceptably—my innocent Character handled—& my property by a set of Robber's—they say with a Commission—cool Reflection will see how deeply I am wounded

has not our family sacrific'd Enough? have we not taken a warm decided part?—did I go on to York to please my self or to please a Number of people of all Ranks ; but more particular the friends of

the distressed American *Prisoner*—I have only to say I am sensible of Col<sup>o</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Williams, & your politeness—& that I wish for a line from you—& that I am with Complim<sup>ts</sup>

Y<sup>r</sup> Most Ob H Sev<sup>t</sup>

J. WEBB

I find on Examination including my Clothes, & all the Articles realy trifling

I suppose y<sup>r</sup> Excellency well remembers the List—

is our Government so wanting of power as to give a Subject all this unjust trouble—?\*

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

HEAD QUARTERS, Sept<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1782.

SIR:

You will cause two days provision to be drawn & cooked for the Light Infantry by tomorrow night; and hold that Corps in *perfect readiness* to march at day break on friday Morning next. You will select a sufficient number of Men least capable of Marching, or others, to take care of your Camp.

I am Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HUMPHREYS.

HEAD QUARTERS, Sept<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

SIR:

The Commander in Chief has directed me to inform you he would have you commence the March of the Light Infantry at Day break tomorrow Morn<sup>g</sup> & proceed on the route by the River to the Fork of the Road, just above the Redoubt at Dobb's Ferry (where the Sheldon's Legion was quartered last Campaign,) from whence you will please to detach one Battalion to the height immediately above the Redoubt on the left side of the road—this Battalion is to post Sentinels & keep lookouts on the most advantageous Places—besides these a small scout is to be sent down that Road at least a mile.

\* From the *Trumbull Papers* in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

With the remainder of the Corps the General desires you will proceed to the Height near the small House where you begin to descend the Hill to the Bridge between Dobb's Ferry & our old Encampment, from thence Sentinels are to be kept out, & a party advanced a mile or more on the Saw Mill River Road—A Party is also to be sent along the Road leading to the Camp occupied by the French last year, as far at least as Lord Stirling's Quarters—The movement & disposition should not be made a matter of Notoriety beforehand—you may expect to receive his Excellency's farther orders, at your positions—

With great respect and esteem

I have the honor to be &c

D. HUMPHREYS

Aid de Camp.

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TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

LIGHT INFANTRY CAMP, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1782.

On my March from Dobbs' ferry I fell in with five or Six Non commissioned officers and several Privates who had gone down in a Boat from Verplanks Point and landed near Tarry-town,—on examination found they had a pass from Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Col. Sherman to go into the Country and return at Evening roll call,—these parties have an opportunity of plundering the Inhabitants or deserting to the Enemy—it being [a] practice which I conceive dangerous and unmilitary has induced me to report it.

With Esteem I have the honor to be Your Excellency's Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Octo 1, 1782.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I snatch a moment to acquaint you that I had the Vessel Clear'd without much difficulty—it was tried at Norwich Meeting House took up part of Two days—the Small presents given Mrs. Webb & some others were Condem'd unexpectedly to every one. Doc! Johnson & Elsworth Shin'd—they beautifully plead my Cause—I met with many Valuable Friends—indeed the *vox populi* was finely in my favor—the Whale Boatmen had to pay the Cost (except my own Lawyer's) it wou'd please you to see the Approbation of all rank of people that I beat those fellows—they wish they had never met with me. I have had much trouble & vexation with those robbers—I find Mrs. W—— is not a little chagrin'd at the disappointment of the present—but shews as much firmness as its possible for a Lady to do—you know her noble turn of mind & steadiness.

Pray write me a long Circumstantial Letter from you, all the News you Can think of—is our Friend Col. Smith at Head Q? or near you, is He Commissary G? of Prisoners?—who are his Deputies? What is going forward at Camp? who are the Commiss. on the side of the British?—who from us? How long are they likely to be out? what is said about my Flag—what said *E. H.\** & others?—all these Questions I want answer'd—these last Two or Three Years I have hardly heard from you by Letter as formerly. I am now extremely Anxious to have a lovely long Letter from You—as to family matters I conclude you hear the Whole from Mrs. B[ancker] who is a constant Writer to you, She appears pleas'd & Happy—as for Hay I realy feel Anxious enough—the Drowth is very Great, I hope to have but little Stock—can I send you two Horses to Sell if they fall choice of Good for Waggon—do Write me on this the first moment you can after Rec! this—how is the Army suplied with Provisions—Roots & Vegetables. I suppose there is no such thing—wou'd Ten or 15 Loads of Onions sell well if our farmers come down with their Carts Loaded—what can they bring back—perhaps *Iron* if they can clear five Coppers for four pounds [—] they wu'd be content—do turn your Attention to think what shall be done for Butter; there is but a little

\* Probably Ebenezer Huntington.

now and there will be much less I fear this fall, perhaps in your Vicinity you Can meet with Some—it's an Object, for a family without Butter is distressing—we must renounce Fish & all good Cookery—it's very Healthy and all of our Friends are well—The Jersey will be up in 1 or 2 days, when I shall have her Compleatly overhauled—I send you a Copy of Mr. Clarkson's last Letter—I have thoughts of sending of her to *Curaso* but am not determined—We have not heard as yet from Fred<sup>d</sup> Jay who was Expected Here before this to live in the House of Moses Tryon's late B D[eane's]. The Dancing School goes on quite Clever—Sally shines as one of the first Misses—I cant close without acknowledg<sup>g</sup> the Rec<sup>t</sup> of several very Affectionate Letters from you and can truly say I feel a most grateful Heart for them and am happy if I any ways give you the pleasure yours give me—do write most minutely all you can think of.

Y<sup>r</sup> Aff Br<sup>o</sup>  
[JOSEPH WEBB.]

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FROM FREDERICK JAY.

POUGHKEEPSIE, 7<sup>th</sup> Octob: 1782.

DEAR SIR:

Your very obliging favor of the 22<sup>d</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> covering one from M<sup>r</sup>s Bancker came safe to hand—they would have been answered had I not at the time of their being received labour'd under a very violent remitting fever which lasted me upwards of three weeks. I am now thank God recovering, tho' still confin'd to my House. The fever has left me in a very weak state, tho' I find my strength daily increasing. You will please to make my best respects to M<sup>r</sup>s Bancker & inform her that my late indisposition has prevented my answering her Letters & that it is still out of my power to do it. You will also inform her we are obliged in consequence of my illness to give up all thought of taking the house at Whethersfield, but are in hopes of paying her a visit some time this Fall.

I could wish it were in my power to pay you a visit at Camp. I believe it would tend to my advantage, but my present situation will not permit. I must however beg a favour of you, which I make no doubt you'l readily comply with if in your power. I am informed

that Col<sup>o</sup> Wadsworth has not only the supplying the French but American Army's with every necessary, and as I am entirely out of business and being disappointed in receiving any Interest from the Loan office (which Congress in their great Wisdom have thought proper to stop) and upon which I intirely depended, I shall take it kind in you to endeavor to obtain from Mr. Wadsworth some place under him either in the purchasing of flour or other wise, so that I may be enabled to keep myself employed & have it at the same time in my power to do something for the family. If the French Army should move to Hartford (& I am informed they will) I should have no objection of moving there with M<sup>rs</sup> Jay provided I could make it turn to advantage. You will excuse my writing thuse freely to you, but I do assure you this last Damnable Act of Congress has quite unhinged me. I would have wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Wadsworth, but my Ey's at present will not allow me to do it.

I sincerely thank you for the N Y Paper contai'g M<sup>r</sup> Cowpers Advertizement, but there is no relief to be had from that quarter at present.

I shall be happy to hear from you soon. M<sup>rs</sup> Jay is very hearty & joins me in assuring you of our sincerest affection & best wishes for your health and happiness. Adieu my D<sup>r</sup> Sir and believe me to be

Yours

FRED. JAY.

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

[PRIVATE.]

HEAD QUARTERS, Oct<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

SIR:

I was surprised to learn that a Comp<sup>y</sup> of Light Infantry being down the River yesterday without proper orders & without giving notice to the commanding officers of the Post or water guards (?) occasioned an alarm in that Quarter—especially after the General Order of Wednesday last was issued in consequence of your representation of the evils which would arise from such practices—Altho Capt Webb might have left camp before the Order above alluded to was made public, yet as you were well apprized of the impropriety of such proceeding (as appeared by your representation) I cannot

think the conduct by any means Soldier like or conformable to good discipline—A repetition of it, I am persuaded will not happen, as I have given positive Orders to Capt. Pray, to apprehend & send to Head Q<sup>rs</sup> under guard, All Persons who may hereafter be found down the River in the same Predicament.

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

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TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

LIGHT INFANTRY CAMP, 8<sup>th</sup> Octo., 1782.

The enclosed report from Cap<sup>t</sup>. Webb will convince your Excellency that his late movement by water was without my knowledge or consent.

The orders to the officer commanding at the New-Bridge have in some degree been discretionary about moving down with the whole or part of his Company, always to leave the proper guards at the New Bridge and the Mouth of Croton, and to give me previous information of his movement.—No orders were given respecting his moving by water, as there never has been a Boat left there on any pretence,—the Boats he had were some which had gone adrift from Verplanks point.

Yesterday morning Cap<sup>t</sup>. Webb reported to me the circumstance of his going down by Water, which I was sensible was unmilitary, but Knowing his intentions were good,—I directed him immediately to go to Head Quarters and report the Circumstances to Your Excellency—he saw Col. Tilghman who assured him he would represent it.

I have had occasion several times to send Boats to Tappan and the Sloat for Forage—always with strict orders not to go within shot of the Eastern Shore,—



Your Excellency will please to rest assured no impropriety of this Kind shall take place under my orders.

I have the Honor to be with Esteem

Your Excellency's Most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

SAM<sup>t</sup>. B. WEBB.

The officer now at New Bridge has positive orders not to send any part of his Command more than five or six miles in Front of Croton without particular orders for that purpose.

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CAPTAIN GEORGE WEBB'S REPORT.

LIGHT INFANTRY CAMP, Octob<sup>r</sup> 7, 1782.

SIR :

On the 3<sup>d</sup> Instant while I had the Command at the New Bridge—I was informed by the Inhabitants that two Boats were ashore at Sing-Sing, whereupon I sent a party of Men under the Command of Lt Spring to take and bring them to me—On the 5<sup>th</sup> a Number of Militia Horsemen came to the Bridge in Order to pass below—and I having discretionary Orders concerning going with my Party at any Time without extending the Time beyond 24 Hours thought it best for the Sake of procuring Intelligence to take this Opportunity and that I might not weary my men to put them into those two Boats which Lt Spring brought from Sing-Sing—I embarked on the 5<sup>th</sup> about two OClock in the afternoon leaving a Serg<sup>t</sup> and six at the Bridge a Corporal & 4 at the Ferry with 4 more who were to join those 2 guards as soon as they returned from getting Provision—2 went down as far as Tarry town unmolested in fair view of Captain Pray without his taking any notice landed before Sun down, and remained there until 7 OClock at which Time I again embarked & went as far as Dobbs ferry, from whence after leaving 4 men as a guard to the Boats I March'd down in order to see what I could discover and return'd to Dobbs about 8 oClock the next morning and again embark'd to return back—all which Time I could not discern that Major Oliver or Capt<sup>n</sup> Pray had any Knowledge of my

being there or making any Signals of Alarm until I had passed Tarry Town on my way back, when Captain Pray fired a gun—I immediately put the Boat about and stood for him—he then fired two more—I still kept on towards him & made Signals to acquaint him who I was—he then pushed off with his Boat & rowed up the River—I still rowed towards him 'till we had got within Call of one another. I hailed him told him who I was and not to be concerned—He upon that gave me Another Shot—I did everything in My Power to make him acquainted.—but all I could get from him was—“To go back again”—I then lay on My Oars until he came up to Lt. Spring and was Satisfied Concerning the Matter—after this I proceeded up the River and returned safe back to my Post.

My Intention Sir was perfectly innocent and the Reason of my putting the men on board the two Boats was to make it more easy for them—the Horsemen kept slowly along the Shore in a line with me so that had any Discovery been made of the Enemy I should have had Immediate Notice from them.

This Sir is all the Report that I can recollect of the Matter—

I am Sir Your most obed<sup>t</sup>. Most humble Servant

GE<sup>o</sup> WEBB, Cap<sup>t</sup> \*

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TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

LIGHT INFANTRY CAMP, NEAR CROTON RIVER,

Oct<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1782.

DEAR BARRELL :

Your letter of the 23d ult<sup>o</sup>. by M<sup>r</sup>. Sandy and M<sup>r</sup>. Taylor, was handed me some days since—as I lie three Miles from Kings ferry they did not call on me, had they I would have been happy in shewing them every attention as your friends. I should likewise have been pleased to have had an Opportunity of asking them many questions about my Boston friends.—I acknowl-

\* George Webb, of Massachusetts, was the first lieutenant in, the third regiment of the line of that State; promoted, 1 January, 1776, to be a captain, in which rank he remained till the end of the war.

edge my friend that I have been guilty of a seeming inattention to you and my Two Sisters but rest assured of my warmest Friendship and Esteem, my cares as a Soldier with a large command, want of conveyance when leisure would have permitted my writing and want of subject matter that could have been pleasing to you and my Sisters, are I think the principle causes of a long silence.—Promising reformation & more attention would perhaps only add to the fault, for such is my situation I can promise nothing. The hurry and Bustle of a Camp life has been more pleasing & necessary in my late *too melancholly* situation, than any other could have been, but yet many are the hours I find to reflect on my misfortunes—I see and know the impropriety of repineing at the events of an overuleing power,—yet 'tis hard to practise.

In September the Light Infantry were embodied in Five Battallions, making about Twelve Hundred Men and the command given to Me; it placed me in an enviable, but very honorable situation—and I flatter'd myself the Field of Glory was full in view—but the prospect seems vanished—Campaign is nearly pass'd without our seeing the Enemy—they do not think it prudent to quit their strongholds, nor will the Finances of these United States furnish Money for Horses to drag our Artillery, or Forage to subsist them.—I hope devoutly the War is nearly over, & the next time I enter the lists of an Army, of Republican States, I wish I may be a CORPORAL. I believe we shall soon get clear of the War with the British myrmidons—but if we (America) deserve liberty, I am Damnably mistaken—

We poor Dogs shall retire with broken Constitutions & Empty purses, and the Cursed Sin of Ingratitude has taken such deep hold of our *Virtuous* Countrymen that I expect a chosen few only will know Us. but away the subject it only puts me in a Pet. I intend if Possible to take with me Mrs Bancker and spend a few weeks with you in Boston between this and Spring, a winter Evening pass'd at your Hospitable fireside will ever give me a heart felt satisfaction—tell Sally & Hetty I love them and the little ones about you,—remember me with the most friendly sentiments to our good friend Russell, Otis, &c &c I enclose you several New York Papers, they are the latest I can give you, the others up to the 6th Inst. I am obliged to transmit to Head Quarters—none contain any matters of Importance,—no man on Earth wishes you more real Happiness than your

Affectionate Brother

SAM<sup>L</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

HEAD QUARTERS, VER PLANKS POINT,  
Oct<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

SIR:

After the right wing of the Army has Marched, On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> inst—you will remove the Camp of the Light Corps to a convenient & warm position just in the rear of the Continental Village, where you will remain until further Orders, continuing to do the duty of the Lines & advanced Posts in the following manner: One compleat Company to Mount at the Post of Dobbs Ferry, one Company to be divided between the Block Houses of Ver Planks & Stoney Points, and two Companies to be kept constantly in your front on this side the Croton, these latter should be continually re-

moving from place to place, & keeping up Patroles incessantly in such manner, as you shall think best calculated to cover the Country & prevent surprize.

The Garrison of Ver Planks' & Stoney Point must be relieved before seven o'Clock on Sunday morn<sup>g</sup> next and all your detached Commands may hereafter be relieved weekly.

You will Keep up, as far as your situation will admit, a communication with Col. Sheldon who commands at Bedford, & send out Scouts towards the Enemy's Lines, whenever you may judge there is occasion ; reporting to me every remarkable occurrence which shall come to your Knowledge & sending all Deserters who may arrive at any of your Posts to Head Quarters—

I am Sir &c

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

P. S. Altho there will not be a field officer's Command at Dobb's Ferry, yet the importance of the post renders it essential, that the Major whose Battalion is on duty, should be there to Superintend the general business of that Post—

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FROM MAJOR DEXTER.

CAMP, RHODE ISLAND REG<sup>t</sup>, Nov<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1782.

DEAR SIR :

It was in the evening before I reached this place yesterday notwithstanding no time was lost in coming hither.

The Light Company of our Regiment is to go to the northward, but will be the last Company to embark, and orders will be sent you timely for their detachment.

I have seen the Soldier who owns the letters of Eloisa & Abelard and no arguments or offers of Satisfaction could prevail on him to part with them.

I forgot my Sheets which are in your chest at Miss Sweet-lips, and would thank you to deliver them to Capt<sup>n</sup> Allen who will give himself the trouble of restoring them to me on his junction.

I beg you to conceive, that I esteem it one of the pleasures of my life that I have been detached under your immediate command for a campaign and although I Sincerely deprecate the further continu-

ance of this war, I should be happy hereafter to be plac'd in the same situation.

My love to Majors Smith, Wright & Capt<sup>n</sup> Carlile and believe me

Your most

Obed<sup>t</sup> Servant

J<sup>no</sup> S[INGER] DEXTER.

TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

LIGHT INF<sup>y</sup> CAMP, Fryday Even<sup>g</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1782.

The arrangement of the Connecticut Line has been so Managed that Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel [Ebenezer] Gray and Major [Benjamin] Throop are in My Regiment, with these Characters (which with freedom I named to your Excellency a few days since) it is impossible the Regiment can ever make a Military appearance—'tis therefore I am under the disagreeable necessity of earnestly soliciting your Excellency to interfere and give such directions as may tend to the good of Service,—Major [David] Smith (a valuable officer) would have been arranged in my Regiment, but that Col<sup>o</sup>. Swift held him to a promise made at a time when he Major Smith supposed that Lt. Colonel Huntington and Major Wyllys would have continued in my Regiment.—Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Colonel Gray has got unlimited leave of absence from Your Excellency for the recovery of his Health, his disorder complained of, *Swell'd legs* owing as is universally supposed and believed to *too free a use of Spirits*, and he gives out he has no expectation of joining until the opening of next Campaign—when *to appearance* he is in perfect Health—I have this day personally told him the general opinion of him, and that he could never be happy in a Regiment under My Command.—

it had that influence on him, which May be expected from a Man who from an immoderate use of Liquors becomes a Brute,—was he to continue with us some steps might be taken, either to rid the Army of, or reform him, this is not a sentiment of mine singly, but that of General Huntington and a Majority of the Field Officers of our Line.—too Many officers have been keep on our Muster Rolls—Sick Absent, & I have no reason to suppose but that this will be the case with Col. Gray to the end of the War, if he is permitted to retire on furlough—I Mentioned to him he Must prepare to return by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January as I should procure an order for that purpose, his answer was he should not attend to it, as his Health would not permit,—I mention this only to show your Excellency the benefit that might arise from his continuing in Camp.

Major Throop is I believe an Honest Man with personal Bravery. I wish I could add other Qualifications requisite for an Officer.—

In this disagreeable Situation I am obliged for my Honor and for the good [of] Regiment to request Your Excellency will order me relieved from the Honorable and pleasing Command I am now in, that I may attend in person to the new arranging and forming of My Regiment, which will be collected at West Point in the course of Two or Three days.—

When the Regiment is put on a proper footing I shall be induced to request of Your Excellency leave of Absence, and if the situation will admit, doubt not my reasons to be offered are such that I shall be gratify'd—this is an additional cause of My request to be relieved, as it will take a Month or Six Weeks to put

the Regiment in that order for Winter Quarters, which I wish to leave it.

I beg the subject of this letter may be a sufficient apology, for the freedom with which it is wrote, and that Your Excellency will be assured that

I am with Much Esteem

Your Excellency's Most Obedt. Servt.

SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

HEAD QUARTERS [NEWBURGH], Nov<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

SIR:

As there has been no official Report made to me of the Arrangement of the Connecticut Line, I cannot interfere in the matter;—Nor would I choose to make alterations in it, before the first day of January, when it is to become final,—if there does not appear to have been some deviation from the principles contained in the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, or injurious to the public interest.—The good of the Service, I hoped, would have been the governing principle in arranging the Officers; and I cannot but flatter myself, the agreements among the several grades of Officers, may yet be rendered subservient to that end.

As soon as Col [Henry] Jackson shall be able to join the Light Corps, (which it is expected will be the case in a few days) I shall have no objection to your attending to the particular interests of your Regiment in the Line.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

HEAD QUARTERS, NEWBURGH,

Nov<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1782.

SIR:

As Lieut Col. Smith is to reside near the Post of Dobb's Ferry, for the purpose of transacting the business of his Department with



more accuracy facility & dispatch ; he will of consequence have the charge of sending & receiving Flags—and therefore the presence of the Major of the Battalion of light Infantry on duty will not be necessary in future at that Post—You will be pleased to direct the Major on duty to take the immediate superintendency of the 3 companies posted at Kings Ferry & on the Lines in such manner as you shall judge expedient ; also give directions to the Captain of the Company stationed at the Beach House at Dobb's Ferry to consider himself under the Orders of Lieut Col Smith.

I am Sir

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

P. S. In future the relieving Officer will receipt to the Capt<sup>o</sup> Command<sup>g</sup> at the Post for all the Provisions public stores &c. & deliver a duplicate to Col. Smith.—The present Command<sup>g</sup> Officer will likewise in the first instance deliver to him the Papers relative to the Command of the Post—After the next relief Col. Smith will regularly report to Head Quarters—

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#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLONEL WEBB.

At a meeting of the Officers of the — Connecticut Regiment, Nov. 22<sup>d</sup> 1782, agreeable to the request of Brigadier-General [Jedidiah] Huntington in the Orders of the 20th Instant, they came to the Election of an Officer to represent them in a Convention to be held at West Point on Sunday the 24th Instant, for the purpose of devising some mode for the Redress of the many Grievances, under which the Army now Labour, when Colonel Samuel B. Webb was Unanimously chosen for the purpose. We are therefore at the request and in behalf of the S<sup>d</sup> Officers earnestly to request his attendance accordingly—

To enter into a minute and particular detail of the many and almost intolerable Grievances through which the Citizens of America in the Field, have struggled, and under which they now groan, must give pain to the mind of sensibility, and call up a train of reflections, upon the suppression of which our happiness depends, and as they must be fresh in the mind of every Officer, the Attempt would be superfluous.

Notwithstanding we are fully impressed with the Idea, that our Necessities call for the most immediate and effectual relief, yet we wish that our Conduct on this Occasion may not be marked with an Intemperate Zeal, and as the Army have exhibited to the World the most Astonishing Spectacle of *persevering Patriotism* and *Virtue in distress* we wish not at this late Period, when our troubles appear Verging to a happy termination to cast a shade upon that fame, which we hold equally dear with our Lives, but that our Conduct may be dictated in prudence, and supported with firmness.

Colonel Webb will be pleased after meeting s<sup>d</sup> Convention and Agreeing upon some mode of Redress, or Adopting some system to be pursued, to make report of the same, for the Approbation of the Regiment as soon as may be.

For and in behalf of the Officers of Colonel S. B. Webb's Regt.

STEP<sup>n</sup> BETTS Cap<sup>t</sup>

HEZ<sup>h</sup> ROGERS Cap<sup>t</sup>

NATHAN BEERS, Lieut<sup>t</sup>

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL TILGHMAN.

HEAD QUARTERS, 26 Novem. 1782.

DEAR SIR :

I have your favor of yesterday, I am of opinion that your informants deceive you as to an embarkation of any consequence of the foreign troops. I believe three or four Reg<sup>ts</sup> of British are certainly under orders.

Our Finances are not equal to the demands of those persons who are obliged to reside within the Lines. You must therefore endeavour to make your intelligencers content with the little matter they make by going backward and forward with small Articles.

The General has nothing just now but to ascertain the sailing of the Fleet and what number of Troops go with it.

I am, Y<sup>rs</sup> sincerely

T. TILGHMAN.

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FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON.

HEAD QUARTERS, Dec<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1782.

DEAR SIR :

You will be pleased to order two complete Comp<sup>ys</sup> of Light In

fantry, to March on tuesday the 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> to *Bedford* to assist in covering a Foraging Party, they will remain at that place, untill they receive orders from Maj<sup>r</sup>: Talmadge, who has directions for the purpose;—the men that are detached on [this ser]vice should have 3 or [4 da]ys provision; and I think it will be best to send the two Companies who are stationed near the Croton—as The Corps of Light Infantry will be relieved, some time the latter part of this week—

I am D<sup>r</sup>: Sir

Your Most obed<sup>t</sup>: Serv<sup>t</sup>:

G<sup>o</sup>: WASHINGTON.

P. S. it will not be necessary for the Major of the Battalion which is on duty to go to Bedford with the two Companies.

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TO MAJOR-GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON.

WEST POINT, Dec<sup>r</sup>: 2<sup>d</sup>, 1782.

DEAR SIR:

In behalf of Col<sup>o</sup>: Swift and myself & in the Name of the Officers of the Regiment we respectively Command, I this day waited on His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup>: Washington on the subject of Numbering the Regiments—I expressed to him my own and the united Sentiments of the Officers of the two Regiments, that they ought upon every principle to be numbered according to the Rank of their Commanding Officers—and asserted that it was agreeable to the principles adopted in the Derangement of 1780, and that it was a matter fully assented to by all the Field Officers of the former five Regiments on the day we were to, & did determine, What Field Officer should continue in Service. After some conversation on the subject—his Excellency told me it was a matter of perfect indifference to him how they were Numbered; and desired me to present you his Compliments and request you would have the mat-

ter Determined in the Line—and finally if we could Not determine With you, the matter must be fully Represented to him in writing by both parties—Your Brother Lieu<sup>t</sup>. -Col<sup>o</sup>. Huntington was the Man who first proposed the mode of Numbering the Regiments the day above alluded too. Col<sup>o</sup>. Swift, Butler, & my self one and all replied it was agreeable to the principle fixed on in the year 1780, and all the Field Officers present either said, or agreed to the principle—No objections in any one instance being made, I am therefor to request a meeting may be had of the Officers generally (if possible) before Col<sup>o</sup>. Swift leaves Camp, and with your voice determine this (I conceive important) point,—which at present makes the Officers very Dissatisfied.

With real Esteem I am, Dear Sir, Y<sup>r</sup>. friend &  
Obed<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>. SAM<sup>l</sup>. B. WEBB.

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL KNOX TO COL. SWIFT.

[WEST POINT], Friday, 6 Dec., 1782.

DEAR SIR:

The General Committee are requested to meet at Norton's Tavern to sign the address and take the last steps respecting its being forwarded to Congress. Will you please to inform Colonel Webb. We shall go from hence about ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

I am, Dear Sir, your obe<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

H. KNOX.

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FROM CAPTAIN CARLILE.

LT. INFANTRY CAMP, SATURDAY MORNING  
CONTINENTAL VILLAGE, 7 Dec<sup>r</sup>, 1782.

DEAR COLONEL:

I cannot take leave of you, without expressing the high sense I

have of your attention and Politeness to me while acting under your Command.

Nothing can add to the happiness I have had with you during the campaign but your testimony of your having discharged the duties of my office to your satisfaction. Be assured my Dear Colonel that I esteem you, and shall with your Permission enroll you among the number of my Dearest friends.

As I ever regard the recommendation of my friend as an obligation which I am bound to fulfill, I must beg that, if my conduct whilst in the field has been satisfactory to you, that you will take occasion to mention it to my friend General [Edward] Hand.

Wishing you every species of happiness which the field of Glory, or the tranquility of a domestic life can afford, I beg leave to subscribe myself, Dear Colonel, your affectionate Friend and very Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>:

J[OHN] CARLILE

Please to make my compliments acceptable to Cap<sup>t</sup>. J. Webb.

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FROM COLONELS SWIFT AND WEBB TO GENERAL  
WASHINGTON.

WEST POINT, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1782.

It is with pain we are obliged to trouble your Excellency on the subject of numbering the Regiments, had the principles which we adopted in 1780 which has ever given general satisfaction—and the agreement made by all the Field Officers on the first of November last when we met to make the derangement, been adhered to by Col<sup>o</sup> Butler, we should not at this time had cause to address your Excellency. General Huntington knows and acknowledges that two Thirds of the Officers of the Line are for continuing the principle, he is likewise fully acquainted with the agreement made by the Field Officers on the first of November last, and we presume to add that it ever has been fully his sentiment that the principle was a just one,—one which he approved of and knows has given perfect satisfaction in the Line,—he likewise knows to deviate from it at this time will cause the greatest uneasiness with Two Thirds of the Officers of

the Line,—he prefers the dispute being refer'd to your Excellency — though we conceive it a business which ought to be determined as formerly by an agreement of a Majority of the Line.

We think it necessary to be particular in informing your Excellency that when the reform of 1780 took place The Field Officers met and agreed that the Regiments should be numbered agreeable according to the Rank of their Colonels or Commanding Officers, this mode was approved of by General Parsons and declared in Division Orders,—had other principles been adopted, the late 5<sup>th</sup> was and might have continued the 1<sup>st</sup>—in this situation we have since continued in perfect harmony,—at our meeting last November, when every Field Officer of the Five Regiments was present it was agreed, (prior to our determining who were to retire & who to continue in Service) that the Three Regiments when formed should be numbered according to the Rank of the Commanding Officers,—and we are surprized to find those Gentlemen who were most forward in establishing and renewing this agreement should be the only ones, to request a deviation. Had no principle ever been established before, we conceive this was sufficiently binding, but more so when it was continuing a principle which had been solemnly established Two Years since. We take the liberty of enclosing to your Excellency our letter to General Huntington on the subject, and one wrote Col<sup>o</sup> Butler of this days date, notifying him of this our application, that he or in his absence the commanding Officer of his Regiment may offer reasons (if any they have) why our request should not be complied with. We beg leave to assure your Excellency we should not trouble you on this occasion, were it possible we could have justice done Us in any other way, and were we not fully sensible that the happiness of a large Majority of the Line, and the good of service required, a continuation of the Principles agreed upon.

With perfect Sentiments of Esteem we are for ourselves and the officers of our respective Regiments

Your Excellency's

Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Servants

HEMAN SWIFT.

SAM<sup>l</sup> B. WEBB.



At a meeting of the Commanding Officers of the <sup>Command:</sup> Regiments present Col. Webb, Col. Butler & Lt. Col. Johnson, on the subject of having a uniformity in the Line,

Agreed that the Coat shall be of a common length reaching near ~~to~~ down to the Knee band, - that ~~the~~ four Buttons be on the Cuff, Pocket flaps & folds, - that the Cuffs be round and the Buttons on the Cuffs, - for the convenience of Officers the Cuff is to be open the under side at least three inches, - <sup>and hooked</sup> these Officers that choose it can do the same, - the Coat is not to be lapped in the rear of the centre of the folds, but made to hook up at the corners, the facings, Cuffs & Capes to be of the usual length & width, with ten Buttons on the facings, - the Soldier's facings to lap only sufficient to cover the edge of the Cape, - the Officers to Lap about four inches on the Cape,

Leather Hatto uniformly bound <sup>with white & cocked</sup> if the binding can be obtained

West Point 19<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1781

arr. W. Webb Col. 3<sup>d</sup> Regt. -  
Jeb: Butler Col. 1<sup>st</sup> Col. Regt.  
J. Johnson Lt. Col. 2<sup>d</sup> Regt.



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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL M<sup>C</sup> DOUGALL.

R. HOUSE, 15 December, 1782.

D<sup>R</sup> SIR:

I received your note this Evening by David Gardner, and am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken to furnish me with a Lad for my Journey. I can with great truth assure you I had no suspicion of your wanting inclination to serve me; but I know officers in general are reluctant to part with their men, and this induced me to conclude they might not be as particular in their reports to you of the Qualities of the men as I wished.

David Gar[d]ner must do, as my time will not now admit of other arrangements. Please to cause him to return with his Cloaths as soon as he can. His assistance will be wanted tomorrow, whenever he can return. I am obliged to you for the information respecting Hector Williams, but for the reason above mentioned, I shall not make the application. I expect we shall set off on Tuesday morning, if the weather is fair. I know of nothing that can detain me; but the shoeing of my Horses. I wrote General Knox yesterday by Cap<sup>t</sup> Frothingham of the train, to know whether the Commander-in Chief had been applied to for his permission to the Committee to go to Phil<sup>a</sup>—But not hearing from him to day, I suspect the note has miscarried. Will you be so kind as to know of him whether he received that note? and if he has to drop me his answer.

I am, D<sup>r</sup> Sir, with great regard, your affec<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

ALEX M<sup>C</sup> DOUGALL.\*

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ARRANGEMENT OF REGIMENTS.

[MURDERER'S CREEK, 19 December, 1782.]

On the 1<sup>t</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> last by order of Gen<sup>l</sup> Huntington the Field officers of the five Connec<sup>t</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup> met to determine which of them were to continue in service after agreeing to a mode to proceed in.

L<sup>t</sup> Colonel Huntington requested the number<sup>s</sup> of Reg<sup>ts</sup> might be determined on prior to our writing our names and proposed that they should be 1. 2. 3 according to the Rank of their commanding Officers,—to which Col<sup>l</sup> Swift replied (then holding the Pen in his

\* McDougall wanted a waiter to accompany him to Philadelphia.

hand) that it was agreeable to the principles established in the Line and from which he imagined no one would think of deviateing,—Col<sup>o</sup> Webb and several others spoke to the same purpose, whether every one present absolutely said Yes is not material, the greater part however did—and several added, that principle was established by the general voice of the Line in 1780.

And we do positively declare that not a officer present made the least objection to the principle, but assented to it, nor did we ever know any attempt to introduce the principle now pressed by Col<sup>o</sup> Butler untill 12 or 14 days after when Colonels Butler, Swift & Webb were making out a report to General Huntington in which we annexed the number of regiments. Colonel Butler said he would sign no paper by which it could appear that he was the cause of haveing the number of the Regiment he then commanded, altered,—could it have been supposed by us that a dispute of this kind would have arose after this our agreement, & which was agreeable to the principles on which the Line was formed, we should undoubtedly had it made in writing—for with confidence we presume to say had a matter of that kind been proposed it would have been agreed to, unless it had been acknowledged that an agreement made in that way was equally binding as though it had all our Signatures to it. present

Col <sup>os</sup>	Majors	L <sup>t</sup> Colonels
[Heman] Swift	[David] Smith	[Jonathan] Johnson
[Samuel B.] Webb	[Benjamin] Throop	[Ebenezer] Huntington
[Zebulon] Butler	[John P.] Wyllys	[Ebenezer] Gray.
L <sup>t</sup> Col <sup>o</sup> Com <sup>o</sup> [Isaac] Sherman	[Wills] Clift	
[Thomas] Grosvenor	[Joseph A.] Wright	
	[Robert] Warner	

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FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SMITH.

DOBB'S FERRY, 25th Dec'r, 1782.

MY D'R WEBB:

You are too well assured of my friendship to attribute my silence to anything that can be injurious to the sentiment upon which it is founded. The true reason is, that I am so pressed, Front, Flank & Rear, with official business, that my pen is constantly employed. I have not since I saw you, had the least intermission, but have been

confined almost as closely as Mars, that Harsh murdering deity of war, as I formerly was by the God of Love, who assisted by his mother, spread the silken net with an enchanting grace, & proved more successful in his capture than I believe his intentions were entitled to. However the Little Villain being almost conquered, I have re-enlisted under the banners of Mars, & shall continue his faithful soldier as long as he keeps them displayed.

Under whose shadow should I conquer or prove  
I'll rest—Superior to the arts of Love.

I find myself running into such a singular train of thought and expression, that I must check myself in pursuing the Labyrinth; I shall not only involve myself, but lead my friend into difficulties from which we may have trouble in extricating ourselves. Therefore, altering my phraseology, I shall in as plain terms as the English language will at present furnish me with

what I intended *ab origine, Imprimis*—damn it, here creeps in Latin, what will you expect next? I think I hear you say with the sprightly Frenchman—*Vive la Lafayette*—well, agreed. For it affords them much mirth & as allies, what makes them laugh should at least in us produce a grin.

I will, however, attempt to inform you of that which I intended when I sat down should be the subject of this Letter. It is that the prospect of accompanying you to Connecticut has vanished. I have expressed a wish to the Gen'l to be relieved, but he strokes my back with the idea of command, &c., and thinks I had better stay, to which you know I must submit. Inclosed is a letter for Dady. If you visit our friends shake the males by the hand, salute the females for me with your usual delicacy, and tell them it is the present I send accompanied with the compliments of the season.

I am, D'r Sam, Your friend,  
[WILLIAM STEPHEN] SMITH,  
A. D. C.

\* From the *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb*, 279.

END OF VOLUME II.









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