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PUBLIC PAPERS

OF

GEORGE CLINTON

FIRST GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

1777-1795—1801-1804.

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VOLUME VII.

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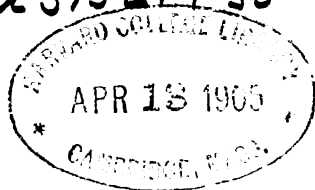
PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

AS APPENDIX "N," THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE HISTORIAN.

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ALBANY  
OLIVER A. QUAYLE  
STATE LEGISLATIVE PRINTER  
1904

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## PREFACE TO VOLUME VII.

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This volume of the Public Papers of George Clinton covers the period from June 1, 1781 to January 1, 1782. With it ends the Revolutionary series. The seven months included represent the gloomiest and at the same time the most glorious of the war. Strategically New York was the pivot of the Confederation; the Hudson river, as it were, the Keystone of the arch that held New England to the Southern States. Had the British obtained possession of this important stream, a separation of New York and New England from the rest of the States would have been inevitable.

Washington's policy from the outset contemplated the protection and possession of the Hudson, for in this success the solidification of Confederated interests was certain regardless of local prejudices and local dissensions. Washington for a long time had under consideration a movement against New York City. His interview with Rochambeau at Hartford in September, 1780, had that object in view, but his plan was upset primarily through Arnold's treason. Washington, however, never relinquished his pet idea in spite of many discouraging obstacles. In the following May (twenty-second, 1781) he repaired to Weathersfield, Connecticut, to meet Rochambeau again. It was then decided that the troops of France and America should form a junction on the east bank of the Hudson near Dobbs Ferry, move down in the vicinity of New York and be ready to take advantage of any opportunity which the

weakness of the enemy might present. At no period of the war was the possession of the State of New York more essential to the success of the American cause. Her long border line was a short range target for predatory parties of Tories and Indians and a wearing source of anxiety to Governor Clinton. Marauding expeditions dashed along or across the frontier of Tryon, of Schoharie and of Ulster and kept the exposed settlers in a state of feverish alarm. The Vermont question was far from settled and vibrated toward civil war, open treason to the United States and alliance with Great Britain. Battalions were not up to within fifty per cent of their required strength. Appeals from Washington, from Congress and from legislatures were unavailing. Washington himself complains of certain States that refuse to recruit their organizations to their full complement for the defence of their own lines but rely upon him to furnish detachments from his disintegrated command. The staff organization of the Continental Army had practically fallen to pieces. The words most frequently encountered in the following pages relate to requisitions, supplies, forage and funds; and requisitions for supplies and forage were worthless because of the deplorable scarcity of funds. As Washington spurs Congress to arouse the States to the necessity of raising troops, so does Robert Morris attempt to put under way the machinery to raise money. Up to February, 1781, Congress had undertaken no experiment to produce a revenue adequate to meet current expenses. The cost of the war averaged twenty millions of dollars annually. No plan had been devised to fund the National debt. The ruinous expedient of issuing loan office certificates had been followed until the National debt had reached appalling proportions, until public credit was practi-

cally exterminated and the troops were driven to the point of mutiny. The condition of affairs was deplorable and the outlook discouraging in the extreme.\*

When the tide was at the lowest ebb, Washington made that audacious and masterly change of front, that completely deceived his adversary and stamps him as one of the grandest

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\*The Battles of Kingsbridge.—It is a fact worthy of note, that in every engagement fought in the vicinity of old New York during the Revolutionary War, the so-called Hessians were always in evidence, from the day they landed on Long Island, one week after their embarkation from the transports that brought them from the Faderland, to the final affair at Kingsbridge in 1781. In spite of the condemnation that the Hessians, who were sold, and the English, who bargained, have been subjected to for more than a century and a quarter, the fact remains that these German hirelings were excellent as any troops in Europe. From a purely physical and financial consideration, the country who delivered and the country who accepted them, are beyond criticism, because both were actuated by the best of economical reasons—the German authorities had the troops to sell, the British had the money to buy. The former desired cash, the latter found it more expedient to negotiate for hirelings than to depopulate its restricted districts. Neither saw anything disgraceful in the transaction. As early as Edward the Third's time the English Army was raised by contract. The military system was an expensive one, and the men of influence and rank who maintained it found it profitable, for they received blood money for every soldier, according to his station and the arms he bore.

In 1775 the Parliament convened unusually early because of the "revolt, hostility and rebellion" of the Americans. Lord Mayor John Wilkes, the common disturber, had started an agitation that was troublous in the beginning and developed into turbulence the longer it was maintained. He drafted petitions to the King which abounded with inflammatory arguments and with phrases that bordered on the seditious; which perceived a real design to establish autocratic authority over all America and to uproot and destroy the constitution, a charge that subsequently was made in the House of Commons by Charles James Fox. Upon receiving an unsatisfactory reply from the King, Wilkes clamored for the impeachment of the evil counsellors who had planted popery and arbitrary power in America. Other addresses and petitions began to roll in on the King, especially when the new ministerial policy was divulged, of raising foreign troops for the British Army and under British pay, a policy that was generally regarded with horror and indignation. It was under conditions such as these, that George III. delivered from the throne the memorable 26th of October speech. "The rebellious war now levied," he observed, "is become more general and is manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent Empire." It was the part of wisdom and of clemency to put an end to those disorders by decisive action; and for this purpose he had increased his naval establishment and greatly augmented his land forces, yet in such a manner as to be least expensive or burdensome to his Kingdom. The opposition in the Commons and the House of Lords was up in arms in an instant. The debates were most sensational. The Cabinet Ministers were denounced for having reduced their sovereign to the most disgraceful and humiliating condition, and the King was condemned for suggesting the necessity of bringing over a host of mercenaries to compose a standing army. The greatest sensation, however, occurred in the Upper House, where the Duke of Grafton, the lord privy seal, made the startling declaration that he had been deceived and misled upon the whole American subject, and that ministers by withholding information and misrepresenting facts had induced him to lend his countenance to measures he never approved.

Disappointed in securing 20,000 minions from Russia in the summer and early fall of 1775, England made overtures to the German rulers, whose lands were poor,

characters and greatest generals in history. Abandoning his confirmed judgment to advance on New York, he lifted his army across the Hudson and by several clever feints—such as marking out ground for an extensive encampment in New Jersey, by erecting bake ovens at Chatham, and by decoy letters that conveniently fell into the British commander's hands—had trav-

whose resources were limited, whose taxes were high and whose treasury was always low. As experts in the art of parcelling out troops to neighboring powers, the German princes occupied an advanced and isolated position. They had been at it for nearly a hundred years without inspiring a reputation for partiality. As far back as 1687 one of the landgraves rented a thousand troops to the Venetians who were fighting the Turks. But since Queen Anne's time, when nine thousand Hessians were sold as so many cattle, to the Maritime Powers, the German rulers had been steadily raising the tariff in their degrading and infamous speciality. England had been their steadiest, commonest and most profitable customer. At the battle of Dettingen the Hessians were evenly represented as hirelings, six thousand serving under the standard of George II, of England and six thousand under the German Emperor, Charles VII.

February 29, 1776, the treaties that had been entered into with the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, the Duke of Brunswick and the Hereditary Prince of Hesse Darmstadt for the renting of troops for service in America, were laid before the House of Commons. An acrimonious debate ensued, a debate that was intensified in bitterness when the abasing conditions were made known; when the Ministers reluctantly admitted that the proposition was no novelty, as England had been in the custom at all times to employ foreigners in her wars, and that the terms were such as the princes had prescribed and necessity compelled the ministers to accept. The troops were secured at immoderately high prices. Thus each soldier was given nearly seven pounds, five shillings, and the princes who leased them were to receive extravagant subsidies—the Duke of Brunswick annually £15,519 for 4,000 slaves; the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, £10,817 per annum for 10,000 slaves; the Hereditary Prince of Hesse, who made the best terms, the handsome award of £6,000 for 688. In all, six princes were involved in this degrading business from the beginning to the end of the war; more than 18,000 troops sailed for America in 1776; nearly 30,000 in all were brought over before the war closed, of whom more than 12,000, it is estimated, never returned to the land of their birth. It was the Prince, not the soldier, who received the blood money that went with the transaction, and it is not surprising, in view of all the facts, that so conservative a man as the Duke of Richmond should, on the floor of the House of Lords, stigmatize the proceedings as a "downright mercenary bargain," and the victims as "hirelings who were bought and sold like so many beasts for slaughter." The exact amount which the German princes received from England has never been learned, but the aggregate has been estimated at £1,750,000, including pay and excluding the cost of recruiting and equipment.

For the Americans the Hessians entertained the most thorough contempt. They regarded them as rebels pure and simple, and as such treated them. At the battle of Brooklyn, where they met for the first time no quarter was asked or given, and the Americans who were taken prisoners were humiliated by personal chastisement at the hands of the victors. It was the Hessians who captured the Earl of Stirling and John Sullivan. Both were grossly insulted by their captors. Colonel Van Heeringen, who commanded a Hessian regiment, writes: "John Sullivan was a lawyer and previously a domestic servant, but a man of genius whom the rebels will much regret. Among the prisoners are many so-called colonels, Lieutenant colonels, majors and other officers, who, however, are nothing but mechanics, tailors, shoemakers, wigmakers, barbers, etc. Some of them were soundly beaten by our people who would by no means let such persons pass for officers. Sullivan was

ersed the State of New Jersey before Sir Henry Clinton awakened to the realization that the objective of the American army was not Staten Island or New York City, but the South. Washington had decided to proceed to Chesapeake Bay and cooperate with the French naval forces under DeGrasse, who had sailed for that point from San Domingo, with twenty-five or thirty

brought to me. I had him searched and found the original orders of General Washington on him." "Among the officers taken I did not find one who had been in foreign service. They are nothing but rebels and citizens settled here. Tallor Graul would play a considerable part here." And again: "My Lord Stirling himself is only an *echappe de famille*, and does not pass for a lord in England. He looks as much like my Lord Granby as one egg does like another. General Putnam is a butcher by profession. I imagine him to be like Butcher Fischer at Rinteln." So much for Von Heeringen, the subsidized, complacently condemning patriots fighting for the liberty which was the pride and glory of his ancestors, and utterly dead to the degradation and infamy of his own position as a hireling and a military slave.

In spite of the devastating fire which swept the city upon the retirement of our army, New York must have struck the British and the Hessians with its picturesqueness and beauty. An officer who arrived with the German reinforcements in the summer of 1777 has this to say of it: "I cannot help saying that it is a beautiful, pleasant and level country, and New York, although the part nearest the sea is burned down, one of the finest and most pleasing seaports that I have yet seen. For the houses are not only all built in English fashion, regular and handsome, and most of them like palaces, but are also papered and very expensively furnished. It is, therefore, a pity that this country, which is also very fruitful, is inhabited by such wretches, who, in their luxury and wantonness, have not known what to do with themselves and who have only their pride to thank for their fall. Every one at home who takes their side and thinks they had a reasonable ground for rebellion, should, for a punishment, live awhile among them, and so understand the condition of things here (for the worst man here, if he will only do something can live like the richest at home). Whoever would do this would soon change his tone, and understand that not poverty, but crime and luxury, are the cause of the whole rebellion. For although most of them are descended from runaway vagabonds who were driven out from their places, yet they are so arrogant, and live in such state in all parts of the country, and especially in New York, as I hardly believe to be practiced anywhere else in the world. For instance, the women who are almost all handsome, be they the wives of shoemakers, tailors, or day-laborers (which last, however, are but few, for every soul here has a few black slaves to wait on him),"—it was the Dutch it must be remembered who first brought the African slave to our shores—"go daily in mantles of silk or muslin. This luxury increases daily, for they receive much money from the troops and do not have to give as much as a grain of salt for nothing. Nothing is indeed, more annoying than that people who after all are no more than rebels must, by express order of the King, be treated by the soldiers with the greatest politeness; and as I said above, not a grain of salt can be demanded of them gratis. So the poor soldiers would have to die of hunger, if they did not receive three pence worth of ship's provisions every day, consisting of a pound of biscuit, salt pork hardly fit to eat, a few mouldy beans, a little oatmeal, and a little rum; or which they must live, though many of them lose their health."

Before the battle of Brooklyn, the northern end of New York had been fortified. Some of the works were strongly, others crudely constructed. The American engineers had performed their duties as well as the material they had at hand afforded. The material was mostly militia, and at this early stage of the war, it must be confessed, the militia inspired anything but confidence in their commanding



ships of the line, August 3d. The American army crossed the Hudson at Kings Ferry, August 21; the French army under Rochambeau, on the 22d. That day Cornwallis took possession of Yorktown.

Nor was the protection of New York overlooked in the general plan of the American commander in chief. No one better than

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officers. When General Howe took possession of New York, as a wise, if not energetic commander, he stationed but a few troops in the town, his main encampment having been established six miles north of the city, within gun shot distance of Washington's. Howe's right was at Horen's Hook on the East river; thence his line ran for two miles across the island; his left lay at Bloomingdale and the North river. Both flanks were protected by men of war. The nearest American post was the entrenched post at Harlem Heights; the strongest American point was at Kingsbridge, which had been well fortified on both sides. McGowans Pass and Morris Heights were held in force and susceptible of being defended against superior numbers. Fort Lee on the west bank of the Hudson and Fort Washington on the east were the most formidable of the American works, the latter commanding a position that was regarded as unassailable if not impregnable. A harmless *chevaux-de-frise* had been sunk in the channel of the Hudson between Forts Lee and Washington. At the proper time the British frigates swept through it as if it were cobwebs. Unwilling to attack the American position in front or by the flank, Howe undertook the clever movement of gaining the rear of the American forces, thus compelling Washington to abandon his fortified camp and meet the British general on his own chosen ground and upon terms of his own selection. In this plan developed the movement of the British general from New York through Hell Gate to Throggs Neck, Pelham Manor and New Rochelle, where Howe established headquarters, while Washington occupied the Heights between the Sound and the North river. The general officers of the American Army had in the meantime decided their position untenable. It was, however, deemed advisable to hold Fort Washington as long as possible. Accordingly the army moved up the North river, the right or rear division under General Charles Lee, who had urged the change of base with much vehemence, remaining for a few days at Kingsbridge in order to bring away the supplies, baggage and other impedimenta. The American front extended twelve or thirteen miles, from Valentines Hill near Kingsbridge to White Plains. The two hostile armies were separated by the Bronx. The policies of the two commanding generals were totally different. Washington wished to risk nothing more serious than skirmishes while Howe skilfully maneuvered for a general engagement. He hoped for a victory that would utterly destroy the American army, which was known in both armies to be upon the point of dissolution from sheer demoralization. Several clashes had already occurred between the Americans and the Hessians. September 16th a small party of Americans boldly attacked the British left on the Kingsbridge road, which was held by Colonel Donop. This promised to develop into a very lively affair had not the Hessian reserves hurried to the assistance of their colleagues, when the Americans retired.

November 8, 1776, a small detachment of Colonel Hand's Pennsylvania riflemen handsomely hoodwinked the Hessians who held high ground between Mount Washington and the Kingsbridge road. The Americans rushed the eminence where the Hessian yagers had established a post, and by a clever subterfuge captured and burned the huts upon it and escaped before reinforcements could arrive.

Bitterly indeed were the Hessians to pay for the insults, indignities and brutalities they had inflicted upon the Americans. The one word "Trenton" obliterated forever from their vocabulary the contempt which they had always entertained toward them, and created in its stead a chastening respect which they never forgot. With the main body of the British army cantoned in New Jersey and a strong force holding Rhode Island, General Washington logically reasoned that a dash on New

he realized that by the withdrawal of the Continental forces, this State was exposed to the gravest peril. An energetic and ambitious British general, with an army of eleven thousand men as Clinton commanded in New York, could well afford to seize the opportunity so temptingly exposed before him. But Sir Henry Clinton, like Sir William Howe and Burgoyne, preferred

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York might produce memorable results. Through the efforts of Governor Clinton an army of respectable numbers had been assembled at Peekskill. Orders were despatched to General Heath to advance toward New York under the guise of foraging, and, should opportunity justify the hazard, to attack the forts which guarded Manhattan island at its northern extremity. Washington had several purposes in view in ordering this movement. Howe might be driven to withdraw his troops from New Jersey and effect a concentration with those in New York or vice versa. Washington notified Heath that he would draw the force on the west bank of the North river together at Morristown, where he would await the movements of the enemy and avail himself of every circumstance. The commander-in-chief directed Heath to act with great precaution, but to take advantage of every favorable opportunity of attacking the enemy consistent with prudence and safety. The clear military mind of the commander-in-chief saw the possibilities, but the possibilities could only be attained by the success of the movement. Heath's expedition was monstrously unsuccessful. His command consisted wholly of militia, many of whom had been summarily forced to the front. It advanced in three divisions, each under the command of a general officer. The first or right division, General Lincoln's, approached from Tarrytown down the Hudson river by way of the old Albany post road; the second or center division, under General John Morin Scott, the turbulent lawyer warrior, approached by way of White Plains; the third, the left division, under Generals Wooster and Parsons, came in from New Rochelle and East Chester. The conjunction of the three commands was consummated with excellent judgment, for they all approached the enemy's outposts comparatively at the same time, shortly before sunrise on the morning of the 17th: (Heath's Memoirs gives the date as the 18th) General Lincoln's on the heights above Colonel Van Cortlandt's; Wooster's at Williams's; and Scott's in the rear of Valentine's. What followed is best told in General Heath's Memoirs:

"Our General, who moved with the center division, knew that Valentine's house was the quarters of one of the guards; he did not know but it might be defended; as he approached it, he ordered Capt. Lieutenant Bryant to advance a field piece to the advance guards, and if there was any opposition from the house, to cannonade it immediately. He then ordered two hundred and fifty men from the head of the column (as it was moving on) to incline to the right, and by a double step to push into the hollow, between the house and the fort, to cut off the guard who were at the house, in case they should run towards the latter. At this instant two light horsemen, who had been sent out by the enemy as the day broke to reconnoitre the vicinity, came unexpectedly, at the descent of a hill, plump upon the head of Wooster's column. They attempted to turn about, but before it could be fully effected, a field piece was discharged at them; one of them was pitched from his horse and taken prisoner, the other galloped back to the fort, halloing as he passed, 'The rebels! The rebels!' This set all the outguards and pickets running to the fort, leaving in some places their arms, blankets, tools, provisions, etc., behind them. Those who fled from Valentine's and the Negro fort were fired at as they ran, but none were killed; one, who could not run so fast as the rest, was taken prisoner. Ten muskets were taken at Valentine's house. The guard above Van Cortlandt's was as completely surprised as the others, where General Lincoln took about forty arms, some blankets, etc., etc. Then the left and center divisions moved into the hollow between Valentine's house and the fort, whereupon General Heath summoned the garrison to surrender in the following bombastic language:

the society of abandoned women, to the possibilities of achieving a decisive victory over enemies in the field.

The English commander contented himself by despatching Arnold on an expedition of destruction up the Sound in the hope of distracting Washington's army and of forcing him to return to the banks of the Hudson. Arnold exalted his infamy by the

"Twenty minutes only can be allowed for the garrison to give their answer, and should it be in the negative they must abide the consequences." The garrison treated the demand with silent contempt. Continuing the Memoirs state:

"A detachment with two field pieces was ordered to move to the south of the fort to a hill above Harlem Creek, not far from the New Bridge. When the detachment arrived at this place, a battalion of Hessians appeared drawn up on the side of the hill, just within Kingsbridge and back of Hyatt's tavern. Our general ordered the artillery to cannonade them immediately. The first shot just cleared the right of the battalion, nearly a platoon settling down as the shot passed them, which entered the bank close behind them. The second shot passed about the centre of the battalion. One of the pieces was ordered to be drawn lower down the hill; on which the battalion quitted their ground, and marched off as fast as they could without running, to get behind the redoubt and hill at the bridge, receiving one shot more as they were turning round the point. It was not suspected that the enemy had any cannon in the redoubt within the bridge, but they now began to cannonade the artillerymen who had descended the hill, who had to draw up their piece as fast as possible, which they effected without any loss, but received three or four shots quite among them before they could reach the top of the hill."

Thus skirmishing continued off and on, assisted by heavy cannonading on both sides for several days, and on the 23d what was spoken of as "a small skirmish" occurred just before dusk in the broken ground near the south side of the fort, where an ensign and one man belonging to the New York militia were killed and five wounded. The loss of the enemy was unknown.

Matters continued in the same inconclusive way, with exchange of shots, rifle and cannon, until the 29th, when, as there was an appearance of a severe snow storm approaching, rumors that a brigade of the British had moved toward Fort Washington, and that orders had been sent to Rhode Island for a detachment to be forwarded to Kingsbridge, a council of war was called. Upon the unanimous judgment of Generals Heath, Lincoln, Wooster, Scott and Ten Broeck, it was declared inadvisable to risk an assault upon the fort because of the inclemency of the weather and the absence of artillery. To save the forage the order was given for the troops to retire: General Lincoln's division to Dobbs Ferry and Tarrytown, General Wooster's to New Rochelle and General Scott's to White Plains. The great expectations aroused over this movement and the doleful failure that attended it exposed it for a time to no end of ridicule, in which the numerous generals who participated in it obtained a share commensurate with their rank.

The British policy of propitiation and concillation, which had been so admirably followed by Howe and Burgoyne both of whom had proven failures as commanders, was abandoned in 1780, and in its stead was substituted robbery, rapine and loot, a duty which was entrusted to Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis, who acted under instructions from Lord Germaine. Expeditions were organized with no other object in view than the destruction of private property, and in all these expeditions the Hessians were energetic and cheerful workers. New Jersey for a year was the principal sufferer from this unwarlike and unmilitary policy.

When the time approached for the French troops to reach the Hudson river, Washington believed the favorable moment had come for him to capture the forts in the vicinity of Kingsbridge by a *coup de main*, his spies having reported that Sir Henry Clinton had detached a large force from his command for an incursion into New Jersey. Washington drew his plans with his usual care. He ordered an aide to

massacre at Fort Griswold and by the burning of New London, but the baleful success of his diversion failed to swerve Washington from his course.

General Heath was left in command of the Northern Department. His instructions were general and elastic. Washington directed that the security of West Point and the posts in the

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repair forthwith with letters to Rochambeau to explain that the night of July 2, 1781, had been selected for the expedition, and to request the French officer to join him at the place and time indicated. As a corollary to the general proposition, Washington expected to cut off a detachment of light troops under the command of Colonel Delancey, stationed on the outside of Kingsbridge, near Morrisania.

On the evening of July 2d the partisan Emmerich had marched out to the Phillipse house. During the night word was sent to Lieut. Col. Van Wurmb that the American army was advancing and that its advance guard had reached Sing Sing. A force of 200 troopers and chasseurs were dispatched at dawn to reconnoitre and to cover Emmerich's retreat. A relay of ten men under a non-commissioned officer was sent forward after passing Kingsbridge to examine the ruins of Fort Independence, which commanded the road and in which the Americans were supposed to have established an outpost. At a little distance a body of men were seen, but in the gray of the morning the sergeant in command imagined he recognized the blue coats and straw-colored trimmings of Van Donop's regiment. He had hardly uttered the words "good morning," when a half dozen men sprang at him, grabbed him by the hair and the straps of his cartridge box, and tried to choke him. He twisted himself out of their hands and escaped yelling "Rebels! Rebels!"

Washington had confidently expected with the aid of his own and the French troops to overcome whatever resistance the enemy might make against him. General Lincoln, who had been placed in command of the detachment selected to attack the works, embarked on the night of the 1st of July at Tellers Point. The oars of his boats were muffled, and he dropped down the river to Dobbs Ferry undiscovered. Here he concealed his men and his boats. Personally reconnoitering, he discovered the works were stronger and the enemy in much greater force than he had expected. To render his position more embarrassing, a British man-of-war had taken station that commanded the landing place selected by the American boats. Comprehending the futility of further operations in this direction, Lincoln relinquished the design of attacking the works and concluded to carry out the alternative orders which had been given him.

The commanding officer of the French detachment, Lausun, had been unable to reach the point agreed upon at the hour selected for the attack. Lincoln, therefore, after landing above Spuyten Duyvil Creek, marched to the high ground in front of Kingsbridge and there concealed his command in a position to intercept the corps of refugees should it attempt to retreat to the island. The return of day gave Lincoln the opportunity to surprise the Germans in the manner indicated above, but at the same time betrayed his own position. The advance guard of the chasseurs was caught at a disadvantage in the pass between the hill on which the fort stood and the Harlem river. The ground was narrow and unfavorable, but Lincoln rushed forward and the Hessians retreated in what threatened to develop into a rout. Having reformed their lines the chasseurs in turn charged. The Americans fell back to the ruins of the fort, and thus allowed the chasseurs time to form on good ground and in good order. Upon reinforcements arriving, the Americans were finally driven from their position and retired, over one thousand feet, to high ground. The Americans held the bridge, however, and Emmerich and his party were cut off from the main force. Finally the entire Hessian command, preceded by cavalry, advanced to clear the bridge, the Americans giving ground stubbornly. Wurmb, from the movements of the Americans, suspected danger of an ambushade. He halted his command and reported to headquarters for orders. Later in the day the American

Highlands should be considered the first object of his attention; that the protection of the northern and western frontiers of the State of New York, "as well as of those parts of that and other States most contiguous" exposed to the ravages and depredations of the enemy was essential; that "the most eligible position" for his troops was the North side of the Croton river, which offered equal advantages for the support of West Point as in covering the country, annoying the enemy and for the comfort of the men.

While Washington's troops are on the border line of mutiny, Governor Clinton is encountering equally distressing and serious experiences. General Stark at Albany is suffering "embarrassments" that "are almost intolerable." He has not a single grain of forage, and can procure none; all he has received in a month has been "a little swamp hay." Daily the frontier calls on him for provisions, but he is powerless, because the quartermaster "has no money to hire teams and no authority to impress them"—and "Major Shurtliff who will have the honor of delivering this, can enumerate many difficulties that I have not mentioned."

Rumors are rampant that an English emissary from Canada was working through the American lines via Albany to New York; that the Tories proposed to destroy Albany; that an

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army advanced again and took possession of Valentines Hill, extending their lines from Cortland's Reach to Spuyten Duyvil. The next day the American troops fell back to Dobbs Ferry. Here Count Rochambeau arrived on the 6th of July.

The Hessian loss in the engagement amounted to thirty men killed and wounded. While Washington was disappointed in not securing the strong posts on Manhattan Island, he still held tenaciously to the intention to obtain them finally by siege. But early in August information reached him that convinced him that more prodigious achievements could be gained for the cause by a sudden movement of his army in Virginia, joining forces with the French and annihilating Cornwallis. How masterly his transfer of the army was accomplished, and how brilliantly the operations were conducted, is blazoned in undying letters on the reputation he has left to us and on the history of this country.—A paper read by Mr. Hugh Hastings before the Sons of the Revolution at Delmonico's, New York City, 17th January, 1902.

attack was meditated upon either Albany or Schenectady by Sir John Johnson. In fact until the first week of November, 1781, when the fact of Cornwallis' surrender was well established as far as Canada, New York was in an incessantly agitated and unsettled state from Peekskill to Saratoga, because of reports of a destructive nature from an ordinary raid to a full fledged invasion from Canada.

With the downfall of Cornwallis, came the natural hope that hostilities were at end for good and all. But with the convention articles signed at Yorktown, and the British prisoners disposed of, Washington placed all the troops that returned to the North under command of General Lincoln, who distributed them for the winter as follows: the New Jersey troops near Morristown; the two New York regiments under James Clinton at Pompton; the Connecticut troops in the Highlands of the Hudson, in the huts they constructed the year before. The Rhode Island troops were brigaded with the Connecticut; two Massachusetts brigades were stationed at West Point, one was placed near the south redoubt on the East side of the river; the artillery was parked at West Point. Scouting parties were maintained on the lines South of Crompond and Bedford.

Both Congress and the New York legislature proceeded on the lines that warfare would be renewed in the spring and made preparations accordingly for men, clothing and supplies. Washington believed in taking "the most vigorous and effectual measures to be ready for an early and decisive campaign." In a letter to Lafayette who was preparing to return to France Washington declared that "the honor and glory of it [the next campaign] to the allied arms in these states must depend absolutely upon the naval force."

As a matter of fact the British people themselves had grown heartily weary of the war. The National debt had swelled to amazing proportions, taxes were becoming more and more oppressive from year to year and the only persons who were profiting from the continuance of hostilities were the King's favorites and the politicians who corruptly shared in war loans with the army contractors. The news of Cornwallis' surrender reached London November 25, 1781, two days before the opening of Parliament. The King's speech from the throne stubbornly declared in favor of maintaining the war, a sentiment which both houses endorsed.

But on February 27, 1782, the old-time friend of America, General Henry Conway, moved in the House of Commons "that it is the opinion of this house that a farther prosecution of offensive war against America would under present circumstances be the means of weakening the efforts of this country against her European enemies and tend to increase the mutual enmity so fatal to the interests both of Great Britain and America." The administration threw the whole weight of its power and resources against this proposition but in the end it was adopted. An address to the King in the words of the resolution was promptly voted. The reply of the King was unsatisfactory and on March 4 the house adopted a resolution which declared "that the house will consider as enemies to his Majesty and the country all those who should advise or attempt a farther prosecution of offensive war on the continent of North America."

With the inevitable change of British ministers came the change of British commanders in New York. Sir Henry Clinton had for a long period desired to be relieved. His wish was now

gratified and Sir Guy Carleton, early in May, 1782, arrived in New York as his successor in command of all the British forces in America. Sir Guy thoroughly understood the temper of the British people and his conduct and policy toward the Americans were marked by friendliness and conciliation. He promptly notified General Washington of the appointment of himself and Admiral Digby as commissioners to conclude a peace and furnished him with printed copies of the resolutions which had been adopted by the House of Commons, and with a copy of a bill which had been introduced on the part of the new administration, authorizing his Majesty to conclude a peace or a truce with those who were still stigmatized as "the revolted colonies of America."

This bill, however, had not become a law up to the time Sir Guy had sailed from England and the Americans were at once distrustful and questioned the sincerity of the whole transaction. They had no reason to believe that the powers of the new commissioners were any different from those of their Staten Island predecessors whose terms had been rejected. Washington was conspicuously skeptical. Although discontent raged in the army, the American commander never lost his self-poise or relaxed his determination to hold his arms firmly in his hands. He had perused the debates with "great attention and care" and regarded the measure as "merely delusory"—"to amuse this country with a false idea of peace, to draw us from our connexion with France and to lull us into a state of security and inactivity." "No nation," he writes, "yet suffered in treaty by preparing, even in the moment of negotiation, most vigorously for the field."



August 2nd, Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby informed Washington they were authorized to notify him that negotiations for a general peace had begun in Paris and that Mr. Thomas Grenville, plenipotentiary of the English foreign office, who was invested with full powers to open negotiations with Vergennes, had been commanded, by order of his Majesty, to treat for the independence of the thirteen provinces in the first instance, instead of being made a condition for a general treaty. Even these representations failed to allay Washington's suspicions, nor were his exertions to maintain his army slackened. "I am induced to doubt everything; to suspect everything," he said. "Too much confidence and supineness may be pernicious in the extreme."

It is not necessary to follow the varying phases of the diplomatic game that was carried on at Versailles for many months; of the many complications that appeared now and then; of the black shadow of European politics that hung over the negotiations from beginning to end; of the causes that led the American commissioners to shift from their original French allies and form a coalition with the English for common protection against the Spanish and the French. It was the first Anglo-Saxon alliance.

Had it not been for the intervention of England, the Alleghenies would have marked the Western boundary line of the United States. Had it not been for the brilliant and unappreciated work of General George Rogers Clark who, by capturing the British posts at Kaskaskia, Vincennes and Detroit, thus, by right of conquest, brought the Northwest territory within the jurisdiction of the United States, there is no reasonable doubt but that France would have demanded this valuable

domain as part payment for the seven millions of hard dollars that country had from time to time advanced to the American cause. Congress obsequiously had directed our Commissioners in their negotiations to comply with every request made by France, instructions which our good representatives saw fit to disregard upon the discovery that France was treacherous and was playing a double game.

No misunderstanding ever should exist as to the genuine merit in this treaty so far as American interests are concerned. Our Commissioners, in the light of all the circumstances that have come down to us, in view of the experienced and crafty diplomats to whom they were opposed, are entitled to the fullest meed of praise for what they attained for their country. Judgment should be passed not on what they failed to accomplish, but for what they actually secured. Jay's master mind is traced throughout the proceedings. His calm, judicial temperament and inflexible determination were never more squarely displayed than on the question of fixing the Western boundary line. Franklin, from his long residence in Paris and with his French associations and sympathies, was naturally more disposed to obey the orders of Congress than his colleagues, although in the preliminary work his broad statesmanship shines with steady brilliancy as it does with that of John Adams at the end. The other two Commissioners were Thomas Jefferson and Henry Laurens, the senior. Jefferson at the time was governor of Virginia and never left the country. His wife, to whom he was passionately attached, died in September, 1782, after an illness of several months. Laurens had been apprehended by the British in 1780 on an expedition to negotiate a loan with the Dutch and was only released from captivity in time to demand

that when the British evacuated the United States, they should not carry away "any negroes or other property of the inhabitants." The preliminary articles were signed November 30, 1782, but with the provision, the treaty was not to be operative until conditions were settled between Spain, France and Holland. The formal cessation of hostilities between England and America occurred in January, 1783. Eight years to the day after Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1783, the glad news was officially proclaimed by Congress.

In the meantime Savannah had been evacuated, in July, 1782, and Charleston the following December. The official termination of the war was not established until September, 1783, when the representatives of the powers assembled at Versailles and Paris, the articles relating to the United States and Great Britain that were signed the previous November being embodied.

On the 18th of October, Congress issued a proclamation directing the discharge of all officers and soldiers absent on leave; and of all others who had engaged to serve during the war after the third of November. November 2nd, from Rocky Hill near Princeton, New Jersey, Washington issued his farewell orders to the armies of the United States in these words:

"The United States in Congress assembled after giving the most honorable testimony to the merits of the federal armies, and presenting them with the thanks of their country for their long, eminent and faithful services, having thought proper, by their proclamation bearing date the 18th day of October last, to discharge such part of the troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the officers on furlough to retire from service from and after to-morrow; which proclamation having been communicated in the public papers for the information and government of all concerned, it only remains for the Commander-in-chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the armies of the United States (however widely dispersed the individuals who compose them may be), and to bid them an affectionate, a long farewell.

"But before the Commander-in-chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to

mind a slight review of the past. He will then take the liberty of exploring with his military friends their future prospects, of advising the general line of conduct, which, in his opinion, ought to be pursued; and he will conclude the address by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them, in the performance of an arduous office.

"A contemplation of the complete attainment (at a period earlier than could have been expected) of the object, for which we contended against so formidable a power, cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

"It is not the meaning nor within the compass of this address, to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses, which in several instances have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness, combined with the rigors of an inclement season; nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs. Every American officer and soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances, which may have occurred, by a recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to act no inglorious part, and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness; events which have seldom, if ever before, taken place on the stage of human action; nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disciplined army formed at once from such raw materials? Who, that was not a witness, could imagine, that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon; and that men, who came from the different parts of the continent, strongly disposed by the habits of education to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of brothers? Or who, that was not on the spot, can trace the steps by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils?

"It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, almost exceed the power of description. And shall not the brave men, who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings, which have been obtained? In such a republic who will exclude them from the rights of citizens, and the fruits of their labors? In such a country, so happily circumstanced, the pursuits of commerce and the cultivation of the soil will unfold to industry the certain road to competence. To those hardy soldiers, who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment; and the extensive and fertile regions of the West will yield a most happy asylum to those, who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking for personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive, that any one of the United States will prefer a national bankruptcy, and a dissolution of the Union, to a compliance

with the requisitions of Congress, and the payment of its just debts; so that the officers and soldiers may expect considerable assistance, in recommencing their civil occupations, from the sums due to them from the public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

"In order to effect this desirable purpose, and to remove the prejudices, which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the States, it is earnestly recommended to all the troops, that, with strong attachments to the Union, they should carry with them into civil society the most conciliating dispositions, and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as soldiers. What though there should be some envious individuals, who are unwilling to pay the debt the public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to merit; yet let such unworthy treatment produce no invective, or any instance of intemperate conduct. Let it be remembered, that the unblinded voice of the free citizens of the United States has promised the just reward and given the merited applause. Let it be known and remembered, that the reputation of the federal armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence; and let a consciousness of their achievements and fame still incite the men, who compose them, to honorable actions; under the persuasion that the private virtues of economy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valor, perseverance, and enterprise were in the field. Every one may rest assured, that much, very much, of the future happiness of the officers and men, will depend upon the wise and manly conduct, which shall be adopted by them when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And, although the General has so frequently given it as his opinion in the most public and explicit manner, that, unless the principles of the Federal Government were properly supported, and the powers of the Union increased, the honor, dignity, and justice of the nation would be lost forever; yet he cannot help repeating, on this occasion, so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every officer and every soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavors to those of his worthy fellow citizens towards effecting these great and valuable purposes, on which our very existence as a nation so materially depends.

"The Commander-in-chief conceives little is now wanting, to enable the soldier, to change the military character into that of the citizen, but that steady and decent tenor of behavior, which has generally distinguished, not only the army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and separate armies, through the course of the war. From their good sense and prudence he anticipates the happiest consequences; and, while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion, which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he feels himself under for the assistance he has received from every class and in every instance. He presents his thanks in the most serious and affectionate manner to the general officers, as well for their counsel on many interesting occasions, as for their ardor in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted; to the commandants of regiments and corps, and to the other officers, for their great zeal and attention in carrying his orders promptly into execution; to the staff for their alacrity and exactness in performing the

duties of their several departments; and to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, for their extraordinary patience and suffering, as well as their invincible fortitude in action. To the various branches of the army, the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He wishes more than bare professions were in his power; that he were really able to be useful to them all in future life. He flatters himself, however, they will do him the justice to believe, that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him has been done.

"And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave in a short time of the military character, and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honor to command, he can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favors, both here and hereafter, attend those, who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others. With these wishes and this benediction, the Commander-in-chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene to him will be closed for ever."

With the evacuation of New York, November 25, 1783, the American people settled down to construct the magnificent fabric of government which had become theirs through independence.

HUGH HASTINGS,

*State Historian.*

March 17, 1904, State Capitol, Albany.



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## CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 1781.

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|              | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--------------|------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|
| <b>Jan.</b>  |      | 1    | 2     | 3    | 4      | 5    | 6    |
|              | 7    | 8    | 9     | 10   | 11     | 12   | 13   |
|              | 14   | 15   | 16    | 17   | 18     | 19   | 20   |
|              | 21   | 22   | 23    | 24   | 25     | 26   | 27   |
|              | 28   | 29   | 30    | 31.  |        |      |      |
| <b>Feb.</b>  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|              |      |      |       |      | 1      | 2    | 3    |
|              | 4    | 5    | 6     | 7    | 8      | 9    | 10   |
|              | 11   | 12   | 13    | 14   | 15     | 16   | 17   |
|              | 18   | 19   | 20    | 21   | 22     | 23   | 24   |
|              | 25   | 26   | 27    | 28   |        |      |      |
| <b>Mar.</b>  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|              |      |      |       |      | 1      | 2    | 3    |
|              | 4    | 5    | 6     | 7    | 8      | 9    | 10   |
|              | 11   | 12   | 13    | 14   | 15     | 16   | 17   |
|              | 18   | 19   | 20    | 21   | 22     | 23   | 24   |
|              | 25   | 26   | 27    | 28   | 29     | 30   | 31   |
| <b>April</b> | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|              | 1    | 2    | 3     | 4    | 5      | 6    | 7    |
|              | 8    | 9    | 10    | 11   | 12     | 13   | 14   |
|              | 15   | 16   | 17    | 18   | 19     | 20   | 21   |
|              | 22   | 23   | 24    | 25   | 26     | 27   | 28   |
|              | 29   | 30.  |       |      |        |      |      |
| <b>May</b>   | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|              |      |      | 1     | 2    | 3      | 4    | 5    |
|              | 6    | 7    | 8     | 9    | 10     | 11   | 12   |
|              | 13   | 14   | 15    | 16   | 17     | 18   | 19   |
|              | 20   | 21   | 22    | 23   | 24     | 25   | 26   |
|              | 27   | 28   | 29    | 30   | 31     |      |      |
| <b>June</b>  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|              |      |      |       |      |        | 1    | 2    |
|              | 3    | 4    | 5     | 6    | 7      | 8    | 9    |
|              | 10   | 11   | 12    | 13   | 14     | 15   | 16   |
|              | 17   | 18   | 19    | 20   | 21     | 22   | 23   |
|              | 24   | 25   | 26    | 27   | 28     | 29   | 30   |



## CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 1781.

|       | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|-------|------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|
| July  | 1    | 2    | 3     | 4    | 5      | 6    | 7    |
|       | 8    | 9    | 10    | 11   | 12     | 13   | 14   |
|       | 15   | 16   | 17    | 18   | 19     | 20   | 21   |
|       | 22   | 23   | 24    | 25   | 26     | 27   | 28   |
|       | 29   | 30   | 31    |      |        |      |      |
| Aug.  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|       |      |      |       | 1    | 2      | 3    | 4    |
|       | 5    | 6    | 7     | 8    | 9      | 10   | 11   |
|       | 12   | 13   | 14    | 15   | 16     | 17   | 18   |
|       | 19   | 20   | 21    | 22   | 23     | 24   | 25   |
| 26    | 27   | 28   | 29    | 30   | 31     |      |      |
| Sept. | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|       |      |      |       |      |        |      | 1    |
|       | 2    | 3    | 4     | 5    | 6      | 7    | 8    |
|       | 9    | 10   | 11    | 12   | 13     | 14   | 15   |
|       | 16   | 17   | 18    | 19   | 20     | 21   | 22   |
| 23    | 24   | 25   | 26    | 27   | 28     | 29   |      |
| 30    |      |      |       |      |        |      |      |
| Oct.  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|       |      | 1    | 2     | 3    | 4      | 5    | 6    |
|       | 7    | 8    | 9     | 10   | 11     | 12   | 13   |
|       | 14   | 15   | 16    | 17   | 18     | 19   | 20   |
|       | 21   | 22   | 23    | 24   | 25     | 26   | 27   |
| 28    | 29   | 30   | 31    |      |        |      |      |
| Nov.  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|       |      |      |       |      | 1      | 2    | 3    |
|       | 4    | 5    | 6     | 7    | 8      | 9    | 10   |
|       | 11   | 12   | 13    | 14   | 15     | 16   | 17   |
|       | 18   | 19   | 20    | 21   | 22     | 23   | 24   |
| 25    | 26   | 27   | 28    | 29   | 30     |      |      |
| Dec.  | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|       |      |      |       |      |        |      | 1    |
|       | 2    | 3    | 4     | 5    | 6      | 7    | 8    |
|       | 9    | 10   | 11    | 12   | 13     | 14   | 15   |
|       | 16   | 17   | 18    | 19   | 20     | 21   | 22   |
| 23    | 24   | 25   | 26    | 27   | 28     | 29   |      |
| 30    | 31   |      |       |      |        |      |      |

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Public Papers of George  
Clinton.

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**MANUSCRIPT VOLUME XIII.**

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# MANUSCRIPT VOL. XIII.

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[No. 3752.]

*President Huntington Indicates that a Proposition for Peace has been Suggested by Foreign Powers.*

In Congress June 1st 1781.

Sir, I am directed to inform you that Congress have received undoubted intelligence both from their minister at the court of Versailles and the Minister of F[r]ance in America by order of his Court, that the Courts of Vienna and Petersburg have offered their mediation to the belligerent powers for the re-establishment of Peace. That these overtures had been eagerly embraced on the part of Great Britain. That France had declined her full acceptation thereof untill the concurrence of her allies could be obtained for that purpose, at the same time observing that should she again be pressed on this head she would be obliged to enter into a previous plan of negotiation conditionally for herself and allies. That Spain had answered in such manner to the proposals of the mediating powers as to show her eventual acceptance. The intervention of such formidable powers will undoubtedly prove an event the most favorable to these United States, if by a great and timely exertion we sufficiently reduce the force of the enemy now operating in our country: but should languor and inaction subject us to the contempt of the negociators all the consequences will be chargeable upon ourselves.

This is a conjuncture that calls for the most serious consideration of these States. Congress have not a doubt in their minds but that each State in the Union is determined to support the confederacy that has been so solemnly entered into through every difficulty and hand it down unimpaired to their posterity. Under these impressions Congress can with confidence call on their constituents for such exertions as are proportionate to the truly critical situation of our affairs. The plan of operations for the present campaign having been preconcerted on the principle of obliging the enemy to abandon their possessions in every part of these States; therefore, an unequivocal compliance with the demands heretofore made by Congress for provisions, men and money, are what we have at present to ask for. Should these means be expeditiously and punctually put into our hands, we have the most pleasing prospect of putting a speedy and happy issue to the war by driving the enemy from their present possessions in every part of these States, but at all events to confine them to the sea coasts in order to give as little room as possible to the enemy's claim of uti possidetis which will undoubtedly be most strenuously insisted on by them in the course of the negotiation.—A claim totally inadmissable on our part—of course then nothing should be left unessayed by these States to prevent the embarrassments that such a claim must inevitably produce; of consequence it is become indispensably necessary by our immediate and under Providence successful efforts to place ourselves in such a situation as to enable our negociators to speak a firm and decided language becoming the characters of ministers of free sovereign and Independent States. We conclude with observing, that from the foregoing communications we are so thoroughly convinced of the most strenuous exertions of

every State in the Union to accomplish the great objects herein pointed out that Congress will immediately proceed to carry into full execution their plans adopted for defeating the ambitious views of our enemies and be prepared to accept of peace upon no other terms than the Independence of the thirteen United States of America in all their parts.

By order of Congress.                      Sam. Huntington, President.  
His Excellency Gov.'r Clinton.

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[No. 3753.]

*George Trimble to Colonel Hay—Apprehended for Impressing Flour.*

Staatsburgh, June 1st 1781.

Dear Sir, Last summer I rec'd the following letter from you,  
viz:

“ Fish Kill 9th July 1780.

Dear Sir, His Excellency the Governor wanting a person to execute a certain piece of business for him I have recommended you to him, though not immediately in the line of your duty as Qr. Master I have no doubt but you will enter into it with spirit as it may be of essential service to the country. I am &c.

Udny Hay.

Mr. Trimble.”

Having misunderstood the above letter I thought the Colo. did not want that I should immediately go to the Governor but I returned for answer that with pleasure I would perform any business for his Excellency that would be of service to the country which my abilities would admit of my executing which caused the following answer:

“ Fish-kill 13th July 1780.

Dear Sir, Yours came to hand last night. I must have made some mistake in my last letter as I want you to go and see the



Governor at Poughkeepsie which you will do as soon as possible after rect. of this. I am &c.

Udny Hay.

Mr. Trimble."

After rect. of which I immediately went to Poughkeepsie and waited on his Excellency who informed me he wanted some flour impressed and acquainting me at the same time that he had understood that Jno. White and Mr. Culver had each ten tons which he expected was going out of the State and would be glad I would seize it for which purpose he gave me the following impress warrant:

By his Excellency George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the State of New York, General and Commander in chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same:

To George Trimble, Asst. Dept. Quarter Master Genl: Whereas the Emergency and occasion requires the same, these are, therefore, in pursuance of an act of the Legislature, entitled, "An act authorizing the person administering the government of this State, to grant warrants of impress," passed the 23rd day of June, 1780 to authorize and empower you to impress for the use and service of the army Twenty tons of flour—

Given under my hand at Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess this 15th July in the fifth year of the independence of the said State in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty.

Geo. Clinton.

After rect. of which I immediately proceeded back to Shaaron and having made inquiry where Messrs. White and Culver lived, I went to Mr. Bryant an assessor in North East Precinct a Neighbor to the above gentlemen enquired of him whether he knew of any flour to be sold; he answered in the Negative. I asked him if he didn't know where I could purchase some for hard money; he answered he did not know, but he fancied he could get some,

enquiring whether I wanted it for the Easter'd? I answered yes; he enquired when I wanted it; I told him in two or three days; he asked what price I gave; I informed him that as I was a stranger in that quarter I did not know, but supposed I should have to give the market price of the country asking him what that was? he answered five dollars—I enquired of him when he could have it ready; he told me I had better call the next day.

Accordingly I returned the next day; he then informed me he could procure about four tons and that he could deliver it the day after to-morrow; at which time I went with teams to his house, before which time I could not find out where the flour was or make any discovery about it, only that Culver had sent his over the line or sold it and Jno. White had about two tons which he brought to his house the night before after the teams had arrived. Mr. Bryant and myself went to Mr. White with two of the teams, the other two I sent with Mr. Naglee W. Master to Mr. Hoffman's and Mr. Strevill. When we arrived at Mr. White's I asked him if I could see the flour and examine it; accordingly he showed me it and after some talk about getting it out of the State, the teams arrived, I ordered them to begin to load and told Mr. Bryant and Mr. White that by virtue of that impress warrant I impressed them twenty two barrels of flour and the twenty belonging to Mr. Strevil and Hoffman showing them the aforesaid impress warrant accordingly; asked them in whose favor the certificate should be given they answered in Mr. White's; he beg'd of me to leave him two barrels at least, telling me that he was by an acci'd rendered a cripple and his family would doubtless starve, to which I immediately assented and took but twenty, and gave him a certificate for it on the Agent of the State. Mr. Bryant began to

abuse me with his tongue; after some few moments I gave him a hint how faithfully he executed his office as an assessor, how patriotic like he could assist flour running over the lines, but could not assist in procuring any for the Army at a time when they were allmost disbanding for that very article, which reply silenced his tongue very quick. I then proceeded with the teams in the night to Shaaron, and sent the flour to Fishkill having given certificates for the whole of the flour—And on the 16th ult. I was in Shaaron when the constable came and took me with the following warrant:

[To attach the goods or estates of George Trimble now resident in sd. Sharon to the value of two hundred pounds money and for want thereof to attach the body of the sd. George Trimble if he may be found in your precinct and him safely keep so that he may be had before the County court to be holden at Litchfield in and for the County of Litchfield on the fourth Tuesday in September next, then and there to answer unto Jno. White of the Little Nine partners in Dutchess County and State of New York in a plea that to the plaintiff the Defendant render the sum of eighty nine pounds thirteen shillings New York money being equal to seventy four pounds fourteen shillings and nine pence lawfull money of this State. \* \* \*]

[Signed Jno. Canfield, Jus. Peace.]

After the sight of the above warrant I procured bail and so the suit stands. I am, Dear Sir, with respect, Yr. Most Obed't Hble. Serv't.

Geo. Trimble.

To Colo. Hay.

[No. 3754.]

*President Huntington Requests Secrecy Regarding the Contents of a Previous Letter.*

(Circular.)

Philadelphia June 2, 1781.

Sir, My letter of yesterday\* addressed to your Excellency and which accompanies this, contains such important Intelligence, that Congress have thought it indispensable to communicate the same to the Legislatures of the several States through their respective Supreme Magistrates as soon as possible; at the same time the Intelligence is of a nature that ought to be kept secret as may be at present. I am, therefore, directed to request that effectual measures may be observed to prevent copies or extracts of the Letter of the 1st Instant from being taken or published—I have the honor to be, with very great Respect Your Excellency's Most obedient and most humble servant.

Sam. Huntington, President.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 3755.]

*Jonas Canniff to Gov. Clinton—Application for Exchange.*

I Jonas Canniff of the Precinct of Rumbout in the County of Dutchess and State of New York, do by virtue of a Law of the Said State entitled "An Act to enable the person administering the Government to exchange persons applying for that purpose as prisoners of war for the subjects of this State Prisoners of War with the enemy" hereby make application to His Excellency George Clinton Esq, Governor of the said State, if he shall deem it expedient, to exchange myself, and my family consisting of my wife, and five sons, viz one of twenty four years of age, one of nineteen years one of sixteen years, one of fourteen and one of eight years old, and two daughters, one of twelve and the other six years old, as prisoners of war for Mr. Edward Hick's family, now in the power of the enemy, or for any other person or persons subject or subjects of this State Prisoner or Prisoners of War with the enemy as your Excellency shall think most proper. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of the underwritten witnesses, this 2d Day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one.

Jonas Canniff.

Signed by the said  
Jonas Canniff, in the presence of  
Ab'm Brinckerhoff  
Hend'k Wyckoff.

\* See document 3752, page 3.

[No. 3756.]

*Return of Levies from Gen. Swarthout's Brigade.*

A return of the levies to be rec'd from Gen'l. Swarthout's  
Bregd. Exclusive of Colo Grams [Graham's] Regiment Fishkill  
3rd June 1781.

| Colonel's Names  | Cota | Recd. | Deb't. |
|------------------|------|-------|--------|
| Collo. Hopkins   | 52   | 42    | 10     |
| Do. Frear's      | 51   | 32    | 19     |
| Do. Vand'burgh   | 26   | 25    | 1      |
| Do. Brenkerhoff  | 40   | 39    | 1      |
| Do. Felds        | 47   | 43    | 4      |
| Do. Luttington's | 32   | 13    | 19     |
| Total            | 248  | 195   | 53     |

E. V. Bunschoten, Major.

[No. 3757.]

*Arent Pruyn Files an Application for Permission for his Father and  
Family to Visit New York.*

Sir, I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency that my Father Mr. Harmen Pruyn, who is at New York has obtained and sent out a permission from the Commanding officer there, for his family and effects to come into New York. I am to acquaint your Excellency that his Family who are desired to go to him, consists of two daughters, the one about Thirteen and the other about Ten years old, and one Son of about Twelve years old—Two Servants the one a woman of about seventeen and the other a young negroe boy with their cloaths and Bedding—Your Excellency will doubtless know that my father is one of the persons who is sent to New York for declining to take the oath tendered to him, and I beg leave further to observe that the

Commissioners informed him he was at Liberty either then to take such of his Family with him as were inclined to go along, or to send for them at any time afterwards, upon the Faith of Which I am inclined to believe my Father has now sent for them—I am, therefore, to desire your Excellency to be pleased to Grant the Necessary Permission for them to go with safety to New York by the way of Elizabeth Town—Your Excellency's Compliance will greatly oblige Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient and humble servant.

Kinderhook, 4th June 1781.

His Excellency, Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 3758.]

*Colonel Williams' Discouraging Report to Governor Clinton  
Regarding the Vermont Outlook.*

White Creek, June 5, 1781.

Hon Sir, Having an opportunity, I take the liberty of acquainting you of the Vermont Flag returning, by information, they were not permitted to go further than the Island Ore, [Isle aux Noix]. That, the best of the enemies Troops are at Quebeck, and the same troops which harrassed us last fall are now at Island Ore and to be kept on the same business and may be expected on our frontier in a few days, that, the prisoners could not be procured till an equal number are produced, (for which an application is to be made to Gen'l Washington;) I have repeatedly solicited, for the Grants people to assist us in case of an invasion on our post, but cannot obtain any certainty for it; whatever their intention may be time only can discover tho, I must confess it looks dark at present. I make no doubt but that you have been informed of

our difficulties here; nothing but, Yorkers & Vermonters is talked off and even the boys and youngsters, are fighting almost dailey on the subject, and I can assure you that only a cool and calm disposition of some, hath prevented its being a general quarrell. I believe this is the only district which hath voted for New York, and I expect that Vermont will Exercise Jurisdiction over it in a few days, notwithstanding your friend Collo. Warren hath sold his interest in Vermont, and purchased a possession in Greenfield (adjoining Granville) but hath unhappily taken up with this new claim. Your other friend Collo. Ebenez'r Allen I am told hath solicited your Excellency, for a Cømmission; you are sensible of the value of those men, and I would wish an opportunity would present, for these being appointed in office under this State. Gen'l Allen hath completely done for himself, and every person almost, twits him for Timber. However, by what I can learn of him, he is desirous to be in commission under York and I have reason to believe many others in that State would be glad of the same opportunity, on acc't of some dispositions taking place.

I am exceedingly sorry the troops could not have been forwarded, on the frontiers, by the 10th of May last. I dare say in case there had only 100 men taken post at Fort Edward by that time, it would have saved all these troubles. However, I am sensible of the difficulties which have arisen, and still continue. I am surprised Congress does not take the matter into consideration. If they do not nor nothing is done by this State, soon, we shall be compelled to submit ourselves to the Jurisdiction of Vermont, and what the consequences of it will be, God only knows. Nothing scarcely talked of but the bad conduct of the Legislature & the Administration of Government in this

State; no troops on the frontiers, no provisions nor no money, nor have the men got ammunition, altho an alarm is every day expected. Cambridge Regiment is sufficiently supplied with that article, from Vermont last week, and I am told some of this Reg't got ammunition yesterday, in the same way. I could wish some method were devised to obtain a sufficient supply of provisions from every district in the fall, and persons appointed to collect it in every district and the Quantity divided amongst so many [as] can be spared, at killing time so as not to be felt by the Inhabitants and be a sufficiency for the ensuing season.

I have supplied within one year, (not paid for) six yoke of oxen, one cow, 24 hundred of flower, almost £2000 for expenses of cort martials, upwards of a bushell and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of salt, and pasturing two or three hundred of horses for three weeks.

Towards\* farm 51 hundred and odd of flower, one yoke of oxen and one cow, and ten bushells of wheat.

And I am certain were proper measures taken and carried into execution, a sufficient supply could be obtained. I have the honor to be with sentiments of respect and esteem your most obed't & most Humble serv't.

John Williams.

To His Excellency, George Clinton, Esq., at Poughkeepsie.

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\*Manuscript indecipherable.



[No. 3759.]

RETURN OF THE LEVIES COMMANDED BY LIEUT. COLO. ALBERT PAWLING & STATIONED ON THE FRONTIERS OF ULSTER AND ORANGE COUNTIES JUNE 6TH 1781.

| OFFICER COMMANDING COMPANIES.   | FIELD   |        | COMMISSIONED |             | STAFF     |            | NON COMMISSIONED |                             |           | RANK & FILE |                      |              |             |           |             |   |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|---|
|                                 | Colonel | Majors | Captains     | Lieutenants | Adjutants | Qr. Master | Surgeon          | Qr. M <sup>r</sup> . Serg't | Sergeants | Dr. & Files | Present fit for Duty | Sick present | Sick absent | on Comm'd | on Furlough | Total   |
| Captains Pearsee                | 1       | 1      | 1            | 2           | 1         | 1          | 1                | 1                           | 4         | 56          | 1                    | 1            | 2           |           | 56          | Captn. Sackets & Williams Return June 14 1781<br>C. Lt's 4<br>Serg't Maj'r 1<br>Q. M. S. 1<br>Dr. & F. R. & File 116<br>8 |
| Burnett                         |         |        | 1            | 1           |           |            |                  | 4                           | 45        | 3           |                      |              | 1           |           | 49          |   |
| Pawling                         |         |        | 1            | 1           |           |            |                  | 4                           | 41        | 1           | 1                    | 1            | 1           |           | 41          |   |
| Livingston                      |         |        | 1            | 2           |           |            |                  | 5                           | 77        | 1           | 1                    | 1            |             |           | 80          |   |
| Westfall                        |         |        | 1            | 1           |           |            |                  | 3                           | 12        | 1           | 1                    | 1            |             |           | 16          |   |
|                                 | 1       | 1      | 5            | 8           | 1         | 1          | 1                | 16                          | 263       | 6           | 2                    | 4            |             |           | 297         |   |
| Lieut. Connor acting Qr. Master |         |        |              |             |           |            |                  |                             |           |             | 1                    | 1            | 2           |           |             | W. Point<br>Lieut Brittan<br>With Major Buntschoten   |
| Lieut. Du Bois do Adjutant      |         |        |              |             |           |            |                  |                             |           |             | 1                    | 1            | 1           |           |             |   |
|                                 |         |        |              |             |           |            |                  |                             |           |             | 2                    | 4            |             |           |             |   |

Major Van Buntschoten

not joined.

A. Pawling, Lt. Colo.

[No. 3760.]

*Congress and Bills of Credit Issued by the States.*

(Circular.)

Philadelphia, June 6, 1781.

Sir, Your Excellency will receive enclosed, a Resolve of Congress of the 2nd Instant, directing that all Bills which are issued in the respective States in Pursuance of the Resolution of the 18th of March 1780, after the Expiration of one year from the Time the Interest on such bills begins to be completed, be stamped with the Words or Characters, Int pd one, (or 1) Year.

And that such of the said bills as have already issued, whenever the Interest is paid, be stamped in like Manner, to prevent the necessity & Expence of exchanging them.

It is also the Sense of Congress that the several States suspend, as far as possible, the issuing of such Part of their respective Quotas of said Bills as remain to be issued.

I have the honor to be, with greatest Respect Your Excellency's Most obedient & humble Servant.

Sam. Huntington, President.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

By The United States in Congress Assembled. June 2d, 1781

Resolved, That all bills of credit which issue in pursuance of the act of the 18th March 1780, in any of the States after the expiration of one year from the time the Interest on such bills begins to be computed be marked by writing or stamping before they are issued with the words or characters "Int. pd. one (or 1) year."

That such of the said bills as have already issued or may issue in the course of a year from the time interest begins to be computed on them be, when such interest is paid, marked in like manner to prevent the necessity and expence of exchanging them.

That where any State has adopted similar adequate provisions, these shall not operate.

That the Several States suspend as far as possible the issuing of such part of their respective quotas of the said bills as remain to be issued. Extract from the minutes—

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

[No. 3761.]

*Captain James Holmes from Poughkeepsie Gaol Files a Petition for Relief with the Governor.*

Poughkeepsie Gaol, 7th June, 1781.

To His Excellency, The Gov'r. &c &c &c.—May it pleas your excellency. As the extremity of my situation and reduced circumstances, produced principally by the length

and painfulness of my imprisonments, will doubtless in a considerable degree apologize for this my most respectfull representation and address, so likewise my inability thereto, will intitle me to your excellency's forgiveness as to any absurdities in the same. However critical my situation or may be at the disposal of the power that hath hetherto directed, the line of conduct persu'd with me, I am urged to say however I might err in judgment as to the propriety of any part of my conduct since the commencement of the contest, I always conceiv'd the causes coolly judg'd off, with allowances of many aggravating circumstances would justify the acts. As its beyond my abilities to conceive off, so I cannot ascribe the singularity and severity of my treatment to any cause whatever, especially as I am exceeding clear and can with propriety say, concious to my selfe, I have not been concerned in any plots or conspracies against the Gov't of the state, my conduct while with the enemy; the Justice of my excuse for, and, the honest open manner of my returning together with other favorable circumstances some of which I mentioned in my former address to yr excellency, would have entitled me to a more favorable reception, or at least, I could not have expected the rigor of my treatment, could, so far exceed that of any other persons let their exertions in opposition, be what they may, making no allowances for the causes and aggravating compulsory circumstances which forced me from the small retir'd living I mention'd to yr. excellency, in my former address. Being not only urged by my feelings again in the most respectfull manner to request yr. excellency will if by any means its consistent with the policy of the State, condend to grant the request contained in my letter to the comm'rs. of the twentieth of Nov'r. last, whose determination thereon, was submitted for yr. excellency's approbation and confirmation; but the peculiar circumstances attending my case, seems more immediately to sajest the propriety and necessity of such a measure, more especially as I could not be received and restored nor enlarg'd on any conditions whatever, tho repeatedly and respectfully requested; my estate confiscated; by the length and singularity of my imprisonment not only reduced to needy and necessatous circumstances but completely, to a state of beggery, not having a coat to my back, nor hardly a shirt, having been many weeks without a shilling to purchase a drink of grog, except a trifle I possessed myself off, by the sale of a few articles of clothing, and very considerably indebted for my necessary subsistance, and without friends to give me further relief; my case, being thus situated, should neither the policy of the state admit off, nor yr. excellency condescend to grant, the aforesaid request, I am persuaded and hope the peculiar circumstances attending my case will influence yr. excellency to devise some plan for my relief, thats not only consistent with the policy and interest of the State, but remove the dismal aspect my affairs seems to have. Yr. excellency's condensation in attending to, and granting this my hum'l request will not only give relief to a great sufferer, but lay me under the most sensible obligations of gratitude. I am with the greatest respect yr. excellency's most obedient and very Hum'l serv't.

His Excellency.

James Holmes.

P. S. My being without any, or, at least important friends, to join in solliciting, or urge the granting, the above request, will not, in my hum'l opinion, impede, or cause any delay in yr. excellency's favorable proceeding therein; on the other hand I am exceedingly convinc'd as its agreeable to yr. excellencys character to proceed in all matters uninfluenced except by just and political motives that by those only yr. excellency will be directed.

J. H.

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[No. 3762.]

*Return of Levies from two Companies in Colonel Pawling's Regiment.*

A Return of Capt. Sackett's & Capt. William's Companys in Lieut. Colo. Albert Pawling's Regiment, of New York Levies for Eight Months, for the month of June 7th 1781.

| Capt'a. | Lieuta. | Serg't Major | Qr. M. Serg't. | Sergeants | Corporals | Drum fites | Privates | Totals. |                    |
|---------|---------|--------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|--------------------|
| 1       | 2       |              |                | 4         | 4         | 2          | 55       | 68      | Capt. Sacketts Com |
| 1       | 2       | 1            | 1              | 4         | 4         | 1          | 53       | 67      | Capt. Williams Com |
| 2       | 4       | 1            | 1              | 8         | 8         | 3          | 108      | 135     |                    |

To his Excellency Governor Gorg Clinton, Esq, at Poughkeepsie.

I have Received all the men of the Difrent Rgments only 6 men which I shall have in a few days.

Rich'd Sackett, Capt.

[No. 3763.]

*Pay-roll of Officers discharged January 1, 1781 from the Fifth New York.*

Return of Officers of the Late 5th New York Regim't: derang'd 1st: Jany 1781.

| Names                | Rank            | Time of Serv'e.     | Pay Pr. month    | Am't of pay     |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                      |                 |                     | Dollr's & 90ths. | Dollrs & 90ths. |
| Marinus Willet       | Lt. Col. Com.   | 1781<br>Aug. & Sep. | 75               | 150.            |
| Sam'l Logan          | Major           | do                  | 50               | 100             |
| James Stewart        | Captain         | do                  | 40               | 80.             |
| Phillip D. B. Bevier | Captain         | do                  | 40               | 80.             |
| Henry Godwin         | Captain         | do                  | 40               | 80.             |
| John Johnson         | Captain         | do                  | 40               | 80.             |
| Henry Dodge          | Capt. Lieut.    | do                  | 26.60            | 53.30           |
| Francis Hanmer       | Lieut. & Qr. M. | do                  | 39.60            | 79.30           |
| Eben Hutchins        | Surgs Mate.     | do                  | 40               | 80.             |
| Saml. Cook           | Surgeon         | do                  | 65               | 130.            |
| Saml English         | Lieut.          | do                  | 26.60            | 53.30           |
| Ebenezer Mott        | Lieut.          | do                  | 26.60            | 53.30           |
| Abraham Legget       | Lieut.          | do                  | 26.60            | 53.30           |
|                      |                 |                     | Dollr's.         | 1073.00         |

As P. Muster Roll.

Mich'l. Connoly, Pay Master, Second N. York Reg't.

M. Willett, Late Lieut. Col. Fifth N. York Regt.

Albany June 7th 1783.

Copy.

I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Return filed in the Treasury Office of the State of New York this 7th June 1783.

Gerard Bancker, Treas'r.

[No. 3764.]

*Alexander Thompson to Captain Machin as to Depreciation of Pay.*

Dear Sir; Last winter when the Liquidation Accounts were settled to many officers of this State, I was in New Jersey and on my Return to Camp, was informed no further Accounts would be answered, without having an Act from the House passed in favor of. As You have some interest with his Excellency the Governor—and many Members of the House, I beg you to use in my behalf and have some mode adopted to obtain a settlement of my liquidation account—the want of cash at present, prevents my personally attending at Poughkeepsie—and must remain close to Quarters untill I can procure some—we have some flattering accounts here of clothing being in store for us—which could the respectable body have a view of us at present, they would be sensible of our necessities. Pray exert your influence in favor of me. I must think a Representation from you, will have a good tendency and wish if you remain any time at Poughkeepsie, you would acquaint me what success you meet with. Mr. Cambill who will hand this to you, is on business of the New appointments that is to take place in the Regiment, and whose return I wish you to write by—and your opinion—Believe me, Dear Sir, to be with sentiments of real regard and esteem Your most obedient Humb'l serv't.

Artillery Park, June 7th 1781.

Captain Machin.

[No. 3765.]

*Benjamin and Selah Havens to Governor Clinton—Charge Captain Stow, of New London, with Having Robbed Them.*

To his Excellency Governor Clinton, The humble petition of your memorialists sheweth that since the British Troops have taken possession of this Island, your memorialists have at sundry times been plundered and personally abused for their attachment to the Cause of Liberty and Humanity to American prisoners—and, furthermore, that they were sometime in the month of April plundered by A Certain Capt. Stow, of N. London to the amount of twelve hundred pounds. A List of which Goods your memorialists are ready to produce. The humble petition of your memorialists is, therefore, to beg (as they belong to A part of the State that your Excellency at present governs) he would be pleased to order said Goods to be restored—and they always shall think themselves to your Excellency in Duty bound.

Beng'm Havens,  
Selah Havens.

Moriches, Long Island, June 7th 1781.

[No. 3766.]

*Petition for Pardon of Catherine Buise.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 3767.]

*Colonel Brinton Paine to Governor Clinton—Disturbed Over Vermont Affairs.*

Saratoga June 10th 1781.

Dear Gov'r. As I have but a moment's time, I gladly embrace it to wright a line to you and heirwith send a copy of a Letter Rec'd this Instant sind Thomas Chittenden. Since I rec'd your letter, I have used every argement in my power to put a stop to the revolt of your subjects in this Quarter and with the assistance of the worthy Mr. Russel, flatter'd myself that I had ejected it in sum parts of the county of Charlotte, but I find the evil grown again; the levis in my Reg't. I have ordered to march to this place to join Cap't. Dunham, which they have refused, as they say they will not leave their own county to guard a certain farme at Saratoga; they are Ready to march to fort Edward or

the Lake if any way can be pointed out for them to Draw provisions. I could wish Your Excellency's Direction relative to the inclosed letter. I thought I had wheirof to the boast of my faithfullness to this State but I am confounded and my heart is sunk within me. One word of comfort, if there is any, and I shall still remain the publick's frind and Your Excellencys Most obedient Humble servant.

N. B. I wish a comisioner of Sequestration may be appointed as many are going to the enemy.

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GOVERNOR CHITTENDEN TO BRINTON PAINE.

Arlington, June 9th 1781.

Sir, I am informed you are about to move of a number of famllys from your Quarter by force who have been peaceable inhabitants more than two years past. If this Representation be true I am satisfied, sir, you mistake your policy. The way to Disuade a people from the pursuit of the sweats of Liberty is not (esteamed by common politioners) to Exercise the most notorious acts of Tyariny; you may rely on it, sir, it is not viewed in this part of the State to be a small thing you are practicing. Pray, sir, Reflect a moment, and as you vulture your own peace and the peace and safety of the whole District from such Conduct—such arbitrary proceedings have a Direct tendency to Drive people (however well they may be Disposed) to Disperation. Your answer by the Bearer will oblige Yours &c.

A true copy.

Thomas Chittenden

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[No. 3768.]

*Colonel Van Schaick to the Council of Appointment—Concerning Discontent Over Appointments in His Command.*

Albany, June 11, 1781.

Gentlemen, I am constrained by my duty to communicate to your honourable board the present discontent in my Regiment with the subaltern officers on a Report of the appointment of Lieutenant Pendleton & others being made to fill the vacancies of Lieut. [Nathaniel] Henry and Tierce, [Peter B. Tearse] resigned and Lieut. Ten Broeck promoted. Which if it should be the case I have reason to apprehend will be productive of the resignations of almost the whole of the subalterns in the Regiment. They have their objections (in my opinion) on a just foun-

dation, that is if Mr. Pendleton or any other is not arranged the injustice (if any) is done to them by the Corps in which they served and, therefore, they ought to be subjected to the inconvenience; and that no rank of Theirs can be with justice intruded into the First and late Third New York Regiment, which if their should be the case the president will always debar them in futer as well as at present of their just promotion.

With permission they request me to acquaint the honourable Council and beg they will be Pleased to reconsider their case (and that in their opinion) it will be doing justice to their Rank, and the honour of soldiers and Gentlemen will not permit them to continue in service.

I shall beg leave to recommend if appointments should take place to fill up the vacancies in my Regiment Mess. John Fonda, William Peters and Mathew Trotter may be preferred to Ensigns their Characters I have inquired into and with submission to the Honb'le Council believe they will do honor to the Corps I am, Gentlemen, Your most obed't & Humb'le Serv't.

To the Honb'l Council of Appointment for the State of New York.

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[No. 3769.]

*General James Clinton Requested by the Governor to Make Returns of Both Infantry Regiments Belonging to New York State.*

Pokeepsie, 15th June 1781.

Dr Sir, The Regiment commanded by Colo Van Schaick having left West Point before I could obtain Returns—and as there may be some alteration since your last, I have to request that you will furnish me with Returns of both the Regiments of Infantry belonging to this State that I may lay them before the Legisla-



ture in Order that provision may be made for making up the deficiencies. As they cannot sit longer than the first of July you will be pleased to be expeditious. You will also oblige me by transmitting me Returns of the vacancies of commissioned officers with the Times when they respectively happened.

It has been represented to the Council that several young Gentlemen who were sergeants & raised to Ensingencies have thro some mistake taken Rank of Ensign Lansingh. You will, therefore, be pleased also to furnish me to lay before the Council with the Period in which they first did Duty as Ensigns at which time their warrants ought to be dated. I have nothing new worth communicating. I am,

Dr. Sir, I wrote you on the 11th inst. request'g returns of the Regt's of Infantry of this State. If you have not yet forwarded them you will oblige me by a transmission of them by the very earliest opportunity as the Legislature have convened and will rise the end of next week, and I wo'd wish to lay them immediately before them to enable them without delay to fill up the Deficiencies. I am,

20th June, 1781.

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[No. 3770.]

*Licutenant Jno. McClaughry to Governor Clinton—Concerning Ready Cash and Recruits.*

Little Britain, June 13th 1781.

Sir, I collected the fore Keysers, Sluter and Jno. Countryman together, and sent them to the Regiment the twenty-sixth ultimo. I am very unhappy in not having it in my power to render the public any service from my present appointment for want of cash; therefore, beg leave to solicit your excellency to furnish

me as speedily as possible together with as early permission as the service will permit, to recruit on the frunteers. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, Sir, your Excellencys most ob'dent Very Humble Servant.

George Clinton, Esqr.

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[No. 3771.]

*Act of Congress Relative to Settlement of Accounts.*

By The United States in Congress Assembled June 13th 1781.

Resolved, That it be and hereby is recommended to the several States to which the officers of the Hospital & Medical Department now in service respectively belong, or of which they are or were, Inhabitants to settle the Accounts of the said officers for Depreciation on the principles established by the Resolution of Congress of the 10th of April 1780, and to make provision for paying the Balance that may be found due in the same manner with officers of the Line.

That each State which shall advance more Money in making good the Depreciation to its respective Citizens than its proper proportion shall be allowed for the same on Account of the United States.

Extract from the Minutes, Chas. Thomson, Secy.

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[No. 3772.]

*General Roberdeau Makes Application to Governor Clinton for the Appointment of Collector.*

Philad'l, June 15th 1781.

Dear Sir, Your goodness can best supply an apology for this address so extraordinary in its nature, therefore, I shall not torture invention for language less adequate to my purpose. Nor do I mean to take up your time with abject complaints of the sufferings I have sustained in the common cause, which have lately been increased to an intollerable burthen by my expulsion from Virginia leaving within the Enemies power immovable property chiefly of inflammable matter to the amount of not less than £12,000 that Currency, which with the money I have lent the public constitutes the principle part of the fortune I have left,

and the latter not being at my command, except the interest payable in France and the principle impaired more than one-half by depreciation, these, with many other things too tedious to mention, have so accumulated my sufferings that I am constrained to become in the first instance an applicant for an office, Collector of this Port, of the 5 P. ct. import duty. The Election will be effected as common by private applications, and depends on the quantity of influence used, and possibly may not respect either suffering or service; as it respects me the voice of the Delegates of New York when assembled would effect my wishes, and would be an unspeakable relief. If it may consist with offices of friendship in your station, and I see no repugnancy, I do not mean an act *ex officio*, but by reasonable private impression, if you shall think me worthy, will lay me and mine under infinite obligation, and your kind Disposition will I trust insure me a pardon for this freedom, and a negotiation without the mention of any application from me, which would probably best serve the design, and leave me more your Debtor, in performing so high an act of friendship that I can express. I am with most respectful esteem  
Y'r Excellency's most obedient and obliged humble serv't.

Daniel Roberdeau.

P. S. Mr. Duane has been spoke to both by Gen. McDougal and myself, if he returns yr. offices with him may be necessary; but my name in that instance in particular I beg, may not be mentioned as an applicant to you, otherwise it might do harm.

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THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Poughkeepsie, 3d July 1781.

Dear Sir, I was favored with yours of the 15th ultimo yesterday. Be assured in will give me particular Pleasure to serve you

in the affair you mention and that nothing in my power will be wanting to affect; much however, will depend upon my having an opportunity of a personal interview with the gentlemen before they set out for Congress which I have reason to hope will be the case. The Caution you have hinted will be duely observed. I am Dr. Sir with great Regard & Esteem Your Most Ob'd Serv't.

Gen'l. Roberdeau.

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[No. 3773.]

*General James Clinton to the Governor—Inclosing a Letter from Lieutenant Cannon and a Proclamation from Sir John Johnson.*

Albany, June 16th, 1781.

Dear Sir, Your favour of the 2d & 11th ins't. I have been honored with. I have given the necessary directions to have the required returns made out in proper season, tho from the difficulties attending forwarding and receiving expresses from the different Detachments, I am apprehensive they will be attended with delay. Howe'r, lest they should not arrive in due time, I wou'd observe that the Arrangements which I delivered you last March may be depended on as right. There are three vacancies in the First Regiment by the resignations of Capt. Wendell, Lieuts. Tierce & Henry. Two in the Second by the resignations of Ensigns Brown and Griffen—Ensigns Morrell & Dodge, one of the First the other of the Second Regt. are the two officers who are said to have superceded Lansing and Fonda; they being appointed by the Council to take Rank as doing duty from the 1st Jany. 1778: whereas they acted as Sergeants until the 1st June 1779 in the Fourth Regt. I hope Pendleton, who has made application—agreeable to a Resolve of Congress, may not be ap-

pointed in the First N. Y. Regiment, as I fear it wou'd be attended with the Resignation of Several good Officers, particularly as his conduct while in captivity was not squared by that rule of propriety which ought to entitle him to be readmitted—However, this is only by information.

Among these Vacancies I hope Sergeant Robt. Wilson may not be omitted; I have spoken to Col. Van Schaick on the subject of his appointment who is perfectly anxious to have him provided for in his Reg't. It is needless to say more on the subject—you know him & I am confident you are disposed to serve him as far as is consistant with your Duty.

Small parties of the enemy frequently make their appearance on the frontier, and take off some of the Inhabitants, and it appears evident that their parties are not only harboured by the disaffected families, but assisted with every necessary while they commit their Depredation. I have, therefore, with the advice of the Commissioners ordered parties out to scour the settlement in the different parts of the Frontier who are known to be notoriously disaffected, to remove their families into the Country, and seize all the provision which may be more than sufficient to support them, and apprehend those who are suspicious characters.

For particulars relating the situation of the Troops in this Department and the state of our supplies, I refer you to the Gen'l's Letter, which I leave open for your perusal. I am, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely.

P. S. Enclosed I send you a letter and a hand bill received from L't. Cannon, who commands a Party at Johnston.

Gov'r. Clinton.

## LIEUTENANT CANNON REPORTS AN INDIAN DEPREDEATION.

Hon'r Sir, The Enemy Yesterday morning entered the house of Johanna Awi about six in the morning, Made him and his son and a servant boy Prisoners, and abused the women and plundered the house of Clothing and furniture. The Party (by the nearest Guess the Women could make) Consisted of Seventy or Eighty men, among which were only one white man; the rest were all Indians: they said they would carry them to Buck Island. They behaved in a Barbarous Manner to the Prisoners. Dragged them out of Door by the hair, and would not allow them as much as their clothing; they threaten'd the women if they should go out of the house to Alarm the Neighbors before two Days had Expired, which has hindred me from getting Intelligence before this Day, upon which I immediately sent an express to Stone Arabia for fear they should break out in that Place. We are almost out of amunition. Please to order some this Way. Parker and the other Prisoners will be sent down to Morrow. The two Deserters I had sent to Captain Pell before your Letter came to hand, but have immediately sent after them and will send them down as soon as they arrive. Inclosed you have a handbill left at the house where the Prisoners were taken from. I am, Hon'd Sir, Your very Obed't. Hum. Serv't.

James Cannon, Lieut.

N. B. The Man that was taken Prisoner has two sons in Canada.

J. C.

The Hon'ble. B. G. Clinton

## PROCLAMATION BY SIR JOHN JOHNSON TO PEOPLE ON MOHAWK RIVER.

The Officers & Soldiers of Sir John Johnson's Regt. present their affectionate and loving wishes to their Friends & Relations on the Mohawk River & earnestly entreat them to assemble themselves & come into Canada or the upper Posts, where under that Gallant leader, they may assist their Countrymen to quell & put an end to the present unnatural Rebellion, in hopes soon to return to their native homes, there to enjoy the happiness they were formerly blessed with under the best of Kings, who is willing to do every thing for his subjects.

May 22nd 1781

[No. 3774.]

*Colonel Hugh Hughes to Governor Clinton—Concerning Press  
Warrant for a Hundred Barrels of Tar.*

Albany, June 16th, 1781.

Sir, I am honored with your Excellency's favour, inclosing the Warrant for a Hundred Barrels of Tar, by which Means the Service will be greatly promoted, as it was not possible, in our situation, to obtain a supply without it. The Dogs were deceiving us—and selling or secreting of it. I have now taken possession of their kilns and shall get a sufficient, I expect.

The Time for which the Warrant was granted, is, I am apprehensive, rather too short, but I must stretch the Perogative, with your Excellency's Permission, yet, no further than what absolute necessity requires.

At Saratoga this Morning, there were no certain accounts of the Enemy's designs. Some of the Inhabitants of Balltown have been captured in the course of this Week by a small party. With the greatest Respect & Esteem, I have the Honour to be your Excellency's most obedient and very Humble servant.

His Excellency Governour Clinton.

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[No. 3775.]

*Colonel Richard Varick's Letter of Congratulation to Washington on Greene's Victory in the South—Washington's Congratulatory Order to the Army.*

New Windsor, June 16, 1781.

I have the honor of congratulating your Excellency on the Success of our Arms under M. Gen'l. Greene in the State of So. Carolina and on his Prospects, as announced in the Gen'l Orders of yesterday, Copy of which I have the pleasure of inclosing for the satisfaction of your Excellency & the Gentlemen of our Legislature.

It is more than probable that Augusta and Ninety Six have fallen into our Hands, which will confine the Enemy's Conquests to the Capitals of S. Carolina & Georgia only, in the latter of which the enemy are in no small State of Trepidation.

On the 14 or 16 ult. Lord Rawdon was at Nelson's Ferry in his route to Charlestown, where Genls. Marion & Sumpter watched his motions. It is certain that the enemy lost in killed & wounded before Camden, on the 25th April, not less than 300 men. And I do with Pleasure add that all the other Posts were carried with a loss on our part not exceeding 20 men, in killed & wounded.

I arrived here on the the 6th but finding that the materials intended for my Amusement are not prepared, I am to continue as one of the Gen'ls. family. If our prospects of an active Campaign should not fail us, I may probably wish to continue with the family for some time.

With sentiments of the most sincere respect & esteem, I remain Your Excellency's Obed't Serv't.

Rich'd Varick.

His Excellency Gen'l Washington.

Head Quarters New Windsor, Friday

June 15th 1781.

It is with singular Pleasure the Commander in Chief congratulates the Army on the success of our Arms under M. General Greene in So. Carolina—On the 10th May Lord Rawdon who commanded the Post of Camden was compelled to evacuate it with great Precipitation & Marks of distress, after destroying the stores & several Buildings & leaving three Officers & 58 men who were too badly wounded to be removed.

On the 11th the Strong Post at Orangeburgh—surrendered to General Sumpter, upon his making Preparations to invest it. A Colonel with several other officers & upwards of 80 men were made Pris'rs.

On the 12th the Garrison of Fort Mott consisting of 1 Capt. 3 Lieuts. 3 Ensigns, one Serg't Major, 1 Serg't. 8 Corp'ls, 2 Drums & Fifes & 165 Privates surrendered Pris'rs of War to B. Gen'l. Marion, who had carried his Approaches to the Foot of the Abattis.

On the 15th Fort Granby was surrendered by Capitulation to Lieut. Col. Lee; The Troops composing the Garrison consisted of 1 Lieut. Colo. 2 Majors, 6 Capts., 6 Lieuts. 3 Ensigns, 1 Surgeon, 2 Serg't. Majors, 17 Sergts. 9 Corp'ls. & 305 Privates, who were made Prisoners. Considerable quantities of stores & Provisions were also captured at the several Posts.

The General has the further Pleasure of informing the Army that the Posts of Augusta & Ninety Six were invested by Gen'l. Pickens & must in all probability have fallen before this Time, as Gen'l. Greene had also marched his Army to assist in the Reduction of them.

These brilliant repeated successes which reflect so much glory on the Southern Army will be attended with the most important Consequences to these States & are a happy Presage of our being able speedily to expel the Enemy from every part of the Continent, with proper Exertions.

Extract of General Orders

Edw'd. Hand, Adj't. Gen'l.

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|--------------|--|
| 1. Camden.   | On the Wateree or North Branch of Santee River, abt. 120 miles from Charlestown on the Northern Borders of So. Carolina. |
| Augusta.     | In Georgia, on the Borders of So. Carolina on the Banks of Savanna River, abt. 120 miles from the Capital.               |
| Ninety six.  | In So. Carolina abt. 140 Miles West of Charlestown.  |
| Orangeburgh. | A Town on the North Fork of Edisto River, abt. half way between Charlestown & Ninety six.                                |
| Fort Granby. | At Fridays Ferry on the Congaree or South Branch of the Santee River between Camden & 96.                                |
| Fort Mott.   | On the Communication between Camden & Orangeburgh or 96.   |



[No. 3776.]

*Major Nath'l Deboan to Governor on Depredations of the Enemy  
in Westchester County.*

Middle Patten June 18th 1781.

Dr. Governor, I am hear with one hundred men, including eighteen of the Silver Grays, the continual allarams has harassed the militia the week past the troops of Delancey is continually out bating & barking. Capt. Sackett is Not able to keep the field. On the above reasons I have solicited a small command of Col. Crane as our alarams answer no purpose, for by the time we get the alaram the enemy is manuevring back, and often Return two or three Days successively. Col. Crane called his regiment together Last Fryday & met them with this proposal: if they would turn out one third for ten days, the rest might return home, but on Neglect, would march the whole Regiment & keep them on the Lines till we could git sum releaf, whereupon they were punctually turned out & marched the same day. We are well furnished with provition by Mr. John Haynes. I expect Colo. Crane will Inform his Excellency, more particular the unhappy state of the County &c. I act in conjunction with Capt Sackett. We Hope the Villings time is short. I am, Dr Sir, your Verey Hum'bl Serv't,

## THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie 19th June 1781.

Dr Sir, I have rec'd your letter of yesterday—and would order some militia to your assistance if I was not well assured that your county will be fully protected before any Force I could order out wo'd arrive there—Gen'l. Washington will no doubt find it expedient to check the enemy in their foraging

excursions and will take the necessary movements for the purpose—Colos. Thomas & Drake will have orders in the interim to reinforce you.

Gover'n. Clinton.

[No. 3777.]

*Act of Congress Relating to Clothing for Non-commissioned Officers and Troops.*

By the United States in Congress Assembled June 18 1781.

The committee to whom was recommitted their report on the Clothing Department together with the letter of J. Moylan, Clothier General, delivered in a report which was taken into consideration and thereupon

Resolved, That all State purchases of Clothing on Continental account and all State appointments and regulations in the Clothing department on Continental account be abolished on the first day of September, at or before which time the sub and agent clothiers are to deliver to the Clothier General or his order, all Clothing procured at Continental expence which they may then have on hand taking his receipt therefor, a duplicate whereof to be transmitted to the Treasury office.

Resolved, That the Clothier General in the month of June annually make and deliver into the Board of War an Estimate of Clothing and disbursements for clothing for a year from the first day of November then next that Congress may be enabled to furnish the proper sums and adopt the necessary measures for procuring the same.

That all non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers who are or may hereafter be enlisted during the War be annually furnished with

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| One Regimental Coat full made; | Four shirts;                |
| One Cloth Vest;                | Two pair of Linen Overalls; |
| One Pair cloth Breeches;       | Four pair strong shoes;     |
| One Pair woolen overalls;      | One Blanket;                |
| Two pair of woolen Hose;       | One Rifle Shirt &           |
| Two pair of Woolen Socks;      | One Pair of Woolen Gloves.  |
| One felt Hat or Leather Cap;   |                             |

Also, one pair of shoe buckles and One Stock Clasp every Two Years. The Dragoons to receive two pair of Boots and one pair of spurs, instead of the shoes and Buckles annually, also a Horseman's Cloak every two years.

That the Commander in Chief and the Commanding General in a separate department respectively, be and hereby are authorized to direct whatever clothing shall from time to time be dealt out to the Artificers and Waggoners having regard to the nature of their service and the terms of their contract and time for which they are engaged.

That Summer clothing be ready to be issued on the fifteenth day of April annually and the Winter clothing on the first day of November following and be delivered at such time as the Commander in Chief or commanding General in a separate department shall direct.

That the Clothier General deal out the Clothing regimentally and keep regular accounts against the respective Regimental Clothiers taking particular care to have the clothing equally and impartially distributed when it is found incompetent for the whole Army.

That previous to the day of general issue, the Regimental Clothiers settle their accounts with the Clothier General and receive his certificate of the arrearages of Clothing due their respective Regiments and present him with a return of the number of Men for whom Clothing is to be drawn on the day of General issue, the said Return to be examined and certified by the Officers commanding their respective Regiments and Signed by the Brigadier or Officer commanding the Brigade.

That all extra issues to detachments for accidental loss of Clothing be by certificates of the commanding officer of the Regiment or Detachment to which the non commissioned officers or soldiers in whose behalf such application is made shall belong, the

said Certificates being approved and signed by the Commander in Chief or a Commanding General of a separate Army.

That all issues of clothing be made from the Magazines or plans of general issue with the Army and to avoid the necessity of detached issues the officers commanding parties or detachments are to be answerable that they are supplied so far as may be from the magazines or stores at camp previous to their leaving the Army to which they belong.

That no article of clothing be issued by the Clothier General his deputies or assistants but by return and certificates made and approved as aforesaid.

That no non commissioned officer or Soldier who is not engaged during the war or for the term at least of one year be furnished with any article of Clothing.

That the Clothier General from time to time notify the pay Master General of all surplusages of Clothing specifying the Corps to which they belong that stopages may be made therefor.

That he make return to the Board of War of all Clothing on hand and persons employed in the Department with the wages given to each regularly once in every two months.

That the Quarter Master General and his deputies in the several States shall on the requisition of the Clothier General furnish the means of transportation of all articles of Clothing from the places where imported, received or purchased to the places of deposit and a careful Waggon Master or conductor to be appointed by the Quarter Master General or some of his deputies shall proceed with the clothing who shall be answerable for all deficiencies on the road unless they shall be able to show that the same happened by unavoidable accidents and not through their misconduct or want of attention.

That in case of injuries or deficiencies happening in the transportation of Clothing the Clothier Stationed at the Magazine or place of deposit shall represent the matter to the nearest commanding Officer of the Troops of the United States that the Waggon Master or conductor having had charge of the Clothing so damaged or deficient may be tried by a Court Martial and if found guilty compelled to restore the goods lost or their value or make satisfaction for damages accrued through his negligence or mismanagement or be punished according to the nature of the offense by judgments of the Court Martial.

That the Clothier General have the management direction and Superintendance of Hides subject to the order of the Board of War with full power to call for proper returns from such persons as have heretofore had the management of Hides.

That all Commissaries make monthly returns to the Clothier General of the Hides on hands and that the Commissary General make monthly returns to him of all the live Cattle delivered over to the Commissaries of the Army.

That the Quarter Master General or his deputy on the application of the Clothier General or either of his deputies furnish Waggon for transporting raw or manufactured hides to such places as they shall direct.

That the Clothier General with the concurrence of the Superintendent of Finance be authorized to appoint such number of persons to transact the Business of the Clothing department during the present Campaign as they may from time to time find necessary and to ascertain their wages.

That the Clothier General make monthly returns to the Commander in Chief.

That all resolutions heretofore passed respecting the Clothing and hide departments inconsistent with this arrangement and the resolutions now passed be and they are hereby repealed.

Extract from the minutes.

Geo. Bond, Dep'y. Secy.

[No. 3778.]

*H. Muirson Makes Another Appeal to Governor Clinton.*

Fairfield, June 19th 1781.

Sir, The week before last I did myself the honor to trouble your Excellency with a recital of my vindication from the

aspersions thrown against my character. I can now say no more in my defence, but must rest my reputation upon the various circumstances that has attended me during the war, and upon the generous clemency of the world. Your Excellency, I would beg to look up to as a friend and one that would not be disposed to condemn upon the illiberal suspicion of two or three malicious men (for they were such in fact that first kindled the fire against me).

The difficulties & embarasments I am reduced to from this unfortunate event, is enough for a philosopher to bear; when I add to this, the neglect of those friends I wish most to own, I think my fate harder than I deserve. Capt. Brewster who is the bearer of this may possibly throw some light upon my character that your excellency is not acquainted with, or I should not have taken upon myself to have written a second time without permission. If your Excellency thinks my appeal worth notice I should be happy to be honored with an answer or any other orders that your Excellency thinks proper, for I have not so great a wish on earth as to serve my Country. I am, Sir, with every sentiment of respect your Ob't Serv't.

His Excellency Gov'r Clinton.

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[No. 3779.]

*The Governor Transmits a Confidential Message to the Legislature in  
Regard to Clothing.*

Gentlemen, Finding that every provision made by the State for clothing its Troops in the Continental Service had proved abortive and that they were likely to continue in a suffering condition, I was induced to adopt the Measure of which the Legislature will be fully informed by the Papers accompanying

this Message, and tho' it has not yet been attended with that Success which I had every reason to expect, a small supply has been procured—I thought it my Duty to make this communication to the Legislature that they may give such Directions on the Subject, particularly with Respect to the Distribution of the Goods as shall appear necessary and proper—I need not observe that the present Message from the Nature of the Business to which it relates ought to be considered as confidential.

Po'keepsie 20th June 1781.

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[No. 3780.]

*John Younglove's Complaint Regarding Conditions in Vermont—  
Governor Clinton Replies.*

Cambridge, 20th June 1781

May it Pleas Your Excellency, I received your Excelencys Letter on the evening of the very day the Pretended Convention met. I had just been warning them of their danger & after receiving your Excelencys Letter, Repeated it again, Informing them of the Letter & even went so far as to warn them to disperse & make no farther atemts, telling them they Might yet expect Mercy; they still percisted. I also went to the Committee from Vermont had one hour's conference. Desired them to desist & make no more Disturbance, As we had troble anuff; matters still went on; the first convention fel (?) at was the final Abolishment of their alegiance to the State of New York. Then on Articles of Union with Vermont; then sat up advertisements for a day of meating of the people. The gratest part that met voted in favor of the articles; then proceeded to the Election of Members of Assembly to set at Vermont. Mr. Whitesid & one Coldwell Were chosen & have taken their seats. As your Excel-

ency Directed me to make returns of their proceedings as soon as I could get copies of their papers, I proceeded to Poughkeepsie & found your Excellency was gone to the Highlands (to my great sorrow); however, I left My papers with the Attorney General to be forwarded to your Excellency. I have (as well as others) strove to keep the people to their allegiance but many have swerved. We are now as near as I can guess about half & half almost at swordpoints. Col. Blair promised the Vermonters he would prove true to them & as yet has been so; he has not regarded the General orders he has received from time to time this spring; once he called his Captains together & ordered them to Class the Men, in order to Raise the 20th, at the same time told them it was not worth while to Regard the orders, for we were going to join Vermont; however, some of the People Raised the men & he would neither receive or forward them; these things and many more I am Ready to prove. At two different times I have in person called on Major Ashton to act in his office and take the Command as Blair would not. He always said he was willing but he had no people. I told him I was well assured there was two thirds would obey him, Yet he would never make the attempt. So that we are now in the greatest confusion. Those that still adhere to their allegiance, has resolved never to submit until it is the order of Congress. The others among us, as also of Vermont is determined we shall their is also great division in Vermont, so that unless some speedy relief is granted, we in all probability shall have mournful times. The Barer, Fenner Palmer, one of the Justices of the District of Hosack, is now waiting to give your Excellency a much more particular account than what I can in writing. If your Excellency would favor me with some direction for our future conduct it might be of Enfi-

nate service here. I have the honor to be Your Exelencys humble serv't.

John Younglove.

To his Exelency George Clinckton Esq.

N. B. We have In company with this, Petitioned the Legislature for Relief.

GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Sir, I rec'd your Letter of the 20th ulto. previous to which I had the Papers you formerly transmitted me with such others as I had Rec'd respect'g the conduct of the People of the Grants and other misguided subjects of the State in your vicinity, before the Legislature. Their present Session however is so near its experation that having their attention engaged with matters of the greatest public importance I am in Doubt whether they will now do anything conclusive and effectual in this business. If they do I will apprise you of it immediately after their rising. If they do not I can only advise you to persevere & encourage a firm and steady alegiance to this State, avoiding altercation which might interrupt an exertion agt the Common Enemy, patiently waiting for a Period which I firmly hope is not far distant when we shall be in a situation to extend just authority & Jurisdiction of our State over all its subjects.

Pokeepsie 29 June 1781.

[No. 3781.]

*General James Clinton to Governor Clinton—Protection for Frontiers Should Washington Withdraw Troops from the Department of Albany.*

Albany June 21st 1781.

Dear Sir, Yours of the 18th inst. I have been honored with. I now have the Pleasure to enclose the Returns required and hope they may arrive in time to be laid before the House, agree-

ably to your wishes. You will observe that the officers are not arranged agreeably to their rank in the list on the back of the Returns; if you wish to be informed with respect to that, you will please to examine the arrangement which I furnished you with some time since & which I believe to be right.

In a Letter of the 16th inst. from His Excellency the Commander in chief, the following Paragraphs are contained. "I must now inform you, that the operations which have been concerted between His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, and myself against New York, will probably compel me to withdraw, not only these Troops, but also the remainder of V Schaick's Reg't. and the whole of Courtlandt's."

I give you this previous "notice that measures may be taken on the occasion that the Inhabitants may not be disappointed in their Expectations, and that the greatest possible number of the men for the Campaign and Levies for the three years Service may be drawn together to relieve the Garrisons at the several ports, and defend the Frontiers, whenever all the continental Troops should be ordered from thence."

"You will be pleased to observe, nothing but absolute necessity will induce me to order the regular Troops from the northward—and I request, therefore, it may be understood, that when the measure becomes indispensably necessary, there is not anything which can divert me from it."

From this view it appears evidently our duty to expedite the raising and forwarding the force destined for the Frontier by every possible exertion, for at present the whole strength of the Levies will not amount to four hundred men, and it is highly probable that a removal of the regular Troops from this place will be attended with an immediate Incursion of the Enemy on the Frontier.



This has induced me to give directions to change the Plan of the Fort to be erected at the German Flatts, lest we should not have time to finish it & be obliged to leave it in an undefensible State. I have requested the Engineer to contrive in such sort as may answer a temporary use, with little work, and which may be capable of further improvement when circumstances will admit.

Tho I had reason to believe the Gen'l. had given you an Intimation of this, yet I thought it my Duty to mention it to you officially, that you may take such measures for complying with his request & preserving the Safety of the Frontier as you may think Circumstances may require, and your Situation may admit of. I am, Dear Sir, Yours Sincerely.

Gov. Clinton.

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[No. 3782.]

*Governor Clinton to General Van Rensselaer as to Suing Militia Officers.*

Pokeepsie

I have rec'd you letter by Capt. Salisbury. I should be exceedingly unhappy if the officers were to suffer by their zeal for the Country, tho' it is out of my power to relieve them and the present meeting of the Legislature will be of [so] short a continuance that I despair of their interfering at present. I have nevertheless delivered your letter to a Member who has promised to introduce it. I am sorry that the Detachments were not made agreeable to Law as that would have prevented the present embarrassment.

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[No. 3783.]

*Order of Quaker Meeting Appointing Committee of Inquiry.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 3784.]

*John Fish to Governor Clinton Concerning the Exchange of Captain Townsend and a Flag.*

Bedford June 23rd 1781.

Hon'd Sir, Mrs. Townsend is very desirous of obtaining a Flag to the Enemy, for the Purpose of Conversing with Delancey on the Subject of Capt. Townsend's Parole, or Exchange, as all hopes of Colo. Skinners effecting it are now Blasted. It appears by information the matter lays solely in the Breast of Delancey. Capt. Hunter has spoke with Skinner since his return from New York; his advice was, that this Method should be pursued, with the proviso, the person going, shou'd be authorized to make Proposals of some certain Person, or Persons, that there was at least a probability of his Excepting. Cannot this be done, or wou'd it not be Adviseable? I am Anxious that nothing should be left unturned in Endeavoring to release him, that there is the least probability of succeeding in, as I have some time past determined to quit this Business. I should be glad to know whether your Excellency, Cou'd Consistantly grant a Flag for this Purpose to Capt. Hunter & myself, or wether it would be likely to answer any End. I am with all due respect, Your Excellencys most Obedient Humb'l Serv't

His Excellency George Clinton, Esq.

[No. 3785.]

*Richbill Williams' Successful Petition for Pardon.*

To the honorable the Legislature of the State of New York in Senate and Assembly convened. The humble Petition of Richbill Williams humbly herewith:

That your Petitioner was sent within the enemy's lines in the year 1778 by the Commissioners for detecting Conspiracies &c.,

by virtue of a law authorizing them to call upon persons of suspicious and equivocal Characters and tender them an oath of Allegiance and directing them to send such as refused the oath within the Enemys Lines.

That your Petitioner being unlearned, and ignorant of the merits of the Controversy between Great Britain and America, and giving too much heed to evil and designing men, had scruples of conscience against taking the oath when it was tendered him.

That having been a short time with the Enemy, your Petitioner returned determined to cast himself upon the Mercy of his Country, and become a faithful subject of the State.

That your Petitioner was apprehended, tried upon the fore-said Law, convicted and sentenced to imprisonment during life.

That your Petitioner has in consequence of the said Sentence been confined for near three years; has expended his substance and is reduced to the necessity of being supported by the Charity of Friends.

That your Petitioner is advanced in years, and laboring under infirmities, has but a few Days left him to spend in this world, and is capable of doing little for or against his Country. That little however, which is in his power he is willing to do for his Country.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that the honorable Legislature in their great Clemency will commiserate his case, pardon his offence, and discharge him from Prison, & suffer him to pass the few days he has to live with his Family and Friends and Your Petitioner as in duty bound shall every pray.

his

Richbill X Williams.

mark

Poughkeepsie Goal June 23d 1781.

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Richbill Williams—Report:

That having made perticular Enquiry respecting the petitioner and Duly Considering all Circumstances of his case, the Committee are of Opinion that he is a proper object of pardon and have Directed me to move for leave to bring in a bill for that purpose.

I, therefore, move for leave to bring in a bill for the pardon of Richbill Williams.

[No. 3786.]

*Return of Provisions.*

Return of Provisions purchased and Delivered under the direction of Undy Hay, Agent for the State of New York from Aug't. 1780 to 24 June 1781, for which Vouchers have not yet been procured.

| BY WHOM PURCHASED                           | SPECIES AND QUANTITY |      |     |     |            |
|---|----------------------|------|-----|-----|------------|
|   | FLOUR                |      |     |     | FRESH BEEF |
|   | Barrels              | Cwts | Qr. | lb. | Pounds     |
| Major Grosbeck                              | 70                   | 122  | ..  | ..  | .....      |
| Messrs. Fonda and McFarlin                  | ..                   | 1020 | ..  | ..  | 1020       |
| Christopher P. Yates                        | 150                  | 262  | 2   | ..  | .....      |
| Impressed and lent on the Western frontiers | 300                  | 525  | ..  | ..  | 1600       |
| Do Orange County                            | ..                   | ..   | ..  | ..  | 8000       |
| Do on the Northern Frontiers                | 60                   | 105  | ..  | ..  | 32000      |
| Sundries Since 1st of May                   | 500                  | 875  | ..  | ..  | .....      |
| Total Purch. & Delivered                    | 1080                 | 2909 | 2   | ..  | 42620      |

Udny Hay,  
State Agent.

[No. 3787.]

*A Forage Return.*

Return of Forage Purchased and Delivered Under the Direction of Udny Hay Agent for the State of New York from Aug't 1780 to 24 June 1781, for which Vouchers have not yet been Procured.

| BY WHOM PURCHASED               | SPECIES AND QUANTITY |  |         |  |         |  |            |  |      |      | Am't of Pasture procured which the State must pay, it being included in the Certificates with Short Forage |      |        |    |    |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------|--|---------|--|------------|--|------|------|--|------|--------|----|----|
|                                 | IND'N CORN           |  | OATS    |  | RYE     |  | BUCK WHEAT |  | HAY  |      |  |      |        |    |    |
|                                 | Bushels              |  | Bushels |  | Bushels |  | Bushels    |  | Tons | Cwt. |  | Qrs. | lbs.   |    |    |
| John Stagg                      | 120                  |  | 400     |  | 20      |  | 300        |  | 8    |      |  |      | 2377   | 15 | 10 |
| Dirck Wynkoop                   | 240                  |  |         |  |         |  |            |  | 100  |      |  |      | 800    |    |    |
| Matthew Dubois                  | 300                  |  |         |  |         |  |            |  |      |      |  |      | 400    |    |    |
| Persons on the Westr. Frontiers | 300                  |  |         |  |         |  |            |  |      |      |  |      |        |    |    |
| Do Northern Do                  |                      |  |         |  |         |  |            |  | 20   |      |  |      |        |    |    |
| Harmanus Cuyler                 |                      |  |         |  |         |  |            |  |      |      |  |      |        |    |    |
| Total purch'd & D'd.            | 960                  |  | 400     |  | 20      |  | 300        |  | 128  |      |  |      | 21,577 | 15 | 10 |

Udny Hay, State Agent

[No. 3788.]

*Colonel Udny Hay's Circular Letter to His Assistants.*

(Circular)

Poughkeepsie 24 June 1781.

Sir, I have already wrote in so pressing terms on the Necessity of getting in all the vouchers, necessary for the support of your Accounts in the Business of the Agency, that any farther Arguments must, in a great measure, appear altogether useless, but as so few of the Gentlemen with whom I am connected have as yet complied with my Requisition on that Score, it becomes my duty to put you in Mind, that it is far from being Improbable that the Principals of the Public Departments may object to the acknowledging Vouchers of such sub-ordinate Officers for Articles rec'd by them, as before these vouchers can be presented by me, may have left the service, and in all such cases the loss wou'd very justly fall on the Person by whose means the Voucher had been so long detain'd. I hope, therefore, that due Regard to your own Interest and Inclination to serve the State, as well as to enable me to settle my Accounts with the Public Officers, as far as reasonably can be expected, will prove sufficient Inducements for your Immediate Compliance, by forwarding your Vouchers to me with all convenient Dispatch.

Sundry Members of both Houses of the Legislature have urged the propriety of my coming to an Immediate Settlement with the Quarter Master & Commissary General and I have therefore laid this Letter before that honorable Body, as a Proof on a future Day (should it be necessary) that the Delay has not been owing to any fault of mine. I am with Esteem, Sir, Your most obed't Servant

Signed, Udny Hay

Asst's. Purchasers of Provisions &amp; Forage.

P. S.: As the Letter is Circular, these Gentlemen who have already delivered in most of their Vouchers, will not esteem it designed for them, in any other View, but as a guide for their future Conduct.

(Copy.)

[No. 3789.]

*Balance Sheet for Supplies Between the State and United States.*

The United States of America in Acc't. Curr't. for the Specific Supplies demanded by Congress 25 Feb'y 1780—with the State of New York. Cr.

1781  
 June 24th The whole Amount of Supplies supposed furnished betwixt first of Dec'r 1779 and first of Aug't. 1780, of which no Return has yet been made and therefore supposed in proportion to the length of Time, to be equal to those obtained by the present Agent, which makes the Calculation run thus—If 251 Days (the number of Days betwixt 1st of August and 23d of June) give 6637.7.6, what will 248 Days <sup>May</sup> 248664.18.7

By Balance due on the Requisition of 25th Feb'y 1780 as per Account this Day delivered in by Undy Hay Agent for the State of New York 215207. 4.-  
 By Balance due the State of New York upon the first quota 239357.14.7  
 248664.18.7

Dr. The United States of America in Acc't. Curr't. for the whole specific Supplies as yet demanded by Congress with the State of New York.

(To Balance due the State of New York upon the first Quota) 23457.14.7  
 (To Balance due the United States) 24744.5.5  
 28300. --  
 By 1500 Do Flour, suppose each 18 CQ  
 By 1600 Do Flour, suppose each 18 50400. --  
 at 140/ 219600. --  
 174/ 13200. --  
 283000. --

[No. 3790.]

*Statement of Accounts United States & New York State.*

Dr. The United States of America on Account of the Specific Supplies required by Congress 25th Feb'y 1780  
with the State of New York Cr.

| 1781—June 24.   |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
|---|---|--------|------|---|----|--------|--|---|---|
| Sundries delivered for the Quarter Master General's Department, for which receipts have been obtained as pr. General Return of Short Forage up to the 1st of May. Viz:  |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 1206  | Bushels of Rye  | at 8/  | 4481 | 4                                       |    |        |  |   | By 500 Tons of Hay required             |
| 4748 1/2  | Do Indian Corn  | 6/     | 1424 | 8                                       | 9  |        |  |   | £3000                                   |
| 5651 1/2  | Do Buckwheat  | 4/ & 1 | 1363 | 9                                       | 11 |        |  |   | By 3000 bushels of Indian Corn required |
| 7080  | Do Oats   | 4/     | 1418 |   |    |        |  |   | £12000                                  |
| 20  | Do Barley   | 5/     | 5    |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 433   | Do Peas   | 12/    | 271  | 16                                      |    |        |  |   |   |
| 4887  | Do Bran (not mentioned in ye Puroh's being ye Produce of part of ye Quota of wheat) | 2/     | 489  | 14                                      |    |        |  |   |   |
| Sundries purchased and delivered for which Receipts have not yet been obtained from the Public Officers, being the Excess of the Purchases above the Deliveries in the above Return. Viz:   |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 284 1/2   | Bushels of Rye  | at 8/  | 105  | 19                                      | 3  |        |  |   |   |
| 183 1/2   | Do Indian Corn  | 6/     | 58   | 1                                       | 9  |        |  |   |   |
| 824 1/2   | Do Buckwheat  | 4/ & 1 | 197  | 15                                      | 4  |        |  |   |   |
| 414 1/2   | Do Oats   | 4/     | 82   | 19                                      |    |        |  |   |   |
| Delivered as pr. General Return of Hay  |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| Tons  | C.  | Q.     | lb.  |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 1465  | 17  | 0      | 23   | of Hay                                  |    |        |  |   |   |
| 6401 Bundles of Straw   |   |        |      | per ton 120/                            |    | 6d     |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 8735                                    | 3  | 2      |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 180                                     |    | 6      |  |   |   |
| Purchased, part of which delivered, for which there has been no Receipts yet obtained, part ready for Delivery, being the Excess of the Purchases, in General Return of Hay, above the Deliveries, making a proper allowance for waste. |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 60 Tons of Hay  |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| Sundries procured in an Irregular Way by the Army &c. not yet settled for with the Public Officers as pr. General Return thereof.   |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 960 Bushels of Indian Corn  |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 400 Do Oats   |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 20 Do Rye   |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 800 Do Buckwheat  |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| 128 Tons of Hay   |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
| Pasture amounting to  |   |        |      |   |    |        |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 288                                     |    |        |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 80                                      |    |        |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 8                                       |    |        |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 72                                      |    |        |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 788                                     |    |        |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 1577                                    | 15 | 10     |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | 2708                                    | 15 | 10     |  |   |   |
|   |   |        |      | By balance due to the State of New York |    | 6047   |  | 7 | 6                                       |
|   |   |        |      |   |    | £17947 |  | 7 | 6                                       |



The United States of America on Account of the Specific Supplies required by Congress 25th Feb'y 1780  
Dr. with the State of New York Cr.

|            |   |       |       |        |        |    |   |
|------------|---|-------|-------|--------|--------|----|---|
| 1781       | To Balance, due the State of New York, bro't forward                            | 25947 | 7     | 6      |        |    |   |
| June 34th. | To Sundries as pr. General Return of Provisions delivered up to 1st of May—Viz: |       |       |        |        |    |   |
| C          | Q   | at    | 38/   | 233076 | 10     | 3  |   |
| 12500      | 1   | 24/   | 4     | 4      | 10     |    |   |
|            | 2   | 44/   | 12318 | 4      | 18     | 9  |   |
|            | 3   | 44/   | 55    | 4      | 10     |    |   |
|            | 4   | 140/  | 180   | 17     | 3      |    |   |
| 554,770    | of Flour  | 56/   | 24    | 10     | 10     |    |   |
| 6201       | of beef deliv'd in Beef Cattle pr. Hundred                                      | 176/  | 105   | 12     |        |    |   |
| 511        | Pounds of salted Beef   |       |       |        |        |    |   |
| 6201       | Pounds of salted Beef equal to 25 Barrels & 201 lb.—pr. BBI of 240              |       |       |        |        |    |   |
| 805        | Pounds of Fresh Pork  |       |       |        |        |    |   |
| 12         | Barrels of Salted Pork  |       |       |        |        |    |   |
|            |   |       |       |        | 235693 | 18 | 9 |

By 11,200 Hundred Weight of Beef required at 44/ per Hd Wt.  
By 13,969 Barrels of Flour divided each to weigh 113 3/4 r at 36/ 44003 7

|   |     |      |    |    |        |    |          |
|---|-----|------|----|----|--------|----|----------|
| Part of the Excess of the Purchases in the said General Return, above the Deliveries, allowance being made for the Deficiencies, supposed to arise from wastage &c &c |     |      |    |    |        |    |          |
| 1900 Cwt of Flour, being the supposed Product of the Wheat and Flour purchased above what is delivered after making large allowance for                               | 38/ | 5420 | -- | -- |        |    |          |
| 100,000 pounds of beef in same manner   | 44/ | 2200 | -- | -- | 5620   |    |          |
| Sundries purchased and delivered as pr. Irregular Return  | 36/ | 6236 | 4  | 9  |        |    |          |
| 2809 Cwt of Flour   | 44/ | 937  | 12 | 9  | 6173   | 16 | 9        |
| 42320 Pounds of Beef  |     |      |    |    | 253435 | 3  |          |
|   |     |      |    |    | 11207  | 4  |          |
|   |     |      |    |    | 268643 | 7  | --       |
|   |     |      |    |    |        |    | 268643 7 |

To Balance due to the United States of America

It is to be observed that no part of the supplies this State furnished by the Public Commissary betwixt the first day of December 1779, and first of Aug. 1780 is included: nor is there any charge above 44/ made for the Beef delivered after the 1st of Dec'r though the Price from that time is higher, nor any charge made for the Extra Expense attending the Purchase and Transportation of the Surplus of Hay above the Quota more than what wou'd have arose from a Quantity of Grain of equal value.

Udny Hay,  
State Agent,

[No. 3791.]

*Colonel Udney Hay to the Senate—Willing to Explain His Returns  
for Provisions and Forage.*

The Memorial of Udney Hay To the Honorable the Senate of  
the State of N. York, Sheweth:

That your memorialist, from a sincere desire to prevent every retardment in the business of your Honourable House as far as in his power, has taken the liberty of presenting, with his returns of Provisions & Forage procured, a Copy of an explanatory letter to his Excellency the Governor on the subject of said Returns, and if any further explanation is thought necessary, your Memorialist will be happy in having an opportunity of attending at any time and place where the Honourable the Senate may think proper to order him for that purpose. Your Memorialist shall as in duty bound ever pray,

Poughkeepsie 24 June 1781.

[No. 3792.]

*Governor Clinton Issues Instructions to Squire Horton Regarding  
Nefarious Transactions.*

Pokeepsie, 25th June 1781.

Sir, It has been represented to me that some of the Justices of the Peace of your County give Permits to Persons residing below our lines & in the Power of the Enemy to purchase cattle and drive them down to their destination. The objections to such conduct are so obvious as to render it needless to mention them to you. Tho I have no reason to suspect that you have been concerned in this business, yet I have thought it proper to apprise you of my sentiments on the subject and request you will

communicate them to such of the Magistrates as reside near you that a measure so inconsistent with the public service be discontinued.

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[No. 3793.]

*Captain Owen Shourt's Application to Meet His Brother—With Enclosures.*

To his Excellency George Clinton Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of New York. The humble Petition of Owen Shourt Refugee from the City of N. York, humbly sheweth: That previous to the British Troops taking possession of N. York your Petitioner moved with his family into Connecticut leaving all his Effects in New York except a trifle he brought with him for present subsistence, in monthly expectation that the events of war would be such, that he might return again into the peaceable possession of his Estate. Your Petitioner has waited in vain, 'till he is reduced to really Indigent Circumstances, and sees no prospects but those of poverty and want: the little he brought with him was long ago consumed, and he has subsisted for some time upon his own Industry, and the Charity of his Friends, the first of which resources hath at length failed, by reason of his Ill & declining State of Health, and Charity alone must now be his support unless your Petitioner can obtain permission to receive some benefit from his Estate in N. York. Your Petitioner when he fled from N. York, left there a Mother, Father in Law and two brothers, since which he has heard that Both his Parents and one of his brothers are dead; from the remaining Brother he has received a letter desiring your Petitioner would meet him by permission at the Enemies Lines, where he wishes to inform him of something concerning his Estate in N. York. Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays that he may be permitted to see his brother at the Lines, and further that your Petitioner may be suffered to receive some Assistance from his brother, or if it be practicable to sell some of his property which is in New York and bring out the Avails of it for the support of himself and family, but if this request cannot be granted, your petitioner prays that he may be suffered to see his brother, as a friend, under the strictest injunctions it shall be thought proper to lay him. Your Petitioner begs leave to say that he has always been friendly to the Cause of the United States, that he has, whenever requested & whenever exegences have required, most willingly taken his Musket and marched to the field in defence of the injured rights of his Country, that he has from time to time been engaged in Privateering against the Enemies of the United States. But your Petitioner has been unfortunate; the fatigues of hard service and struggles with Adversity have so broken down his constitution and impaired his health that he is rendered unfit for business; his family which he was once able to support in affluence are now calling upon him in vain for the necessaries and conveniences of Life, touch'd by all the misfortunes that surround him, and fearfull of the future, your Petitioner is emboldened to make the above requests & humbly hopes they will be granted & your Petitioner as in duty bound will every pray &c.

Chatham, Connecticut June 25th A. D. 1781.

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New Town March 23, '81

Dear Brother, I make no doubt, before this you have heard of the death of my Mother who died in January last after a tedious illness, the remains of our once large and happy family, but under such Circumstances I flatter myself I shall bear it with a manly Fortitude; hoping these may find you & Family, well, I think you have been very neglectfull of duty in not even writing a single line to your once Tender Mother. I should be happy to see you once more in the peaceable possession of your Estate, but when that will be, God only knows; numbers of your friends in New York makes particular enquiry about you and what answer to make them I know not. Some months ago, I was informed of your being brought to New York in the Beaver, Sloop, & lodged on board the prison ship. I immediately got the promise of your parole; on going and

enquiring on board the prison ship of the Master of the Beaver, he informed me you did not come out in Her that Cruize, which I make no doubt he has informed you after Exchange, provided you could get a Flag to come to Lloyd's Neck & enquiring for Robt. Morrell who will inform me of your being there I will wait upon you, for I have something to inform you about your interest in New York. Yrs.

BM. M. E.

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Capt. Owen Shourt formerly of New York, having left the place of his Nativity for the purpose of supporting the Independence of America, hath for about five years past dwelt in this Town & hath ever behaved himself as an apparent Friend to the United States & hath spent much of his Time in privateering against the Enemies of sd states.

David Sage, Just. Peace

Certified by

Eben'r White, Just. Peace.

Moses Bartlet, Joseph Kellogg, Select Men  
Chatham, 25th of June A. D. 1781.

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[No. 3794.]

*Governor Clinton to John Fitch Concerning Captain Townsend's Exchange.*

Pokeepsie, 26 June, 1781.

Sir, I have rec'd your Letter of the 23'd Int. and Do not think that the grant'g a Flag to yourself & Capt. Hunter will tend to the Liberation of Capt. Townsend. No means in my power has or shall be wanting for this Purpose but I am convinced that the solicitude of his Friend to affect it, has rather prevented it as it must induce the Enemy by heightening Capt. Townsend's Importance in their estimation to refuse an equal Exchange and if so put it out of my power to negotiate it. I have at the same time no doubt but the benevolent feelings of Capt. Townsend's Friends have also occasioned their anxiety on the occasion and if Mrs. Townsend conceives, she can by seeing Mr. Delancey obtain her Husbands' Liberty. I have no objection to her going to the Lines for that Purpose and I hereby signify my consent thereto, she receiving permission from the officer of our Army com'g on the Lines.

[No. 3795.]

*Governor Clinton Requests General Clinton to Complete the New York Regiment of Artillery.*

Poughkeepsie, 26th June 1781

Dear Brother, A very pressing requisition from his Excellency the Commander in Chief to compleat the Regiment of Artillery belonging to this State which is much more deficient than either of the Regiments of Infantry renders it necessary that the Recruits which yet remain to be furnished by the Classes should be annexed to that Corps & I have accordingly to request that you will give orders for this purpose to the Officer appointed to receive them. The intended operation of the Campaign will call for a more than the ordinary Proportion of Artillerists. If they cannot be otherwise acquired, I fear they must be drafted from the Infantry which makes me more anxious about the Business. Capt. Machin is now at Albany & if it is necessary some more of the officers of that Corps shall be forwarded to attend & receive the recruits. I am &c

[No. 3796.]

*Governor Clinton Orders Colonel McCloughry to Furnish a Guard for the Transfer of Prisoners of War.*

Pokeepsie, 27th June 1781

Sir, In Consequence of a Requisition to me from his Excellency General Washington I am to request that you will order a Guard of Twenty men of your Regiment under Command of an active and vigilant Officer to take charge of a Number of Prisoners of War from New Burgh to Sussex Court House; as it is necessary that this service be performed without Delay you

will give directions that the men be at New Burgh on Sunday evening next, that they may be able to march early on Monday Morning so as to deposit them that night in Goshen Goal. The Officer will enquire for the Commissary of Prisoners at the Quarter Master's Office at New Burgh, where he will receive the Prisoners and further directions. There is not time to make a detail from the Different Regiments on this occasion, but you may Depend upon it, that due credit will be given to your Regiment for this Service in the Rotation of Duty. Let me entreat that this Business be punctually performed. I am &c.

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[No. 3797.]

*James Black to Governor Clinton—On Clothing Returns, Uncertain Salary and Depreciated Currency.*

Poughkeepsie, 28th June, 1781

Sir, Enclosed your Excellency will receive a Return of the cloathing delivered to the State Troopes for the present year. You will see the great deficiency in Hats and linnen overalls, both much wanted. There is little expectation from the public stores.

It is with pain I write to your Excellency on the subject of money, but necessity obliges, having not received any from the public since in the present office, which will soon be two years, and I see by a law passed last year that I was to receive thirty Dollars of the New Emission per month, which from the fluctuating state of the Paper Currency is a very uncertain salary.

I have served the United States and this State as an Officer, upwards of five years and received for my services paper money,

mostly in its depreciated State, and although I was an inhabitant of this State before the War, have not received the compensation allowed other officers. I judge it unnecessary to Petition the Honorable Legislature on that Head, relying on the wisdom and Justice of that Body in rewarding me as well as other servants of the Public. I am with the greatest respect, Your Excellency's most obedient Most Humble Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3798.]

*General Clinton to the Governor—Cash the Strongest Argument to Secure Recruits.*

Albany June 30th 1782.

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 26th inst. I received last night, and Capt. Machin going down, furnishes me with a conveyance for this.

If the Classes would furnish the officers on the recruiting Service with cash, in all probability men could be procured—but they will neither furnish the one or other.

Under these circumstances I have judged it unnecessary to detain Capt. Machin as there is little reason to hope success from our present appearances. He will be able more fully to inform you of the peculiar circumstances attending this business than I can, & to him I beg leave to refer you.

I hope the House have passed some laws in favor of apprehending Diserters, as in my opinion it would be attended with more success in filling up the Reg't. than all the recruits you have reason to expect. I am, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely

Gov. Clinton.

[No. 3799.]

*New York's Representation in the Continental Line.*

Return of the non-Commiss'on'd Officers and Rank and file of the State of New York serving in the Army of the United States, under the Command of His Excellency General Washington, specifying the Corps they serve in and the expiration of their enlistment Monthly from the 1st of October 1780 to July 1781 inclusively; together with the number engaged to serve during the War.

| REGIMENTS & CORPS.          | PERIODS AT WHICH ENLISTMENTS EXPIRE FOR THE WAR. |          |            |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |                     |             | Total     |            |                     |             |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                             | October<br>1780                                  | November | December   | January<br>1781 | February | March    | April    | May      | June     | July | Actually<br>Present | Sick absent |           | On Command | On Extra<br>Service | On Kurlo    |
| 1st Colo. Van Schaek        | 15   |          | 18         |                 |          | 1        | 1        |          |          |      | 109                 | 9           | 18        |            |                     | 284         |
| 2d Cortlandt                | 3  | 1        | 5          |                 |          |          |          |          | 1        |      | 239                 | 8           | 27        |            |                     | 157         |
| 3d Ganzvoort                |  | 3        | 98         |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      | 143                 | 13          | 36        |            |                     | 297         |
| 4th Lt. Colo. Weissenfels   | 2  | 3        | 34         |                 |          |          | 1        | 1        |          |      | 127                 | 9           | 22        |            |                     | 206         |
| 5th Lt. Colo. Williett      |  | 1        |            |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |                     |             |           |            |                     | 809         |
| Additional Corps of Infan'y |  |          |            |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |                     |             |           |            |                     | 190         |
| Artillery                   |  |          |            |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |                     |             |           |            |                     | 119         |
| Cavalry                     |  |          |            |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |                     |             |           |            |                     | 135         |
| Artificers                  |  |          |            |                 |          |          |          |          |          |      |                     |             |           |            |                     | 24          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>20</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>155</b> |                 |          | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> |      | <b>617</b>          | <b>38</b>   | <b>93</b> |            |                     | <b>1424</b> |

Additional Corps { Spencers, Regiments 81  
of Infan'y. { Livingstons " 88

Artillery { 2d Regiment 119  
" { 3d Regiment 188  
Cavalry { 4th " 3  
" { 5th " 5  
" { Lee's Legion 14

Average number of { Sergeants Pr. Regiment 27  
{ Drums & Fifes Pr. do 100  
13 x 5 = 65

Total

165 Included in the Above return for the war, & not to be counted upon as Musketeers.

Alexd. Scammell, Adj. G'l.



[No. 3800.]

*Mr. Sackett Desires to Rent Governor Clinton's House and the Governor Shows the Impracticability of the Suggestion.*

Dear Sir, Mr. Baldwin who, lives in the State of Connecticut, married my sister and has had a Regular Education in the profession of the Law, has an inclination to settle in this State and set up the practice of the Law, lately applied to me to recomend a Proper Stand for that Business, considering the broaken situation of the State at present, could think of no place in the State So convenient as your house at New Windsor, proposed it to him, on giving my opinion he Requested me to make Application for it. If it should not be engaged to any other person he would wish to rent it and be glad to know your Terms and the Time he coul'd enter; his family is small and he tells me that he is well acquainted with Judge Hubbard who can give your his Character.

If you will be pleased to Recolect some time in the spring, I requested a permission for Mr. Silvanus Pine to go on to Long Island in order to sell an Estate that his uncle Left him Since the enemy had taken possession of the Island and is suffering great Loss by distruction of the Timber and improvements, and to bring off the Proceed. You gave your answer that as soon as our Army Took the field that you would grant a permission for him to go on and sell it and bring of the Proceeds in Specie, in consequence of which I would beg Leave to Suggest that the army is now in the field and that Mr. Pine would wish to go on Emediately, fearing that if an attack should take place the convulsions that would naturly take place from that sircumstance may ocasion the loss of the will and he in the End loose the whole, which is an object of great importance to him.

You will be pleased to answer the different parts of this Letter by the barer, who is in waiting and inclose your permission for Mr. Pine in yours and oblige, Dear Sir, your most obedient and most humble serv't

Nath'l Sackett.

Fishkill, July 1st 1781.

P. S. I should not have troubled you this day but am obliged to go on to Connecticut tomorrow when I shall see Mr. Baldwin, who is waiting your answer. I am Sr. Yrs N. S.  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Sir,\* I have rec'd yours<sup>1</sup> of this date and sh'd be happy to serve your Brother in Law, but my house at New Windsor is at present occupied by Capt. Bedlow a Gentleman from N. York,<sup>2</sup> who has been much<sup>3</sup> injured by the times.<sup>4</sup> I fear it wou'd add to his injuries<sup>5</sup> if he was obliged to remove from his present situation. If Capt. Bedlow should have the good fortune to be otherwise provided for before Mr. Baldwin can suit himself he shall have the preference. It is not in my power as yet to grant the Indulgence you request for Mr. Pine. As soon as it is which I hope will not be long I will transmitt you the permission. I am Sir  
1 July 1781—Pokeepsie.

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\*Mr. Charles H. Weygant of Newburgh, has been good enough to furnish this office with a copy of this letter, which differs verbally in several instances in the first sentence. In the Weygant copy these changes are noted:

1 Your letter.

2 New York.

3 "Much" omitted.

4 "And" inserted

5 Distresses.—STATE HISTORIAN.

[No. 3801-3802.]

*John and Henry Livingston Display Lively Interest in the Forthcoming Campaign—The Governor's Reply to Henry.*

Manor Livingston, July 2, 1781.

Sir, Mr. Duane inform'd me that you expected to take the Field in a short time. If so I will be much obliged to your Excellency if he will be kind enough to let me know, that I may be down in time. I am, your Excellency's most obed't servant,

Jno. Livingston.

For His Excel'y George Clinton, Esqr. Governor of the State of N. York &c &c.

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HENRY LIVINGSTON TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Manor Livingston, July 3d, 1781.

Sir, I am informed by Mr. Duane that there is a great probability of an active campaign this summer, and I could wish (if your Excellency thought proper) to be employed with the army, that will be at, or near, N. York, if possible.

I am more particularly anxious for that service, as I am informed that your Excellency is to partake in that part of the campaign.

I feel myself much obliged by you interesting yourself in my favor relative to the Adjutant Generalship. I am, with great esteem Your Excellency Hum'l Serv't

Henry Livingston

To G. Clinton, Esq., Gov'r State N. York.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO H. LIVINGSTON.

Poughkeepsie, Aug. 6th, 1781.

Sir, I have been fav'd w'th your letter of the 3rd ult. & should have answered it at a much earlier Day had I not been

induced to delay in hope that a command equal to your wishes would have offered itself. The Levies raising in your County & to the Northw'd, I have been obliged to order for the frontier service; & those raising in this & the other counties below, conformable to the Recommendation of Congress in a similar case, I have conceived it my duty as far as I have been able, to officer from among the deranged contin'l officers. Besides as some of the Militia field officers this way have tendered their services, I could not, without giving just cause of umbrage, pass them by & take an officer from another district.

If the operations of the pres't Campaign should, however, become serious and active it is probable we may have a further call on our militia, in which case you may be assured, sir, that I shall bear you in mind &, if in my Power consistently to do it gratify your Inclination. Being with great Esteem & Regard,  
Dr. Sir, Your Most Obed. Serv't.

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[No. 3803.]

*Governor Clinton to the Board of War in Relation to Appointments  
in the New York Line.*

Pokepsie, 4th July 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to the Act of Congress of the 8th of March 1779, I have the Honor of Transmitting to your Honorable Board an Authenticated Copy of the Minutes of the Council of Appointment of this State of the 29th June last for filling up several vacancies in the different Regts of this State, and have to request that Commissions be issued to the Gentlemen appointed. Notwithstanding the great care with which the Council proceeded in making the Appointments to fill up these vacancies in the late five New York Battalions on the 5th of June

1779, complaints were made by some of the Gentlemen, of Injustice having been done them in Point of Rank, which upon a Revisal of the Rank Rolls and other Documents of the said Battalion, were discovered to be well founded. The Council, therefore, at their last Meeting have corrected their former Appointments and have directed me to forward their Resolutions on the Subject and Request that the proper alterations may be made with Dates of the Commissions issued to those Gent'm accordingly. I am &c G. Clinton, Governor.

The Hon'ble the President of the Bd. of War, Phil'a.\*

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\*July 9.—In the evening of the 2d, Lieutenant-Colonel Emmerick marched with one hundred men, drawn from the regiments of the line, from the encampment near New York, to Phillips' house; as, the next morning, a number of wagons, under an escort of two hundred foot, and thirty mounted Yagers, were to be sent to the same place for some hay. But about ten o'clock the same evening, intelligence was received of General Washington's army having been at Sing Sing in the afternoon of the 2d instant. It was therefore resolved to leave the wagons within the lines, and send the detachment to recall Colonel Emmerick. Lieutenant-Colonel De Prueschenck with the following officers under his command, viz.: Captain Henricks, Captain De Wangenheim, Lieutenant Schaefer, Lieutenant De Delmar, and Lieutenant De Baltholmal, left the camp at daybreak, and having left Kingsbridge, would not pass a series of defiles before he had reconnoitred Fort Independence; he therefore ordered his advanced guards, under Lieutenant Schaefer, and another party of a sergeant and ten men, to examine the fort and its environs. It being not yet quite day, these parties did not perceive the rebels drawn up in a line of battle, till they were within ten yards of them, when they received their fire, returned it, and fell back to a proper distance. Lieutenant-Colonel De Prueschenck immediately and with great resolution and presence of mind, endeavored to gain the height in the rear of the fort, and though he received the rebels whole fire, succeeded so far as to take possession of the ruins of a house which was formerly fortified by Colonel Emmerick. From this place he attacked the rebels in their advantageous position, intending to dislodge them; but, observing a battalion with flying colors in the fort, finding their superiority of numbers, being furiously attacked with the bayonet, and at the same time seeing no possibility of gaining any ground to his advantage, he resolved to fall back under the cannon in Charles' redoubt; but the rebels pressing too hard upon him, and his infantry, on account of the narrow passage, beginning to lose ground, and being apprehensive of sustaining some loss in repassing the defile in such a situation, he ordered his cavalry under Lieutenant Flies, to charge the advancing enemy. This had the expected effect; the rebels stopped, the Yagers formed again and recommenced the attack with redoubled vigor, obliged the rebels to quit the fort, and drove them from the heights as far as Deveaux's house, taking possession of the ground they had quitted. At this time Lieutenant-Colonel De Wurm arrived with the rest of the Yager corps from Kingsbridge, and took possession of the rising ground between the Bridge and Fort Independence, reconnoitred the enemy's new position, extending from Mile-square road over the height to William's Bridge, with a thick wood in their rear, plainly indicating a design to conceal their real strength. As repeated intelligence was received that three hundred French horse covered the enemy's left at William's Bridge, Colonel De Wurm acted with precaution, and did not think proper to risk another attack; but Lieutenant-Colonel Emmerick retreating over Spuyten Duyvil, and being cut off by the rebels' position, (two hundred men being arrived at this time from the regiments of the line, and the refugees from Morrisania having joined,) it was absolutely necessary to force the rebels from their ground, to give

## GOV. CLINTON'S REPLY TO LETTER FROM BOARD OF WAR MAY 30TH.

On the 17th of last month I had the honor of laying before the Legislature, your Letter of the 30th May with the Acts of Congress therein referred to previous to their rising on the 1st Inst. They passed several Laws for the More effectual collection of the specific supplies allotted to this State. As soon as I can procure copies I shall transmit them with the State Agent's Returns & Reports which will give you the most satisfactory Information on the subject.

I am &c.

[No. 3804.]

*The Governor to James Clinton in Relation to Military Commissions  
—Allied Troops Assembling in Westchester County.*

Pokeepsie, 4th July 1781.

Dear Sir, Since my last I have been favored with yours of the 30th June. I now enclose you warrants for the Gentlemen who are appointed to fill vacancies in the two N. York Regt's of Infantry with a warrant for Alex'r\*, as a second Lieut of

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Colonel Emmerick an opportunity of joining by the way of Cortlandt's house, still in possession of the rebels. The Yagers moved forward and took possession of Cortlandt's Bridge; the refugees and the advanced parties of the Yagers engaged the rebels' advanced posts and drove them to their main body, which immediately filed off to the left, and retreated towards William's Bridge. The passage being now open, Colonel Emmerick was desired to leave Spuyten Duyvil and to join, which he did, and informed General De Losberg that he drew two hundred rebels into his ambuscade at Phillips' house, of which he killed three and took nine; that the rebel army was moving in two columns, (one of which was already seen on Valentine's Hill advancing towards Cortlandt's Bridge.) The troops were now ordered to fall back to their former position, leaving one hundred Yagers at Fort Independence, and observe all the motions of General Washington's army, who himself reconnoitred Spuyten Duyvil at Three o'clock in the afternoon. At four o'clock the troops moved into the lines and to their encampment.

The loss of the Yagers is three men killed; one officer, one sergeant, twenty-six men wounded, and five missing. That of the rebels is very considerable; intelligence was received that they embarked one hundred and one wounded men at Sing Sing, and sent them up the North River, besides a great many who died of their wounds before they reached that place, and one officer and seventeen men who were left on the field, with seventeen stands of arms.—Rivington's Gazette, July 14.

\*Alexander Clinton, the son of General James Clinton, had been commissioned an ensign in the First Regiment, September 29, 1780, and was transferred to Colonel John Lamb's Artillery Regiment by a commission of second lieutenant, dated June 29, 1781.—STATE HISTORIAN.

Artillery, which you will please to have delivered. I also enclose you Copies of the Resolutions of Council, correcting the Mistakes which took place in their Appointments of 29th June 1779 & respecting the claim of Leut Wendell to Precedency of Rank to Leut Van Woert; when this matter is adjusted I know of no other dispute which can possibly exist in the Line. In my letter to the Board of War transmitting copies of the new appointments, I have mentioned the above alteration and Requested that the Commissions to the Gentlemen concerned may be made to conform thereto.

A Law passed last Session for the encouragement of the apprehension of Deserters which shall be published as soon as possible. One year's exemption from all Militia Duty, Drafts & Detachment and ten Pounds New Emission is the Reward offered to any Person who shall apprehend & deliver a Deserter from our Troops at any Military Post.\* We have no news. The Allied Troops are assembling fast in West Chester County. I am Yours Sincerely.

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\*July 4.—The imagination can scarcely conceive of a more miserable condition than that of the inhabitants of New York, between the Highlands and Albany. The persons favoring independency, which consist only of such as despair of escaping the vengeance of their countrymen, abandon themselves to all the cruelty of cowardice. Alive to suspicion, the general consideration is about spies and harborers of spies, and in the extremity of their terrors, the slightest preparations pass with the tyrants in office for demonstrative proof. Hence women are committed to their jails, capital executions grow more frequent, and to the reproach of humanity, there was an instance within a month past of a man under public condemnation, being hanged in his prison to gratify the pride of the sheriff, who (obliged to be executioner himself) was ashamed to perform the office of hangman in the fields. Albany was reserved for this first and rare instance of infamy.

And though the credit of paper money is totally extinct in all parts of the continent, (and for that reason the late mint of specie or hard money paper not wholly issued, but withheld if possible to increase its value, or rather the demand for it,) their late mob assembly have published a tax law, to oblige every man to give a bushel of wheat for every sixty dollars of his former assessment, in old continental, and if he has no wheat, then twelve shillings in lieu of a bushel of wheat, and on failure in ten days, two bushels or twenty-four shillings. This wheat, it is said, is for the supply of Washington's army, but really intended to be sold to the French for hard money; and what will be done with that, no person is at a loss to conjecture. Miserable people, the prey of plunderers of their own creating! "How long, O Lord!" is the cry of the oppressed!

By the abandoning of Fort Stanwix, all the western country is deserted down to Schenectady, and the persecutors who dare to continue in Kingston have fortified and

[No. 3805.]

*Governor Clinton to President of the Board of War as to Specific Supplies from this State and a Resolution of the Legislature as to Exchange of Flour Between New York State and Philadelphia.*

'Poughkeepsie, July 5, 1781.

Sir, I had the honor of addressing a Letter to you yesterday acknowledging the receipt of yours of the 7th Ulto. since which Colo. Hay, our State Agent, has furnished me with the enclosed Report, by which and the returns (he informs me he has forwarded to your Hon'bl Board,) you will have the fullest information I am able to afford of the prospects of compleating the specific supplies allotted to this State. I think it my Duty at the same time to observe that little Dependance ought to be placed, for the regular subsistance of an Army, on a State already almost exhausted by the War, surrounded by the enemy, & its best Graineries daily exposed to their Ravages.

The Legislature at their last meeting came to a Resolution, a copy of which is enclosed, respecting the exchanging of Flour in Phila for the same article in this State. The immense saving which would arise to the public by this measure in point of Transportation as well as the Ease it would afford the Inhabitants, who are now charged with the whole of that Burthen, to the great injury of Agriculture, which should at this time meet with every encouragement, induces me sincerely to wish it may

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drawn ditches around their houses, in expectation of the Indians as soon as the harvests are in stack.

The advocates for peace and the re-union, and who have been so ever since the fatal declaration of independence, and who are a vast majority, grow every day more numerous, and it is remarkable that not a single instance can be assigned of the apostasy of a loyalist to the wicked and interested views of the usurpers.

There is a new set of mob legislators met at Poughkeepsie; a little time will show whether they mean to expose themselves to all the vengeance of which the majority of the late assembly and senate live in constant dread, many of them changing their lodgings, to elude the search of the avengers of the innocent blood they have shed.

Mr. Clinton, the titular governor, has fortified his huts against a sudden surprise, and the rebel slaves of Poughkeepsie guard it every night.—Rivington's Gazette, July 4.



be adopted & I shall be happy to be favored with an Answer on this Subject, conformable to the Sense of the Legislature as early as may be convenient especially as the Season for effecting this Business to advantage is far advanced. I have the honor to be &c &c.

The Hon'ble Wm. Grayson,\* Esqr., Presd't of the Bd. of War  
Phila.

[No. 3806.]

*The Governor to Colonel Paine Regarding Political and Military  
Affairs in Vermont.*

Pokeepsie, 6th July 1781.

Dear Sir, It is some days since I was favored with your Letter of the 10th ultimo with its enclosure. The Legislature was then sitting, to whom I had communicated such Intelligence as I had received, respecting the Conduct of our Revolted Citizens in your Quarter, and I, therefore, thought it most proper to delay giving you an answer until I could be informed of the Results of their Deliberations on that subject. They did not meet punctually, their Session of Course was short & they had such a variety of Objects of the greatest importance to the Gen'l Interest of America pressing for their Attention, that they had scarce Time to enter upon that Business & nothing effectual is determined upon. I can, therefore, at present only advise what I am persuaded from your conduct on other occasions will be faithfully pursued on your Part, a steady and firm adherence to the Duty you owe the State & avoiding as much as may be entering into any Controversy with the Revolters which can consistently be avoided as I would wish to evade any Contention

\*William Grayson of Virginia, Lieutenant-Colonel and Aide-de-Camp to General Washington, 24th August, 1776; Colonel of one of the Sixteen Additional Continental Regiments, 11th January, 1777; retired 22d April, 1779; Commissioner of the Board of War, 7th December, 1779; resigned 10th September, 1781. Died 12th March, 1790.—  
STATE HISTORIAN.

with them that might weaken our opposition to the Common Enemy, at least until the close of the present Campaign. Chittenden's Letter is beneath your notice & his Interference in Favor of the disaffected, I flatter myself will not redound much to his credit or to promote his cause.

The Legislature from an Apprehension that the Continental Troops would be withdrawn from the Frontier to assist in offensive operations have ordered a second levy of Troops equal to the former and I now enclose you my orders for embodying them which I request you to execute in your Regt. with the least possible Delay. I expect Gen'l Stark will be sent to command in your Quarter. I shall be happy to have the present as well as former levies of your Reg't on this Frontier if they can possibly be subsisted & if I can see the Gen'l before he goes up I will speak to him on this & other matters relative to your Quarter of the Country. I am &c

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[No. 3807.]

*Robert Morris Transmits to Governor Clinton the Act of Congress Relating to Enforcing the Compliance with Requisitions.*

Philadelphia, July 6th 1781.

Sir, I do myself the honor to enclose the Copy of an Act of Congress of the 28th of June 1781, from which your Excellency will perceive that I am directed to press a compliance with the several Requisitions of Congress upon your State. Immediately upon the rece[i]pt of this Resolution, I wrote to the Treasury Board, the Commissary General and Quarter Master General, for returns by which to determine the several Balances due. Whenever I shall have received them, I will do myself the honor of addressing your Excellency again on the Subject and am to pray that in the Interim Measures may be taken within your

State to Comply with these several requisitions as far as they may hitherto have been uncomplied with; the object of my present Letter is to give you early notice of that Resolution and further to inform you, as the Balance of these Requisitions is the only Fund from which Expenditures of the Campaign are to be drawn, I must urge the most speedy & punctual compliance on the part of the several States. Your Excellency's Good sense will render it unnecessary for me to dwell on this Subject and your regard for the Public Interest will, I am confident, interest you most deeply in the facilitating a Compliance with the essential demand. With the Greatest Respect I have the honour to be Your Excellencys Most Obediant H. Serv't

Robt. Morris, Sup't of Finance.

His Excellency, The Governour, Commdr. in Chief of New York.

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By the United States in Congress Assembled June 28th 1781

Ordered

That the Superintendent of Finance be furnished with an Account of the Several Requisitions of Money & Supplies from the States, and that he take measures for calling upon them & pressing a Compliance with the said Requisition.

That he Order such sums of Money into the hands of the Quarter Master General & the Commss'y of Military Stores as upon Consultation aforesaid may be necessary for executing the duties required of them Respectively.

(Copy)

Extract from the Minutes

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

[No. 3808.]

*Return of New Levies Commanded by Colonel Pawling.*

Return of the New Levies Commanded by Lt. Colo. Pawling Stationed at Ye Frontiers of Ulster & Orange Counties, Naponagh July 6th 1781.

| OFFICERS COMMANDING COMPANIES | FIELD    |       | COMMUNICATED |             | STAFF    |            | NON COMMUNICATED |              |                | RANK AND FILE |             |                      |              |             |            |             |            |          |            |          |      |             |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------|--------------|-------------|----------|------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------|-------------|----------|
|                               | Colonel  | Major | Captains     | Lieutenants | Adjutant | Qr. Master | Surgeon          | Sergt. Major | Qr. Mr. Sergt. | Sergents      | Drum & Pife | Present fit for Duty | Sick present | Sick absent | on command | on furlough | Total      | joined   | Discharged | Deserted | Dead | Transferred |          |
| Captain Pearece               | 1        |       | 1            | 2           | 1        | 1          | 1                |              | 1              | 4             |             | 57                   |              |             |            |             | 57         |          |            |          |      |             |          |
| Do Burbeck                    | 1        |       | 1            | 1           |          | 1          |                  |              |                | 4             |             | 49                   |              |             |            |             | 49         | 2        |            | 1        |      | 1           | 1        |
| Do Pawling                    |          |       | 1            | 2           |          |            |                  |              |                | 4             |             | 37                   |              |             | 3          | 1           | 41         | 3        |            |          |      |             |          |
| Do Livingston                 |          |       | 1            | 2           |          |            |                  |              |                | 5             | 3           | 81                   |              | 2           |            |             | 83         | 3        |            |          |      |             | 1        |
| Do Westfall                   |          |       | 1            | 3           |          |            |                  |              |                | 5             |             | 70                   |              |             |            |             | 70         | 1        |            |          |      |             |          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1</b> |       | <b>5</b>     | <b>9</b>    | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>1</b>         | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>       | <b>22</b>     | <b>3</b>    | <b>294</b>           |              | <b>2</b>    | <b>3</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>300</b> | <b>6</b> |            | <b>2</b> |      |             | <b>3</b> |
|                               |          |       |              |             |          |            |                  |              |                |               |             | <b>Esopus</b>        |              |             |            |             |            |          |            |          |      |             |          |
|                               |          |       |              |             |          |            |                  |              |                |               |             | <b>Faltz</b>         |              |             |            |             |            |          |            |          |      |             |          |

N. B. 2 Rank & file Omitted in last Return.

A. Pawling, Lt. Colo.

I. Connor Acting Qr. Master  
 I. D. Lewis Adjutant  
 one 1 hour joined since last return.  
 one 1 hour joined since last return.  
 one Serg't. joined since last return.

[No. 3809.]

*Colonel Udney Hay's Appeal to Governor Clinton for Relief for Mr. Trimble.*

Poughkeepsie, 9th July 1781.

Sir, The enclosed narrative of Mr. Trimble's proceedings respecting a quantity of flour impressed by him in consequence of your Excellency's particular warrant for that purpose, with the attempts already made to make him answerable for the value thereof in a way the Law did not certainly intend, is of such a nature as compells me, in justice to him, to request your Excellency's interposition in any manner you think most eligible, and will prove most conducive in preventing Mr. Trimble from becoming a personal sufferer for having exerted himself on a particular occasion to promote the public good, without the least view of any emolument to himself, or even any consideration for his personal trouble therein. I have the honor to be, Your Excellency's most obed't & very humble serv't,

Udney Hay

Governour Clinton.

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[No. 3810.]

*Thomas McKean of Pennsylvania Succeeds Samuel Huntington as President of Congress.*

Secretary's Office, July 10th 1781.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that the Hon'ble Samuel Huntington having informed the United States in Congress Assembled, that the state of his health would not permit him to continue longer in the exercise of the duties of President and requested leave of absence, Congress have this day proceeded

to the choice of a President, and have elected the Hon'ble Thomas McKean. I am, Sir, Your obedient Hum. Serv't.

Chas. Thomson.

His Excellency The Governor of New York.

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[No. 3811.]

*Colonel Ebenezer Stevens Urges the Governor to Fill Up the Artillery Quota—The Governor's Reply.*

Sir, I had the honor of receiving your Excellency's favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. by Capt. Hubbell, together with the Appointments. As General Knox is on the Lines, I shall forward the Letter addressed to the President of the Board of War, the first opportunity that offers.

Inclosed, is the Monthly Return of the Regiment. Your Excellency will see by that, how far short we fall, of the Establishment. I should wish to be informed if any, and what steps are taken to recruit, as we shall probably take the field, in the course of a very few days. Every Artillery Man that can be mustered we shall want. I have not a doubt but your Excellency will hurry on such men, as may be ordered for us. I have the honor to be, with the greatest Respect, Your Excellency's most obed't & very humble serv't

E. Stevens.

Artillery Park, 11th July 1781.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Poughkeepsie, July 11th 1781.

Sr, I am favored with your Letter of this Day enclosing a Return of the Reg't of Artillery. The Legislature rose

without making any new Provision for recruiting our regts. There are still many delinquent Classes on the late Law; but from the information of Gen'l Clinton I have little hopes of being enabled to collect many more by virtue of that law—I have given orders—however, that all that may yet be collected be delivered to the Artillery; and as soon as the fines from the Delinquent classes come in, I shall put the monies into the hands of proper recruiting officers to recruit for your Reg't accordingly. In order to avoid any mistakes, I wish to be furnished with a rank Roll of the officers of your Reg't that the Council of Appointment may govern themselves thereby in any future appointments.





[No. 3812.]

*General Clinton Reports the Mutiny in the First Regiment to the Governor—The Law Regarding Deserters.*

Albany, July 11th 1781.

Sir, Your favor of the 4th inst, I have been honored with, enclosing the warrants for the Gentlemen lately appointed, none of which are signed except that for my Son, which I have delivered; the others I have detained in my possession until I hear from or see you.

I could have wished the Law encouraging the apprehension of Deserters had been more extensive and generous. Ten pounds, new Emission, is not an equivalent for taking up a Deserter out of this State, and the Expences attending the apprehension and delivery of those taken in the Grants, bear no proportion to the Reward, and the greater of them take refuge in that part of the State.

I suppose you have already heard of the Mutiny amongst the Troops of the First regiment previous to their march from this place. It originated in the want of Cash, and a Report which had been industriously propagated, that a Quantity of Specie had been brought up to pay them.

From Troops whose minds had been poisoned by such Ideas as this, and whose heads were inflamed with Liquor, the most dangerous Consequences were to be expected. Every lenient Method was tried but to no purpose. At length I had recourse to coercive measures, and after a short conflict, in which two were dangerously wounded, and twelve of the principals confined, the rest were reduced to a kind of Order. The subsequent night, thirteen of them deserted, amongst whom were three Sergeants; being informed several of them were in the

vicinity, and having secured a sufficient number to exhibit as Examples, I promised a Pardon to all such as would return to their duty, which was followed by the Surrender of a number of them.

I have detached Lt. Colo. Cochran with a small party into the Grants in pursuit of the rest, and flatter myself they will be taken. I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,  
Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 3813.]

*President McKean to Governor Clinton—Act of Congress Respecting French Marines—With the Governor's Reply.*  
(Circular)

Sir, Your Excellency will receive enclosed, an Act of Congress of this Day, respecting French Marines who may be employed in any of the armed & other Vessels in the Service of these States or the Citizens thereof.

This proceeding is so explicit, the thing desired so necessary, and the Fruits of its success so interesting to the common cause, that, I rest assured, nothing will be wanting on your Part to promote so salutary a Purpose.

I have the Honor to be with very great Regard, Your Excellency's Most obedient & most humble Servant

Tho. McKean, President.

Philadelphia July 12, 1781.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Poughkeepsie, July 23d 1781.

Sir, I have to acknowledge the rec't of your Excellency's Letter of the 12th Inst enc'g the Act of Congress of the same

Date. From the Situation of this State, few if any of the French Marines can be employed in it either by its citizens or the Service of the Public. But as far as either may be the case the Recommendation of Congress will be duly attended to. I have the honor to be &c &c

(G. C.)

His Ex'cy Thos. McKean, Esq'r. Pres'dt &c.

By the United States in Congress Assembled July 12th 1781.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial from Mr. Marbols Chargé des affairs of France delivered in a report whereupon it was resolved as follows:

Whereas it has been represented to the United States in Congress Assembled that there are many French seaman subjects of his most Christian Majesty in the United States, employed on board armed and other Vessels in the service of the said States or the Citizens thereof; and whereas, it has also been represented that the said seamen are necessary for compleatly manning the squadron under the Count de Barras, all Officers, therefore, commanding armed or other vessels under commissions from the United States in Congress Assembled, are hereby ordered and directed immediately to deliver to the said Count de Barras or to any person or persons by him appointed to receive the same, all French seamen subjects of his said Majesty, who are or maybe entered on board their vessels respectively and if any officer commissioned as aforesaid shall neglect or refuse complying with this order he shall forfeit his commission and be subject to such other punishment as to right shall appertain. And it is earnestly recommended to the legislatures and executives of the several States to give effectual aid and support for the executing this order and also for delivering to the Count de Barras all French seamen as aforesaid that may be otherwise employed within their respective jurisdictions.

Extract from the minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Sec'y.

[No. 3814.]

*Treasurer Bancker to Colonel R. Benson as to Money Paid Into the Treasury on Account of Delinquent Militia Classes.*

Albany, July 12th 1781.

Dr. Col., In Answer to the Queries in you Letter of the 9th please to be informed that Col. Anthony Van Bergen, of Cox-sackie, has paid into the Treasury £184..16.. New Emission, on Acco't of the £80 to be paid by each Delinquent Classe; and that no other monies are in my hands, paid either for the Delinquent Classes or by those whose Sons are gone to the Enemy. The monies which I received last winter on Account of the £30,

Class Money, I have repaid to the respective Colonels, pursuant to the directions of the Act of Assembly.

Herewith I send by Mr. George Taylor, agreeable to your request, five hundred pounds New Emission for his Excellency the Governor, on Account his Contingent Expences. I am, with esteem & Regard, Yours Most Obed't

Gerard Bancker.

P. S.: I received the Packet for Mr. Sands which you return & thank you for your trouble. The Money I send is very badly stampt, but the want of proper paint, Tipes & Time must apologize for it.

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[No. 3815.]

*General James Clinton to Governor Clinton as to Sundry Unsigned Warrants for Officers and the Distribution of their Clothing.*

Albany, July 13th 1781.

Sir, I wrote you yesterday by express, in which I mentioned the Circumstances of the Warrants for the Officers lately appointed in this State, being unsigned; I have, therefore, concluded to send them down by Colo. Van Dyck in order that the Distribution of the Cloaths may be made accordingly.

Nothing new hath occurred in this Quarter but what Col. Willet's Letter informs you of, as it came to me under a flying Seal, I have communicated the principle Contents to His Excellency and referred him to you for particulars.

I should be glad to know if Alexander is to receive his Proportion of Cloaths from the First Reg't or from the Reg't of Artillery; unless this is speedily ascertained he will be neglected by both. I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, Your's Sincerely,  
Gov. Clinton.

[No. 3816.]

*J. Dan. Gros Reports the Situation in the Mohawk Valley—  
Confidence of the People in Marinus Willett.*

Albany, ye 13th of July 1781

Sir, Yesterday I arrived here from the Mohawks River, where I have continued to be these four weeks past; visiting the principal Parts of the County; whereby I am enabled to give you a pretty full Detail of its present Condition. To my surprise I had almost forgot the repeated destructions this County has met with, if it had not been for the Ruins, indicating that the Inhabitants had had formerly the Comfort of Buildings.

All along the River, and in the other settlements, the most remote ones excepted, viz.: Dillenburg, Riemensnyder's Bush, Snells Bush, Germantown, Andrewtown, Springfield and Cherry Valley, there is a prospect of as plentiful Crops, as has been in the Memory of Men, and every spot of ground flourishes with some kind of grain as much, if not more, as in time of the profoundest Peace. What pity would it be, if these bountiful comforts should be lost? The Hay harvest is at hand, and would have been almost finished now had it not been for the removal of the Troops, and the several incursions of the enemy since that time, which made it necessary to call every man under Arms for the comon Defence; and this has been done with the greatest alacrity imaginable. The Removal of the Troops, has not had that effect upon the Militia, which I feared it would have. Colonel Willett and I were enjoined by the General, to prepare them for that Catastrophe in Time: and the hope that soon other troops will be sent, keeps up their spirits and rather animates them to the utmost exertions whereof we have had several instances upon intelligence that the Enemy was discovered at Different places,

which put it out of the power of Col. Willet, to send his men any where or to do anything else but to keep them in readiness, I wrote to two officers requesting them in the name of the Col. to assist at this critical juncture, when in one hour's time we had 76 effective men under march for such places, where it was thought they would be of service. And in the affair of Durlach, they gave full proof of their determined zeal to Defend their Country. I make no doubt but the Militia, if well regulated with the assistance of some Troops, in my opinion 500, will be able to bid defiance to all the enemies that may be brought against them, and effectually protect themselves. But to bring about this regulation, requires more insight into matters of such a nature, than I may pretend to; however with your Leave I shall take the Liberty to point out such deficiencies, as have come under my knowledge, leaving the task of remedying them to your Excellency.

The qualifications of the officer commanding the Militia are well known to you. I have only to add that he has of late become very unpopular even suspected. The reason whereof I conceive to be that besides his usual indolence and unconcernedness, his two sons, who have been suspected a good while ago and strenuously defended by him, actually went of to the enemy and took along with them 11 or 12 others chiefly from the Col's Neighborhood. There is a great cry that the Col. has lately sent his sons to Albany to bring up amunition, and when brought has it not yet distributed, and People is left to guess wheter the Sons did tacke it along to Canada in the whole or in part. This mackes the old gentleman so insignificant in the eyes of the whole County, that he is spokèn of with contempt. He and the other field officers will in my opinion yield to be comanded

at least to have their men comanded by an officer of Conduct and Ability. I have the particular pleasure to assure your Excellency, that Col. Willet is universally looked upon in this Light. I do not know what has been the reason, that I could not prevail with him to have a meeting of the field officers called and an opportunity given me to move this matter, which was almost the chief design of my going up with the Colonel; the reasons he alleged were, that he is waiting for instructions for that purpose from you. However, that may be, I could wish that the Militia would be in some manner coordinatèd with Col. Willet under proper restrictions to prevent jealousy or overbearance. Beg your Excellency will provide that Troops may be sent up that way as soon as possible and a sufficiency of amunition distributed among the Militia. I have the Honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant

J. Dan. Gros.

To His Excellency Governor Clinton.

P. S. The General tells me that he is under some distant expectations of Troops from the Eastward.

Upon the examining into the amunition of those militia men who went with Col. Willet, none was who had more than 6 or 7 rounds, several none at all.

In regard to the restrictions, I think to have reason to fear more from overbearance, than from jealousy.

As all of the officers of the Levies had the benefit of freeing a Class, I should think, that I may claim the same Indulgence. But thinking too late on this I am the only one in that service unprovided. If possible I hope your Excellency will see me in some manner indemnified. I need not State my necessities that way, and I shall do all in my power to deserve any favour bestowed upon me.

[No. 3817.]

*Four Affidavits of Joshua Hobart Implicating Individuals Who Traded in Goods Brought from Within the Enemy's Lines.*

I Joshua Hobart declare as follows—That I have at sundry times been at Doctr John Dorrances in Voluntown with Long Island Goods, and have sold of the said goods to the said John Dorrance, and that he hath kept concealed for me at sundry times such goods as aforesaid, knowing the same to come from within the Enemy's Lines to my satisfaction, by what frequently passed between us, And further say, that Obadiah Wright has informed me that Capt. David Dorrance had bought goods as aforesaid of him to the amount of about Ninety pounds, if I mistake not, and that he purchased the same on credit, and that the said Obadiah hath sent the note or an order by me, to the said John Dorrance, several times for payment, but the said John informed me that his brother gave such a price for said goods that he had not been able to dispose of them neither there, nor at Providence—and I further say I have had acquaintance with one Chapman at Norwich, who hath informed me that he hath traded a good deal in goods with Richard Simmons and David Conkling, and agreed with me for a quantity of goods, and gave me an invoice for the same, and also a person's name at Saybrook where to leave them, whose name was Elliver Chapman, which said Contract was made sometime in March last past, and that I have conversed with the said Chapman who I contracted with at several times since, about said trade.  
July 12th, 1781.

I, Joshua Hobart, declare as follows—That sometime in the fall of the year 1780, I was in company with one Solomon Lathrop of Pittsfield at William Dudley, at Saybrook, and the said Solomon traded with Richard Simmens for goods at that time, and some time in the winter following the said Solomon was at Saybrook again, and then contracted with Capt. Josiah Balding, of North Killingsworth, for a quantity of goods which were to be ready at a time, then agreed on, which was about three or four weeks, and he came accordingly and received said goods, which, as near as I can recollect, amounted to about four hundred pounds Lawful Silver money, for which he paid then in Cash about two hundred pounds—and I further say, that about Ninety pounds worth of said Goods belonged to Obadiah Wright and myself, which the said Obadiah had put into said Balding's hands to dispose for us, and that sometime in March past, the said Solomon came down to Moodus and then went over to Long Island in order to contract for a quantity of goods, if they could contrive any way to get them off which was, to cruise over in a Boat two or three times until he could have the goods ready on the shore, and then he would agree with the hands to give them as much for the cruise, which he concluded he could do for a half Jo a Piece, and seize the same and bring them off, and after he had been over to Long Island I saw the said Solomon at Saybrook, and there entered into an agreement with him for a quantity of lumber, which he was to deliver at Middletown for me to take on board a vessel to transport to New York, which we were to be equally concerned in, and that in a short time after I saw a letter from said Solomon at Saybrook informing me that he had concluded to raft said lumber to Saybrook instead of Middletown and that the same should be ready at Saybrook on the 7th of May last. The quantity agreed for was thirty thousand feet; but I being almost loaded, and ready to sail for New York, when I received said letter, I left orders with said William Dudley to store said lumber until I returned there from New York, which I have not done since, and make no doubt but what the said lumber is now stored with the said William Dudley at Saybrook. And I further say that some time in the fall last past, one Joshua Welles of Long Island, obtained a permit from His Excellency Governor Trumbull, to remove from said Island to the main with his family and effects, and in virtue of which he came off, and brought with him a quantity of British Goods, and that sometime in the spring last past, the aforesaid Capt. Balding contracted with said Wells for a quantity of goods which he received, and had an Invoice of the same, sworn to before a Justice of the peace, which said Certificate given by said Justice, was wrote by the said Obadiah Wright, and wrote such a distance below the invoice, that the said Capt. Balding had room to put in the invoice of the goods which he had received from George Fowler on Long Island, which he did accordingly after the said Justice had given the said Certificate to said Wells and without his knowledge—and further say not.  
July 13th 1781.



I Joshua Hobart, declare as follows—That some time in November last, I, together with Obadiah Wright of Saybrook was travelling the road from Saybrook to Providence, and called at Dorrance's tavern in Voluntown which said tavern the said Wright informed me he had frequented when travelling said road, and that he had sold goods to Capt David Dorrance who was son to the landlord, and that John Dorrance, brother to the said David had had some quantity of goods of one Humphy Pratt of said Saybrook, which said Pratt, the said Wright further informed me had been a considerable trader in the goods way, and that some time after this I was again at said Dorrance's, and had goods with me and at the same time left some of them with the said John Dorrance to sell for me, to which he did to the amount of about fifty dollars—and at another time afterwards I was again at said Dorrance's, and had goods with me, and sold a few articles thereof to the said John Dorrance, which he then paid me for. And I further say that the said Obadiah Wright has sent an order by me several times to the said John Dorrance for the payment of the goods which David Dorrance had of him the said Obadiah Wright as abovesaid—but the said John Dorrance did not answer the same but replied the goods were so high which his brother bought of said Wright that he had not been able to sell them as yet, tho' he had carried some of them to Providence for that purpose. And I further say that One Abraham Pratt of Pantapauge, has offered me Beef or Pork to carry to Long Island—also desired me if I should see any Boats from Long Island to inform the people thereof that he would let them have any thing they should want to carry to said Island—And I further declare that I myself have had of said Abraham some cheese, and about a dozen pairs of shoes to carry to said Island to sell for him the said Pratt, which I did accordingly, and likewise have sold goods as aforesaid to said Pratt, he knowing the same to come from Long Island—And I further say that said Abraham professes to be a friend to British Government when he is with them that he can converse freely with.

July 14th 1781.

I Joshua Hobart, declare as follows—That some time in the spring last past I was informed by Obadiah Wright, that he the said Obadiah, and John Mumford of Providence, had some misunderstanding about some money which the said Mumford owed to the said Obadiah—he the said Obadiah declared to me the said Joshua that if the said Mumford did not settle the affair and pay him he would arrest him and expose him about the letter he the said Mumford wrote to the said Obadiah to assist the said Mumford's brother in getting to Long Island.

July 15th 1781.

Providence SS:

State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations. Those additional examinations of Joshua Hobart contained in the above & preceding five pages were taken before me, and subscribed by him in my presence—This seventeenth day of July 1781.

David Howell, Justice Superior Court.

(Copy)

[No. 3818.]

*Colonel Willett Sends to the Governor a Report, an Affidavit and a Statement Regarding Depredations Near Schoharie.*

Fort Renselaer, 15th July 1781

Sir: The enclosed confession of William Sommer, one of the Men who came to me with the Letter I mentioned to your Excellency in my Letter of yesterday, contains such an Exhibition of a long train of horrid Villiany in the Miscreant Inhabitants of Torloch, that I shall send out a party to endeavor to take such of those Wretches as may yet be found in that Settlement,

in order to bring them to Justice. But as nothing short of a gallows can be a just reward for their actions, I should be glad to know from you, whether you conceive there will be any Difficulty in bringing them speedily to that punishment, for should not this be the case, I am willing to risk all the consequences in having them hanged myself. I shall send this with an Express who will have directions to see your Excellency in order to procure me an Answer as soon as possible.

Cannot power be given to me to remove the Rascally disaffected Inhabitants from these Frontiers. No attention having been paid to those Orders you formerly sent to the Militia Officers for that purpose, nor do they appear to me to be the proper persons to do this business.

My party is returned from Torloch, but as I had not the Evidence I now have against the Inhabitants of that place before the Party went out, I did not give them orders to secure the Inhabitants. Notwithstanding, the party brought in ninety head of cattle, they left a considerable number with the people, so that I am in hopes they are not yet gone off; I shall, therefore, send out a party in order to take the Inhabitants and bring them to me, as soon as possible. Just at this time I am not able to do this, having very few men and a large party gone to drive some of the Cattle we took at Torloch to Fort Herkimer, for the use of the Troops at that place.

I wish to know what Force I may expect this way and I should be very glad of some directions from you, and be informed how to manage with so small assistance such complicated business as I am engaged in. Above everything, I entreat you try to let us have men that we may beat the Enemy again, and again, should they (as no doubt they will) pay us any more visits. Our

late success has, to be sure, been greater than we had a right to hope for, but tho we have been very fortunate this once and Heaven has appeared signally for us, yet let us not forget to keep our Shoulders to the wheel by doing all we can; therefore, once again I ask for help against a future Day, which is perhaps very near, for we are told of Troops being on this way from Bucks Island and from other parts of Canada. Pray give us all the help as well as all the Council you can against such an event.

William Sommer is a Son of one Dominie Sommer, who is a Minister living at Schohary. He appears Intelligent, but is no doubt a great villian; he has made the enclosed discoveries in the hope of procuring forgiveness which I told him would be the case; if his Acc't turned out to be all true and that it does not afterwards appear he has concealed anything he knew. What can become of the remainder of the Levies from Dutchess County and Capt. Whelp among the rest? I am, Sir, Your most obedient & very Humble servant.

P. S. I enclose you a copy of the curious letter which Mr. Sommer in Company with one other Man (who appears to be ignorant of Devilry that has been carried on in that Quarter) brought to me from Torloch.

Governor Clinton.

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM SOMMER.

Sometime in the Spring of the year 1777, Peter Summer, Jacob Mirch, and Jacob Miller sent a letter with a list of the Names of sundry inhabitants living at Torloch to Joseph Brant, the Indian, informing him that they would come over and join him; that accordingly about the beginning of August twenty Six in number under the Command of Jacob Miller, a Capt. of which number I myself was one, went and joined General St. Ledger whilst he lay before Fort Schuyler; that after continuing there about Five Days, Harmanus Barnhout and myself returned again to Torloch. And that sometime last fall, Jacob Mirch formerly of Torloch, but now with the Enemy, came to Torloch and informed us that the enemy were a coming down, and that they had passed Fort Schuyler, that they were very strong and intended to murder every man Woman and child before them, upon which Lieut Conradt Brown, George Riddich, Christopher Riddich, Jacob Hanes, Jun'r, David Frauts, Jacobus Happer, Christian Otman, Jacob Coughman, Robert Aurson, Henry Mirch, George Walker, Ernest Frats,

Jacob Hanes, Mathias Mirch, Christopher Fraunce, Jacob Fraunce, Michael Mirch, Abdriss Fichter, Michael Frederick, George Frymin, Michael Bost, Michael Frymin, Jacob Fester and myself, formed ourselves into a Company under the Command of the aforesaid Jacob Mirch, and as soon as Sir John Johnson, who commanded the enemy on an Expedition into those parts at that time, had got down into the Country, we set out in order to join him and marched almost to Schohary, when meeting with Jost Brown, Isaac Vroman, Brassler Cryslar and one, old Jocham, all Inhabitants of Schohary, who told us that Sir John Johnson had left Schohary. We again returned to our homes at Torloch, except George Riddick, Henry Mirch and David Frauts, who went off with the said Jacob Mirch to the Enemy.

Sometime in June last Christopher Riddick wrote to Joseph Brant requesting him to come over with a party and fetch him and several other families (who had sons with the enemy) with their Effects away, but dont know whether any answers have been rec'd to that Letter. Four days before the action of the 10th inst at Torloch, Henry Mirch who went off to the enemy last Fall, came to Torloch and informed us that Joseph Brant was coming with a strong party of Indians and Tories to Destroy Curry Town, which party arrived on the Borders of Torloch the Day following, where they were furnished with provisions, and on the next day being Sunday, Marched from Torloch for Curry Town being joined by Lieut. Conrat Brown, Christian Olman, Christopher Riddich, Jacob Hanes, Jun'r, Henry Frauts, Michael Mirch, Jacobus Hopper, Matthias Mirch, Earnest Frets, Andres Fichter, Martis Bowman, Michael Fichter, George Walker, Godleap Bowman, John Summers, Henry Hanes, Frederick Mirch, Henry Loucks, Conrat Hopper, Christian Hanover, John Conradt, Jacob Coughman, Charles Hearwager, Michael Fredericks, Henry Hanes, Jun'r, Jacob Fraunce and myself, all Inhabitants of Torloch and Rynbecks; (we were all painted and equiped like Indians as were all the Tories belonging to the party). We were promised by Joseph Brandt and Barent Fry, the two Commandants of the Indians and Tories, Ten Dollars for every Scalp we took, and that each person who would join them should have fifty acres of land. That early on Monday morning we arrived at Curry Town, and after surrounding the Settlement began to set fire to their Houses and Barns and to drive away their horses & cattle, and that during these transactions I saw two white Children and one Black Child who were killed. After having burnt all the Houses and drove away all the Cattle that could be come at, we returned back as far that night as the Neighborhood of Torloch; the Indians and Tories going to their old Encampment in that Neighborhood together with some of the Inhabitants of Torloch, a few of which went to their own homes that night and joined the Enemy again before Day. About 6 o'clock in the morning the Indians were alarmed by the Hallowing of an Old Woman, and the whole immediately prepared for action and advanced towards the place where they heard the hallowing, and upon their discovering the Enemy, made great shoutings and Fired, but were soon obliged to retreat. They afterwards made several other Stands and fired in the best manner they could, untill finally they were obliged to Run quite off, dispersing and running some one way and some another, having a great many men killed and Wounded. I myself saw Twenty Five who were killed; the greatest part of which were Indians, and from Reports of others, I was afterwards told they had upwards of Forty Killed and about as many wounded. I counted the Indians before the Battle begun and they were one hundred and Ninety in Number. The Tories amounted to between Ninety and a Hundred. After the action was over and the Enemy gone of, the People who lived at Torloch all went to their Homes And some time in the afternoon of the same day had a meeting at Lieut. Conradt Brown's when it was agreed to send the Letter which we brought here. Jacob Clock who lately went of from Palatine district was with the Party under the Command of Barent Fry as I was informed.

William Sommer.

Personally appeared at Canajohary, this Fifteenth Day of July, One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty One before me William Petrie, Esq'r one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Tryon, William Sommer, yeoman, living in the settlement called Torloch, and being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, says that the Accounts contained in this Paper to which he has fixed his name are all strictly true to the best of his knowledge & Belief.

Sworn before me,

Wm. Petry, Justice.

## STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT BROWN.

The 11th of July 1781.

Honored Sir, this is to give directions of the unlucky accident that is happened in our Settlement, Sunday last we were all met together in a appointed Place, in order of a meeting to receive the Sacrament by old Domine Summer; we met together about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and in about one half an hour after this there came in two Men which lives in the Settlement which brought us the news that they heard a very hard firing of guns near of our Settlement, by this Alarm our meeting was broke up. Some People run for their Home and some stayed at the Meeting House with the old Minister; and presently we heard two guns fired about a mile from the Meeting House; directly after this there came in a horse with a saddle on belonging to the People which had been in the Meeting. Immediately we sent out a scout of three Men towards we thought where the two guns was fired. The Scout brought us in the news that they found the tract of a large Party which passed the East Side through the Settlement. After this there came in two Men which lives at the lower end of the Settlement, which told us they went Westward, and that they have murdered Philip Hoffman and his wife, and took away two Horses. Sir, I am your most humble Servant

Conradt Brown, Lieut.

(Copy)

[No. 3819.]

*Christopher Muller Applies to Governor Clinton for a Captain's  
Commission.*

Claverack, July 15th 1781.

Sir: By a late act of the Legislature I find there must be Troops Raised untill the first day of December next, and also find

by your Excellencie's Orders, that those who are Capable and Willing to Command the Troops so to be raised are desired to step forth Immediately and apply for a Commission. My Circumstances at this present time is such that I cannot come down myself now, but take this opportunity of writing to Your Excellency by the Post, I should be very glad to enter in the Service again in the Capacity of a Captain as I was in the levies last Year and served out the time faithfully. As for a recommendation I think I want none this Time. Your Excellency had a Recommendation last Year from Judge Yates in my favour, and enclosed I send you the Commission obtained from your Excellency last year, which I hope you will send me again. Enclosed in a letter by the Post and an Answer if I can obtain a Commission in the levies now to be raised until December next. I remain, Sir, Your Very Hum'l Servant

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SECRETARY BENSON INFORMS CAPT. MULLER THE GOVERNOR IS  
UNABLE TO GRANT HIM A COMMISSION.

July 18th, 1781.

Sir, I am directed by his Excellency the Gov'r to return you your Commission & to inform you that Col. Willet & Colo. Lush are directed to report a list of Officers for those of the levies now raising which are to serve to the Northw'd & Westw'd & therefore, that he cannot give you any encouragement until he knows what progress they have made in the Business, & receives their returns.—least a double set of Officers should be engaged. Colo. Lush is now at Albany. I am &c

Robt. Benson.

Capt. Christ'r. Muller.

[No. 3820.]

*Governor Clinton to James Clinton—Regarding Unsigned Warrants  
and the Distribution of Clothing.*

Poughkeepsie, July 16th, 1781.

Dear Sir, I have rec'd your letters of the 11th & 12th [13th] inst, the latter by Colo V Dyck to whom I returned the warrants after signing them, to be delivered to the Gentlemen. The law for encouraging the apprehending of Deserters is as the legislature tho't proper to pass it. I wish the bounty had been made more adequate to the purposes intended. The encouragem't given by it to those subject to militia Duty I should conceive considerable gritt. I do not know what distribution the Sub Clothier has made of the clothing other than that of giving to each Reg't its proportion. I understood that the gentlemen lately appointed who had not yet joined, would not be considered as entitled to a share; but as Alex'r has not yet joined the Artillery I take it for granted he must get his proportion in the Reg't to which he belonged, & in which he done duty at the time. Capt. Black or Lieut. Connoly who are gone to Albany will however be able to inform you more particularly on this head. I am lead to believe however that the cloathing delivered to the Artillery Reg't is already distributed among the Officers & that none remains for those lately appointed.

I am, &c.

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[No. 3821.]

*Treasurer Bancker Reports to the Governor the Amount of Delinquent  
'Class Money He Received.*

Albany, July 16th 1781.

Dr. Sir, I wrote you a few days ago, and informed you what Delinquent Class money was in my hands, since which I have

examined the Account of Mr. Auditor General's Transactions when lately at Poughkeepsie (which I have not had time to look into before) and find he received for me and Credits the two following Sums for the Delinquent Classes viz:

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Received from Col. Roswell Hopkins | £503. .3. .2 |
| Received from Col. Field           | 80. .        |
|                                    | <hr/>        |
| New Emission                       | £583. .3. .2 |

which sum you will be pleased to add to that received from Col. V. Bergen, & you have the amo't of what has come to my hands. Yours &c,

G. Bancker.

[No. 3822.]

*Peter Van Ness Commends Lieutenant Hale for a Captain's Commission.*

Claverack, July 16th, 1781.

Sir, The bearer Lieut. Aaron Hale informs me, that he has sustained a Commission in the Continental Army is now resident within the Limits of my Regiment, and offers to accept an Appointment in the Levies now to be Raised in pursuance of your Excellency's General orders, dated the 1st Instant, July, provided your Excellency should think proper to give him Command of a Company. I have no objection that Mr. Hale should be appointed a Captain in the Levies now raising, because no applications have as yet been made to me for Recommendation to your Excellency from Officers who Actually now hold Commissions in my Regiment, which was the case when the nine months Levies now in Service were raised. I think I can now with more propriety expect that at least two officers from my Regiment should be appointed; in case such as can be approved



of should offer their service & shall, therefore, the more expect that your Excellency will except of Mr. Hale's proposal.

A few Days since, Captain Thomas McKinstry called upon me and in conversation acquainted me that he had an inclination of entering the Service for which we are now raising Levies, provided your Excellency would think favorable enough of his Abilities to recommend him for the Appointment of Major; he informs me that upon his undertaking to perform a particular service and did actually perform the same; that General James Clinton promised him that the first Opportunity that offered he would do something "very clever" for him; this he thinks General Clinton would approve of and would now call upon the General for his assistance was the time not so short for accomplishing this business. Is it probable and consistent with your Excellency's approbation, that Thomas should be appointed to the Rank of Major? If so please to inform me; your Excellency undoubtedly knows his conduct during the course of the three months service last Campaign; by information he behaved well far beyond my expectation. Shall be happy, to be favored with your Excellencies answer upon the subjects above mentioned Pr. Mr. Hale. I have the honour to be with the greatest Esteem and sincerity Your Excellencies most Obedient and most Hum Servant,

Peter Van Ness.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3823.]

*Captain Dunham Ordered to Receive Levies from Charlotte County.*

Albany, 17th July 1781.

Sir, I enclose you his Excellency, the Governor's Orders of the 7th Inst by which you will observe you are appointed to

receive at White Creek, the Levies from Charlotte County. As it may be inconvenient for you to leave your present station for this Purpose you will write to or confer with Colo. Paine on the subject and send one of your subalterns to receive the Troops as raised. I think it proper to mention to you that each man you receive must be provided with a good musquet or Furloch, a cartouch Box or Pouch capable of containing seventeen Charges of Ammunition a Knapsack or Haversack and a good Blanket.

These Levies when raised are to be annexed to your Company till further Orders from Colo. Willett to whom of Course you will make returns of them. I am, Sir, Your Most Obedient,  
Capt. Dunham.

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[No. 3824.]

*Orders to Captain T. Skinner and Lieutenant Josiah Skinner to Receive Levies from Whiting's and Van Ness' Regiments.*

Albany, 17th July 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to directions received from His Excellency the Governor I am to request that you will be pleased to attend and receive the Levies now raising for Defence of the State in Colo. Whiting's (Van Ness) Regiment. Deserters from the British service are to be rejected and you are to receive none but able bodied Men fit for active Duty, each provided with a good musquet or Furloch, a Cartouch Box or Pouch capable of containing seventeen charges of ammunition, a Knapsack or Haversack and a good Blanket. These Levies when raised will be subject to the orders of Colo. Willett to whom you will make the necessary Returns, and you will (exclusive of your present appointment) be recommended to a Captaincy (Lieutenancy) in the present ser-

vice. You will be pleased without Delay to wait upon Colo. Whiting and confer with him on this Business and do everything in your Power to hasten it as the safety of the Frontiers principally depends upon its being quickly completed. I am, Sir, Your most obedient.

Capt. Skinner.

Lieut. Skinner.

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[No. 3825.]

*Orders to Officers with Regard to the Levies from Colonel Wemple's Regiment.*

Albany, 17th July 1781.

Sir, I enclose you General Orders of his Excellency the Governor of the 9th Inst. agreeable to which you will attend at Schenectady and receive the Levies now raising for Defence of the State from Colo. Wemple's Regt. These when raised will be subject to the Direction of Colo. Willett, to whom you will make Returns and you will be recommended (exclusive of your present appointment) to a Lieutenancy in the present service. Each man you accept must be provided with a good Musquet or Furloch a Cartouch Box or Pouch capable of containing seventeen charges of ammunition a Knapsack or Haversack and a good blanket. You will be pleased to write to or confer with Colo. Wemple and do everything in your Power to hasten this Business as the Safety of the Frontiers principally depends upon its being quickly completed.

Lieut. Van Ingen, Capt. Livingston, Capt. Job Wright, Capt. Van Rensselaer.

[No. 3826.]

*Orders to Captains to Receive Levies and Urgency Demanded for the Protection of the Frontier.*

Albany 17th July 1781.

Sir, I enclose you General Orders of His Excellency the Governor of the 7th Inst. by which you will observe you are appointed to receive at CatsKill the Levies from Vanbergen's Regiment. Those Levies when raised are to be annexed to your Company till further Orders from Colo. Willett to whom you will make Return of them. Each man you receive must be provided with a good musquet or Furloch, a Cartouch Box or Pouch capable of containing seventeen Charges of ammunition, a Knapsack or Haversack and a good Blanket. You will please to write to or confer with Colo. Van Bergen and do everything in your Power to hasten this Business as the safety of the Frontier principally depends upon its being quickly completed. I am, Sir, your most obed Serv't.

Capt. White.

Capt. Dubois.

Capt. Conine.

[No. 3827.]

*Colonel Peter Van Ness Recommends Captain Whitney to Governor Clinton for a Captain's Command in the Levies—The Governor's Reply.*

Claverack, July 17th 1781.

Sir, Again I take the liberty of addressing your Excellency upon the subject of recommending Officers, to take Command in the Levies now raising. Joshua Whitney, the bearer, hereof is now with me who manifests a Disposition to enter the present Service; he holds now a Captain's Commission, and Commands

one of the Companies in my Regiment; he is capable and active, and on Different occasions his Conduct has been such as will Justify a Recommendation of a good Officer, and could wish that your Excellency would give him a Command in the Levies equal in Rank to the one he now Sustains in the Militia. I am with the highest Esteem, Your Excellencies Most Obed't Servant.  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

July 20th, 1781.

Sir, I have rec'd your Letter of the 17th recommending Capt. Whitney to a Command in the Levies now raising. Altho I would wish to give him a Command agreeable to your Recommendation, yet for the Reasons contained in my Letter of the 18th respect'g Lieut. Hale, I cannot at present give him any assurances of it as I have not yet rec'd a Return from Colo. Willet & Colo. Lush. I shall write to Colo. Lush on the subject and be assured, Sir, that proper attention will be paid to the Gentlemen recommended by you as far as the service & Justice to others will admit of.

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[No. 3828.]

*The Governor Discourages Colonel Willett's Summary Suggestion—  
Levies Slow in Coming in.*

Poughkeepsie, 18th July 1781.

Sir, I am this Moment favored with yours of the 15th Instant. My letter of the 16th which for want of a previous Conveyance will be delivered to you with this, is so full an Answer to the several Matters mentioned in your Letter, That after referring you to it I have little farther to add. It contains

Impress Warrants which will not only justify you in procuring subsistence for your own Troops but put it in your Power to divest the disaffected of the Means of supplying the Enemy. My Order subjecting the Militia of Tryon County in Cases of Emergencies to your Call was forwarded inclosed in a former Letter and in my last you have my Authority to remove the disaffected into the Interior parts of the State & I am fully convinced not only by the Examination of Wm. Summer transmitted by you, but by many former concurring Accounts of the Disaffection and Wickedness of the Inhabitants of Torloch, that I have not a doubt but they ought to be immediately apprehended & secured. But altho at the same Time I am persuaded that they merit severe Punishment, I cannot venture to order any but such as may be inflicted by the Ordinary Courts of Justice, they not coming within the Discription of Persons subject to Martial Law. They are undoubtedly guilty of high Treason of the blackest Hue & they may be committed to close Custody on the Warrant of any Magistrate, until Courts can be ordered for their tryal. What a pitty it is they had not fallen when in Arms ag't us or rather that it was not known that they might have been instantly pursued & punished on that spot.

I forgot to mention in my last that by a Return which I lately rec'd from Capt. Jacob Lansing appointed to Muster the Recruits raised on Bounties of unappropriated Lands, it appears that only seven have been yet Mustered. Major Hitchcock, by Letter lately received, informs me that he expected to be able to muster forty by the Midle of this Month but I have but little confidence that this will be the case. The Time for recruiting ends if I recollect Right, the 1st or the Midle of Aug't. but I conceive notwithstanding it will be of advantage to continue

that Service, if the Prospects are promising & to extend it to the Levies as it will be transferring them at a moderate Rate to a more permanent Service in which they will be of real use. You may rely on every advise and assistance in my power to afford to facilitate your troublesome command and render it useful.

The news at the Close of my last proves without foundation.

I am &c.

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[No. 3829.]

*The Governor to Colonel Van Ness in Regard to Appointments and Promotions.*

Poughkeepsie, July 18, 1781.

Sir, I have rec'd your favor of the 16th Inst. I directed Colo. Willett & Colo. Lush who is now in Albany, to collect the names & Rank of the supernumery Officers of the Levies last raised & of such other Gentlemen who have heretofore been in Service & as inclined to receive appointments in the Levies now raising, and for the sake of Dispatch to order them to the Several Places of Rendezvous to receive & muster the men. What progress they have made in this Business I have not yet been informed of and therefore cannot assure Mr. Hale that he will be appointed to command a Company least by doing so, I might do an injustice to others of Superior Rank & forfeit their services. I have no objection, however, to appoint him to a Lieutenancy & if it shall appear that he is entitled to a Company he may rely on Justice being done him.

I wish to serve Capt. McKinstry but it is not in my Power to give him the Promotion he requests, as I cannot think of promising any Person Rank above what he at present sustains and especially as it will not be possible to convince the Council to

confirm the Appointments before the Troops take the field. Be assured, Sir, it will always afford me Pleasure to do your Reg't full justice. I am persuaded you will not impute it to a contrary principle that there was no Officers appointed from your Regt last spring as none offered.

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[No. 3830.]

*The Governor to Dominic Gros—Condition of Affairs in Tryon County.*

Poukeepsie, 18th July 1781.

Dear Sir, The Express who is to carry this, waiting only for it, leaves me but a Moment to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favour of the 13th. I am sincerely happy to learn that the Frontier Settlements of your County which have so frequently felt the ravages of the enemy still afford such promising Prospects. I trust it is needless to assure you, Sir, that I feel myself much interested in their Defence & that every Means which is in my power shall be faithfully exerted for that Purpose.

The Legislature did not as I hoped they would, make any special Provision for the better Government of the Frontier Militia, indeed their Session was so short that it was almost impossible to attend to it. I have, therefore, issued an Order making them subject to the Call of Colo Willet on Cases of special Emergencies. This is all I could legally do and in this way the Evil you most dread will be least likely to take place. I have Likewise directed him to move the disaffected from the frontiers into the Interior Parts of the State, a Duty the Militia Officers it seems have hitherto neglected tho authorized by Law & my Orders for carrying it into execution. I would fain hope that when the present Levies are brought into the Field



which I have taken Measures to have affected with the least possible delay, & 600 Levies expected from Massachusetts arrive, that we shall be able to maintain a Force in Tryon County equal to what you conceive Competent for its defence. With best Respects to Mr. Gros I am, Dr Sir,

[No. 3831.]

*Governor Chittenden's Attempt to Confiscate a Large Slice of New York Territory by Proclamation.*

By His Excellency Thomas Chittenden, Esquire, Captain-General, Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the State of Vermont,

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the Legislature of this State at their Session in June last, for the Reasons hereafter exhibited, did extend their Claim of Jurisdiction from the North-West Corner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Westerly in the same Direction with the North Line of said Commonwealth, until it reaches the deepest Channel of Hudson's River; thence running Northerly in the deepest Channel of said River, to the Source thereof; and from thence a due North Direction to Latitude 45 deg North (or the southern Boundary of the Province of Quebec).

AND Whereas, no Part of the Lands contained in said Claim, were ever included in any original Charter from the Crown of Great Britain to the Government of New-York, but were known to be extra-provincial Lands, without the Limits of any of the chartered Colonies, and annexed to the former Government of New York; Which Jurisdiction in its own Nature became null and void, in Consequence of the Declaration of Independence by the United States, and the Annihilation of kingly Power in America, And in consequence of a subsequent Commission from the same royal Authority to Governor Phillip Skene, which vested him with Powers of Jurisdiction over the same Territory, and which on the Position of the Validity of royal Traditions and Boundaries, would fatally operate against the Claim of the State of New-York. And although there may have been what some People call a Mutual Association and Connexion between the Inhabitants included in said claim, and the State of New-York since the Declaration of Independence, yet the Nature of such Allegiance must be founded on a reciprocal Protection; for Government and Protection are by Nature so connected together, that the one cannot exist independent of the other; nor can any Allegiance be lawfully had or demanded by any Government, except at the same Time it affords the salutary Influences of Support or Protection to its Citizens.

AND whereas the Government of New-York, for a Number of Years, have been very deficient in succouring, defending or protecting the Citizens inhabiting the said claimed Territory, and of late have wholly abandoned them to the Ravages of the common Enemy; And whereas this State have been their main Support and Protection for several Years last past, and have lately entered into a governmental League and Combination with them, for the mutual happiness and Security of each other, under the same Constitution and Code of Laws; being urged thereto by the refusal of the Government of New-York to unite with this Government for their mutual Defence, and from the local Situation of both to the Waters of Lake Champlain, and the British Government of Canada, from whence a powerful Force can suddenly invade this State including its last Western Union.

And whereas Commissions both civil and military have been lately issued from the Supreme Authority of this State to Persons chosen, agreeable to the Laws and Customs thereof, in the several Districts and Corporations within the Limits of the said western Claim of Jurisdiction.

I, have, therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of my Council, to issue this

Proclamation, and do hereby strictly require, charge and command all Persons of whatsoever Quality or Denomination residing within the said Western Claim of Jurisdiction, to take due Notice of the Laws and Orders of this State, and govern themselves accordingly on Pain of incurring the Penalties therein contained.

And I do hereby further strictly require and command all Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Constables, and all other civil, and all military Offices to be active and vigilant in executing the Laws aforesaid, without Partiality.

Given under my Hand, and the Seat of this State, at Arlington, this 18th day of July, A. D. 1781, and in the 5th Year of the Independence of this State.

Thomas Chittenden.

By his Excellency's Command, Thomas Tolman, Dep. Sec'ry.  
God Save The People.

[No. 3832.]

*William Duer Forwards a Suspect to the Governor.*

Rhinebeck, July 18th 1781.

Sir, I send you in Custody of John Moffatt, a Person of a very suspicious Character and Conduct, who has been apprehended at Rhinebeck Flats by Mr. Tremper. He pretends that he is come from Albany, and that he is a seafaring man. His hands have no marks of Labor, and he is perfectly ignorant of the Town of Albany, and even of the Captain of the Vessel, on board of which he says he has worked—If I can form an opinion from his appearance and manners, I should imagine him to belong to some skulking Gang of Robbers; or that he is a Criminal Escaped from jail. I have directed Moffatt on the Road to Po-keepsie to make all the discoveries he can of his Real Character, and must refer you to him for further Particulars. As I have been obliged to take him from Harvest, I have promised he shall be paid his time and Expenses: and must, therefore, beg the favor of you to see that he is satisfied, or it will be in vain in future to expect Services from the lower class of People in apprehending and securing such villains, as I believe this Fellow to be. I am, Sir, with much Respect, and Esteem Your,  
Obed't Hum'le Serv't.

Wm. Duer.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 3833.]

*Governor Clinton Recommends a Captaincy for Captain Hale to Colonel Lush.*

PoKeepsie, 18th July 1781.

Dear Sir, I have this moment rec'd a Letter from Colo. Van Ness recommending Mr. Aron Hale formerly a Lieut. & commanded a Company in one of the Connecticut Regts. as a Captain in the present Levies, and another from Colo. Whiting backed by one from Gen'l. Rensselaer recommending Lieut. Asael Jaque for Lieutenancy. I have accordingly issued an Order to the latter to receive & muster the Levies of Colo. Whiting's Regt which he informs me is ready to take the field & for expedition sake to march them immediately to Albany instead of Claverack; this I was in some measure influenced to in order to gratify the Reg't and assign an officer; with respect to the former I would not venture to assure him more than a Lieutenancy, least I should interfere with the arrangements made by you & Colo. Willet, & do injustice to Officers who may have held superior Rank. At the same Time if this should not be the case & arrangements are not already compleated I believe it will answer to give Mr. Hale a Company, as he is an Old Officer well recommended and appears to be a decent man, and I wish it to be done. For obvious Reasons another officer may also be sent to assist in mustering and marching the Levies of Whitney's Reg't to Albany.

[No. 3834.]

*Private Secretary Robert Benson Offers a Lieutenant's Commission to Ensign McEwen.*

Poughkeepsie, July 18th 1781.

Sir, There are Levies now raising to reinforce the Army in which if you please you can have an Appointment of a Lieuten-

ancy. His Excellency, the Gov'r. from the opinion he has of your Character is induced to make you this offer. You will please to signify to him as early as possible whether you will accept and in the meantime it is his Desire that you attend at Orangetown and receive & muster the levies from Colo. Hawke Hays Reg't agreeable to the enclosed order.

Mr. McEwen Late Ensign in Spencer's Reg't.

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MR. BENSON DIRECTS COLONEL THOMAS TO CONFER WITH COLONELS  
DRAKE AND CRANE.

July 18th 1781.

Sir, As there will be a Company of the pres't Levies raised in your County [Westchester] it is his Excellency the Gov'r's Pleasure, that an Officer be taken from each Reg't to command them. One Reg't will be furnished a Capt. & the other two each a subaltern. Those Officers when fixed upon, which his Exc'y directs may be from among those who have seen service & (if Such are to be found) who have served in the Levies heretofore, are immediately to attend at the place of Rendezvous & receive & muster the Levies of your County.\* You will perceive the necessity of

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\*July 20.—On Sunday evening, the 15th instant, two sloops of war, two tenders, and one galley, all British, came up Hudson River, with intention, as is supposed, to destroy the stores then moving from West Point to the army. There were at that time two sloops going down the river, laden with cannon and powder. As soon as they discovered the enemy, they put about and stood in for Tarrytown, where they ran aground. The enemy having a fair wind and tide, came up the river so fast that it was impossible to march infantry down in time to unload or protect the stores, as there were no troops at Tarrytown except a sergeant's guard of French infantry. Colonel Sheldon (whose regiment lay at Dobbs Ferry) immediately marched his mounted dragoons to that place, where he ordered his men to dismount and assist to unload the stores, which was done with great despatch. By this time the enemy having come to anchor off Tarrytown, began a heavy cannonade, under cover of which they sent two gunboats and four barges to destroy the vessels. Captain Hurlbert of the second regiment of light dragoons, was stationed on board one of them with twelve men, armed only with pistols and swords; he kept his men concealed till the enemy were alongside, when he gave them a fire, which they returned and killed one of his men. Captain Hurlbert finding himself surrounded, ordered his men to jump overboard and make for the shore, which they did, he following; the enemy immediately boarded and set fire to the vessels, but were obliged immediately to retire, owing to the severe

immediately conversing with Colo's Drake & Crane on this Subject & without delay to transmitt the names of the Gentlemen who may be agreed on to his Excellency.

Colo. Thomas.

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fire that was kept up by the dragoons and French guard. Captain Hurlbert, Captain-Lieutenant Miles, Quartermaster Shaylor, and others, jumped into the river and made for the sloops, in order to extinguish the fire, which they did, and saved the vessels; while in the water, Captain Hurlbert received a musket ball through the thigh, but is now in a fair way to do well. About daylight, General Howe arrived with a division of troops and some artillery, a battery was opened on the enemy, which obliged them to slip their cables and fall down the river about two miles, where they continued till Tuesday about noon, when General Howe again opened a battery on them, and obliged them to make sail up the river. They continued near Taller's Point till near Thursday, during which they sent their gun-boats on shore, and burnt the elegant house of Captain Robert, at Haverstraw. About noon, taking advantage of a fair wind and tide, they made sail and stood down the river. When coming near Dobbs' Ferry, (where the Americans had erected a battery of two eighteen-pounders, two French brass twelve, and seven half-inch howitzers,) they (Americans) commenced a heavy fire on them from the works, on both sides of the river; the British returned the fire, but did not the least damage. The largest of their ships sustained the greatest damage, many shot were fired through her, and one of our shells bursting on board her, threw them into great confusion; eighteen or twenty of their men jumped over-board, three or four of whom swam on shore, and the rest are supposed to be drowned.\*

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\*New Jersey Gazette, August 8. General Washington, in the general orders of July 19, notices this affair as follows:—"The Commander-in-chief is exceedingly pleased with the conduct of Major-General Howe, for marching with so much alacrity and rapidity to the defence of the stores at Tarrytown, and repulsing the enemy from thence. He requests General Howe, and all the officers and soldiers of the American and French armies who were employed on the occasion, to accept this public acknowledgment of their services.

"The gallant behavior and spirited exertions of Colonel Sheldon and Captain Hurlbert, of the 2d regiment of dragoons; Captain-Lieutenant Miles of the artillery, and Lieutenant Shaylor of the 4th Connecticut regiment, previous to the arrival of the troops, in extinguishing the flames of the vessels which had been set on fire by the enemy, and preserving the whole of the ordinance and stores from destruction, entitle them to the most distinguished notice and applause of their general."

[No. 3835.]

*A Financial Exhibit Between the State of New York and the United States*

Dr. State of New York to Account with the United States for Quota of Taxes, Old Emissions. Cr.

|  |      |            |   |            |
|--|------|------------|---|------------|
| To Quota of the 5 Million Tax                                | 1779 | 300,000    | By Draft drawn in favor of General Green            | 617,000    |
| To Ditto of the 15 Do Do                                     |      | 840,000    | 14th By favor of Jeremiah Wadsworth                 | 440,100    |
| To Ditto of the 45 Do Do                                     |      | 2,400,000  | 24d By favor of Genl Green                          | 400,000    |
| To Ditto of the 15 Do  | 1780 | 1,500,000  |   |            |
| To Ditto of the 15 Do  |      | 10,500,000 |   |            |
| April 1781 inclusive month at 750,000 Dollars P month agree- |      |            | favor of Ephraim Blaine                             | 188,000    |
| able to a Resolution of Congress of the 18th March 1780      |      |            | favor of Genl Green                                 | 300,000    |
| To Wm Hairy for a Draft drawn in his favour th-              |      | 237,333    | favor of Ephraim Blaine                             | 600,000    |
| 18th May last, returned for Non Payment                      |      |            | favor of Wm Hairy                                   | 257,333    |
| To Ephraim Blaine for a Draft in his favour Returned         |      | 647,810    | favor of Gen Green                                  | 140,000    |
| for Non Payment  |      |            | Loans Office Certificate                            | 140,000    |
|  |      |            | By 3 Drafts Drawn in Favor of Michael Hillegas Esq. | 2,807,000  |
|  |      |            | By draft  | 647,810    |
| To Bal P. Contra   |      | 16,365,143 |   |            |
| To Do of the 2 Drafts drawn in Favor of Michael Hillegas     |      | 10,500,000 |   |            |
| Esqr remaining unpaid  |      | 1,863,743  |   |            |
|  |      |            | Balance Due United States                           | 10,500,000 |
|  |      |            | Dollars   | 16,365,143 |

Dr. State of New York in Acct with the United States for Quota of Specie Taxes Cr.

|            |  |         |   |         |
|------------|--|---------|---|---------|
| 1780       | To Quota of the 8 Million Tax payable 31 Dec. 1780           | 150,000 | Nov. 18th By Draft in Favor of the Commiss. of Indian Affairs | 6,464   |
| Aug't 26th | To ditto of that Part of the 6 Million Tax to be paid in     |         | 17th By   |         |
| Nov. 4th   | Cash payable in four Quarterly Payments, the 1st of which    | 99,395  | May 26th By Ditto -- favour of Joseph Carlston                | 12,351  |
|            | is due the 1st of May last.                                  |         | By Ditto favour of Thomas Bond                                | 6,000   |
| Jan 8      | To Ditto of the Tax for supply of Prisoners payable the      | 4,347   |   | 391,840 |
| March 16th | To Ditto of the 6 Million Tax to be paid Quarterly the first | 173,803 | Ball Due United States  |         |
|            | of which is due the first of June 1781.                      |         | Dollars   | 416,445 |
|            |  |         |   |         |
|            | To Bal. P. Contra  | 416,445 |   |         |
|            |  | 391,650 |   |         |

NOTE.—Balduin the Forgoing Accounts for Taxes, the State of New York has a current Account in the Books the Debit Side of which Amounts to 1,015,000 Dollars and the Credit Side to 823,200 Dollars, which makes the Apparent Balance due to the United States 634,800 Dollars. What Account this State may have against the Union to counterbalance this, I do not know.

The above Accounts are true Extracts from the Books in this office.

JAS. MILLIGAN, AGT.

July 19th, 1781.

[No. 3836.]

*Colonel Brinton Paine Offers His Services to the Governor—The Situation North of Saratoga.*

**Saratoga, July 21st, 1781.**

Dear Gov'r. I recd your Letter with the Enclosed Orders and shall Do all in my Power to put them in Execution, altho I have but little hope to get the men as the inhabitants of Charlotte County have chosen their officers by order of Mr. Chitenden. I see by your Excellency's Orders a Gen'l Invitation for all officers that are willing to serve in the Levies to Give in their names and Rank. My Name and Rank you Know. I had but two Reasons for not serving in the first Levies; one was I expected the Grand Army would attempt to take New York, which if they did, I thought I could be of some service in that Quarter; the other was Mrs. Paine was under such circumstances that I could not leve home, but hope it will soon be so that I can serve either way.

Major McKinstry will inform you that our scout has Disccovered a sloop on Lake George. We expect the Enemy Down soon; Hope you will grant us all releaf in your power; the Troops at this Garrison have been very short for Beef. I have purchased sum. Major McKinstry seased a Drove last night from one Mr. Wolcott, said to be purchased for the French army, which he will Give you an acompt. If there is no one better, and I can take post at this Garrison for the first part of the Six Months I can serve you.

I am with the Greatest Esteem Your Excelencys Most obedient Hum'b Serv't

[No. 3837.]

*Printer Loudon Advocates the Cause of the Post Riders to the Governor—The Latter's Reply.*

Fish Kill, 21st July 1781.

Sir, The bearer being returned from New York, in the hopes of being exchanged for Doct'r Taller, I wish your Excellency would use your influence to obtain his immediate exchange.

The Post Master General has informed by letter last week that the Post-Riders are to be allowed no Wages, nor any consideration for their losses after they fell into the Enemy's hands. This is extremely hard. Who will serve in that business if they are to be so treated? Montanye, who was first taken has a family; he lost his Horse, saddle and bridle. Watson, the bearer, was plundered of the little cash he had, likewise he lost his several other things; besides both were exposed to very considerable expences in the Provo in New York, &c. These matters ought to be considered, and the men ought not to be left unnoticed nor unpaid. It sours their spirits, and renders them rather indifferent about our cause. One of them says if he is obliged to return to the enemy he will not return back again. The other says he will never engage in public employ when such flagrant injustice is done him, after all that he has suffered. I will write to the Post office Committee in Philadelphia to urge their considering this matter. If your excellency can do anything for them, it is my sincere wish that you would do what you can for them soon. I am, with sentiments of sincere respect, Your Excellency's most Ob't serv't

S. Loudon



## GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Sir, I have rec'd your letter of the 21st by Mr. Watson. I would wish with all my Heart to effect his Exchange, but I cannot consistently consent to give Mr. Taller in exchange for him while Capt. Townsend & several other of our Citizens who were taken long before him, remain Prisoners in close confinement with the Enemy, and especially as I have reason to think Mr. Teller's Importance with the Enemy equals that of Mr. Townsends with us. Mr. Watson's loss of his Horse & Time is undoubtedly a great Hardship for which the Public ought to compensate him.

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[No. 3838.]

*Major John McKinstry Seizes Cattle from a Suspected Speculator and so Reports to Governor Clinton—The Governor's Reply.*

Saratoga, July 22d 1781.

Sir, We have yesterday made seizure of Ten Head Cattle & Thirty Four Sheep which were purchased in & about Still Water & were driving out of the State. The person pretends he purchased them for Capt. Williams who is Employed by the French Agent, but has no written Instructions from the Agent or from Capt. Williams, if he had both I Should Esteem the Cattle forfeit unless he had your permission to purchase within the State. The Cattle & Sheep are a very seasonable supply for this Garrison, who have not had a pound of fresh beef these five weeks, but what has been taken from the Inhabitants of this Vicinity by impress.

The person I suppose to be no other than one of those speculators who have given us so much trouble & have so much enhanced the price of provisions, & can be considered in no other

light than a flagrant violator of our Laws—he is gone from here I suppose with a determination to apply to you for an order to regain his property. I am under no apprehension from that, as I am Convinced you will not knowingly suffer the Laws to be violated with impunity. I could wish to have your Instructions Respecting this matter as speedily as possible. I am with much Respect Your Excellencys Most Obedient Humble Servant

John McKinstry.

P. S. I should be glad to hear if there be anything done for the further incouragement of the 3 Year's men—if a small sum of money was granted in lieu of Part of the Land the men would be recruited Immediately or only the Bounty, which must be given to raise 3 Month men in addition to the present Incouragement the men would be raised.

J. McK

Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Poughkeepsie, July 26th 1781.

Sir, I have rec'd your letter of the 22d Inst and a few minutes after the Person from whom you seized the Cattle & Sheep waited on me with a Letter from Colo. Wadsworth (a Copy of which is enclosed).

I think it my duty to inform you that, however necess'y it may be to impress Provisions for the use of the Army, there is no law prohibiting the purchasing & removing of Cattle within this State, and that the Instructions accompanying my impress Warrants forbid the taking any which shall appear to be procured for the use of the French Army & Navy. I think at the same time the Conduct of the Person (from whom you seized the

Cattle) in going to so remote a part of the State without proper written authority & where our own Troops were distressed for subsistence justified a suspicion that he intended them for some improper use, but it now appears that this is not the Case.

I am sorry to hear of the Enemy's having a vessel on Lake George. It undoubtedly forebodes an intention of making Incursions into the Country; which I must recommend to you to guard ag't. by every means in your Power.

The Legislature rose without making any further Provision for recruiting the 3 years Levies. From the Returns I have received it appears only seven men were actually recruited & mustered which is very discouraging. I am

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[No. 3839.]

*Lieutenant Penderson Ordered to Fishkill to Receive Levies.*

Gen'l Orders, Pokeepsie, 23d July 1781.

Lieut John Penderson will attend at Fishkill immediately & assist in receiving the Levies there. On his arrival he will apply to the Officer there for Directions.

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[No. 3840.]

*Governor Clinton Assures Robert Morris that New York will Yield Compliance with the Requisitions of Congress Equal to Her Abilities and Resources.*

Poughkeepsie, July 23rd, 1781.

Sir, I have had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 6th Inst previous to which, in June last, I had convened the Legislature of this State principally with a View of afford'g them an opportunity of making such further Provision as might be conceived necessary for yielding the most perfect Compliance with

the Requisitions of Congress. How far the Measures they have adopted will effect this Purpose I am not able, owing to the peculiarly distressed situation of the State, to determine with precision, but I can venture to assure you, Sir, that they are fully equal to the Abilities & Resources of the State & that the strictest attention will be paid in carrying them into execution. Mr. L'hommedieu who is a Member of our Assembly now on his way to Congress, will deliver you this and be able to give you more particular Information on this subject. I am &c &c.

The hon'ble Rob't Morris, Esqr. Superintendent of Finance.

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[No. 3841.]

*Colonel James Bruyn Congratulates the Governor on Colonel Willet's Victory.*

Kingston, July 23rd 1781.

Dr Sir, Though I could not but regret the loss and unhappy fate of the two worthy Officers, Elsworth and McKean, a few days since I was made happy by the Account which Colo. Willett brought to Albany of an Action he had with a superior Number of the Enemy in which the latter were pretty severely handled; it is said their Loss consisted of not less than 90 killed and wounded, when that of ours was only 5 killed and a few wounded; the Success of this Engagement will no doubt be attended with great good Consequences and I congratulate your Excellency upon the Occasion.

As I am informed of your Intentions to visit the Army, down towards New York\* in the beginning of next Month and having

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\*Diary of a French officer from June 14 to August 24, 1781, presumed to be that of Baron Cromot du Bourg, aide to Rochambeau.

From Providence to King's Ferry.

JUNE

June 14—I left (Boston) in the evening for Providence, and slept at Dhedem (Dedham) where I found the reinforcement of seven hundred men which came by the convoy, and were on their way to join the army; for want of a bed I settled myself on a chair.

been anxious myself to see it since my return from Long Island, I should be happy in the Honor of escorting you provided your Excellency has not already a sufficient number of Company engaged to attend you.

I am, Dr Sir, with the greatest Esteem and Respect Your Most Obedient and Humble Serv't  
His Excell'y Geo. Clinton.

June 15—I left at four o'clock in the morning for Providence, where I arrived at eleven. There I found the army encamped, as I have stated, since the eleventh. Providence is a pretty enough little town, quite a business place before the war; there is nothing of interest in it except an extremely beautiful hospital. Two rivers meet there and flow together to the sea.

June 16-17-18—I remained there. The first division, or rather the first regiment, that of Bourbonnais, with M. de Rochembeau and M. de Chatelus, encamped in the evening at Waterman's tavern; we found the roads very bad, and our artillery had great difficulty in following us. The troops marched very badly this day.

Side Note.—The 18 the Bourbonnais marched (M. de Rochambeau); the 19 Deux Ponts (M. de Viomenil, Baron); the 20, Soissonois (Count de Viomenil); the 21, Saintonge (M. de Custine).

March of 15 miles.

June 19—We continued our route, and came to Plainfield, the roads still quite bad, many stragglers; the baggage and artillery arrived; there is at Plainfield a superb position for twelve or fifteen thousand men; it is beyond the village about a mile and a half on the Road from Providence.

Side Note.—March of 15 miles.

June 20—We came to Windham. The village is very pretty, and there is also a very fine position this side of Windham, about a mile distant. The troops marched much better. The baggage arrived very late because of the bad roads. A very fine river flows by here.

Side Note.—Nine men deserted from the regiment of Soissonois and one from Royal Deux Ponts.

March of 15 miles.

June 21—We came to Bolton with the greatest difficulty imaginable, so frightful were the roads. The country all the way from Providence is covered with woods. At Bolton the view is very pleasing.

Side Note.—The host of M. de Rochambeau was a minister at least six feet three inches in height. This man, whose name was Cotton, offered the wife of a granadier to adopt her child, to secure his fortune and to give her for herself thirty Louis in money. She repeatedly refused.

June 22—We reached Hartford easily enough; the road although heavy, was even.

Side Note.—We received news which informed us that the Stanislas was the only vessel of the convoy which had not arrived.

June 23-24—We halted there to rest the troops and to make the necessary repairs to the artillery and baggage. Hartford is quite a considerable place, divided by the River of the same name, large enough for vessels of some size. One of the banks is called East Hartford.

June 24—In the afternoon I went to see a charming spot called Weathersfield, four miles from East Hartford. It would be impossible to find prettier houses and a more beautiful view. I went up into the steeple of the church and saw the richest country I had yet seen in America. From this spot you can see for fifty miles around.

Side Note.—March of 12 miles.

June 25—In the morning the army resumed its march to reach Farmington. The country is more open than that we had passed over since our departure, and the road

fine enough. The village is considerable, and the position of the camp, which is a mile and a half from it, was one of the most fortunate we had as yet occupied.

Side Note.—March of 13 miles.

June 26—In the morning we went to Baron's Tavern; the day's march was not fatiguing; the roads were very fine.

June 27—We left in the morning for Breakneck, which we had the greatest difficulty in reaching. The roads being difficult because of the mountains, our artillery was greatly delayed, and only arrived at nightfall.

Side Note.—Breakneck is the English for Casse-cou; it well deserves the name from its difficult approach. The village is frightful and without resources. I noticed some mills, by means of which several planks are sawed at the same time.

March of 13 miles.

June 28—We went to Newtown, the first four miles which we marched were like those of the evening before, but the rest were fine enough. We arrived in good season, our baggage also.

Side Note.—We saw on the road several trees not known in France; the tulip tree, the bunch cherry, etc.

In the evening an Aid-de-Camp of General Washington arrived at Head-Quarters, who told us that the American Army opened the campaign on the 26th.

June 29-30—We halted at Newtown, and should not have left it until the 2d of July but for the orders which M. de Rochambeau received from General Washington to hasten his march.

Side Note.—Newtown is a place of small importance; all its inhabitants are poor. Our camp was very well placed there.

Five men of Bourbonnons deserted.

March of 15 miles.

#### JULY.

July 1—We left very early in the morning in order to reach Bridgebury, but instead of marching by regiments we were formed into brigades and marched in this order. In the evening news arrived from the American general, which again changed our plans, for, instead of marching to Crampon (Crompond) as we had proposed.

July 2—In the morning we left for Belfort (Bedford). The Legion of Lauzun, which up to that point had marched to the left of us, joined us there; we took a position from which it was impossible to drive us. Our camp this side of Belfort (Bedford). The granadiers and chasseurs beyond the village, and the legion of Lauzun in advance, and we had still further in front of us one hundred and sixty American dragoons. Washington arrived and encamped his army a few miles to the right of us. From this moment we may consider our campaign is opened; we are distant at the furthest fifteen leagues from New York. We learned on arriving at Belfort (Bedford) that the evening before a party of English dragoons burned some houses at a short distance from the village, which had itself been badly used some little time before. This is a very small place, and it was with difficulty that we could find room for the small headquarters of our first division. Our generals only found lodgings, and those horrible. In the evening the Legion of Lauzun left for Morrisania with orders to surprise Delancy's Corps if possible.

Side Note.—The second division left the same day to march from Newtown to Ridgebury. (Ridgebury.)

We had trouble enough to bring up all our baggage, there being some mountains, and the day's march very long.

March of 19 miles.

July 3—The army marched to North Castle, where it camped in an excellent position, although less military than that of yesterday. Our Second Brigade joined us in the afternoon; it made twenty miles in this day's march, and has not had one day's rest since leaving Providence. It is impossible to march better than it has done the entire distance, or to show greater willingness. It is true that Messieurs de Custine and the Vicomte de Noailles set the example by marching the entire distance on foot at the head of their regiments.

Side Note.—A fine march of 5 miles.

July 4-5—We halted the 4 and 5 at North Castle, to which place Messieurs de Fersen and de Vauban, to whom M. de Rochambeau had given permission to follow the Legion, returned; they told us that Delancy's Corps, which they had expected to surprise at Morrisania, was at Williamsbridge, and informed of our approach, for at the moment







Messrs. de Viomenil, de Chatelux and de Lauzun. There were conferences enough to give me the impression that within a very short time some movement will be made; in fact at five o'clock in the afternoon M. de Rochambeau made his preparations for a march. The first brigade, the heavy Artillery and the Legion received orders to hold themselves in readiness to leave; the *Retraite* was to serve for the signal to move. but a quarter of an hour before the moment of leaving, the order was countermanded by General Washington, who it seems thought the weather too bad. I do not know whether this was the real reason, nor do I know what was the purpose of the march, but it is certain that the rain had fallen so heavily all the afternoon that it would have been difficult to march the troops.

July 15—Caused us in one way more regret than the preceding day—from the countermanding order of the day before we were expected to march from one moment to another; at nine o'clock in the evening we had heard several cannon shots in the direction of Tarrytown, followed immediately after by a musketry fire. The Marquis de Laval caused the alarm to be beaten in the camp; two signal guns were fired by the artillery. As I was certain that the General had sent no order, I did not doubt for an instant that it was a signal agreed upon, or that the camp was attacked, but the mountain brought forth a mouse; it was a false alarm. M. de Rochambeau mounted his horse and rode to the camp to call in the troops. We were all in on our side, but hardly arrived when an *aid-de-camp* of General Washington came to ask M. de Rochambeau two hundred men, six twelve pounders and six howitzers to go to Tarrytown, to which point two English frigates had come up. General How (Howe) marched from his side with the Americans, but hardly were our troops and artillery ready to leave, when I was myself sent with counter orders, and all returned to camp; for what reason I do not know, General Howe continued his march.

July 16—At five o'clock in the morning a fire from the frigates at Tarrytown caused a repetition of the error of the night before. It was supposed that the two cannon shots were fired by the American Army, but this error was soon repaired. At half past five an *aid-de-camp* of General Washington arrived and asked for two twelve pounders and two howitzers to march to Tarrytown; as I was on duty I awakened M. de Rochambeau, who directed me to carry the order to M. Daboville, and told me at the same time to take this artillery to Tarrytown. I confess that I was enchanted; it was the first occasion upon which I could hope to hear the sound of cannon. I carried the order immediately. At seven o'clock the artillery was ready and left. We arrived at Tarrytown at eleven o'clock, and found the two frigates and a galley still there. During the night they had captured a small vessel, laden with flour and clothing for Sheldon's Dragoons, and they had put nearly all their crews into their boats to attempt a descent and carry off the rest of the supplies which were at Tarrytown; but a sergeant of the Regiment of Soissonnois who was there with twelve men kept up so brisk and direct a fire that he prevented the landing; a half hour later the Americans arrived, who lost a sergeant and had one of their officers severely wounded. On our arrival the Americans placed two eighteen pounders on the right of Tarrytown, and we placed ours on the left. We fired a hundred cannon balls, which must have done them some injury, as we saw several of them strike on board. In fact we compelled them to withdraw; they only replied to us by some balls, which passed extremely near our ears, near enough to cause several persons to dodge, but which did no harm. One ball struck a half foot beneath one of our pieces in the barbette of the battery, and threw the dirt about our heads; I was enabled to judge from what I saw that these gentlemen are brutal enough, but less dangerous than they appear. Tarrytown is four miles above Dobbs' Ferry, and the river is a little wider there. Near Tarrytown begins the Tapan Sea or the Sea of Tapan (Tappaan). It is so called because at this place the river widens considerably.

July 17—In the afternoon I was between Tarry-town and Dobbs-Ferry where I again found the two frigates which I had left the evening before; they had just fired some cannon shot again and received some, but there was no danger in it; they went up in the evening above Tarrytown.

Side Note.—On the morning of the 17 the Legion left its camp to march to Bed-House (Bedford).

The night of the 17 to 18 M. Norteman an officer of Lauzun's Legion while on a patrol with six hussars was killed by some of Delancey's Dragoons; several pistol shots were exchanged. The infantry advanced to support the hussars but the enemy disappeared under cover of the woods and of the night.

Side Note.—At the moment when the officer was killed his horse returned at full

gallop to the Legion. The hussars on vidette cried out to him three times *qui vive*, and for very good reasons received no reply, fired and killed the horse stone dead.

July 18—M. de Rochambeau made a reconnoissance close up to New York but he could not take us with him; hence I cannot think of this day without the deepest regret.

Side Note.—They saw all the works of the enemy on York Island, and perfectly distinguished five or six little camps which supported them, the largest of which was of two battallions.

July 19—The Frigates which were between Tarrytown and Dobbs-Ferry came down to make Kingsbridge; they were sharply cannonaded on their passage; two shells thrown on board set fire to one of these vessels, and one of the prisoners they had made on the night of the 15 to 16, taking advantage of this moment of disturbance, jumped into the water and came to us; he told us that they had lost several men by the different cannonades. I hope that this little lesson will give these English gentlemen a distaste for this kind of pleasantry.

Side Note.—Two spies were arrested in the camp, both French.

July 21—In the evening the *Retraite* served as a general signal for moving, as it was to have done on the 14. The first Brigade, the granadiers and chasseurs of the four regiments, marched. The American division under General Lincoln also left its camp. We marched all night.

Side Note.—The Legion of Lauzun marched on its side also, so that the army moved in three columns.

The Marquis de Chatelux commanded this detachment.

July 22—We arrived at five o'clock in the morning upon the brow of the hill which overlooks Kingsbridge. We were ten hours on the march, the roads being very bad and the artillery following with difficulty. I imagine the surprise of the English to have been considerable when they saw us arrive, for they could have had no idea of our march. The American army and ours made a junction four miles above Kingsbridge. I was astonished at the manner in which they marched; a perfect silence and order reigned; to which they added the greatest possible celerity. The two armies drew up in line of battle on the heights beyond Kingsbridge, as I have described, the Americans took the right, a battalion of Grenadiers was posted on a little eminence beyond the left, which we held. Several English dragoons came out immediately to reconnoitre us and send us a few musket balls; the different forts saluted us also with a few cannon shot, but they did us no harm. An American regiment was sent forward to capture a Redoubt, and marched under fire of the cannon in the best style possible; one of their officers had his thigh taken off by a ball. After having reconnoitred the position in front of us, M. de Rochambeau and his Excellency crossed the Harlem River to take a look at the opposite side. In this little reconnoissance there was again a slight cannonade. Thence they recrossed the river, took up the route of the morning, and pushing forward, reconnoitred the length of the Island as far as New York. Some Frigates in the North River also sent them a few shot; they then fell back upon Morrisania, where the cannonade and musketry fire was repeated with a little more vigor. The count de Damas had a horse killed under him; four refugees were taken.

M. de Rochambeau then returned to camp, after having been twenty-four hours on horseback.

July 23—At half-past five in the morning we mounted again to make a reconnoissance of a part of Long Island which is separated from the continent by the Sound; several vessels which were there fired upon us without doing us any harm. We returned thence to Morrisania to examine again a part of the island on our way back. I need not mention the *sang froid* of General Washington, it is well known; but this great man is a thousand times more noble and splendid at the head of his army than at any other time.

Side Note.—We passed the morning at Westchester Creek, and on our return we found a little English vessel which the Americans had set fire to. The tide had risen since we crossed and the current was very strong. The dragoons who served as escort to General Washington all swam over. We had unsaddled our horses and crossed on the parapet of a broken bridge.

I cannot help remarking that to my great surprise many depredations were committed by the French. The hussars pillaged many houses, and even the grenadiers and chasseurs had a hand in it. This conduct was severely censured, and they were punished by several hundred blows of the stick.

July 24—Two men of Lauzun's Legion deserted.

July 26—I went to Dobbs' Ferry, where I found the Redoubt, which I had seen begun, completed; it was built by M. Duportail, and with the greatest possible care. The Batteries begun were also completed; that for cannon can carry eight, and that for the shell guns as many. The Americans have one on the other side of the river of two pieces of cannon.

Side Note.—In the evening a shot fired by one of the Legion killed a cannoneer of the same corps, who was reading in his tent.

July 29—M. de Rochambeau told us that he had sometime before intercepted letters from Lord Cornwallis, by which he had learned his plan of campaign for the army; that he had just received some further letters which announced that the Lord had embarked at Portsmouth with his troops to return to New York. The same day we made the rounds of the posts, which we found in good order, and we went quite a distance.

July 30—There was an extensive foraging expedition which met with no opposition. We heard in the afternoon of the arrival of Lord Cornwallis at New York with two or three thousand men. His army must be about forty-five hundred strong, or nearly. He left some men at Portsmouth, and sent some troops also to Charlestown, which leads to the belief that he could not have brought to Clinton a more considerable reinforcement.

Side Note.—Up to the present time there have been foraging expeditions every third day, and all have passed very quietly.

Two small English forts have been taken by two American parties of the same force, in the Sound, as high up as Mary Neck (Mamaroneck).

July 31—M. de Rochambeau, after the arrival of Cornwallis, thought it advisable to send the Battalion of grenadiers and chasseurs of the Second Division to take the position on Chatterston (Chatterton) hill which had before been occupied by the Legion of Lauzun, in order to strengthen his front; he also sent there two pieces of cannon.

Side Note.—To-day five English deserters came in; they are the first, but several Hessians had come in before; as for us we have been fortunate enough to lose hardly any one.

Only three men have deserted from the Legion, one of whom had committed a theft.

#### AUGUST.

August 1—A very heavy foraging expedition was made twelve miles from here, on the shores of the Sound at Mary Neck (Mamaroneck). It was in no way disturbed; considerable detachments were sent forward to protect it.

August 2—An English deserter came in, who assured M. de Rochambeau that the troops lately arrived at New York were a part of the garrison of Pensacola; the Spaniards, after the capture of the town, having given permission to the English to retire wherever they chose, always under the condition not to serve against their allies. They came to New York, and General Clinton placed them on Long Island. With such a capitulation as this the capture of Pensacola is of more hurt than benefit to the Americans. The report of the evacuation of Virginia by Lord Cornwallis proves false. The arrival of these troops gave rise to it.

Side Note.—Four men deserted from Lauzun's corps, all four farriers.

August 4—There was a foraging expedition in the direction of Mary Neck (Mamaroneck), which passed off very quietly.

Side Note.—Two deserters came in, one English the other Hessian.

August 5—About twenty sail, of which two or three frigates, were seen in the Sound about as high up as New Rochelle; we supposed that the enemy desire to make a foraging expedition.

August 6—I went to the Sound with M. de Rochambeau, and we plainly saw the ships which had been reported to us the evening before; there were thirty-three, but all small, and no vessels of war.

Side Note.—In the last few days fifteen wagoners have deserted. This is the name given here to drivers of vehicles.

August 7—Two deserters came in.

Side Note.—A man of the Bourhonnols, who had committed a theft, fearing he would be whipped, killed himself.

August 8—Letters from M. de la Fayette announced the departure of Cornwallis; he must have embarked the 26th. We do not know where he has gone.

Side Note.—Two men deserted, one from the Solissonois, the other from the Artillery.

August 10—A foraging expedition was made closer to the enemy near the Sound than any of the others. On the arrival of the detachment of the Legion which protected it, eight or ten refugees were seen, whom it was impossible to come up with, except one who was killed. It passed off very quietly. A man was arrested who was putting off for Long Island, and who had a passport from Clinton.

Side Note.—Six men of the Legion deserted, four of whom were a patrol, and two others separately.

Two deserters came in.

August 11—In the evening a woman of doubtful virtue was arrested on her way from New York at the advanced post, and who, under the pretext of searching for her father, according to her story a soldier in the army, came in with intentions not quite so pure. She was locked up for safe keeping to repose from the fatigues of her journey, which she had made on foot, and was afterwards shaved.

Received the same evening letters from M. de la Touche, commander of the *Hermione*, in which he sends word that in company with the *Astree*, commanded by M. de la Perouze, he had taken a vessel (*Hyath*) of fourteen guns and four merchant vessels; they are in pursuit of the rest of a convoy. We had news also that the American vessels had taken an Englishman and carried her into New London, and that eighty thousand pounds Sterling had been refused for her.

Side Note.—Desertion is a kind of epidemic malady at New York; for I only speak in this Diary of the deserters who come into our Camp. Some come in nearly every day to the American camp of whom we know nothing, but it is to be feared that this contagion may reach the Legion in spite of all the pains taken by the Duke de Lauzun, who, it may be said, without injustice to the Colonels of the army, is he who does his duty most thoroughly, and sets the best example of subordination.

Six deserters came in, four Hessians, two English.

August 12—We received confirmation of the news that M. de Lamotte Piquet had taken twenty one Vessels from the Saint Eustatia convoy.

Side Note.—Five Hessian deserters came in, one on horseback.

A man deserted from the Deux-Ponts.

August 13—We learned that twenty vessels from Europe had arrived at New York. The Convoy was composed of two frigates and eighteen transport vessels, laden with Hessian troops; we are assured that this reinforcement is of twenty-five hundred to three thousand men.

August 14—There was a foraging expedition nearly to the same place as the last, and it was no less quiet. A Dragoon of de Lancey, who had come out too far, was captured by a patrol of the Legion.

In the afternoon we received letters from Newport which advised us that the *Concorde* Frigate, which had gone out to meet M. de Grasse, left him on the 26th July, and that he was to leave on the 3d August to make a junction with M. de Barras, so that he is hourly expected. The same frigate brought a letter with an account of the revolt of the English colonies in the Indies, of the capture of Pondichery, the blockade of Madras and the devastations making by Hyder-Ali-Khan. If these news are true, as seems extremely probable, it is a heavy blow to the English in that quarter of the world. Those several pieces of news give our Politicians a great deal to talk over. Some think that with the aid of the troops which M. de Grasse has with him we can undertake some thing; others assure us that in a short time we will be on Long Island. I sincerely hope that the sequel may show that these reasonings are correct; but I greatly fear that the reinforcements which have arrived for the English, even the troops of Cornwallis which are expected from moment to moment, will prove an obstacle to the desire which every one feels to do something. I hope I may be mistaken.

Side Note.—Four Grenadiers and four Chasseurs of the regiment of Saintonge deserted on the foraging expedition.

A man of the regiment of Deux-Ponts also deserted.

August 15—M. de Rochambeau replied to the letters which he received from M. de Barras, and the Count de Ferren was sent to Newport with the replies, which up to this time had been carried by an American Dragoon; a new piece of politics for the amateurs. The same day a flag came in from New York but was stopped by the grand guard; he is the fourth who has been sent in for simple letters, and this way of

doing things, which savors strongly of espionage, is by no means pleasing to M. de Rochambeau.

August 16—In the morning the regiment of Bourbonnais manoeuvred before General Washington who seemed well satisfied. In the afternoon he saw that of Deux Ponts which was no less successful.

August 17—Two English deserters came in; one of the Regiment of Bourbonnais who was captured suffered the punishment inflicted on deserters in the field. On the night of the 17th to 18th, a Deux Ponts' man deserted and was arrested.

August 18—A council of war held in the morning at once condemned him to be hung, but in consideration of the number of relatives he had in his Regiment, M. de Deux Ponts persuaded the General to consent that he should be shot, and he was so executed.

August 19—The army received orders to move and march to North Castle. The Generale to be beaten at four o'clock and the march to begin at six. M. de Rochambeau visited the camp at half past five to see if all was in order; the provision wagons were wanting and there were only five or six thousand rations in camp, which made it necessary to delay the moving till noon; but the overlaid wagons and the state of the roads from the heavy rains, delayed the march in an incredible manner.

Side Note.—Three English deserters came in. The American army left the same day to march by the road which skirts the river.

March of 18 miles.

August 20—The Regiments only arrived at four o'clock in the morning; one-half of the wagons were still on the road. M. de Custine was obliged to leave the Vicomte de Rochambeau with the artillery of the army and two hundred men at twelve miles from North Castle. M. de Viomenil who left with the rear guard only made four miles. Impossible to make a more disorderly march. The orders sent to M. de Viomenil were to march to Pen's (Pine's) bridge instead of coming here, so as to arrive sooner at King's Ferry which is our second march, and we were obliged to halt at North Castle the 20.

Side Note.—Orders given to the Colonels to clear their wagons of the oats and hay which encumber them as well as of the linen coats and every thing useless. It is however to be remarked that the trains of the regiments of Saintonge and Soissonnois which were not unreasonably laden, have arrived.

August 21—We left North Castle very early in the morning to march to Hun's (Hunt's) Tavern; at this place there are four or five houses, which are at the head of Crompond. About two miles from North Castle we passed a little river or stream which bears this name; two miles further on the Crotonne (Croton), a river of some size but not navigable; this point, at which there is a wooden bridge and where it can be also passed by ford when the water is not too high, is called Pen's (Pine's) Bridge; the troops encamped in the evening at Hun's (Hunt's) Tavern, in a place more convenient than military. They marched very well, and the trains arrived in quite good season, although many of the wagons again broke down on the way. The roads are quite good, except on leaving Pen's (Pine's) Bridge, where there is quite a high mountain.

Side Note.—March of 9 miles.

August 22—We left Hun's (Hunt's) Tavern to march to Kings Ferry; nine miles from Hun's (Hunt's) Tavern is Peskill (Peekskill), a village of about twenty houses, quite close to each other; it is on the bank of the North River; the road is very fine as far as this point. From Peskill (Peekskill) to King's Ferry there only remain four miles over quite a fair road, and the troops arrived in quite good season at their camp, which was pitched on the brow of the hill overlooking the North River. They remained there on the 23rd and 24th. During this time arrangements were made for the passage of the River by all the trains and troops, quite a difficult matter, there being but few boats.

August 23—As the Headquarters remained at Peskill (Peekskill) there being at King's Ferry only the single house which belonged to the man who owns the Ferry.

Side Note.—So far the Legion has marched behind us, but from this time it becomes our advance guard.

March of 13 miles.

M. de Rochambeau was not willing to pass so near West Point as nine miles, without seeing it. He left by boat at eight o'clock in the morning to visit it with General

Washington and several officers. I mounted a horse and went by land, in order to arrive as soon as he. I rode by a fair enough road as far as the Continental Village, which consists at the most of eight or ten huts of the kind the inhabitants build here when they begin to clear the land of a Continental Village; the roads to West Point are very hilly and extremely difficult, because of the great quantity of rocks and rolling stones. It passes Mandville (Mandeville), a little place of four or five houses, and then descends by a very narrow gorge to the West Point Ferry. About a half mile this side there is a plateau of considerable extent, on which some troops could be deployed, but this place, as well as the road by which I came, and another road which debouches on this plateau, are swept by the fire of two redoubts, built on two high mountains, which are called the North and South Redoubts. When the Ferry is reached West Point is seen in front, composed of six different forts, rising the one above the other; several batteries are also posted on the bank of the river; as the river makes a very considerable elbow at this spot and returns, so to say, upon itself, it would be very difficult for a Frigate to get by; a chain has also been placed here; a little Island, called Constitution Island, at this point, has also some batteries upon it, the fire from which crosses those from the forts, and a vessel which endeavored to break the chain would be utterly destroyed. All these different forts, except Fort Putnam, which is in masonry are of wood. Their parapets are very low; palisades have been constructed to remain lowered on the parapet so long as cannon is fired upon the besieged, and which can be lifted at the moment of an assault, but I have heard them condemned by several officers who should thoroughly understand fortifications, and who believe that a parapet of four feet and a half would be much better than one of two and a half with this kind of fortification. The first fort met with on debarking at West Point is Fort Clinton, which is a square bastion. It entirely overlooks the river, and is constructed on a rock, which rises from it, but on reaching that a piece of flat ground is found, where the Park of Artillery is posted which forms a very extensive and fine place d'armes; above it rise Fort Putnam and others. The great fault which connoisseurs find with West Point is that the fortifications are too much extended, and that, being of wood, they are very combustible, but this spot is very strong from its position alone. It is one of the finest imaginable. We found on the plateau of which I have been speaking nearly four or five hundred men in line of battle, a large part of whom invalids. These troops compose the Garrison, but at the signal of alarm the militia of the country rally and greatly increase it.

I was obliged to return by the road which I took in the morning, that on the other side of the river being impracticable, and came back by Peekskill, thence to King's Ferry, which I crossed, and went to Headquarters, which was three miles distant, on the other side of the River.

Side Note.—At King's Ferry is Fort Lafayette or Werplank (Verplank), which is very small.

August 24—M. de Rochambeau went to the Ferry to give some orders, and on our return we passed by Stoney Point, which is directly opposite King's Ferry. It overlooks the spot where the landing is made, and is built upon a rock; it is a square earth work with a double row of abattis. The trains of Bourbonnais had passed in the morning, and the Regiment encamped at three o'clock in the afternoon at three miles from King's Ferry.

Side Note.—M. de Rochambeau received letters from M. de Choisy, who reports having embarked with his troops on the 21st. He has with him about five hundred men. One hundred remain at Providence, under command of M. Desprez, Major of the Deux Ponts, to guard the store houses and the hospital. We do not know where M. de Choisy is going.

Side Note.—The Second Division crossed the North River on the 25th to take the camp we occupied the day before.—*Magazine of American History*, April, 1880.

FIRST LINE

GENERAL WATERBURY

Commanding the Light Infantry beyond the line

- Left Wing
- Major General Lord Sterling
  - Brigadier-General Patterson
  - 8th Mass
  - 2d Mass
  - 4th Mass
  - 1st Mass
  - 2d Mass
  - 3d Mass
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  - 100th Mass

GENERAL WASHINGTON, COMMANDER IN CHIEF

- Right Wing
- Major-General Heath
  - 1st Conn
  - 2d Conn
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Colonel Sheldon  
Commanding his Legion outside the line

SECOND LINE

- Major-General Lincoln,
- Third Brigade, Mass
- 5th Mass
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- 100th Mass

Major-General Howe  
Brig-Gen. Duportail

- Engineers
- Sappers
- Miners
- The Park of Artillery.

Major-General Persons  
Brigade: New Hampshire

- Col. Scammel
- Lt.-Col. Dearborn
- Major Scott
- Lt.-Col. Comm'd'g Read
- Major Wait
- Major Morell
- Col. Tupper
- Lt.-Col. Fernald
- Major Knapp

[No. 3842.]

*An Act of Congress to Provide for the Refugees of South Carolina and Georgia.*

(Omitted).

[No. 3843.]

*Fred Jay to Governor Clinton Asking His Consent that Mrs. Jay May Visit Her Sister at Yonkers—The Governor's Reply.*

Dear Sir, I am sorry to trouble your Excellency again on a Subject that has given me much pain & am confident must be disagreeable to you. I have this day made application to General Washington for permission for Mrs. Jay to spend sometime at Mr. Cortlands & there to see her Friends; he has no kind of objection, provided your Excellency recommends it—let me, therefore, entreat you to grant a permission for that purpose as soon as possible. Your Excellency well knows my situation & I flatter myself you will comply with the request I now make. If your Excellency has any objection to Mrs. Jay's friends coming as far as Mr. Cortland's, let me then ask the favour of you to grant her permission to stay sometime with Mrs. Cortland who is now at the Yonkers. The Express is just setting off which obliges me to conclude.

Your Excellency's Most humb Serv't

Fred Jay.

Headquarters 23 July 1781.

GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Poukeepsie 28th July 1781.

Dear Sir, I received your Letter of the 23d Yesterday. In the present situation of the Army & at this Distance I will not venture to recommend any measure to his Excellency the Commander in Chief; but if he conceives that the granting Permis-



sion to Mrs. Jay to visit Mrs. Cortlandt at the Yonkers will not be attended with inconvenience & open a door to future Applications from others which may be troublesome, then can I have no Objection & you are at Liberty to communicate this to his Excellency as expressive of my Consent.

I hardly need assure you that it will always give me Pleasure to oblige you & Mrs. Jay or assign any reasons why I would not wish to be more explicit as you are already acquainted with my sentiments respecting Applications of this Nature.

I am with great Regard Yours most

(G. C.)

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[Nos. 3844, 3845.]

*Major Spencer Recommends a Friend for a Commission in the Levies to Colonel Lush—Governor Clinton Replies.*

Claverack, July 23d 1781.

Dear Sir, I would beg it as a favor you would inform me what the Legislature did with regard to raising the 3 years men, whether there is any additional bounty or advance pay allowed in money in order to Enable the officers to recruite there men? I expected the Governour would have wrote to me on the subject, but he has for some reason neglected, or his Letter has miscared and as I have had the honor to be apointed a Major in said service, I am now in Suspence not knowing whether to proseed or not as it seems to appear that the raising 2 Regt's will fall through. I have had thoughts of offering my Service in the four months if it would be acceptable. Sir, as you have the apointment of the officers for the to month's service, I would inform you that the bearer of this Letter is desireous of the berth of a subalting officer, and I believe he will be able to procure such recommendations as you will require, though he has never had

a Commition, he has had experence as he has served in the war almost ever since the commencement thereof, and now does duty as an Ensign in the Militia.

I am, Sir, with respect your Most obedient and humble sehv't,

Israel Spencer.

To Stephen Lush, Esqr.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Albany July 24th 1781.

Dr Sir, I am favored with yours of yesterday. The sitting of the Legislature at their last Meeting was so short that I believe they had it not in their Power to do anything for yourself and the other officers of the three years Levies. However, I presume something will be done for you at their next Meeting.

I shall consult with Colo. Willett as to your Application for a Majority in the present levies and write to you on the subject in a Day or two. Your Brother has agreeable to your Request an appointment of a Lieutenancy in this Service.

I am in Haste with particular esteem

Your most obed't

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[No. 3846.]

*The Governor Notifies Captain Aaron Hale of His Selection for a Captaincy in the Levies.*

Albany 26th July 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to Directions received from his excellency the Govr. I am to request that you will attend receive and take Charge of the Levies now raising for Defence of the State in Colo Van Ness's Regiment. Orders are already issued for this Purpose to Lieut. Josiah Skinner who will assist you in this Business. I presume the Levies are already raised in that

Regiment; lest, however, this may not be the Case it may be proper to inform you that by his Excellency's Orders, deserters from the British service are to be rejected and none are to be received but able bodied men fit for active duty, each provided with a good Musquet or Fireloch, a cartouch Box or a Pouch, capable of containing seventeen Charges of ammunition, a Knapsack or Haversack and a good Blanket, & if any Person offered for muster shall fail in being able bodied or armed and appointed as aforesaid, you are to report the same, together with the class delinquent to the Commanding Officer of the Regt. to the end that another may be detached as the Law directs. You will be recommended to the Council of Appointment for a captaincy in the service, and your Company will be formed from Van Ness's & Wemple's Regiment. Your Lieut. will be Josiah Skinner and Mr. Van Ingen of Schenectady who is now attending there to receive the Levies from Wemple's Regiment. If the Levies in Colo. Van Ness's Regiment are not yet raised you will confer with the Colonel on this Business and do everything in your Power to hasten it as the Safety of the Frontiers principally depends upon its being speedily completed.

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[No. 3847.]

*The Governor Sends Instructions to Lieutenant Van Arnum.*

Albany, July 24th, 1781.

Sir, I am directed by his Excellency the Governor, to request that you will attend and receive the Levies now raising for Defence of the Frontiers in Colo. Philip P. Schuyler's Regiment. Deserters from the British Service are to be rejected and none are to be received but able bodied Men fit for active Duty, each provided with a good Musquet or Fireloch a Cartouch Box or

Pouch capable of containing seventeen Charges of Ammunition a Knapsack or Haversack and a good Blanket. If any Person offered for Muster shall fail in being able bodied or armed and appointed as aforesaid you will immediately report the Class delinquent to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to the end that another Man may be detached in his stead as the Law directs. You will be pleased without Delay to confer with Colo. Schuyler on this Business and do every thing in your Power to hasten it as the Safety of the Frontiers principally depends upon its being speedily compleated. You will be recommended to a Lieutenancy upon the Meeting of the Council of Appointment and for the present you are to consider yourself as belonging to the Company of Capt. Joseph Harrison to whom you will make the necessary Returns.

Mr. Wm. Van Arnum.

[No. 3848.]

*Sheriff Nicoll to Governor Clinton—An Appeal for John Taylor's Exchange.*

Goshen, July 24th 1781.

Dear Governor, The Baerer John Taylor I have bin acquainted with for Near Three Years, and have Always lucked on him to be a Sincere Friend to the Independancy of America, and has supported a good Carractor in his Place; he of his one free Will was Last Spring Fore days with me in the Mountains and at Kakiate after Clarck, Miller, Straut and Others, which Harber'd People going to and from the Enemy, all which time he behaved himself Well and bore His One Expences; if it is in Your Power to Exchange him I dobt not but you will. I am with Sincear Respect Your Humble Servent

Isaac Nicoll.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 3849.]

## TANGLED FINANCES.

*Robert Morris Writes at Length to Governor Clinton—Claims  
Against New York—Indifference of States to Cooperate.*

Philadelphia, 25th July 1781.

Sir, I had the honor to write you the 16th Inst. enclosing A certified copy of the acco. of your State as it stands in the Treasury Books of the United States. I now pray leave to recall your attention to it.

It gives me very great pain to learn that there is it pernicious Idea prevalent among some of the States that their acco's. are not to be adjusted with the Continent; such an Idea cannot fail to spread listless languor over all our operations. To suppose this expensive War can be carried on without Joint & strenuous efforts, is beneath the wisdom of those who are called to the high Offices of Legislation.

Those who inculcate Maxims which tend to relax their efforts most certainly injure the common cause, whatever may be the motives which inspire their conduct. If once an opinion is admitted that those States who do least & charge most, will derive the greatest benefit, and endure the smallest evils. Your Excellc'y must perceive that shameless inactivity must take place of that noble emulation which ought to pervade & animate the whole Union. It is my particular duty, Sir, while I remind my fellow Citizens of those tasks which it is incumbent on them to perform to remove if I can, every impediment which lies in the way or which may have been raised by disaffection, self Interest, or mistake. I take, therefore, this early opportunity to assure you that all the acco's. of the several States with the United States shall be speedily liquidated if I can possibly affect

it and my efforts for that purpose shall be unceasing. I make this assurance in the most solemn manner & I entreat the consequences if a contrary assertion may be most seriously weighed & considered before it is made or believed. These acco's. naturally divide themselves into two considerable branches, viz., those which are previous & those which are subsequent to the Resolutions of Congress of the 18th March 1780. The former must be adjusted as soon as proper Officers can be found & appointed for the purpose & proper principles established so as that they may be liquidated in an equitable manner—I say, Sir, in an equitable manner, for I am determined Justice shall be the rule of my conduct as far as the measure of abilities (which the Almighty has been pleased to bestow) shall enable me to distinguish between right and wrong. I shall never permit a doubt that the States will do what is right neither will I ever believe that any one of them can expect to derive advantage from doing what is wrong. It is by being just to individuals, to each other, to the Union, to all; by generous grants of solid Revenue, and by adopting energetic measures to collect that revenue, and not by complainings, vauntings, or recriminations that these States must expect to establish their Independence & rise into power, Consequence & Grandeur. I speak to your Excellency with freedom because it is my duty so to speak & because I am convinced that the language of plain sincerity is the only proper language to the first Magistrate of a free Community.

The Acco's. I have mentioned as subsequent to the Resolutions of the 18th March 1780 admit of an imediate settlement; the several States have all the necessary materials; one side of the Acco's. consists of demands, made by the Resolutions of Congress long since forwarded; the other must consist of Com-

pliances with those demands. This latter part I am not in capacity to state & for that reason I am to request the earliest information which the nature of things will permit, of the Moneys, Supplies, Transportation on which have been paid, advanced, or furnished by your State in order that I may know what remains due. The sooner full information can be obtained, the sooner shall we know what to rely on & how to do equal Justice to those who have contributed & those who have not—to those who have contributed at one period, & those who have contributed at another.

I enclose you an acco't of the specific supplies demanded of your State, as extracted from the Journals of Congress tho without any mention of what has been done in consequence of those Resolutions because as I have already observed, your Excellency will be able to discern the Balla. [balance] much better than I can.

I am further to entreat, Sir, that I may be favored with copys of the several Acts passed in your State since the 18th Mar. 1780 for the collection of Taxes & furnishing supplies, or other Aids to the United States, the manner in which such Acts have been executed, the time which may have been necessary for them to operate, & the consequences of their operation.

I must also pray to be informed of so much of the internal Policy of your State as relates to the laying, assessing, Levying and collecting of Taxes. I beg leave to assure your Excellency that I am not prompted either by an idle curiosity or by any wish to discover what prudence would dictate to conceal; tis necessary I should be informed of these things & so I take the plain, open, candid method of acquiring Information. To paliate or conceal any Evils or disorders in our situation can

answer no good purpose. They must be known before they can be cured; we must also know what resources can be brought forth that we may proportion our efforts to our means & our demands to both. It is necessary we should be in a condition to carry on the War with ease before we can expect to lay down our Arms with security, before we can treat of peace honorably, & before we can conclude it to advantage. I feel myself fettered at every moment & embarrassed in every operation from my ignorance of our actual state & what is reasonably to be asked or expected. Yet when I consider our real wealth & numbers & when I compare them with other Countries I feel a thorough conviction that we may do much more than we have yet done & with more ease to ourselves than we have yet felt, provided we adopt the proper mode of Revenue & Expenditure. Your Excellency's good sense will anticipate my observation on the necessity of being informed what moneys are in your Treasury & what sums you expect to have there, as also of the times they must probably be brought in. In addition to this I must pray you to communicate the several appropriations.

A misfortune peculiar to America requires that I entreat your Excellency to undertake one more Task which perhaps is far from being the least difficult. It is, Sir, that you will write very fully as to the am't. of the several paper Curry's. now circulating in your State, the probable Increase or Decrease of each, & the respective rules of depreciation. Having now stated the several communications which are most indispensable, let me entreat of your Excellency's goodness that they may be made as speedily as possible, to the end I may be early prepared with those propositions which from a view of all circumstances may be most likely to extricate us from our present difficulties. I am also to entreat that you will inform me when your Legislature is to



meet; my reason for making this request is, that any proposals to be made to them may arrive in Season for their attentive deliberation.

I know that I give you much trouble, but I also know it will be pleasing to you because the time & the labour will be expended in the service of your Country. If, Sir, my feeble but honest efforts should open to us the Prospect of American glory, if we should be able to look forward to a period when supported by solid Revenue & Resource, this War should have no other duration or extent than the wisdom of Congress might allow, when its object should be the honor not the Independence of our Country, if with these fair views, the States shou'd be rouzed, excited, animated in the pursuit & unitedly determined to be in that happy situation, find themselves placed there by the very determination, if Sir, these things should happen soon the reflection that your Industry has principally contributed to effect them wou'd be the rich reward of your Toils & give to your best feelings their amplest gratification.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencys Most Obedient & humble servant

Robt. Morris,

S. J. of Finance.

His Excellency The Governor & Comm'r in Chief of the State of New York.

State of New York To The United States Dr.  
To Requisitions made by Resolutions of Congress for Specific Supplies viz :

| DATE               | Ct. Wt. of Beef.          | Barrells of Beef. | Barrells of Pork  | Barrells of Flour  | Bushs. Corn.       | Tons Hay.    |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1780<br>Febru'y 25 | 11,200<br>1,761           | 2,800             | 1500              | 13,969<br>16,100   | 30,000             | 500          |
|                    | 12,961<br>Ct. Wt. of Beef | 2,800 bbls.<br>B. | 1,500<br>Bbls. P. | 28,869<br>BBl's F. | 30,000<br>Bs. Coru | 500<br>T Hay |

[No. 3850.]

*D. Brooks Supplements Sheriff Nicoll's Application in Behalf of  
John Taylor's Exchange to Governor Clinton,*

Newburgh, July 26th 1781.

Dear Sir, The Bearer of this is, Mr. John Taylor, whom I have long known & can assure your Excellency that he is an Honest Friend to his Country,—and has, when opportunity offered, been very ready to yield his services voluntarily;—but, unfortunately for him, he is now a prisoner to the enemy, as his Parole will inform you. The story of his being taken, as he will relate, I have every reason to believe it just & true.

If you Excellency can effect his exchange, it will be an Act of great humanity to a person who well deserves it, and has no prospect of being released through any other channel.

Assured that you will do everything that you can with propriety, I have the honor to be with great Respect & Esteem, your Excellency's most obed't & very humble serv't.

His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 3851.]

*Governor Clinton Holds Out No Hope for a Commission to Colonel  
Paine.*

Pokeepsie 26th July 1781.

Dear Sir, I am this Moment favoured with yours of the 21st Instant. This last levies fell so far short of what was expected that I do not believe the raising of the present will occasion the Appointment of any New Officers except a Major & some subalterns, otherwise I should be happy in your Service. I am exceedingly concerned to learn that the Enemy has an armed vessel in Lake George as indicates an intention in them to

harass our Frontiers in your quarter at least with small Parties. Every aid I can afford you will be attended to with the utmost readiness & I sincerely wish it may prove effectual.

[Col. Brinton Paine.]

[No. 3852.]

*Colonel Udny Hay Transmits a Letter to Colonel Pickering and a List of Grievances to Governor Clinton.*

Camp White Plains, 26 July 1781.

Sir, I arrived here last Friday night, and on Saturday waited on his Excellency the Commander in chief who was so engaged in making out the disposition of the Army for going below that I could not have an opportunity of any conversation with him. Sunday & Monday he was employed the whole time in reconitering the Enemy's position, by which means I was prevented from any opportunity of speaking to him on the subject of the Forage till Tuesday afternoon. The result of the application you will see by the first paragraph of my Letter to Colonel Pickering, Copy of which I have the honor to enclose for your Excellency's perusal. I am promised an answer to that Letter this Day. However surprising it may appear, it is nevertheless an undoubted fact that the Generals of the Army had conceived the same ideas respecting the non payment of any articles taken in this quarter for the use of the Army as Colonel Pickering had. You will, therefore, perceive I have a tolerable share of difficulties to encounter, especially as what has already been taken must be settled by compromise, it being altogether impossible to distinguish with any degree of certainty from what farms and in what proportion the Grass hitherto used has been taken; as the Law has pointed out no mode by which such a compromise ought to be settled, I shall endeavor to guide my

conduct by the strictest rules of justice and impartialty betwixt the United States this State & individuals, agreeable to circumstances as they may from time to time turn up, and shall think myself fully compensated for all my trouble if I meet with the approbation of your Excellency and the Legislature.

Previous to the letter I wrote Colonel Pickering, we had a very warm and altercated conversation. Amongst other matters the Forage Master General told me he was informed some one had the boldness to affirm he would arrest him if he continued to give orders to putt the Horses to pasture and refused to grant certificates for the value of what they eat; he could wish to know who he was. I very cooly replyd his curiosity should be immediately gratified, for I myself was the very Person; this naturally led to a discussion of sundry other matters, amongst the rest the prevailing custom of European Nations, which I refused as altogether inadmissable in the present case. We ended as we began, each party determined to prosecute his own scheme.

I believe Colonel Pickering will settle the matter by giving a certificate that such a quantity of grass &c. has been used by the Army of the United States in Westchester County lying between the North River & the Sound, but will evade mentioning whose property it is, as he wishes the matter of payment should be referred to Congress. This will certainly be a point gained, as it will determine the quantity; but I have told him the State would never submit to Congress a matter of Property which was altogether within the jurisdiction of the Powers of the State itself.

I shall take every opportunity of writing you fully every circumstance of consequence in this matter.

Delicacy has prevented me hitherto from speaking to the French General on the subject, but there is so much waste made by them, and so many complaints made by the inhabitants, that my duty forbids me waiting any longer without remonstrating against their present mode of procedure, which you may rely shall be done in the most decent and delicate terms I can make use of.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect Your Excellency's most obedient & very humble serv't.

Udny Hay.

P. S. In justice to Mr. Carter I cannot refrain from informing you that I have every reason to believe he has dissuaded the French General from taking any article whatever either by force or without payment.

Nine at Night. No answer from Colonel Pickering; it is to be ready to morrow forenoon.

Vide the enclosed half sheet.

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COLONEL HAY TO COLONEL PICKERING IN REGARD TO GATHERING FORAGE AND THE COMPENSATION THEREOF.

Camp White Plains, 25th July 1781.

Sir, That I might, as far as was consistent with my own duty, comply with every requisition of yours, I have spoke to his Excellency the Commander in Chief, respecting payment of the Forage obtained by the Army in this County, who declines intermeddling at all in the matter, or giving even an opinion on the subject.

In hopes, therefore, that you have now adopted other sentiments than you entertained when we last conversed on the matter, and that you will grant regular certificates for all the

Forage of every sort, which either has already, or may hereafter be used by the Army on the confiscated or sequestered Lands within this County (for you know immediate payment never has been demanded) I again wait on you with the most sincere inclination to embrace any method you are pleased to propose for amicably settling the whole of the present dispute in such manner as to do the strictest justice betwixt the United States and this State, agreeable to the meaning and intention of the Law by which my Conduct must be governed, and, therefore, take the liberty of proposing the two following methods, either of which that may meet with your approbation, I am ready to enter into.

The first is that a person appointed by me, and authorized by you, go around to the heads of all the Departments, and get a certified return from under their hands of the number of Horses and oxen or fat cattle belonging or attached to their respective Departments, and the number of days they have been maintained within this County since you have thought yourself justifiable in refusing certificates for their pasture; the number of Horses and oxen or fat cattle thus ascertained, that we fix upon a reasonable price per day per head, founded upon this principle that Hay is worth ten Pounds per ton (that being the price Congress has fixed for the settlement of the accounts of each State for that article) and that you then give me a certificate declaring that such a number of Horses and oxen or fat cattle have been maintained for such a time on the best of pastures & meadows in Westchester County the property of individuals in the State of New York, or of Tories gone off to the Enemy whose Lands are now become the property of the State itself.

The second Method is that a Person be appointed by you, and another by me, with orders to choose a third, which three, being

upon oath, shall have full power to ascertain the value of the Pasture or meadows that shall appear to have been used by the Army of the United States within this County, fixing the valuation upon the same principles as above mentioned, and agreeable to which you to grant certificates to me for what appears taken from the confiscated or sequestered Estates, and to individuals for what appears to be taken from their Estates.

Should neither of these modes correspond with your Ideas on this subject, please propose any other, and if not materially different from these in spirit, I will willingly conform therewith; but if contrary to my wish and expectation you should still persist in a determination not to pay for any of the Property consumed in this quarter by the Horses, oxen or fat cattle of the Army, I must request your answer to the following Questions, as I think they must contain very material information for those under whom I have the Honor to serve:

1st At what time, and by whose authority, were the original Proprietors of the Lands in Westchester County in the State of New York, on which the public Cattle have lately been or now are maintained, divested of their property in the said Lands or any part of the Produce thereof?

2nd In whom are these Lands and their produce vested at present?

3rd Can the property of the soil and the produce thereof be by any legal means vested in two different Persons at the same time, without some particular & express law for the purpose, or a voluntary compact betwixt the Proprietor of the soil & such other Person?

4th Does the smallest resemblance of such a Law or such a compact exist in the present case?

5th At what period of time (if ever) may these original Owners, or their legal Heirs or assigns, again with propriety claim their right of possession in its full extent, and to what authority ought they to look up for information on a point so very consequential both to their present & future interests?

I think it necessary now to mention in writing what I have formerly at several times informed you of in conversation, that when a public officer myself, I not only paid for the produce of farms sequestered to the State, but know that other public officers did the same, and yet I am very certain my accounts will be a convincing proof that my general expenditure of public moneys was sufficiently frugal.

You will please observe I have taken no notice of any mode for ascertaining the value of what may be consumed in future, as a settlement of what is past will in my opinion render the other extremely easy.

Let me now request, Sir, you will favor me with an answer to this as soon as possible and adopt some mode which I can with propriety concur in for an immediate, equitable and friendly settlement. I am conscious of my want of Capacity to handle a controversy of this nature against you, supported as you inform me by the joint opinion of the whole Army You have ever spoke to on the subject, but I will nevertheless take every legal method to support my claim in behalf of the State I serve and strenuously endeavor to compensate for my want of abilities by a decent firmness and unremitting assiduity. I am most respectfully Sir, Your most obedient & very humble servant

Udny Hay.

Colo. Pickering.



Friday 12 A. M.

I have just recd the Colonel's answer consisting of a sheet and a half of paper wrote in a small hand, without a single argument to support his claim of non payment, except that the general idea which prevaild in favour of his sentiments was a great proof they were not erroneous.

He Despatches to-morrow an express to Congress to know their sentiments on the subject. I shall write our Delegates very fully but have told the Colonel should the opinion of Congress be different from that of the State I shall not pay the least respect to it, should they however desire him to pay upon the terms I propose it will tend to an immediate settlement of the whole dispute.

I have spoken to the French Intendant, who disclaims every connection with those who have given orders to take the Forage in this quarter without payment. He says I must apply to the Count De Rochambeau which I shall do accordingly.

I have requested the Refugees of this County to meet on Monday next where I shall attend. I am sorry I have not time to copy Colonel Pickering's letter for your Excellency's perusal, I cannot help thinking it a very extraordinary one. I am very respectfully, Your Excellency's most obedient & very humbe Sert

Udny Hay

Governor Clinton

Saturday evening

I have spoke to French General who will give no positive answer but leaves the matter to be determined by General Washington to whom I applyd who still declines giving any opinion on the subject. In this dilemma let me request Your

Excellencies instructions if you can with propriety give me any.

U. Hay

Saturday Evening.

I find myself really in a most disagreeable situation respecting this Forage business. The General I believe before he knew anything of a demand being made either by the inhabitants or State for what forage the Army might obtain in this quarter, signified it as his opinion that no pay would ever be required for it. Of this there are some who wish to take great advantage and screen themselves under the sanction of his opinion, with respect to making any demand on the French. He could wish that matters was deferred till a full determination is fixt on respecting our own Army, but he only gives this as a private Gentleman, and wishes it made use of in no other way, though I have not pressed for your excellencies directions in my public letter, yet I have the most earnest desire to receive it.

Please excuse haste.

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[No. 3853.]

*Colonel Hay Sends Governor Clinton Military News from the South and Along the Hudson.*

White Plains, 26th July 1781.

Dr Sir, Agreeable to promise, I now sit down to inform you of every thing material I know of within the Camp. Thursday was a week the Enemies shipping at Dobbs ferry were attacked from a battery of ours erected for the purpose; when one of them got very considerably mauld, having recd so many shots betwixt Wind & Water as obliged her to sett both chain pumps agoing. They were thrown in great consternation by a shell which fell on board, and sett their riggin on fire in such a

manner as to occasion sundry of the Crew to jump overboard, amongst others an American Prisoner, who swam ashore and gave particular information of the damage she sustained, the other vessels recd little or no hurt.

At the distance of Poughkeepsie the design of marching the whole Army down to Kings Bridge may yet remain unravelled; the General I believe had two principal Objects in view, both of which he has fully accomplished; the first to reconnoitre the Enemies' works and the Ground where it would be most convenient for us to commence operations against them; the second to assault them in their strongholds and give some printer of ours an opportunity of contrasting some of Mr. Rivington's tales respecting us in the years—76 & 77. Nothing of consequence turned out on this Expedition; we killed three or four, took eight or ten, & rec'd perhaps as many Deserters, and I believe lost about half the number in the same way. There has been no intelligence of consequence from New York lately that has transpired, unless the confutation of Lord Cornwallis arrival be deemed such; the General does not seem to doubt that, and it is generally thought he will bring with him all the Enemies' force now in Virginia except what may be esteemed necessary to garrison Portsmouth. Should this take place our affairs to the southward will, I flatter myself, wear a new aspect in a few months; General Greene has made a fruitless attempt against Ninety Six by sea; after having by regular approaches advanced to their very abatis; he made an attempt by storm in which he failed but without any very considerable loss, he was however, necessitated to quit the siege by Lord Rawdons approach who had come from Charlestown with a considerable Reinforcement; General

Wayne too has been unlucky under the Marquis. Informed of Cornwallis' determination to cross James River, an attack was determined on, designed to be made in the very act of crossing, but unluckily was commenced too soon, which compelled him to engage for a while the Enemy's whole force; General Greene & the Marquis both write in terms which show that each of them are much more uneasy for the situation of the other than for his own; the Marquis expects to send the General a reinforcement.

It is with pleasure that I assure you the greatest friendship & Harmony subsists betwixt the officers & men of both Armies; their spirits are really high and I doubt not should they come to action would strenuously endeavor to excell each other.

The General asked me when your Excellency was expected down. I believe he would be glad to hear from you.

It is impossible for me to say when I shall leave Camp. It depends entirely upon settling this controverted point betwixt me and Colonel Pickering. We have been unlucky in not getting the Ladies to the sea shore; the position of the Army will not at present permit it.

Mrs. Hay requests her most respectful compliments may be presented to Mrs. Clinton, accepting thereof yourself likewise, in both which she is most sincerely joined by Your Excellency's much obliged most obedient & very humble servant

Udny Hay.

Friday afternoon.

I am informed that a New York paper of 25th inst. admits, the loss of part of the homeward bound fleet from Scotia. We have accounts that the whole was taken in the Channell.

Please accept of the enclosed paper which I promised Col. Dayton I would transmit you with his compliments.

Governor Clinton.

[No. 3854.]

*Returns of Levies from General Swartout's Brigade.*

Dr Gov'r, I send you a late Return of the Delinquent men of the fore Regts. wich Number will make the one third of the men rased in this Conty which was ordered to Compose part of Colo Willets Regt. I am Your ex'y. Most Obt & Hble Serv't.

E. V. Bunschoten.

His Exc'l'y Gov'r. Clinton, Fishkeels, 26th July 1781.

A return of the men rec'd from fore Regts. of General Swartout's Brigade.

|                        | Men        | Men        | Men       |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Colo. Hopkin's Cota    | 52         | Recd. 42   | Delqt. 10 |
| Colo. Frares Cota      | 51         | Recd. 39   | Delqt. 12 |
| Colo. Vanderburgh Cota | 26         | Recd. 25   | Delqt. 1  |
| Colo. Brenkerhoff Cota | 40         | Recd. 39   | Delqt. 1  |
|                        | <u>169</u> | <u>145</u> | <u>24</u> |

No late Returns from Colo. Grams Luttontons & Fields Regt. However Expect; there is five wanting to compleat.

E. V. Bunschoten.

Fishkeels, 26th July 1781.

[No. 3855.]

*Governor Clinton Directs Colonel Thomas to Appoint Lieutenant Hurst a Captain.*

Pokeepsie, 26th July 1781.

Sir, Colo. Benson wrote you on the 18th instant by my order, directing that each of the three regiments in your county should furnish an Officer for the Present levies giving preference to those who had seen service. No answer has yet been received and as Mr. Thomas Hurst who was a very old Lieut. in one of the Continental Battallions, is willing to take Command of a Company of the Levies, it is my wish he may command those of your County, if you have not already fixed on some other Person

who you may have encouraged to expect that command. You will, therefore, Please to inform me whether any thing had been done respecting this matter & your sentiments as to the Appointment of Mr. Hurst without delay.

[Col. Thomas Thomas.]

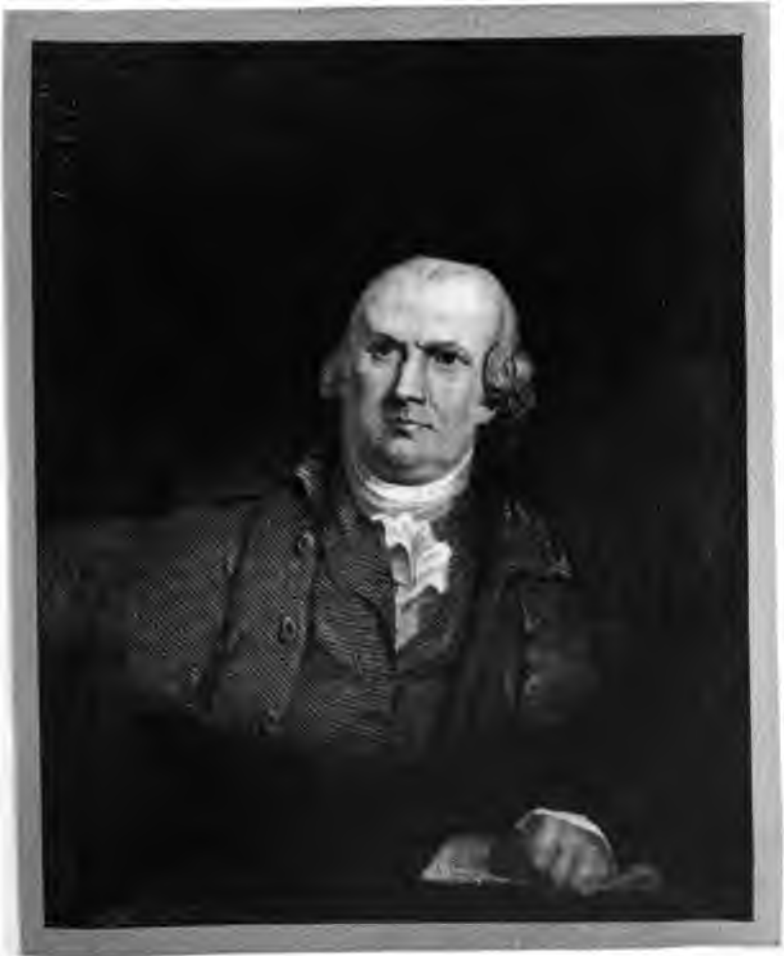
[No. 3856.]

*Robert Morris Writes to the Governor on the Public Debt and Difficulties in the Way of Raising Taxes and of Placing Duties on Imported Goods.*

Philadelphia, July 27th 1781.

Sir, I find, upon examination, that the Recommendation of Congress of the third of February last, for laying an Impost of 5 per cent on Goods Imported, and a like Impost of five p ct on Prizes and Prize Goods, has not been complied with by your State.

The Object which Congress had in view, when they Issued this Recommendation was of the utmost Importance; and every day gives it an additional weight & magnitude. Whether these States are able to support the Annual Expences of the War by their Annual Revenue, and Whether it would be prudent and Wise to draw forth such Revenue, are questions which may hereafter be Agitated, considered and answered. For the Present it is sufficient to observe, that no Methods have hitherto been Adopted to Produce a Revenue by any means adequate to the current Expences. The Public Debt, therefore, is large and increasing. The Faith of the United States is pledged to the Public Creditors. At every new Loan it must be Pledged Anew, and an Appeal is now made to the States, individually, to Support the Public Faith so solemnly Pledged. If they do, it is possible that Public Credit may be restored; if not, our Enemies will draw from thence strong Arguments in favour of what they



*Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris.*





have so often asserted, that we are unworthy of Confidence, that our Union is a rope of Sand, that the people are Weary of Congress, and that the Respective States are determined to reject its Authority. I fear that a Meer verbal Contradiction of these assertions, will have but little Effect. No words will induce men to Risk their Property upon the security of a nominal Union. Your Excellency will be able to once to determine whether that Union is more that nominal, in which any part shall refuse to be bound for the debts of the whole or to contribute to the general defence. I must be permitted, however, to observe, that in matters of Public Credit, long delay is equivalent to direct Refusal.

Despotic Governments are, in War, Superior to others by the Union of Efforts, the Secrecy of Operation, and the Rapidity with which every Wheel may be moved by one Sovereign Will. This Superiority, however, is amply compensated to free Governments, by the Ardent Attachment of their Citizens, and the General Confidence which enables them to make Exertions beyond their force, and Expend in one Year the Revenues of Many; a signal View of our Enemy in the unequal Contest she now carries on, will demonstrate these Advantages more clearly than any Arguments. The Credit of Great Britain is not only her Chief, but it is almost her only Support. Inferior in everything else to the Associates combined against her, she still makes Head every where, and balances opposition through the four Quarters of the Globe. While we feel the force of these last Strugglings of her Ambition, we must admire the source from whence they flow. Admiring we should endeavor to imitate, and in Order to succeed, we need only to make the Attempt. There was a time when Public Confidence was higher in America,

than in any other Country. Hence the existence of that Paper, which bore us through the conflict of five years Hostility. In the moment when none others dared Oppose Great Britain in her Career towards Universal Empire, we met her Ambition with our Fortitude, encountered her Tyranny with our Virtue, and opposed her Credit with our Own. We may perceive what our Credit would have done, had it been supported by Revenue, from what it has already effected without that support; as we have no reason to doubt but that it may be restored, when we reflect on the fate which paper Currencies have formerly sustained. The Appeal, as I have already had the honor to Observe, is made by Congress to the several States; some of them have answered by passing the Laws Required, others are Silent.

Whence this Silence proceeds, I confess myself at a Loss to determine. Some reasons indeed I have heard assigned by individuals, in Conversation, but I cannot conceive that they should have weighed with the Legislatures. Indeed I can hardly conceive how any Reasons could have weighed, against a Matter of such importance as the keeping Publick Faith inviolate.

I have heard it said, that Commerce will not bear a five per cent duty. Those who make such assertions must be very little acquainted with the subject. The articles of commerce are either such as people want, or such as they do not want. If they be such as people want, they must be purchased at the price for which they can be had, and the duty being equal on all, gives to no seller any advantage over another. If on the Contrary the Article be such as people do not want, they must either increase their Industry so as to Afford the use of it with the duty, or else they must dispense with that use. In the former case the commerce is just where it was, and in the latter case the people con-

sume less of foreign superfluities—which certainly is a public benefit.

I have also heard it said, that the duty should be carried to the Account of the State where it is levied. Whatever can be the object of those who contend for this point I know not. If they are doubtfull as to the Justice of Congress, that body should not have been entrusted with the power of apportioning quotas on the several States. If on the contrary those who make this proposition expect that the Commercial States, by carrying the five per cent duty to their private account, can derive a revenue from their neighbors, the Idea is as fallacious as it is unjust. The Equity of Congress would lead them to relax so much in the quotas, as would render the contribution of the State, proportionate, or if that could not be done, the suffering State would be induced to carry on its own Commerce. Thus the end would be defeated, as indeed it ought, for surely the advantage derived by the commercial States, as a mercantile profit, is sufficient; without exacting a Revenue in addition to it. Articles imported into the Country are consumed in the Country. If each pay a duty, that duty will be paid by All. The tax will fall equally on all, and therefore ought in Justice to be carried to the general Account.

I have also heard it suggested, that the public debts ought to be divided among the Several States, and each be called on to provide for its proportion. This measure would be sufficient to destroy the credit of any Country; the Creditors trust the Union & there can be no right to alter the pledge which they have accepted, for any other, even for a better one, without their free consent. But this is not all; there is in it a principle of disunion implied, which must be ruinous. Even at this late

period the States may singly be subjugated; their strength is derived from their Union, everything therefore which injures that Union, must impair the strength which is dependent upon it.

I shall not encroach longer upon your Excellency's patience, by adducing further Arguments. Everything for and against the proposition has doubtless been considered by the United States in Congress assembled, with that Attention which is due to the importance of those objects on which they deliberate. I think, however, it may fairly be concluded, that those who wish to reestablish the Credit and confirm the Union of these States, will comply with this Requisition. As I do not doubt that this is the sentiment of that State over which you preside, I shall believe that the Legislature will at their next Session pass the proper Laws, and I shall at present only entreat that it may be done as speedily as possible.

I take the liberty however, on this occasion, to make an observation which applies indeed to many others. Those who have the public weal very seriously at Heart, cannot but lament that the Acts passed by many States, on the Requisitions of Congress, have been fettered with Restrictions as to their operation and effect, very inconsistent with that confidence which is due to the integrity of the United States in Congress Assembled. Nothing can be more pernicious than the Jealousy which dictates clauses restraining the operation of Laws until Similar laws shall have been passed by the other States, or confining the Revenue or Supplies to partial or particular objects not within the design of Congress, or short of their intentions, or any other clauses which shew a diffidence of the States in the Sovereign representative of America, or in each other. Such jealousies must prove highly detrimental, if not ruinous. And

surely there can be no ground to entertain them, for the Congress is composed of Representatives freely chosen, and is of consequence under the control of those by whom they were appointed. Nothing, therefore, ought to prevent the free and generous Communication of all necessary powers to Congress, & I am confident that such a communication, will more effectually dishearten the enemy, encourage our Friends, and promote the general and unanimous Efforts of the Whole community, than any other Circumstance which could possibly happen. It is a truth that the Enemy do not even pretend to hope anything except from sowing discord among us; and it is but too true, that while the Whigs of America are daily more firm and united in the Cause of Independence, there has been too little attention paid, to give to that union of sentiment a proper political Form and consistency. I am not, however, the less Confident, that in this as in everything else, the enemy will to their cost discover that their Hopes have been extremely falacious.

With every sentiment of Respect I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most Obedient & Humble Servant

Robt. Morris,  
S. J. of Finance.

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[No. 3857.]

*Governor Clinton to Washington—In Regard to Levies and the Protection of Our Frontiers.*

Pokeepsie, 28th July 1781.

Dear Sr, On the Removal of the regular troops from the Frontiers, Colo. Willet who commands the Levies stationed in Tryon and Albany Counties wrote to General Fellows to be informed when the Levies from the State of Massachusetts Bay intended for the Frontier Service might be expected. This

morning I received from Colo. Willet, Genl. Fellows answer on that subject which I have the honor of inclosing. By Genl. Fellows letter your Excellency will perceive that the orders had been but recently received & that few if any of their Men were yet raised. That Berkshire County (which I presume composes his Brigade) is to furnish only 193, and that he had not any Orders for marching even those to Albany. The danger to which the frontier settlements are exposed from the encouragement which their present defenceless situation will afford the enemy to make incursions upon them, especially at this season when they are employed in gathering in their Harvests will apologize for my addressing your Excellency on this Occasion and requesting that Measures may be taken to expedite the March of the Eastern Levies destined for their Protection. I have ordered the Levies now raising in this State to the Northward of Albany & including that County to the Frontier in Confidence that with those which I am authorized to raise in the other parts of the State I shall be fully able to replace those ordered for that service from the Eastern States & which at all events shall be faithfully performed; but as your Excellency's Requisition on this State was not as early as to the Neighboring States we may not be able to compleat our Quota quite so soon. I have reason to hope, however, that by the middle of next month we shall have the whole of them in the Field & a considerable Proportion at an earlier Day should they be wanted. As soon as this Business is accomplished I mean to do myself the Honor of waiting upon your Excellency at Camp. In the meantime I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect & Esteem.

His Excellency Genl. Washington.

[No. 3858.]

*Colonel John Lamb's Regimental Return.*

Monthly return of the 2d Regt. of Artillery, Commanded by Col. John Lamb, with the Alterations since last July 28th 1781.

| COMPANIES           | TOTAL STRENGTH OF EACH COMPANY |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------------|----------|------------|------------------|---------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|-----|---|----|-----|-----|--|
|                     | OFFICERS                       |       |         |           |                  |          |            | NON-COMMISSIONED |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
|                     | COMMISSIONED                   |       |         | STAFF     |                  |          |            | NON-COMMISSIONED |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Colonel             | COMMISSIONED                   |       |         | STAFF     |                  |          |            | NON-COMMISSIONED |         |       |                |                |          |            | Total |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
|                     | Leutenant Colonel              | Major | Captain | Leutenant | Second Leutenant | Adjutant | Pay Master | Quarter Master   | Surgeon | Clerk | Sergeant Major | Quarter Master | Sergeant | Drum Major |       | Musicians | Sergeants | Corporals | Bombardiers | Gunners | Drummers & Rifers | Matrosses |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Field and Staff     | 1                              | 1     | 1       | 1         | 2                | 1        | 1          | 1                | 1       | 1     | 1              | 1              | 1        | 1          | 1     | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1           | 1       | 1                 | 1         | 1   | 1 |    |     |     |  |
| Doughty             |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Moodie              |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Mott                |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| at Fort Herkimer    |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| at West Point       |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Ditto               |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Bliss               |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Stevens             |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Fleming             |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Savage              |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Thomas              |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Machin              |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Reed                |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Present at for duty | 1                              | 1     | 1       | 1         | 2                | 1        | 1          | 1                | 1       | 1     | 1              | 1              | 1        | 1          | 1     | 17        | 10        | 7         | 5           | 14      | 88                | 168       | 1   | 8 | 19 | 199 | 873 |  |
| On Duty             |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Slak Present        |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Slak Absent         |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| On Command          |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| On Extra Duty       |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| On Furlough         |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| On the Staff        |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Recruiting          |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Prisoners of War    |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| In Goal             |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Total Effective     | 1                              | 1     | 1       | 1         | 2                | 1        | 1          | 1                | 1       | 1     | 1              | 1              | 1        | 1          | 1     | 30        | 25        | 17        | 26          | 19      | 199               | 871       |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Vacant Officers     |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Wanting to compleat |                                |       |         |           |                  |          |            |                  |         |       |                |                |          |            |       |           |           |           |             |         |                   |           |     |   |    |     |     |  |
| Establishment       | 1                              | 1     | 1       | 1         | 2                | 1        | 1          | 1                | 1       | 1     | 1              | 1              | 1        | 1          | 1     | 12        | 60        | 60        | 60          | 60      | 20                | 390       | 735 |   |    |     |     |  |

John Lamb, Colo.  
2d Regt. Artillery.

[No. 3859.]

*Major Moffat to Governor Clinton in Regard to Lieutenant Brewster's Rank.*

Blooming-Grove, 29th July 1781.

Sir, Lieutenant Brewster shewed me your Excellencie's orders together with your Letter accompanying the same directing him to proceed to NewBurgh in order to assist in collecting and mustering the Troops now raising in this County and Ulster in which you are pleased to observe to him that he shall take rank agreeable to the Rank he has heretofore held in the Militia.

And as he served in the same regiment with me when he was first Appointed and his Commission is lost he has made application to me to inform your Excellency of the time from which he ought to take rank least there should be no other way of obtaining it.

I would, therefore, Observe to your Excellency that he was appointed a Second Lieutenant in a Company under me on the 23rd of July 1776 and in Consequence of my promotion to a Majority (in the room of Major Verbryck who resigned) he was on the 24th or 25th of August following appointed a first Lieutenant and took Rank as such during that Campaign—and about the first of August 1777 was ordered out into service again in the same rank in which he continued untill he was taken prisoner and exchanged.

I am however rather inclined to think that if his commission was to the fore it would give him rank as a first Lieutenant from the 23d of July 1776 as the return for filling up the Commissions for Col. Nicoll's Regiment was not made untill after my promotion.



He has proceeded to NewBurgh Attending to your Excellencies orders

I am with the most profound Respect Your Excellencies most Obedient and very humble Servant

Thos. Moffat.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3860.]

*General Washington Notifies Governor Clinton that a Detachment of Massachusetts Militia Has Been Ordered to Defend New York's Frontier.*

Head Quarters Dobbs Ferry, 30th July 1781.

Dr Sir, Yesterday I was honored by the Receipt of your Excellency's Favor of the 28th inst. Sensible of the Importance of supporting the North'n & Western Frontier of your State, measures were taken for that Purpose, by calling for the Militia of the State of Massachusetts, as early as the Resolution for drawing down the Regular Troops was adopted—and my Letter of the 25th June, requesting Governor Hancock to order 600 Militia from the Western Counties of that State to march to Albany, was forwarded to him without delay. This requisition I had Reason to suppose had been early complied with, untill your Favor informed the contrary. In Confidence, however, that the orders have before this Time been given—but that no further delay may happen I have this Day addressed Gov. Hancock on the subject, requesting that my Requisition may be fully & punctually complied with.

I am happy in being well assured of your Excellency's Zeal & Activity in forwarding the Levies of this State for Public Service and trust they will be in Readiness by the Time you

mention. You will assure yourself, Sir! a most hearty Welcome on my Part, whenever your Convenience will admit your paying a Visit to Camp.

I have the honor to be with every Sentiment of Respect & Regard Your Excellency's Most Obedient humble servant.  
Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 3861.]

*Colonel Weissenfels Expresses a Grievance to Governor Clinton, who Promptly Explodes It With an Offer for a Commission.*

Pawlings Precinct, July 31st 1781.

Sir, Permit me (in confidence) to Express my feelings to your Excellency, upon the subject of the seeming neglect I experience, in not being Called upon to Serve (Which is so much both my inclination and my wish.) I am very sensible, Sir, of your Equitable Judgment in either accepting or Rejecting persons for public Employ, still I entreat to know if my Character as an officer, or Faithfull Citizen has been impeached, or what may be the occasion, that makes me unworthy of your Notice. Honor and real inclination to serve my Country is the prevailing motive which induces me to Wish, (if any stigma of reflection has been trown out against me) to have the satisfaction Either to stand or fall in the Judgment of my Fellow Citizens, by an Equall and public decision of facts. I am with great Respect Your Excellency's most obedient most humble Servant,

Fred Weissenfels.

## GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 4th July [Aug.] 1781.

Sir, I have received your letter of the 31st ultimo expressing your desires of having a Command in the Present Levies. I had reason to have expected an earlier Intimation of your Intentions as by my General orders for embodying these troops I requested such Gentlemen Officers as were acquainted with Service & inclined to enter into the Present to signify the same to me immediately. A vacancy, however, suitable to your Rank is still open and if it is your wish to fill it, it is at your Service. In this Case it will be Necessary that you call upon me for your Orders without Delay. I cannot conceive what Reason you have to suppose you have been neglected when on the last and every former Occasion I am confident you have been treated with particular Marks of Attention & I am ignorant of any Thing to occasion a Change of the good Opinion of you which has been so repeatedly manifested. I am &c.

(G. C.)

[No. 3862.]

*Ezra VHommedieu to the Governor on Vermont Affairs—The Governor Replies and Alludes to Military Matters.*

Philadelphia, July 31 1781.

Sir, I have been at this Place so short a time, that I am unable to inform you of many of the special Matters of Public Concernment now before Congress. The Arrangement of the different Boards a further proposed Confederation, and the settlement of the dispute with Vermont seem to be the Principal objects talked of; the last more especially, which Congress have had under Consideration for sometime before our arrival. Some

intercepted letters from Lord G. Germane on this subject, and the solicitations of New Hampshire, tis said induced them to take up this business without a Representation from New York. The Plan is, which is a Report of a Committee, to recommend it to New York and New Hampshire, to relinquish their jurisdiction or to consult on the Propriety of doing it, to the State of Vermont, according to her former claims, the Massachusetts having already passed a Law for that purpose provided the other States would do the same. This report being the order of this Day, was recommitted. This plan probably might in some degree exculpate Congress from blame, and they might with better Grace refer the sufferers to the State, who had voluntarily relinquished their jurisdiction, for Compensation for their Lands; tis said a Person from our State lately informed some members of Congress that a Majority of the Assembly and a greater Part of the Senate were in favour of granting their Independence. Possibly this might have some effect. The Committee to whom was referred our Remonstrance against the Commissions from Connecticut and the late ordinance of Congress have not yet Reported, tho they have promised me it shall be done to-morrow, & I make no doubt it will be favorable. The instructions from the Admiralty I am told is pointed against going on the Land and confines all Captures to the Water, which will be publicly made known.

The Enclosed Paper contains the news of the Day. We hear nothing late from Gen'l Green to be depended on. Good judges here say that the Enemy cannot do anything further to effect in Virginia which induces them to think they will be recalled to New York. A great number of Refugee families have lately arrived here in flags of Truce from Charles Town in distressed cir-

cumstances having there changed their hard money for Paper, expecting to make a profit on the same here. The inhabitants of this City at present are very kind to the unhappy sufferers. I wish it may continue.

I am Sir with the greatest respect and Esteem Your Excellency's most obed't Serv't.

Ezra L'Hommedieu.

Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 26th Augt. 1781.

Dr Sir, I am much at a loss how to make you a suitable Return for your obliging Letters of the 31st July & 16th inst. as I have not one word of news worth communicating. The Savages & Tories almost daily commit Depredations upon some one Part or other of our Frontier and it is impossible by any Force we can maintain however formidable altogether to prevent it. A very considerable body consisting of 300 Indians & 90 Tories lately made a descent upon the Settlement of Wawarsinck in Ulster County destroyed about 12 dwelling houses, (among which was Joh's H. Hardenbergh's Esqr.) as many Barns and killed one of the inhabitants. They were pursued by the Militia & Levies under Colo. Pawling but without effect. Part of our Army and the whole of the French moved to the west side of the River a day or two ago. This occasions great speculation & various are the Conjectures; some of our most Sanguine Folks pronounce positively that we are to enter the city by the Way of Staten & Long Island & that this is the object of the present movement while others consider it as relinquishing the idea of Offensive Operations agt our Capital I hear without saying a Word.

It is mortifying that Traitors should be rewarded for their Treason & that those in our Public Counsels who have encouraged & abetted them should be enriched by their wickedness, and yet if this must be the case I am happy that the Disgrace will not immediately fall on this State & that I had a Hand in preventing it.

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[No. 3863.]

*The Governor's Instructions to Major Logan to Organize Levies.*

Pokeepsie, 31st July 1781.

Sir, As no other field officer is yet appointed you will take charge of the Levies now raising in this State intended to reinforce the Army, and as it will be necessary that, as they assemble at the Places of Rendezvous, they be furnished with the means of subsistence you will, therefore, make seasonable application to the Command'g Officer of the Department for his Order to enable you to have them supplied with Provisions &c. As soon as any number of them are collected you will have them formed into Squads and see that the Officers are dilligently employed in exercizing & instructing them in their duty that they may take the field with Reputation; and as they increase you will form them into Companies and assign them their proper Officers from the List delivered you. You will make weekly returns to me designating the number furnished by each Militia Regt and noting their respective Deficiencies and you will Constantly hold yourself in readiness with such of the Levies as shall be collected to move on the shortest notice.

[Major Logan.]

[No. 3864.]

*Arrangement of Officers in New Levies.*

*Arrangement.*

|                           |    |                             |    |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|
| <b>Regt. 1.</b>           |    |                             |    |
| Colo. Livingston's        | 40 | Colo. K. VanRenselaer       | 40 |
| Colo. P. P. Schuyler      | 25 | C. Cuyler                   | 25 |
|                           | —  | Colo. H. K. V. Renselaer    | 25 |
|                           | 65 |                             | —  |
|                           |    |                             | 95 |
| <b>3.</b>                 |    |                             |    |
| Capt. Joseph Harrison     |    |                             | 90 |
| Lieut. Wm. Van Arnum      |    |                             |    |
| Lieut. Wm. Wilson.        |    |                             |    |
| <b>2.</b>                 |    |                             |    |
| Colo. R. VanRenselaer     | 30 | Capt. Abm. Livingston       |    |
| Colo. Van Alstyne         | 25 | Lieut. Matthew Trotter      |    |
|                           | —  | Lieut. Jacob Hogstrasser    |    |
|                           | 55 | Colo. Van Bergens Regt.     |    |
| Capt. Peter Van Renselaer |    | Levies to Capt. Conine      |    |
| Lieut. John Spencer       |    | Colo. Vrooman's             |    |
| Lieut. Woodward           |    | to Capt. Dubois             |    |
|                           |    | Major Taylor's              |    |
|                           |    | to White                    |    |
|                           |    | Colo. Blair's, Yates' & Van |    |
|                           |    | Veghten's Comp't            |    |
| <b>5.</b>                 |    | Capt. Job Wright with his   |    |
| Colo. Whiting             | 40 | present subalterns.         |    |
| Capt. Thomas Skinner      |    |                             |    |
| Lieut. Randolph Wilson    |    |                             |    |
| <b>4.</b>                 |    |                             |    |
| Colo. Wemples             | 25 |                             |    |
| Colo. Van Ness            | 25 |                             |    |
|                           | —  |                             |    |
|                           | 50 |                             |    |
| Capt. Aron Hale           |    |                             |    |
| Lieut. Josiah Skinner     |    |                             |    |
| Lieut. Van Ingen          |    |                             |    |

Charlotte County.

Capt. Dunham.

[No. 3865.]

*Governor Clinton's Instructions to Colonel Hay Regarding the Controversy with Colonel Pickering on the Forage Question.*

Poughkeepsie, 1st Aug. 1781.

Sir, I have rec'd your letter of the 26th ult. with the enclosures. As the disposition of the forage &c on the sequestered farms in Westchester County is an extraordinary Duty charged on the State Agent & particularly provided for by law I do not conceive myself authorized to give any Instructions on the Subject. My sentiments, therefore, must be considered as from an individual and not as a Rule for the Government of your Conduct. Whatever may have been the gen'l sentiments of the Army and however great the Respect I may have for their opinion, I can by no means admit the Idea, that the Property of the State in Westchester County is become forfeited to the Public from its having been exposed at Times to the Power of the Enemy; nor can precedents founded on the Practice of European Stations, if any such there are, which is equally inadmissible, support the Principle; as I am persuaded none can be adduced that will apply to the Case in Question when the nature of our War & the spirit of our Consideration is duly considered. But without entering on a Train of Reasoning which to you at this time would be unnecessary, the Law under which you act supposed the Property vested in the State & subjects it to your Dispositions and by this alone as an executive officer you are to be governed. I am sensible that circumstances unforeseen at the Time may have turned up which may render it impossible for you strictly to comply with the Letter of the Law and in this Case you will stand justified at least in my opinion & I believe I may venture to say in that of the Legislature, in pur-



suing such measures as shall be dictated by the spirit of the Law and having under this Idea attended to the different Propositions which you have made to Colo. Pickering I conceive that, should he agree to either of them, you will as far as present Circumstances will admit, have fulfilled the Intentions of the Law. If he should reject both of your proposals, I would accept of his Certificate of the quantity of Grass &c. used by the Army in Westchester County but at the same time I should conceive it your Duty to procure such Evidence of the Trespass on the different sequestered Farms being committed by his or the forage Master's Order as would support Suits, in case justice should be withheld, and the State should think proper to seek Redress in that way. I perfectly agree that it would be most proper to have this matter settled with our own Army before that of our Allies should be pressed on the Occasion and I approve of your having written to our Delegates on the subject.

Colo. Udny Hay, State Agent.

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[No. 3866.]

*Governor Clinton Sends Colonel Hay Military News.*

Pokeepsie, 1st Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, I am much obliged to you for your Favour of the 26th ultimo and am concerned that my absence at Marble Town when your letter was brought to my Home has delayed Major Chandonet two Days at this Place waiting for answer. You can expect little news from me worth communicating. Small parties of the enemy have lately made their Appearances on Different quarters of our Frontiers and have scalped some and done others Mischief, particularly at Schohary, where they have burnt two or three Houses, and I am informed that they have

an armed sloop in Lake George which at least indicates their intentions to continue their Depredations in that Quarter if not something more serious. I am unhappy in the disappointment of the ladies and particularly on account of Mrs. Hay's Indisposition. You will please to offer her & accept yourself Mrs. Clinton's & my best respect & assure her of our sincerest wishes for her Recovery. I beg you will also be so obliging as to present my Compliments to my Old Friend & Acquaintance Colo. Dayton whom I much esteem & thank him for the newspaper.

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[No. 3867.]

*State Commissary Wiley's Communication to Governor Clinton  
Relative to Supplies and Funds.*

New Jersey, Westfield, August 2d, 1781.

Sir: The last time I had the pleasure of paying my respects to your Excellency, I received your approbation for retiring to my Family untill the Treasurer would be enabled to Furnish me with money agreeable to the Warrant I at that time received. In order, however, to Facilitate Business and expedite the supplies for the Troops, I requested the Treasurer to write me word whenever he should be in a situation to discharge the warrant, and made him acquainted (for that purpose) with the place of my abode. Since which have been informed by letter from him that he would shortly be in a capacity to pay the amount of the warrant; but as the depreciation of paper money is now so great, I would request your Excellency's Instructions whether I can, with propriety make the purchases, as I shall be Under the disadvantage of procuring them within our own State at a very great advance—the neighboring States not giving our money any

chance of circulation. I shall wait your Excellency's commands at this place; and am, Sir, with respect your very humble Servant

John Wiley.

His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 3868.]

*Anne Rumsey Appeals to the Governor in Behalf of Her Husband—  
The Governor's Reply.*

Ballston, 3d of Augt. 1781.

Sir, Necessity obliges me to trouble your Excellency at this time with a Request which I Conceive no Other Person in the State is Capable of Granting. I, therefore, humble beg leave to Acquaint your Excellency with my Distressed Circumstances—viz: my Husband was one of them unfortunate Persons that was carried away Prisoners by the Notorious Capt. Waltimyer About the Eleventh of June Last to Canada, where I suppose if alive Still Remains by which means I am Left alone with a Large Family of Children, so Small as not to be able to Contribute anything towards there Maintainance and Our Circumstances being Low in the World and in a new Country, and our Living Chiefly depended on the Industry of my Husband, which Revenue is now broke up by this Captivity—which if not speedily remedied by his Return must soon reduce me and my Family to the most Indigent Circumstances—To Prevent which Humble beg that your Excelency will give me such directions as will be most likely to effect an Exchange of My Husband—Or that he may be remembered if there should be an Exchange of Prisoners, although I should not be able to atend to it myself, which is the humble petition of your Distressed Humble Servant.

Anne Rumsey—wife of David Rumsey.

Excelency George Clinton Esqr.

## THE GOVERNOR'S FAVORABLE REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 14th October 1781.

Madam, I have received your letter of the 3rd instant [August] and have directed the Commissary of Prisoners to pay due attention to the Exchange of your Husband and neighbors in Captivity & you may rest assured that no pains will be spared to effect it. I am &c.

[G. C.]

[No. 3869.]

*William Duer to Governor Clinton—Relative to the Exchange of Mr. Covenhoven.*

Rhinebeck, Augt. 3rd, 1781.

Dear Sir, When I was at Poughkeepsie I mentioned to you the Anxious Desire I had to procure the exchange of Mr. Covenhoven lately Captured by the Enemy, but you was so much engaged in Conversation with the Chancellor, that I am afraid what I said did not leave the Impression I wished. Permit me in behalf of a distressed, and numerous Family, and of an honest-deserving man, who have sacrificed everything from their Zeal to their Country's Cause, to Entreat the favor of your Excellency to Interest Yourself in obtaining the speedy release of Mr. Covenhoven. I know the difficulties which attend the exchange of citizens: but perhaps some witless and insignificant Character with us, may have Interest with the Enemy to procure his Release, on condition of being permitted to go to New York. It is said that Mr. Hake, and Dr. Taller are Anxious to be exchanged—I forbear Enlarging on this Subject, because I know your disposition to Relieve the Distresses of the firm Friends to their Country, and shall only observe that I shall Esteem your

Excellencys Interposition in this Matter as a Favor conferred on myself. I am, with much respect.

His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

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*Governor Clinton Addresses the Legislature on the Condition of Affairs in the State.*

The Legislature were convened by proclamation of the Governor, at Poughkeepsie, on the fourth day of September; at which time they met; but the number of members present being insufficient to proceed to business, they adjourned from day to day, until the seventh of the same month, when the Governor delivered the following

SPEECH:

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly,

It was with regret I found myself obliged to convene you so early in the season; the present emergencies, however, you will be sensible, rendered your meeting at this time indispensable.

The hearing before Congress, relative to our eastern boundaries, is to commence early in the present month, and as the delegates for the time being, are the agents to manage the controversy on the part of this state, and the present delegation will soon expire, you will perceive the necessity of proceeding to an immediate election.

I am unhappy to inform you, that notwithstanding the provision made for the defence of our frontiers, a part of them has again been desolated by a merciless enemy. For a particular account of these devastations, I must refer you to the papers I now deliver to you—The force directed to be raised, by the legislature, for the frontier service, when compared with the extent of country to be guarded, and with what has since appeared, the

strength of the enemy employed against it, you will discover to have been insufficient in the first instance, and it became less competent in consequence of deficiencies, and by enlistments into the Continental battalions. Allured by a generous bounty, the troops were easily induced to enter into other corps, where their time of service was prolonged only a few days; and in which they were not exposed to greater hardships or danger. To prevent, as far as possible, a diminution of this force, I ventured, although unauthorized by law, to retain on the frontiers, part of the levies intended to reinforce the army; which I trust will receive your sanction; and upon a representation of the situation of the country to the commander in chief, his excellency, from an earnest desire to preserve those valuable settlements, detached for their defence, part of the levies from the Eastern states, and the whole brigade raised by this state, as a reinforcement to the army. This, however, will be only a temporary relief, it being uncertain how long these troops will remain there: I must, therefore, recommend it to you, to provide against the contingency of their removal, which will certainly take place upon the expiration of the time limited for their service.

Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding the measures hitherto pursued, and although these states, through the indulgence of heaven, abound with provisions, the army has not as yet received seasonable and competent supplies. I now communicate to you letters from the committee of congress at head quarters, and the commander in chief, upon this interesting subject; and recommended them to your most serious attention, with the fullest confidence, that nothing will be wanting on your part; and, that as far as the ability of this state extends, no means will be left unessayed, to prevent

the misfortunes which must inevitably result from a failure in the essential article of subsistence.

Gentlemen,

When we reflect upon the present situation of our public affairs, it is evident, our embarrassments in the prosecution of the war, are chiefly to be attributed to a defect of power in those who ought to exercise a supreme direction; for while congress only recommend, and the different states deliberate upon the propriety of the recommendation, we cannot expect a union of force or council. From this conviction, I take the liberty of submitting, to you, whether further means ought not to be devised, for accelerating the proposed confederation, and thereby vesting congress with such authority, as that in all matters which relate to the war, their requisitions may be peremptory. It is with pleasure, I find this to have been the sentiment of a convention of committees from three states, lately held at Boston; whose proceedings, at their request, I now lay before you.

Hitherto the war has been carried on without decisive advantages on either side, and though it might be presumed, that our enemies, unsupported by any ally, and with every other power at least unfavorable to their cause, would have been convinced of their inability to withstand the United arms of France, Spain and America; and have withdrawn their armaments from our coasts, for the defence of their own: we find them, however, obstinately persevering in the vain hopes of conquest. It behoves us, therefore, to preserve an unremitting zeal and spirit; and especially to endeavor, by completing our continental battalions, to establish a permanent force, sufficient, with the divine blessing, to bring this contest to a speedy and successful issue. The generous aid from one, and the greatest exertions of

both nations engaged in the war with us, ought to encourage and stimulate America to her utmost efforts.

Poughkeepsie, Sept. 7th, 1780.

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*The Governor Brings Before the Legislature the Financial Complications Threatening the Country.*

The legislature convened at Poughkeepsie, pursuant to the proclamation of the Governor, on the first day of October, 1781, but as there was not a quorum of members present, they adjourned from time to time, until the 23rd of the same month, when they met the governor in the Senate Chamber, where he made the following

SPEECH:

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly:

The electing of delegates and a Council of appointment for the ensuing year, rendered the meeting of the legislature at this time, indispensable by the Confederation. A new congress is to convene on the first Monday in November in every year. You will, therefore, perceive the necessity of proceeding to the choice of members of this state, so early, as that the persons elected may have it in their power to attend in season, and prevent the inconveniences which might result from the want of a representation in congress.

The papers which I have now the honor to lay before you, relate to a variety of matters of the greatest moment. It is submitted to you to determine which of them require your immediate attention, and which may with safety and propriety, be deferred until the events of the campaign shall have fully unfolded themselves, and the legislature be thereby enabled to form a more competent judgment of the measures necessary to



be adopted: I cannot, however, omit recommending to your particular consideration, the letters from the superintendent of finance, and the demands on this state, for supposed deficiencies in the sums and specific supplies required of us by congress. Your deliberations on this subject, will naturally lead to the necessity and importance of a settlement of our public accounts, and a further and more effectual provision for the collection of the arrears of taxes heretofore directed to be levied; and as the fluctuating state of our paper currency, has hitherto conspired with the wishes of the disaffected, by making it their interest to delay the payment of their proportions. I submit to you the propriety of adopting measures to compel the payment of the deficiencies in money, at least equal in value to those taxes at the time they severally ought to have been paid. This appears to me to be dictated by policy, and warranted by justice, otherwise the burthen of the war, which ought to be equally borne, will principally fall upon the most zealous friends of their country.

I am happy in being able to inform you, that through the smiles of Heaven, on the spirit and activity of the troops stationed on the frontiers, those settlements, considering their great extent, and the mode of warfare pursued by the enemy, have sustained less injury this season, than we had reason to apprehend; and although we have recent intelligence which indicate an invasion of the Northern parts of the state, yet I trust that the formidable detachments of regular troops and levies lately sent thither, will, with the aid of the militia prove sufficient to frustrate the designs of the enemy, and protect the country against their ravages. It is my duty at the same time, to remind you, that as the term for which the levies, for the

immediate defence of the state were raised, will soon expire, it will be requisite to make seasonable provision for its further defence; and for this purpose to suggest to you, the expediency of revising the law for raising troops on bounties of unappropriated lands, as I am encouraged by the officers engaged in these corps, to believe, if a further time was allowed to complete them, and a small additional pecuniary bounty granted, a number of valuable recruits could be procured, from the present levies.

Gentlemen,

The generous conduct of our illustrious ally, in sending to our assistance, at this interesting period, such powerful armaments as to give us a decided superiority over the common enemy, as well by sea as land; and enable us to commence operations against them of the most important nature, with flattering prospects of success, cannot fail affording the highest satisfaction to every true American, and demands our warmest gratitude.—Every consideration of interest and of duty, loudly calls upon these states for correspondent exertions, that by the blessing of divine Providence, upon our united efforts, we may bring the war to a speedy and honorable conclusion, and secure the inestimable object for which we are contending.

Poughkeepsie, October 23, 1781.

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[No. 3870.]

*The New York Delegates Submit a Memorial in the Vermont Matter.*

To the United States of America in Congress Assembled.

The underwritten Delegates for the State of New York have the Honour in Obedience to an express Instruction from the Legislature of the State of New York to represent, that on the 24th day of September 1779, it was unanimously resolved by Congress that it be most earnestly recommended to the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay and New York (among other things) fourthwith to pass Laws to refer to the Decision of Congress all Differences and Disputes relative to Jurisdiction over the District called

the New Hampshire Grants which they respectively had with the People of that District, so that Congress might proceed thereon on the first day of February then next and Congress did thereby pledge their Faith to carry into Execution & support their Decision & Determination in the Premises.

That Congress having declared it to be essential to the Interest of the whole Confederacy that all intestine Dissentions be carefully avoided, and domestic Peace & good order maintained, it was further unanimously resolved, that it was the Duty of the People of the District aforesaid who denied the jurisdiction of all the aforesaid States to abstain in the meantime from exercising any Power over any of the Inhabitants of the said District, who profess themselves to be citizens of, or owe Allegiance to any or either on the East or west side of Connecticut River were to be considered as included within the said District but such as had theretofore joined in denying the jurisdiction of either of the said States, and had Assumed a separate jurisdiction, which they called the State of Vermont.

And further that in the opinion of Congress the three States aforesaid ought in the meantime to suspend executing their laws over any of the Inhabitants of the said District, except such of them as professed allegiance to, and confessed the jurisdiction of the same respectively; and further that Congress would consider any violences committed against the Tenor, true intent & meaning of that Resolution, as a Breach of the peace of the Confederacy, which they were determined to keep and maintain.

And it was further resolved unanimously that in the opinion of Congress no unappropriated lands or Estates which were or might be adjudged forfeited or confiscated lying in the said District ought, until the final Decision of Congress in the Premises, to be granted or sold.

That in Pursuance of the said Recommendation the Legislature of the State of New York passed a law fully authorizing Congress (among other things) to hear and determine all differences & disputes relative to jurisdiction between the State of New York, and such of the Inhabitants of that part of the said District which lies on the west side of Connecticut River as denied the Jurisdiction of that State, and that the said Decision being duly made and published should be & remain final and Conclusive against the State forever.

That in conformity to the said Resolution and Law and at great Expence, the State of New York made the necessary Preparations for supporting their Territorial Rights, and similar steps were taken on the Part of the State of New Hampshire.

That on the 19th day of September, 1780, all the Parties concerned in the said Controversy (the Massachusetts Day excepted) attended, namely the Delegates & agents for the State of New York and New Hampshire respectively, & Ira Allen and Stephen Bradley in behalf of the People of the Grants claiming a separate and Independent Jurisdiction, Luke Knowlton Agent on Behalf of a Number of Towns within that Part of the said District known by the name of the County of Cumberland, and Peter Alcott, and Bazalect Woodward, Agents for the Towns in the Northern Parts of the said District on both sides of Connecticut River and the Delegates as Agents for the State of New York, laid before Congress Evidence with an intent to prove, that the District known by the name of the New Hampshire grants on the west side of Connecticut River is within the limits of the State of New York; that the State of New Hampshire had acknowledged this, and that the People of the said District had been represented in the Legislature of New York since the year 1764, and submitted to the authority, Jurisdiction and Government of the Congress and Convention of the said State, 'till late in the year 1777, and, therefore, have no right to a separate and Independent Jurisdiction: that on the 27th day of the said month of September all the Parties being present, except Messrs. Allen and Bradley agents for the People of the Grants claiming a separate and Independent Jurisdiction, who altho duly notified now declined any further attendance. The Agents for the State of New Hampshire proceeded to offer Evidence tending to prove, that the tract of Country known by the name of the New Hampshire grants, was within the State of New Hampshire; and that, therefore, the People inhabiting the said Tract of Country, can have no Right to a separate and independent Jurisdiction. That Luke Knowlton, Agent, on Behalf of part of the County of Cumberland within the said District, and Peter Olcott and Bazalect Woodward, Agents from the Towns in the Northern Parts of the New Hampshire Grants on both sides of Connecticut River, being respectively called upon, and having nothing to add, and pressing Congress to come to a determination withdrew.

That the Delegates of the State of New York have repeatedly entreated Congress to decide the Matters in Question respecting the Claim of an independent State, set up

by some of the Inhabitants of the District aforesaid, but a Decision hath hitherto been deferred.

The underwritten delegates are further instructed to represent that the State of New York in compliance with the resolutions of Congress before recited, have hitherto suspended the execution of their laws over any of the inhabitants of the said district except such as professed allegiance to and confessed the jurisdiction of the same and have refrained from granting any lands within the said district. The inhabitants who deny our jurisdiction on the contrary have strengthened their party by disposing of those lands and exercised force to compel their neighbors within the said district who profess themselves to be citizens of and to owe allegiance to the State of New York, to submit to their authority: And in violation of the express resolutions of Congress have passed acts to include within their assumed jurisdiction several considerable settlements extending Westward from the claim they set up, at the time of passing the said resolutions to the middle of Hudsons river that their high handed incroachments have greatly interrupted the raising of levies and supplies within the State of New York for the support of the war and must be productive of further weakness and disorder and render the said state already greatly exhausted and desolated altogether unable to contribute to the common cause. From these weighty considerations the underwritten are expressly instructed by the legislature of the State of New York to urge Congress agreeably to their said resolutions and engagements to decide the controversy so long subsisting respecting the claim of independent jurisdiction set up under the pretended State of Vermont and to take measures in the mean time for restraining the Incroachments of the said inhabitants at least within the bounds which they themselves have till the late extraordinary extention considered represented and claimed as comprehending the New Hampshire grants. The underwritten do therefore by this publick act which they pray may be received and filed among the records of the United States make known the just expectations and earnest request of the legislature of the State of New York declaring their readiness to lay before such of the members of Congress as may be uninformed satisfactory evidence of the title of New York to all that part of the controverted district which lies on the west side of Connecticut river.

Done at Philadelphia in obedience to the Express instruction of the legislature of the State of New York the 3d day of August 1781 and in the sixth year of our Independence.

|        |                                 |   |   |
|--------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Signed | James Duane<br>Ezra L'Hommedieu | } | Delegates for the State of<br>New York and regents in the<br>controversy referred to. |
|--------|---------------------------------|---|---|

A copy compared with the original filed in the Secretary's office of the United States in Congress Assembled.

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

[No. 3871.]

*General Washington to Governor Clinton—For the Defence of the New York Frontier.*

Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, 5th Augst. 1781.

Dear Sir, Your Favor of the 1st Inst inclosing the Letter from Gen. Schuyler & others, is this moment come to hand.

It is not a little distressing to find that the States will not or cannot fill their Continental Battalions, or afford the Aids of Militia required from them—but that instead thereof they are expecting from me the few operating Troops which I have

to depend on. The Consequence of this Conduct is too obvious to need any Comment. Instead of offensive Measures a defensive Plan must be adopted—instead of an active & decisive Campaign, which I had hoped to have made, we must end our operations in Languor & Disgrace—& perhaps protract the War, to the Hazzard of our final Ruin.

In Consequence of your Excellency's former Letter, I dispatched an Express to Govr. Hancock, with a reiterated Request that he would order on the Militia of Berkshire & other Western Counties immediately to Albany—and have also addressed the Command'g officer of the Militia raising in those counties, begging him to march forward without delay to the Orders of Gen'l. Clinton. What effect these Requisitions will have, it is impossible for me to say. In the meantime, I will leave the Remains of Courtlandt's Regt. at Albany, trusting that the State will, by its own exertions, enable me to call them down when necessary, by substituting 9 months men, if those for three years cannot be obtained.

In hopes that no further Delay of the Militia, from the Western parts of Massa'ts. may happen, for Want of any Exertions on my part, I have desired Maj. Genl. Lincoln, an officer of that State, to proceed to the County of Berkshire, for the Express purpose of hastening them on—however little Effect my written Applications have had—I hope his personal Attendance will produce the Aid we expect from those Counties.

I have the honor to be with the Highest Esteem & Respect  
Your Excellency's Most Obed't & Hum'le Servant

Gov'r. Clinton.

[No. 3872.]

*Henry Wisner to Governor Clinton—Levies of Colonel Allison's Regiment and Beef for the Troops—The Governor's Reply.*

Fishkill, August 6th 1781.

Dear Sir, I Being at Fishkill, think it my duty to inform your Excellency that it is near a week past Since Major Hetfield informed me that the whole of the Recruits of his Regiment were raised, except 2 Or 3, and that he expected them in every hour. So that I make no Doubt But that the Whole are on the ground By this Time as he sent them to Peempack as fast as they were Raised; he told me that he knew of no person Being yet appointed to muster them But expected they would be mustered at some place on the frontiers. If your Excellency has not fixed on any person for that purpose I can very justly recommend Major Dewitt as he is very exact about what sort of men he Receives: I believe him to be a faithful good officer. His Behaviour has been exceptionably good, While on our frontiers.

I Received a few lines from him 2 or 3 Days since. He informs me that 3 Indians had then made their appearance on the west Banks of Delawar, and that he had 40 of his men there in pursuit of them. Wat success they have had I have not heard. The want of beef for the support of the troops there is very great: not a single hoof can be had on the Credit of the State. Mr. Wood has by my advice purchased to the amount of about one hundred pounds and given his own Bond to the Different persons payable in a few months in Silver Dollars. I expect to be equally Concerned with him in the Risk. More Cattle can be had on the same Conditions But on no meathod short of that. The Beef now purchased on that footing will last about one month from this time. There is several persons tennants to

Delancey who are fating cattle to Rais Money to pay for their farms; if any meathod can be provided by which those Cattle might be turned that way I Believe a pretty good suply might be got that way.

I am With all Due Respect your Excellency's most obedient  
Humble Servant.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 10th Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, I am this moment favored with your letter of the 6th instant. I am happy to be informed that the levies of your Regt. is so nearly compleated. I some time since issued an order to Major DeWitt to receive and muster them but as it is probable it may not have been received, I now enclose a Duplicate which I beg you will be so good as to forward by a safe Conveyance. The good character you give Major DeWitt affords me great Pleasure, as his Attention to Duty and prudent Conduct will insure him the Confidence of the Inhabitants & facilitate his Command. I am sensible of the Difficulties which attend the supplying the troops on the Frontiers with Meat and I have urged the Agent in the most pressing Terms to use every Exertion for that Purpose. I am.

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[No. 3873.]

*Peremptory Orders to Major Buntschoten.*

August 6th 1781.

Major Buntschoten will immediately proceed to the command'g officers of the several Regiments in Dutchess County who have not yet furnished their full Quota of Levies agreeable

to his Excellency's Orders of the 22nd of March last and demand of them in the most peremptory manner that they forthwith cause detachments to be made from the respective delinquent Classes agreeable to Law. Such Officers as shall neglect a prompt compliance with these Orders may rest assured that the Treasurer will be directed to prosecute for the Fines imposed on them by the said Law without further notice. Major Buntschoten will make report to his Excellency, as soon as possible of the result of this Business.

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[No. 3874.]

*Colonel Marinus Willett to Governor Clinton Concerning Levies,  
Defence of the Frontier and New Officers.*

Albany, 6 Augt. 81.

Sir, I expect this letter will be handed to you by the Attorney General. I have had some talk with him about my situation and the need I stand in of some Cash. He promises me to acquaint your Excellency of the substance of my Conversation with him. And he tells me he thinks you are authorized to order us money on account. If upon examination this should appear to be the case I need say nothing more than I have already said, except that the difficulty of doing almost every kind of business is rendered greater for want of Cash.

The Regiments of Colonels Whiting, Van Ness, Van Alstine and Henry Rensselaer, of Claverack have forwarded the most of their new levies. I have received none from any other Regiments, but am doing all I can to press them in this business. By Governor Hancock's letter you will see how the reinforcements from the Eastward stands. I can hear of none moving this way. Should the necessary orders from the Commander in



Chief be not yet forwarded, your Excellency will perceive the propriety of endeavoring to have it done without loss of time.

Colonel Lush will forward to you a list of the Officers appointed to take charge of the new levies. I beg leave to remind your Excellency that Lieutenant Abram A. Fonda, John Low and Bartel Hendricks were received and have done duty in the former levies in the place of some Lieutenants who did not accept of their appointments, but have not yet received Commissions.

Tomorrow or next day I propose to set out for Tryon County When I shall visit every post in the County, make some distribution of the ordnance which is at present at Fort Herkemer a part of which ought before this time to have been removed but which has been out of power for want of strength. I am Your Excellencie's most obedient and very humble servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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*Governor John Hancock Expresses Surprise to Colonel Willett Over the Massachusetts Troops Delay.*

Boston, Aug. 2d 1781.

Sir, Imediately upon the resolve of the General Court for Raising the Men for the Continental Army, I issued orders to the several Brigadiers requiring them to procure the Men as speedily as Possible, and to order their march to West or to such other place as His Excellency General Washington should direct. I concluded the men were marched some time ago, and am surprised at the delay. I will write to the Brigadiers and hasten their march, but their particular destination must be determined by the orders of General Washington. The General sometime ago wrote me he should order a part of our Militia

to Albany, & they are engaged for any service & to march to such places as he shall please to Direct. I will give effectual orders for the Immediate march of the Men.

I wish you happy and am with Sentiments of Esteem, Sir,  
Your very Humble Ser't  
Marinus Willett, Esqr. Albany. Cobby.

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[No. 3875.]

*Levies in Swartout's Brigade.*

Return of the levies, Received at Fishkill from the Diferent Regts in General Swartout's Brigade, to continue in Service untill Dec'r next,

|                      |             |                  |                |              |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Colo. Brincherhoff's | Do. Hopkins | Do V. DerBurgh's | Do. Ludinton's | Do. Graham's |
| 29                   | 23          | 1                | 9              | 4            |
| Do. Frears           | Do. Fellds  | Total 103        |                |              |
| 10                   | 27          |                  |                |              |

Fishkill Augt. 7th 1781 Christopher Codwise, Capt. & M. Mastr.

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[No. 3876.]

*Colonel Hay to Governor Clinton Concerning Confiscated Estates and Colonel Pickering.*

Fishkill, Tuesday morning [Aug. 7, 1781.]

Dear Sir, By a Conversation with an old friend of mine, who you will have an opportunity of seeing at my house to-day, I suspect that the present dispute with Col. Pickering is but a prelude to an attempt for wresting from us the confiscated Estates. I could wish you would take an opportunity of hearing him on the occasion which will better enable you to form a proper Judgment. I am very certain the ideas he holds forth are not his own though I cannot form the least opinion from whence he has got them.

I am most respectfully Your Excellency's most obed't humble  
Sev't  
Governor Clinton.

[No. 3877.]

*Governor Clinton to General Clinton—A Suggestion of Treason from Vermont—Pushing Forward Reinforcements from Massachusetts.*

Pokeepsie, 7th August, 1781.

Dear Sir, As early as last Fall there were Reasons to suspect that the People of the Grants, at least those of them who had assumed & exercized the Powers of Government had formed a criminal connection with Great Britain. A variety of Circumstances during the Winter and since justify the impression and a Letter from Lt. George Germain to Sir Henry Clinton of the 7th of February last, found in the mail on Board the Maria Theresa, Packet, & carried into L'Orient & from thence transmitted to Congress an extract of which I now enclose you fully establishes the Fact. I have not received this Officially but it came to my Hands in a Manner that leaves its authority indisputable. I, therefore, conceive it my duty to make you this Communication that being early apprized of the Defection & the Design of the Enemy in Consequence of it, you may be on your guard & prepared by every means in your Power to defeat their Intention. By instruction in this extract, you will observe it woud appear that the British Minister was led to hope that some of the Inhabitants of Albany were concerned in the Measure, but upon what Evidence I am ignorant & it must be left to time to discover this as well as any other Matter which at Present appears very mysterious. I would wish to believe that Leaders only are concerned in this wicked business and that when their intentions are ascertained they will be deserted by the Bulk of the People, & yet it can hardly be supposed that they would have been so hardy as to have ventured on a Measure of this kind in which they had so much to fear & nothing to expect

without the support of at least a Majority of the Inhabitants. It is, therefore, certainly wisest to suppose the worst and be prepared accordingly. It is probable that you may be possessed of many Circumstances which (tho at the time may have appeared immaterial) will help to unravel the Clue & open the way to more extensive Discoveries. I have mentioned that the information on this subject was not officially received. It is my Desire, therefore, that a prudent use be made of it, divulging it only where it shall appear essentially necessary & then without mentioning how acquired.

Genl. Lincoln passed up the River in a Barge about 1 O'clock this Morning on his way to Berkshire County to expedite the Massachusetts Levies intended for the Frontier Service. By a Letter he delivered me from His Excellency, the Gen'l, I am informed that the part of Cortlandt's Regt. now at Albany is to remain there until those Levies arrive. Nothing worth communicating. I am, &c.  
Brigd. Genl. Clinton.

[No. 3878.]

*Messrs. Duane and l'Hommedieu Forward Evidence of Treason from Vermont—Cornwallis Believed to be Meditating an Advance on Baltimore.*

Philadelphia, 7th Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, When we arrived here we found the Business of Vermont in a manner settled. A final Decision has been suspended in point of form in expectation of our Presence and we believe even of our Assent to the Recognition of the New State. All that passed last Winter at Albany had preceded us, and made the impression which may naturally be supposed. We, therefore, found it necessary to cut off all Enquiries doubts and

Expectations by communicating our Instructions which we did in the most solemn form by the Act of which we have the honor to inclose your Excellency a Copy. There are several Drafts on the Table for settling the Business each specifying or implying the Independence of Vermont. From the enclosed paper containing Lord G. Germain's Letter to General Sir Henry Clinton, your Excellency will perceive the progress some of the leading Men in that District have already made in a Coalition with the Enemy; and the Danger of their extending their Encroachments and spreading Disaffection to our Cause. Those who were formerly most averse to a Decision are now active to promote it, but the time is come when they can place their Principles on some Ground, and oppose Expediency and publick safety to justice and Right. This is a Theme fruitful of Reflection, but the Time presses and your Excellency's *own Observations* and we fear *your own Feelings* will supply our Brevity.

Everything in our Power shall be exerted to obtain Security for our State beyond the Limits originally set up for the Grants, and preserve some Dignity in the cession on the part of the United States.

There is reason to apprehend the Enemy are forming an Enterprise against Baltimore instead of their sending a Reinforcement to Sir Henry Clinton; preparations are making for their Reception. Lord Cornwallis seems to act the part of a political Quack for the Ministry. He has felt the pulse of the Inhabitants of Georgia, South & North Carolina and Virginia, and is convinced of their deep aversion to any reunion with Great Brittain. Maryland remains to be tryed and this may be the reason of his Visit. He will be enabled to make a Report to his Employers founded on exprimental knowledge. On no other

Principles is his Conduct to be accounted for. We will not believe that he could descend to be the Instrument of mere Vengeance and to conduct a War altogether predatory, and become the D'Alva of America! We beg your Excellency to believe we shall do everything in our Power to promote the Interest of our State tho' all our Hopes are cut off that the Instructions of the Legislature will be complied with.

We have the Honour to be with the utmost Respect, Sir, Your Excellencys most obedient & very humble Servt,

Jas. Duane.

Ezra L'Hommedieu.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 3879.]

*Act of Congress Concerning Connecticut Commissions Issued to Seize British Property on Long Island.*

By the United States in Congress Assembled, Aug. 7th 1781.

It appearing to Congress from the representation of Governor Clinton, and other information that commissions have been granted by the governor of the state of Connecticut for the purpose of suppressing commerce from the enemy into that state authorizing the persons to whom those commissions are granted among other things to go on Long Island and other islands adjacent and seize the goods and merchandize they should there find the property of British subjects—and that the said commissions are attended with many abuses dangerous to the public as well as distressing to citizens and friends of these United States inhabiting the said islands, some of whom under pretext of the powers contained in such commissions have been plundered of their property and otherwise evilly treated, and that the farther continuance of the said commissions would impede the public service in that quarter therefore

Resolved, that the Gov'r of the State of Connecticut be and he is hereby desired immediately to revoke the said commissions by him granted so far as they authorise the seizure of goods on Long Island or elsewhere on land not within the State of Connecticut.

Extract from the minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

[No. 3880.]

*President McKean to Governor Clinton with Acts of Congress Relating to the Vermont Question, and to Commissions Issued by the Governor of Connecticut.*

Sir, I have the honor to enclose you two Acts of Congress of the 7th Instant, the one passed in consequence of your Excellen-

cy's representation respecting commissions granted in Connecticut for capturing the Enemy's property on Long Island &c.; the other relating to the people inhabiting the New Hampshire Grants on the West side of Connecticut river, and which intimately affects New York and New Hampshire in particular, and the whole Confederacy in general. The political expedience of this last measure will, I flatter myself, render it not unacceptable to your State, and I trust it will therefore meet your Excellency's approbation and support.

Philadelphia, August 8th, 1781. His Excellency, Governor Clinton.

By the United States in Congress Assembled, Augt. 7th, 1781.

The Committee to whom was referred the Letters of the 1st and 5th of July from the Governor of New York delivered in a Report, Whereupon,

It appearing to Congress from the Representation of Governor Clinton & other Information that Commissions have been granted by the Governor of the State of Connecticut for the purpose of suppressing Commerce from the Enemy into that State, Authorizing the persons to whom those Commissions are granted, among other things, to go on Long Island and other Islands adjacent, & Seize the Goods & Merchandize they sho'd there find the property of british Subjects—and that the said Commissions are attended with many Abuses dangerous to the public as well as distressing to citizens & friends of these United States inhabiting the said Islands, Some of whom under pretext of the powers contained in such Commissions have been plundered of their properties & otherwise evilly treated, and that the further Continuance of the said Commissions wo'd impede the public Service in that Quarter therefore

Resolved That the Governor of the State of Connecticut be and he is hereby desired immediately to revoke the said Commissions by him granted so far as they authorize the Seizures of Goods on Long Island or elsewhere on Land not within the State of Connecticut.

Extract from the minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

By the United States in Congress Assembled, August 7th, 1781.

Whereas the States of Newhampshire & New York have submitted to Congress the decision of the disputes between them & the people inhabiting the New Hampshire Grants on the west side of Connecticut river called the State of Vermont concerning their respective claims of Jurisdiction over the said territory and have been heard thereon; And Whereas the people aforesaid claim & exercise the powers of a Sovereign Independent State, and have requested to be admitted into the federal Union of the United States of America, in order thereto and that they may have an Opportunity to be heard in vindication of their said claim

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to confer with Such person or persons as may be appointed by the people residing on the New Hampshire Grants, on the west side of Connecticut river, or by their representative body respecting their claim to be an Independent State, and on what terms it may be proper to admit them into the federal Union of these States in case the United States in Congress Assembled Shall determine to recognize their Independence and thereof make report.

And it is hereby recommended to the people of the territory aforesaid or their representative body to appoint an Agent or Agents to repair immediately to Philadelphia with full powers & instructions to confer with the said Committee on the matters

aforsaid and on behalf of the said People to agree upon and ratify terms and articles of Union and Confederation with the United States of America in case they shall be admitted into the Union, and the said Committee are hereby instructed to give notice to the Agents of the States of New Hampshire and New York to be present at the Conference aforsaid.

Resolved, That in case Congress shall recognize the Independence of the said People of Vermont, they will consider all the lands belonging to New Hampshire and New York respectively, without the limits of Vermont Aforsaid as coming within the mutual Guarantee of territory contained in the Articles of confederation, and that the United States will accordingly guarantee such lands and the jurisdiction over the same against any claims or encroachments, from the Inhabitants of Vermont aforsaid.

Extract from the minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

Aug. 8th, 1781.

Congress proceeded to the Election of the Committee mentioned in the foregoing resolutions.

The members chosen Mr. Boudinot, Mr. VanDyke, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Randolph.

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[No. 3881.]

*Correspondence Between Colonel Brinton Paine and Others and Governor Clinton Regarding the Situation in the State at Large.*

Saratoga, 8th August 1781.

Dear Sir, We are Under the disagreeable Necessity of Intruding Upon your patience by requesting an immediate supply of Ammunition for the Militia of Charlotte County. Having been Oblig'd to apply to Governor Chittenden to lend us a supply for our Troops in the late allarm, for which we Are to be Accountable.

Your Excellency is well acquainted with the Situation of this part of the Country and also of the Necessity of having the Militia Amply supplied with ammunition.

The enemy have been, and perhaps Now are, looking about Near this place but for want of men and other Necessaries we are Not Able to make Proper discoveries or even to pursue them should they make their Appearance.

The treacherous Capt. Woltum Dunham is Not as Yet Apprehended, But have not time to Communicate you the particulars at present. Hope you may soon have a good Account Respecting him.



In haste, We are Your Excellency's Most Obed't Humble  
Serv'ts.

Brinton Paine,  
Joseph McCracken,  
Alexander McKnitt.

GOVERNOR CLINTON TO COLONEL PAINE WITH A NOTE OF WARNING.

Pokeepsie, 14th Augt. 1781.

Dr Sir, In consequence of the letter subscribed by yourself & Messrs. McCracken & McKnit, Dated the 8th Instant, which I received yesterday, I have directed Brig'r Genl. Gansevoort to deliver to your order a Proportion of the Powder equal to the strength of your Reg't, which was forwarded to Albany last spring for the use of the Militia. You may recollect that upwards of a year ago, I apprized the Legislature that the State Magazine was exhausted & recommended both then and since that Measures should be taken to procure a competent supply of that article. The whole that has since been obtained has been sent to Albany for the use of the Militia of that and your Quarter. I have directed the Commissary of Military stores immediately to forward a Quantity of Lead to Albany and when it arrives Genl. Gansevoort will order you a supply of that Article. I sincerely regret that this is the only means I have of complying with your request. If any other were in my power it would you may be assured be cheerfully executed.

A Party of the Enemy consisting of 300 Indians & 90 Tories appeared at Wawarsink in Ulster County last Sunday Morning & destroyed 12 Houses &c. the rest of the settlement was saved by the Militia & few Levies stationed in that neighborhood, who not being in strength sufficient to turn out and fight the enemy

defended the Houses agt their assaults, killed some and wounded several of them. Colo. Pawling by my last account was in pursuit of them but I fear his forces not sufficient to insure Success should he overtake them. I am &c.

(G. C.)

(In your situation it may be prudent to destroy this as well as other Letters which you have perused them least they should fall into the hands of the Enemy.)

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[No. 3882.]

*Lieutenant Francis Hamner's Application to the Governor for a Commission.*

Newburgh, Augt. 8th 1781.

Sir, My absence from this Quarter has been the only reason of my Late Date, signifying my Intentions to your Excellency, of Excepting a Command in the Levies untill the first of December, if the Necessary quoto is yet deficient by giving me a Place in your appointment, as Lieutenant, will oblige, His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 3883.]

*Captain Henry Godwin to the Governor Regarding Orange County Levies and New Commissions—The Governor's Reply.*

New Bergh, August 8th 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to Your Excellencie's order I have attended Constantly at this place and have received out of Col. Jansen's Regt, Twenty Six Men, from Col. McClaghry Thirty one, which is only nine Delinquent in his regt which I expect in Tomorrow. Of Col. Woodhull only Fourteen, and of Col. Hathorn none.

I have applied to the several Cols. for their returns but have not been furnished with any only Col. McClaghry. I have applied to Col. Jansen but he has only sent me a return of part. I am informed that he intends keeping the men of four Companies as a guard on the Frontier, Considering himself authorized by Law for that purpose—how that matter stands Your Excellency best knows and I beg your Excellencie's further Instructions in that matter.

The men that are already received are very good men and are kept to the strictest discipline and I hope before the Campaign ends will add Honour to the State.

Lieut. Hanmore has been absent so that he could not before apply—would be happy in being appointed if your Excellency pleases.

Capt. Stewart was likewise speaking to me to mention to your Excellency for an appointment if the List is not already full.

His Excellency George Clinton.

GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie 9th Augt. 1781.

Sir, I am this Moment favored with your Letter of yesterday & I now enclose you an order for Mr. Hamner to take Command as a Lieutenant in the Levies. I wish to confer a Command on Capt. Stewart but I fear his application is too late, as I believe the appointments with respect to Captains are already compleat; should, however, the Number of Men to be raised warrant a farther Appointment (of which I can as yet form no Just Idea not having received any Returns) I will think of him.

Colo. Jansen is to have Credit for such Men as he had pursuant to my order of the 2nd May last raised, and were actually in Service on the Frontiers at the Time of the passing the Law for embodying the present Levies. These only and I have reason to believe they are few, are to continue on the Frontiers. The residue of his Quota are to be received & mustered by you of which you will apprize him, least he should subject himself to the Penalty of the Law. As there are now a sufficient number of Officers attending at the Places of Rendezvous, I would advise that one be sent to each Regt. to collect the Returns & make a preemptory demand of the delivery of the full Quota by an early Delay that you may be enabled to make a perfect Return & ascertain the Deficiencies of each Regt. I am &c

It is the Gen'l's orders that the Levies take the field by the 15th inst. The greatest exertions are, therefore, necessary to yield a Compliance. You will shew this letter to Major Logan.

(G. C.)

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[No. 3884.]

*Mr. Robert Benson Requests Mr. Moses Yeoman to File His Expense Account for Apprehending Helm and Others.*

Poughkeepsie, Aug. 9th, 1781.

Sir, I am directed by his Excellency the Govr. to request that you will as soon as possible transmit him your acct of Service and Expenses while employed in the apprehension of Helm & others concerned in abetting the Persons employed by the Enemy in conveying Dispatches to & from Niagara, that the same may be discharged.

Mr. Moses Yeoman, Kingston.

[No. 3885.]

*Governor Clinton Orders Generals Van Rensselaer and Gansevoort to Hold Their Brigades Ready to March at a Moment's Notice.*

Poughkeepsie, Aug. 9, 1781.

Sir, As the probable operations of the Campaign & the present critical situation of the Northern & Western Frontiers render it necessary that the militia should be held in the most perfect Readiness, and you will pay the strictest attention to the several Regs. composing your Brigade, and see that they stand prepared to take the Field on the shortest notice. You will give express orders to the Commanding Officers that they cause the classes of their respective Regts. to be revised & carefully formed agreeable to Law that if a Part of the Militia only should be wanted they may be drawn out with Care & Expedition. I have not been as yet favored with the Returns directed by Law of the Levies raised by the Regts of your Brigade pursuant to my Orders of the 22nd March last and for want of which I am Ignorant how far those orders have been complied with & it has been out of my power to put the Law in Force agt the Delinquents (if any there are). I have, therefore, to request that you will cause these Returns to be made immediately & that action may be commenced agt those who have been deficient in their Duty. I shall also expect Similar returns of the present Levies, which you will please to press your officers to make without delay.

[No. 3886.]

## ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP GENERAL SCHUYLER.

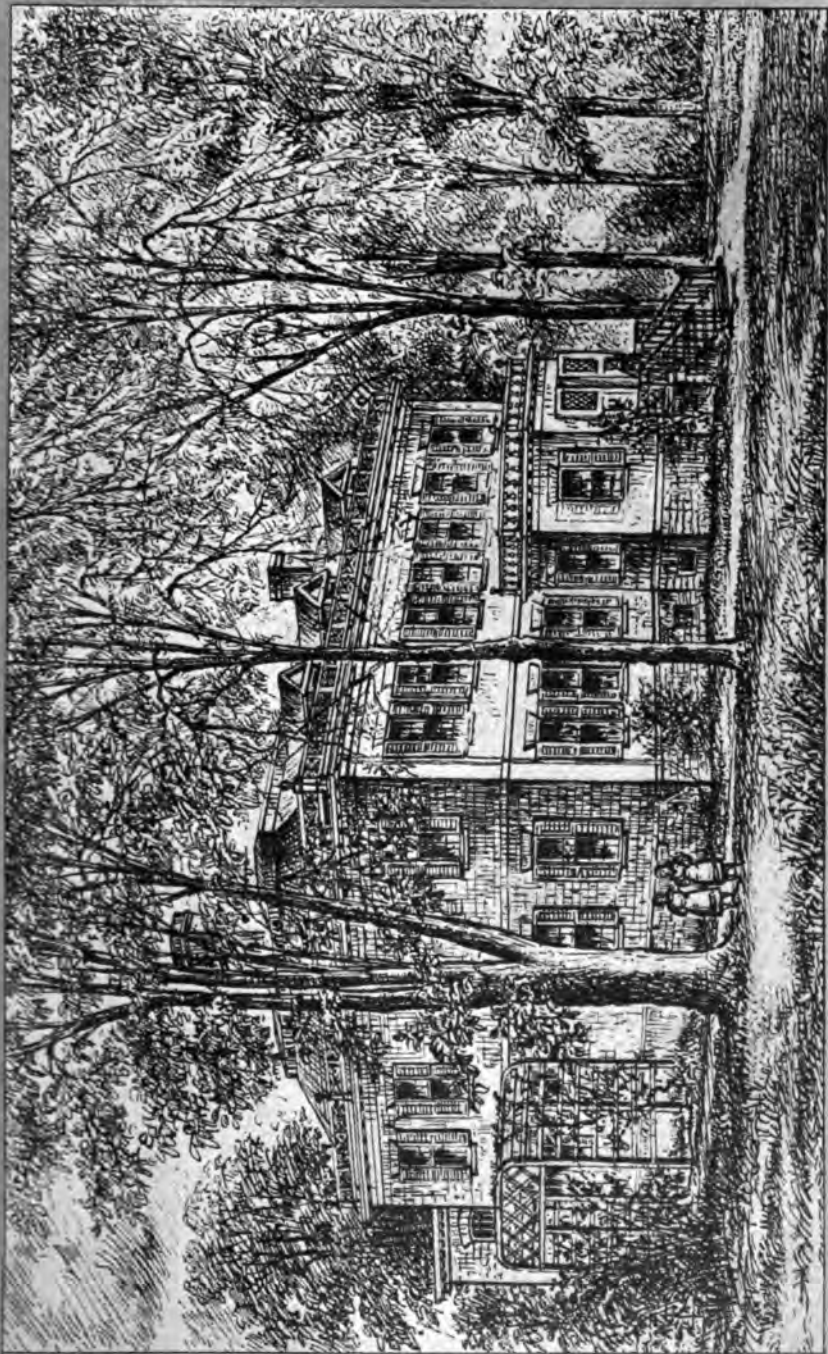
*The General Describes the Attack Upon His Albany Residence in a Letter to Governor Clinton.*

Albany, August 9th 1781.

Dear Sir, As the troops now in this quarter are destitute of meat, and as far as I can learn none of Colo. Hay's Assistants even so much as attempting to procure any, I conceive it my duty to advise your Excellency thereof. I could wish Colo. Hay would come up here to examine into the conduct of his officers, and to take measures to prevent the troops from quitting the frontiers, living as they are under the necessity of frequently doing, on what they can take from the inhabitants, already too much distressed.

The British in Canada are not ashamed to employ their adherents to steal away individuals out of the Country, and even condescend to offer rewards for some particular persons. On the 29th ult. I was informed for the first time that parties were lurking about the place to carry me off, and in the course of the last week this intelligence was confirmed by the Commissioners for detecting conspiracies, by information given to General Clinton by a person escaped from Canada, by Colo. McKinstry from Saratoga, by others whose names it would be dangerous to them to name should this letter miscarry, some of which assured me that two hundred guineas had been promised for delivering me in Canada.

This repeated information induced me to take measures to prevent a surprize. My Gates and outward doors in the rear of my house were closed & secured at sunset, and four white men and two blacks were armed. But for this precaution and the bravery



SCHUYLER MANSION, ALBANY





of the men, I would have been carried off in the evening of the 7th Instant, when a certain Captain Myer, formerly of this county, now of Tryon rangers, at the head of eighteen or twenty men, came to the gate of my close back yard, and being refused admittance, immediately began to force it, which they accomplished, entered the kitchen and had proceeded into the back hall before they were met by the men who had gone for their arms, and who made a gallant opposition, which afforded me time to get out of my front Hall and to gain my bed room where my arms were deposited, by which time they had taken two of the men, wounded the third, and obliged the fourth to seek shelter together with the negroes in the cellar. Some of the party then attempted to surround the house, whilst others entered it. Those in the quarter exposed to my fire, retired on the first discharge, altho I repeated my fire frequently to alarm the town.

In the meantime Myers with some of the party had got upstairs into the saloon leading to the bedroom, but retired with precipitation on hearing me call to the citizens to hasten up and surround the house. But tho the citizens made all possible dispatch to come to my relief and that their approach was one means of my safety, yet they came too late, the party had carried off the two prisoners and some of my plate, and tho pursued were not overtaken. General Clinton immediately ordered a party of troops to my aid, but as they were more remote than the citizens they could not consequently come in time to find the enemy. He has left such a guard for me that if these kidnaping Gentry should venture on a second attack, they will not be able to retire with impunity.

The party that carried off John Bleecker, Esqr. was secured by some people on the Grants who went in pursuit of them. It was

Commanded by one Howard who had his orders in writing from Colo. St. Leger, commanding at St. Johns. I believe the Vermonters have [hanged] or will hang Howard. I am, Dear Sir, with great respect and esteem Your Excellency's Most obedient Humble Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3887.]

*Governor Clinton Writes to Colonel Willett in Regard to the Vermont Treason, Defence of the Frontier and the Levies.*

Pokeepsie, 9th August, 1781.

Sir, My Letter of the 28th ultimo informed you that I had transmitted the Information received from you respecting the Massachusetts levies to his Excellency, Genl. Washington & pressed that Measures might be taken to expedite their Arrival & I now Enclose you a Copy of His Excellency's answer. I have since repeated my Application to the Genl, on the subject of the Defence of the Frontiers & represented in the Strongest terms the Dangers to which they are exposed by the removal of the Continental Troops—particularly at this Season when the Enemy have the greatest Inducements to commit Depredations upon them. In consequence of which he has ordered that part of Cortlandt's Regt. which is now at Albany continue there until the Massachusetts Levies shall arrive and Genl. Lincoln passed by this place late last night on his Way to the Western Counties of that State to hasten their march.

Major Van Buntschoten (who is now out on the business) has my positive orders to repair to the different Commanding Officers of Regts. in this County who have not furnished their full Complement of Levies & to demand of them in the most peremptory

manner that they Cause Detachments to be immediately made from the Delinquent Classes and in Case of Failure or further Delay they will be immediately arrested & prosecuted for the Penalty inflicted by Law. He informs me that 6 or 7 of the Levies of this County who were intended for your Regiment had joined without his knowledge, Pawling's. These he has directed to be sent to Capt. Conine of your Regt. and it is accordingly done. I shall be happy to be informed what Proportion of the Present Levies have already joined & of your Expectations with respect to those that have not yet arrived. I will also be obliged to you for a Return of the former Levies, noting the whole of the Desertions that have happened & the Deficiencies of each Militia Regt. as nearly as they can be ascertained, and a Return of the three years Men if any such there are.

As early as last fall there were reasons to suspect that the People of the Grants (at least their leaders) had formed a criminal connection with Great Britain; a variety of circumstances during the winter and since, justified the Suspicion and a Letter from Lord George Germain to Sir Henry Clinton of the 7th Feby. last, found in the Mail on Board the Maria Theresa Packet, taken & carried into L'Orient & from thence transmitted to Congress, an Extract of which I inclose you, tends to establish the fact and renders it indisputable. Tho I have not received this officially, yet it arrives in such a manner as to leave no Doubt of its authenticity. Whether the bulk of the People are to countenance this wretched Business is hard to determine, but I would earnestly hope they are not. It is safest, however, to believe the Worst & be prepared for it in all its Consequences.

I begg you to consider this Communication as strictly confidential & that as such you will divulge it only where it shall ap-

pear absolutely necessary & then without mentioning how acquired. It will serve to put you on your Guard, perhaps as a clue to more extensive Discoveries.

Colo. Willett.

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[No. 3888.]

*List of Persons Acceptable to be Exchanged.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 3889.]

*John Lamb to Governor Clinton—Regimental Returns a List of Names of Young Men Recommended for Commissions.*

Philipsburgh, 10th Augt. 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to the requisition contained in your Excellency's Letter (of the 11th Ultimo) to Lt. Colonel Stevens, I now enclose you, the Monthly Return of my Regiment; And a Rank Roll of the Officers.

As there are still Thirteen Second Lieutenancies vacant, I have taken the liberty to recommend to your Excellency, the following young Gentlemen, to fill some of them. Peter Anspack, Henry Demler, Peter Tappen, Jonas Adams, Isaac Smith, and William Morris. I flatter myself, from the Characters of the Gentlemen, that, they will be an honor, to both the Regiment, and the State.

Please to present my most Respectful Compliments to Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Tappen, and the rest of your Family.

I am, with every Sentiment of Respect, Your Excellency's Most Obedient Servant

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 3890.]

*Colonel Thomas Obeys Governor Clinton's Order and Colonel Drake Ignores It.*

Salem, August the 11th, 1781.

Dear Governour, Colo. Benson's Letter of the 2d Instant came safe to hand. L't Tuthill, sen I wrote to your Excelency in Favour of Capt. Hunt, the Letter of the 18th of July came to hand Fifteen Days after the date of it, and then without the Printed General Order that Colo. Benson mentioned; agreeabel to the Directions of the Letter of the 18, I Sumons Colo. Drack and Crane to attend. Colo. Dracke Refusing obeying the order and not attending, Colo Crane and myself agreed to fill up one of the Mustering Warrants or General Orders with Finch Guildersleef, as 1st Lieut. to Capt. Hunt, wich was agreeabel to him and Lieut Tutell. I culd wish to know your Excelencys Pleasure with Respect of Colo Drack conduct.

His Govenour Clinton.

[No. 3891.]

*Samuel Hake Files Another Application for His Exchange, with Governor Clinton.*

Charlotte Precinct 12th August '81.

May it please Your Excellency, As it's almost three years Since Your Excellency was pleas'd to put me on my Parole; Since which I have been deprived of loosing a very considerable property; and being in no way of business from my present confin'd situation.—I am *painful as it is*, under the Necessity of addressing Your Excellency, to beg Your Excell'ys kind attention and Compliance, of either granting me my Liberty, that I may be able to go into some kind of business to enable me to ans'w my present Exigencies. If your Excellency should think this too great an Indulgence, to permit me to go & see my children from thence to N. York to try to effect my exchange; agreeable to the request of the Letter 10th March addressed Your Exy in my favor signed by fifteen of the most respectable Wigs. If any reasonable security is expected, I will give it. If those Gentlemen's request hinted has not the desired effect with Your Excellency, & others has been sent your Ex'y in my favor, as what I had the Honor of Stating you fully by Mr. Lush's desire, sometime since & which that Gentleman assured me he delivered you at Esopus, tis in vain for me to say anything more relative to my situation. If so reasonable a demand should be deemed improper to beg your Excellency will be pleased to condescend that I shall have the Liberty of going to the State of Connecticut, (where the Pacquet on board of which I came passenger, was brought into N. London) In hopes that I may meet with more Lenity there then what I have so

cruelly & so unjustly experienced in this State. I cannot account the reason my not receiving a Line from N York concerning my exchange, except it is on account of the large quantity of goods brought from thence in the Flag, which I lost; I really suspect this to be the Case & have given great Umbrage there. I cannot help remarking to Your Excellency, the answers I received f'm Mr. Dodge, the Commissary are the most evasive ones, scarce two Messages alike, I see no prospect of redress from that quarter unless it comes from Your Excellency's kind hand, which I hope you will honor me with.

His Excellency Geo. Clinton, Esqr.

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[No. 3892.]

*Captain Henry Dodge to Governor Clinton—Levies at Fishkill.*

Fishkill, Augt. 13th, 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to your Excellency's Note Lt. Welch will proceed to Poughkeepsie this day. We have not heard from Colo. Weisenfels yet; he has not been here nor sent us any word wether he would joine us or not. Capt. Godwin has this day arrived with his men, from N. Bourgh. Majr. Logan who is sick at N. Windsor, has sent orders to us to Avertedge the Companies, and not allow Capt. Codwise any men, until written orders from the Governer—we shall this day settle the Companies.

N. B. I Received the Govr. Note this day.)

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[No. 3893.]

*Colonel Levi Pawling Reports the Destruction of Wawarsing to Governor Clinton.*

Marbletown, Munday morning 9 oclock August 13th 1781.

Dr Governor, Yesterday morning about 9 O'clock, Colo. Cantine who happened to be at Mumbakers sent an Express to Albert, informing him that a number of the enemy had made their appearance at Wawarsink, set fire to several houses, and that much firing of Musquetry had been heard. Albert being in a hurry to get ready to go of, and had to issue order to some of his officers, desired me to write a few lines to Major Adrian Winkoop, (he being the nearest field officer) which I did, giving



SCHUYLER MANSION—CHAMBER WHERE BURGUYNE SLEPT, SOUTHEAST CORNER.





him the intelligence and sent it by Express; the Major about Noon went on with a few of their Troopers. About four o'clock I received a letter from Albert telling me the enemy was in force, had burnt several buildings at Warwarsink, amongst which was Esqr. Hardenberg's and that they was on their way back, and that Colo. Cantine was with him, but their force was not sufficient to attack them; desired me to use my influence in order to forward Colo. Snider's men without delay to their assistance. I immediately sent Colo. Snider the letter itself, that he might see the necessity of his Regt's marching. About eight o'clock in the evening, I Rec'd another letter giving me an account that the enemy had burnt several buildings Viz: Esqr. Hardenberghs, Benjamin Bruyno, the two other Bruynos, Rubin DeWitt's and several others, and had killed old John Tuttle, and was moving back by the way of Leghweek, as he believed. Colo. Cantine and himself was waiting to be reinforced, as their Number was nowise equal with that of the Enemy; he also Informed that Colo. Cantine and himself had wrote to the Neighbouring Commanding officers of the Militia Regts. to bring on their men; with this letter come an open letter Directed to Colo. Elvindorph, informing him that a few minutes before he wrote, a deserter from the Enemy came in and informed that the strength of the enemy was near four hundred, but that they were on their way back, that they had two men killed and five wounded, one mortal; Elvindorph was pressed hard to come on with their Regt. so as to be able to join about the Raising of the moon, which time they intended to pursue the Enemy, it having been a very rainy night and very dark, I think little has been done. But to return to Snider's Regt, there is not above ten of his men gone yet Excepting the few Troopers which went with

the Major, and whether they will march or not is uncertain to me. Such Deadness of Military Spirit I never saw before. I think an Inquiry into such conduct ought to be made. I forgot to mention that Bugher and one Hine was sent out about the first Instant as spies, as far as Delaware and are both taken, which if they had not, we might have been informed of the enemies coming. I am with great Esteem your Excellencies  
Most Hum'le Ser't

His Excellency, George Clinton, &c &c

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[No. 3894.]

*Captain Henry Godwin Reports Progress to Governor Clinton  
Concerning the Levies.*

Fish Kill, August 13th, 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to your Excellency's orders I have sent off officers to the different Colls. the Men of whose regts I was to Muster—they have nearly turned in all their Quota, Excepting Col. Hathorn's, who has not yet sent in one Man. But I am confidently Informed that he will send in the whole to-morrow morning. Col. Jansin's Letter Your Excellency has Inclosed; he seems to be in a passion at my urging him so hard. I have spoke to Major Clafke (his Major) on the subject and he informs me that not above one third of the Quota of the four Companies were Turned out. Lieut. English informes me that not above five are in actual Service.

Major Logan being ill Obliged me to March with the men to this place. I have brought over Seventy four good men and I hope I shall bring over the remainder by Thursday, Excepting Col. Jansin's Deficiency as before mentioned.

George Clinton.

## COLONEL JANSEN TO CAPTAIN GODWIN.

Shawangunk, August 11th, 1781.

Sir, I Received yours of Yesterday in which you Desired to [inform] you the Number of Men to be Raised out of My Regiment which is Thirty Man out of seven company's; four companys are Exempted as they have Raised Twenty Man According to General Orders from his Excelency, the Governor, of the 2nd of May Last. If you will only aply to Major Samuel Clarke who will furnish you with the names of the Head of every Class I shall be with you at Newburgh on Monday or Thursday, which is from your very humble Servant

Johannis Janson, Junr.

To Capt. Henry Godwin.

[No. 3895.]

## ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP GOVERNOR CLINTON.

*The Governor Exchanges Compliments with General Schuyler on the Latest Design of the Enemy.*

Poughkeepsie, 14th August 1781.

Dear Sir, I sincerely congratulate you on your fortunate Escape from the villanous Attempt of Myer & his Party. Your letter advising me of it I received Sunday afternoon. It enabled me to prepare an Account of the Transaction which I forwarded to Holt, but it was too late it seems for his Paper in which I find an imperfect one previously delivered him by Mr. Peter Yates. The Evening before I received your letter I received an Account by Express from his Excellency Gen'l. Washington \* of a Party being out from New York to seize & deliver me there for which they are promised a considerable Reward. The account is so particular as to give me the Names of the Party & the People

\* See Clinton Papers, Vol. II, page 634; also Vol. VII, page 492.—STATE HISTORIAN.

who harbour & assist them all of whom are well known to me & from their characters render the Account more than probable. I have Persons out to watch their motions and am not without hopes of soon having some of them (at least in my Power). This is the third Party which have been out on this business & of which I have been apprized in the course of the Spring & Summer & some of them have met their fate at this Place tho for different crimes.

Colo. Hay is now in West Chester County. On his Return from thence (which I expect will be in the course of a few days) he is immediately to set out for Albany. I am informed by Mr. Smith one of his assistants, that a Drove of forty Cattle purchased in this county are now on the way up, which I hope may serve to supply the Troops in the Meantime. A few Days since a Major Shortcliffe, lately appointed an Assistant to Colo. Hay, set out from here for Albany to officiate in that Quarter, instead of the late Assistants who I am informed have resigned. While in the Qur. Master's Department he was active and faithfull & I flatter myself will be serviceable in the present. I have repeatedly urged Colo. Hay to pay particular attention to the Troops on the Frontiers & represented to him the Evils that would result from their not being properly fed.

On Sunday last early in the morning, a Party of the Enemy consisting of 300 Indians and 90 Tories appeared at Wawarsink in Ulster County & burned 12 houses on that settlement among which was that of Jos. G. Hardenburgh. They had taken a small scout that was kept out towards the Delaware & by that means learned where our Guards were ordinarily stationed & were enabled to pass them in the night & gain the Settlement early in the Morning without being discovered. The Levies stationed in the

Neighborhood were by no means sufficient to turn out & fight so formidable a Force, but they took to the houses & defended them with Spirit and by that Means saved the greater part of the Settlement. By accounts from one Vrooman, who deserted from the Enemy when retiring, they had 3 killed and several wounded. We lost but one man; he was an inhabitant of the Place.

This party is directly from Niagara & were almost starved but as they have now got a supply it is likely they will make some farther Attempt before they return. By the Bearer, who is sent expressly for the purpose, I have communicated the above Intelligence to Colo. Willett & Gen'l. Gaansvoort, & desired the latter to order out part of his Brigade to Schohary untill we have certain advices that this Party have left our Frontiers. Colo. Pawling with some Levies & the Neighboring Militia the moment they could be collected marched in pursuit of the enemy but his Force I fear, should he overtake them is not sufficient to ensure success. Owing to some accident or mismanagement, I did not receive any Acct of this Affair to be relied on before this morning. No News from the Southward.

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[No. 3896.]

*Governor Clinton Notifies General Gansevoort of the Destruction of Wancarsing and Requests Him to Supply Colonel Paine with Ammunition.*

Poughkeepsie, Augt. 14th, 1781.

Sir, Last Sunday a body of the Enemy to the amount of abt 300 Indians & 90 Tories appeared on the frontiers of Ulster County. They took a small Scout Colo. Pawling had sent out & from them it is supposed obtained information of the Disposi-

tion of the Levies posted in that Quarter, whom they passed by & was first discovered at the settlement at Warsing—from the last accounts they have retired but how far is not known. The Militia were collected & marched to oppose or pursue them as Circumstances may render expedient; from their force it is not probable they will leave the country without attempting further mischief in that or some other Quarter. I conceive it necessary, therefore, to give you this Information that you may take the proper steps with your Militia in case this Party should take their route towards the frontier of your County and I would particularly recommend that a part of your Brigade be immediately marched to Schoharie for the protection of that settlement until this Party shall have entirely gone off. The Acc't. of the Enemy's strength is from one Vroman who deserted them, which is confirmed from their appearance to a Party of our Levies who saw them paraded at a House they attacked & which this Party defended. By a more particular Acc't I rec'd this morning (& which was the first that demanded credit) they have burnt & destroyed abt. a dozn. Houses with their Barns &c. amongst which are those of Jos. G. Hardenburgh, Esquire. They killed only one of the Inhabitants, the rest having made a timely escape from their Houses. The Levies stationed there were by no means sufficient to turn out & oppose them: but those of them who were in houses defended them with Spirit ag't the Assault of the Enemy, by which means several of the enemy are said to have fallen & many houses were saved.

Yesterday I received a letter from Colo. Paine for ammunition for his Militia who he informs me are entirely destitute. The State Magazine has long since been entirely exhausted & the only resourse we have to apply to, is that forwarded by Gen'l.

Washington to Albany; out of which, if it is not already distributed, I must request you to deliver Colo. Paine a proportion equal to the strength of his Regt. I have directed our Commissary of Military Stores to forward you a couple Ton of Lead or as much as he can with justice to the militia in the other Parts of the State spare out of which when it arrives I must request you to deliver Colo. Paine a proportion likewise.

Brig'r. Genl. Gansevoort.

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[No. 3897.]

*Governor Clinton Forwards Letters Relating to the Depredations on the Ulster Frontier to James Clinton.*

Pokeepsie 14th Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, The enclosed letters for Brig. Genl. Gansevoort & Colo. Willett left open for your perusal you will observe, is to apprise them of the Appearance of a formidable Body of the Enemy on the Frontiers of Ulster County & therefore when you have read them you will please to seal and have them forwarded without Delay, as also the one addressel to Colo. Paine. I understand Mr. Reuben DeWitt's is among the houses destroyed.

Yesterday Genl. Lincoln who the beginning of last week went to the Western Counties of Massachusetts Bay to hasten the March of the Levies of that State intended for the Frontier Service returned. He informs me that those of Berkshire & Hampshire Countys are embodied & were ready to move so that if not already arrived they may be early expected at Albany. I no News worth communicating.

Brig'r. Gen'l. Clinton.

[No. 3898.]

*Major John Davis to Captain John Grenell—Relating to Two Long Island Refugees.*

Saybrook, 14th Augt. 1781.

Dear John, Mr. Jesup, the Bearer of this, is one of our Brother Refugees, and is very desirous of Quitting the Island, provided Liberty can be obtained for him to bring of his Effects, & he being a stranger in that part of the Country, I make bold to recommend him as a friend to his Country and has behaved as such since the Commencement of this Contest, he being willing to let the State have a considerable part of his Effects, which I make no doubt will be very suitable for them; he will be able to inform you more fully of this matter.

Mr. Clark who accompanys Mr. Jessup, I would recommend to you as a very suitable Gentleman to take a Commission to Suppress trading with the Enemy, and that of assisting our friend upon the Island. I shall insist upon your Getting Commissions for us; I swear I wont put up with the Insults I have received and am Daily receiving from a Sett of V—s.

Begg you will do for these two Gentlemen as much as you possibly can; am now crossing. Adieu.

Come down as Quick as possible I am yours in Sincerity.  
Capt. John Grenell.

[No. 3899.]

*Governor Clinton Sends Intelligence of the Wawarsing Affair to Colonel Willett.*

Pokeepsie, 14th August 1781.

Dear Sir, Last Sunday a Body of the Enemy consisting of about 300 Indians & 90 Tories appeared on the Frontiers of



Ulster County. Near the Delaware they took a small scout sent out by Colo. Pawling to make discoveries, from whom it is supposed they obtained Information of the strength & Disposition of the Levies posted in that Quarter & by this means were able by marching at night, to evade the guards & enter the settlement of Wawarsink early in the morning undiscovered. The Detachment of Pawling's Regt. stationed at that neighborhood was by no means competent to turn out & fight so formidable a force, but they retired to the houses and defended them with Spirit agt the repeated assaults of the enemy. They, however, set fire to twelve Houses which were destitute of men to defend them & abandoned by the Owners on Discovery of the Enemy. & they retired. By one Vrooman who on their retiring deserted them, we are informed that in this Attempt the enemy had 3 killed and several wounded. We lost but one man an Inhabitant of the Place. Colo. Pawling the moment he could collect a part of his Regt. & of the Neighboring Militia, pursued the enemy but should he overtake them I fear his force is not sufficient to ensure success. Vrooman reports that this Party were immediately from Niagara & almost famished for want of provisions, but as they have now got a supply (having taken a number of cattle) I think it probable they will make some farther Attempts before they Return. I have, therefore, thought it expedient to communicate this intelligence that you may be prepared as far as Circumstances will admit, should they bend their Force agt your Quarters, & I have also made a similar Communication to B Gen'l Gansevoort & advised him to order Part of his Brigade to Schohary at least until we have certain intelligence that the Enemy have left the Country. I am &c.

Colo. Willett.

[No. 3900.]

*James Duane to Governor Clinton—More German Troops for England in America—A Motion for Peace Voted Down in the House of Commons—Light Horse Harry Lee Irritating Lord Rawdon—Affairs in the South—French Politics—Yorktown Fortified.*

Philadelphia, 14th August 1781.

Dear Sir, At a Juncture so interesting your Excellency will be anxious for Intelligence. I shall with pleasure communicate every material occurrence, sometimes at the hazard of *uncertainty*: & as I have no time nor assistance to copy, of *Repetition*. I know your goodness will induce you to make every proper Allowance.

The most material is a confirmation of a former Account that about 2000 Hessians & Anspackers had embarked from England for these States most probably for Charles Town. The British House of Commons overruled Hartley's late motion for peace Ayes 72, Noes 106.\* The gallant L. Col. Lee by a fine manœuvre lately surrounded & took 1 Capt, 2 Sub's & 45 privates of the british Dragoons, compleatly accoutred, near Monk's Corner

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\* May 30th, 1781, Colonel Hartley brought up the subject which he had originally offered the preceding year, conciliation with America. He contended that the House had been taught, by what they had suffered, by what they had felt, and by what their constituents had expressed, to know that the continuance of the American war was grievous and alarming to the bulk of the people. The honourable gentleman went into a variety of arguments to prove the necessity of impowering his Majesty's ministers, and instructing them to come to a negotiation towards peace with the Colonies. For this purpose he moved, "That leave be given to bring in a bill, to vest the Crown with sufficient powers to treat, consult, and finally agree, upon the means of restoring peace with the provinces of North-America."

This motion was seconded by Sir Philip Jennings Clerke. He touched lightly on the impossibility of subduing America to unconstitutional submission, and derided the declaration that had been made at the beginning of the present unhappy contest, by a noble secretary of state, which was, that while Britain had a ship that could swim, or a man able to carry a musket, she ought never in sound policy to abandon her pretensions to dominion over her Colonies.

Sir George Savile went into detail of the various and contradictory opinions and measures which had been adopted and held by government with respect to the American war. First, it was declared to be their design to reduce America to unconditional submission, and the country gentlemen were promised that the burthens of this country should be lessened by drawing a revenue from that. First one of these principles was abandoned and then the other. We then were fighting only to preserve the supremacy of this country. Every object for which we struggled

about 30 miles from Charles Town. Rawdon complains that he never was so watched as by Lee for he can take no position for a single night in which he is not assaulted by him on his weakest side. The probability is that all the British Troops will soon be confined to Charles Town. In Virginia affairs have taken a new turn. That part of Cornwallis's Army which was supposed to be destined for New York & had been some days on ship board debarked and are occupied in fortifying from York to Gloster about 16 miles from Williamsburgh. The French have taken 24 sail of the St. Eustatia plunder on the passage to England, the value unascertained; perhaps the English have triumphed too soon. If they loose their ill gotten gains and it passes into the hands of France, besides the indelible disgrace of the Invasion and the unheard of Rapacity & barbarity of the Conquerors, they must suffer the mortification of arming their Enemy in a war—in no small degree—of Finance.

Of the 1500 men which not long since were said to have arrived at Charles Town, 100 were lately killed in a mutiny. They alleged that they enlisted not as *soldiers* but *settlers*. Great num-

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was at one time abandoned, and at another resumed. The most strange and opposite opinions were held, and the same minister who declared that nothing short of unconditional submission would content him, had the effrontery to come down to the same place where he had made this declaration, and propose to the House to give up every object for which this country had ever pretended to contest.

Lord North said that ministers were already in possession of all the necessary powers for treating and concluding a peace with America, if America should at any time show a disposition to meet them on that ground. The present commanders were invested with full powers to treat, consult and agree on the means of conciliation.

Mr. Charles James Fox denied that the Crown had not power invested in it to settle any one matter in dispute between Great Britain and America. Not a single thing in controversy between them could be adjusted by the Crown. The motion was necessary if peace with America was really and sincerely intended and that the Crown had not power, without the authority of Parliament, was too clear to be contradicted. The Crown had not the power of making peace with America, as with France and Spain and Holland. What were we then at war with, America? Is America then recognized as an independent estate? No: you are at war, not with America, but with your revolted colonies in America. It is not a war with an independent enemy in which you are engaged, but an attempt to quash a rebellion, to subdue an insurrection. By an act of Parliament, no Massachusetts trader dare come into any of your harbours. Can peace be restored without repealing that act? and can that act be repealed without the authority of Parliament? The present

bers too perished by an hastymarch which they were compelled to undertake on their landing to relieve 96. Rawdon is reported to be ill at Charles Town. A Gentleman lately from thence says he was escorted thither by a Troop of Horse which as well as their Riders looked like scarecrows.

The Combined fleets it is said have blocked up the British squadron in the Channell.

The great Financier Neckar, is displaced: owing it is said to his Obstinacy and Haughteur: more probably to envy and Entreaty. There may however be better reasons for it: as far as we can Judge so wise an administration as the French Cabinet could not have parted with so great a minister unless there was a substantial Cause.

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hostilities commenced in consequence of the Prohibitory act, as it was called, passed in the year 1765. It was that act that made the war with America. We were therefore very differently situated with America than we were with France and Spain.

Lord George Germaine said, it was impossible for him to sit longer silent, and hear gentlemen calling upon ministers to put an end to the American war without suggesting, or even attempting to suggest, how the war was to be put an end to. To bring the American war to a conclusion, in a manner honourable for this country, must be the wish of every man, who had the least regard for the concerns of his fellow-subjects, the least regard for his own merit. Though gentlemen were extremely forward to recommend peace with America, they never attempted to suggest the means by which so desirable an object might be attained; they were ready to furnish the Crown with ample powers to treat; but not to point out in which way those powers might be exercised: yet the one would be useful, the other was entirely superfluous; for the present powers of the Crown, notwithstanding all the honourable gentleman had advanced, were extensive enough for concluding peace, were there a disposition in the Colonies to open a negotiation. He always had been of opinion, and still continued to be so, that the conciliatory bills no longer continued in force, nor could the propositions offered by our commissioners be now obligatory on Great Britain; for the other party not acceding to them, there could be no mutual convention to make them a permanent basis of treaty; but in this, as well as in all other cases, the one party not being bound, so neither could the other. He considered therefore, that act of the legislature totally void, and that its operation had ceased with the return of the commissioners; but by the prohibitory act itself, from which the honourable gentleman had argued that the legislature must be consulted in making peace, a clause was contained, giving sufficient powers to the Crown for every purpose of pacification; for it was enacted, "That his Majesty might, by his royal authority, declare any province, town, or district, returning to its allegiance, to be within his peace and protection; and that, from thenceforth, all restrictions, prohibitions, and penalties imposed thereon, should cease." Under this act of Parliament, therefore, a peace might be concluded by the King alone, on any terms but those of independence; now he presumed it was not the meaning of the honourable gentleman who made the motion, that the Crown should be empowered to make America independent of the British government. Parliament could not yet be ripe for a concession like that, and if not, the bill moved could give no powers to the Crown of which it was not already possessed.

The question was finally put and the House divided, Ayes 72, Noes, 106.—The Parliamentary Register, Vol. III.

A valuable prize loaded with window glass, Cordage, Tar, &c. &c. is now in the River taken by the Rising Sun, Privateer, of this port. She was bound from Bristol to our Capital. One of her invoices amounts to £14,000 Sterling.

The Affairs which immediately respect our own State remain as they were when we had last the honor of addressing your Excellency.

With affectionate regards to Mrs. Clinton & the family, I have the Honour to be, Dear Sir, Your Excellency's most affectionate & most obedient humble serv't

Jas. Duane.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

P. S.

We find ourselves instructed by the Legislature to press the settlement of Col. Hay's accounts, and an advance to our Artificers &c. But we have no information or materials respecting the Accounts on which to ground a Representation and as to money, the Current Service calls for more than can be drawn into the publick treasury. We have written Col. Hay to this Effect. We have the capitulation of Tabago which surrendered to Comte DeGrasse on the 2nd of June 1781. The Terms do honor to the magnanimity of our Ally. Every possible Indemnification & Indulgence are granted to the Inhabitants. What a contrast between the two rival Nations! The French seem determined to raise the contrast between themselves & their enemy as high and to render it as striking as possible. What glory will they acquire by their Humanity! exercised too in the face of the Example of St. Eustatia.

Since writing what preceeds a Letter is read in Congress from Ray Alton & Woodward enclosing their Commissions from Ver-

mont to enter into Alliance with the United States. I suppose the treaty will be immediately opened as they are upon the Spot and Congress seem to have got over all Objections to their gratification. How we shall act I know not. If their agents should be admitted to take seats as Delegates, can we continue not knowing the Sense of our own State? I sincerely wish it was the 10th of September to rid me of this embarrassment.

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DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO JAS. DUANE.

Poughkeepsie 26th Augt. 1781.

Dr. Sir, I am much obliged by your Favour of the 24th Instant and should be happy in being able to make a suitable Return. I have not a word of News and my Letter addressed to you & Mr. l'Hommedieu conveys my sentiment so fully on public Affairs as to leave me nothing to mention worthy your attention. Mr. John Livingston was kind enough to call upon me yesterday evening by whom as well as by Mr. Montgomery who arrived at this Place the day before I had the Pleasure of learning that Mrs. Duane & the rest of your family & Friends are in good health. I am &c.

(G. C.)

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[No. 3901.]

*Orders to Colonel Weissenfels to Take Command of Orange and Westchester Levies.*

General Orders Pokeepsie 14th Augt. 1781.

Lieut. Colo. Commandant Weissenfels will take command of the Levies intended to reinforce the Army now assembling at New Burgh, Fishkill, Orange Town & Bedford. He will be governed by the orders given to Major Logan with respect to forming the Companies & aranging the Regiments (which is to be as



SCHUYLER MANSION, HISTORIC STAIRCASE BEARING THE MARK OF A TOMAHAWK.





nearly as may agreeable to the Continental Establishment) & the greatest Industry is to be observed in exercising & instructing the Troops in their Duty. The Regiment is to be held in perfect readiness to move on the shortest Notice. A Return is immediately to be made to his Excell'y, the Governor, specifying the number received & the Deficiency of each militia Reg't that Detachment may be made according to law.

R. Benson, A. D. C.

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[No. 3902.]

*Major James Logan Writes to Governor Clinton Regarding the Levies at Fishkill and Necessary Comforts for Them.*

New Windsor, 14th August 1781.

Sir, I wold beg leve to inform your Excellency, that it has not ben in my power to make a weekly return, as I expected on the account of my illness, as I was taking last Thursday with a feaver, which lasted me three days, with verey litel intermission, but the feaver is broke for two days past, and I am in hopes I shal be able to take the field the last of this week, or the first of nixt week. I gave orders to Capt. Godwin to take the Comand and to make weekly returns to your Excellency. I likeways gave orders the day before I was taken ill to Capt. Dodge in what maner to form the Companies at Fishkills. I have likeways told Capt. Godwin. I ordered the men that was mustered at New Burgh to the Fishkills, as I was told it was your Excellency's orders, and left Capt. Godwin a good Sergt. and Corp. to receive and muster them that is behind, and to send them to Fishkills as fast as the ar mustered to join the rest.

I applied to Général McDugel for tents but he seas ther is none for us; it will be very hard to do without. He gave me orders

for wooden dishes and Camp kitels. The kitels I got, but the bols was not to be got. The men ar fine fellows in general; it is a pitye the were not well disaply altho the com on fast and ar kept at it twist a day Constantly.

Capt. Dodge is very sensible in manuevering them and verey fathful to his dutye. Capt. Godwin is as feathful in atending to the mustering the men. I am with respect your Excellency's most obedient Humbel Serv't

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[No. 3903.]

*Lieutenant Weissenfels Lays a Matter of Debt Before Governor Clinton.*

West Point, Augt. 15th 1781.

I just received the enclosed letter from Mr. John Dykeman, Tavernkeeper Haverstraw, and make boald to transmit it to your Excellency wishing your sentimence on the occasion, as it is out of my power to discharge his account without your assistance.

I am with due Respect Your Excellency's most obedient Humble Servent

G. P. Weissenfels.

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JOHN DYKEMAN TO LIEUT. WEISSENFELS.

West Point, 10 Augt. 1781.

Sir, As I have had no letter or word from you Since I left you at Poughkeepsie, have here waited on you this day in hopes of settling our affairs. Now I expect that you will discharge the Acc't, in a few Days, as I cannot Lay out of money no longer; you are a single Gentleman & I have a large family to maintain; besides heavy taxes to Support the Army; therefore, if not settled soon you cannot think it hard if I should take a method

which would be disagreeable to you, for I have been sundry times Informed that since you left my house, you have purchased Articles of a great value when you ought to have first paid me.

I am with due respect Yours, &c.

John Dykeman.

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[No. 3904.]

*Robert Morris to George Clinton—The Governor Requested to Act as Arbitrator Between the Former and Colonel Hay.*

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry, August 15th, 1781.

Sir, I have received a letter of this date from Udney Hay, Esqr. Agent for your State, wherein he assures me that he will deliver on Hudsons River about 3000 barrells of Flour on behalf of the State impost of the Specific supplies, provided I can advance him money to pay for the casks, which I intended to do, untill informed by Charles Stewart, Esqr. Commissary General of Issues, that there are empty barrells sufficient or nearly sufficient at the different posts on that River, to answer the purpose; as with the expence of a little cooperage they can be made fit to hold the flour. I have, therefore, directed the same to be delivered to Mr. Hay or to his order, and as I find this supply of flour indispensably necessary to our Army, I am to request the favour of your Excellency to give immediate orders that Mr. Hay may be furnished with money sufficient to pay the Cooperage and for so many Casks (if any) as may still be wanting. I would not have troubled you with this application but I meet with such pressing demands for Money as will consume the small sum I have with me, and as I must form a dependance on the specific supplies due from this State, I trust that your Excellency's exertions will remove Mr. Hay's obstacles, otherwise

the army will again suffer. I have the honor to be Your Excellency's Most Obed't & Humble Servt.

His Excellency The Governor & Commander in Chief of the State of New York:

P. S. In looking into Mr. Hay's letter again, I find he has been more cautious in the assurances in his letter than he was in conversation, therefore I beg leave to enclose a copy of it.

UDNY HAY TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Camp 15 Augt. 1781.

Sir, By an Act of the Legislature of this State passed 27th March last & altered & amended in the Month of June, five thousand eight hundred barrells of Flour or a Quantity of Wheat equivalent thereto, was to be collected on or before the 1st of September next. From every Intelligence yet received, I have the greatest reason to believe that about 3000 Bbls might be deposited on the Banks of the Hudson by the Middle of next month had I at present a sufficient sum of hard Money to purchase the Casks into which it must be put. I would, therefore, if consistent with your other plans, request you to favour me with a sum sufficient for that purpose, which I will engage to pay as soon as any hard Money the Property of the State & not appropriated by Law comes into my hands, & should I not receive any I will lay the matter before the Legislature at their next meeting & have not the least doubt but the State will give you Credit for & repay the same as soon as in their power. You are fully sensible, Sir, of the many Disappointments that generally occur in collecting specific supplies by coercive Laws. I will, therefore, I doubt not make the proper allowance for any Failure that may arise; for though I think the opinion above given

respecting the Quantity that may be collected is well founded & tho' I know my own determination to use the most vigorous Methods in my Power to prevent any Disappointment, yet so many untoward Circumstances may turn up in the present situation of this State that I must request you to esteem the Collection of the 3000Bls only as probable not absolutely certain. I have the honor to be Sir,  
The Honorable R. Morris, Esqr.

[No. 3905.]

*Return of the 4 Months Levies Recieved & Mustered from Gen'l Swartout's Brigade.*

Fishkill August 16 - 1781

| REGIMENTS         | Lt. Col. Comd'r | Major | Captains | Lieutenants | Sergt Major | Qr. Mr. Sergeant | Sergeants | Drum & Fife | Privates | Total |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------|
| Colo. V.D. Burgh  |                 |       | 1        |             | 1           |                  |           |             | 15       | 18    |
| Colo. Frere       |                 |       |          |             |             |                  |           |             | 19       | 21    |
| Colo. Graham      |                 |       |          |             |             |                  |           |             | 23       | 26    |
| Colo. Field       |                 |       | 1        | 2           |             | 1                |           | 1           | 22       | 28    |
| Colo. Brinkerhoff |                 |       | 1        | 2           |             |                  |           | 1           | 21       | 25    |
| Colo. Hopkins     | 1               |       |          |             |             |                  | 4         |             | 45       | 50    |
| Colo. Ludington   |                 |       |          |             |             |                  | 1         |             | 19       | 21    |
| <b>Total</b>      | 1               |       | 3        | 4           | 1           | 1                | 7         | 2           | 183      | 204   |

NB. Ulster County men not included

Henry Dodge, Capt.

[No. 3906.]

*General James Clinton Reports to Governor Clinton that One Hundred of the Massachusetts Troops Have Arrived and Been Ordered to Schoharie.*

Albany, Aug. 16th 1781.

Dear Sir, Yours of the 14th inst. I Received Last Night with Its enclosures which were forwarded Imediately. Near one

Hundred of the Eastern Troops arrived here this morning. They march immediately to Schoharie with a few of our Levies and I hear part of the Militia are to go with them.

Gen'l. Stark arrived here a few days ago and I now only wait for the Return of an Express from Head Quarters when I expect to leave Albany with the Continental Troops that are here And as I expect to see you on my way down I will not trouble you with a long Letter. Small parties of the Enemy are often seen Lurking about the Country to carry off some of our prominent men they have done but little yet though they have made several attempts.

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[No. 3907.]

*Ezra l'Hommedieu Furnishes Governor Clinton With Information Concerning the Differences Between Colonel Hay and Colonel Pickering—European News—Military Operations in the Far South and Cornwallis' Occupation of Yorktown.*

Philadelphia, August 16th 1781.

Dear Sir, In our last letters we informed you of the conduct of Congress relating to Vermont & sent you enclosed their Resolutions respecting the same, and also the resolutions desiring Governor Trumbull to recall his Commissions for the Purpose of taking British Goods on Long Island; we also informed you of the appointment of the Chancellor to the office of Secretary for foreign affairs. The Committee to confer with the agents from Vermont, have since been appointed, consisting of five, most of whom are from the southward.

The Papers relating to the difference between the Quarter Master General & Colo. Hay respecting forage in West Chester have been committed to the Board of War, who declined reporting

on the same. They have since been committed to a Special Committee whose report has been taken up, but for want of time postponed till to-morrow. We shall give you the earliest intelligence of the Decision of Congress on this subject. The Board of Treasury at present is in such situation that I see no great prospect of a settlement of the purchasing officers accounts in our State until the Financier shall adopt a general system for settling all public accounts which he is determined to do as soon as his Business will admit. Neither is it at present in our Power to procure Money for Colo. Lewis & Hay to pay of Artificers & Labourers in their several Departments, unless by Orders on our Treasury, which I fear would be disagreeable to the State in its present Circumstances. By a Resolution at the Request of Mr. Morris, the Board of Treasury is continued, until he can have time to arrange his Business, and their Existence being so precarious, they would not willingly enter on any new modes for settling Accounts, they having no monies at their Disposal.

By a Vessel arriving Yesterday in 40 Days, from Spain we have Received Letters from Mr. Jay of the 29th of May last, but having nothing very interesting, as it was an opportunity by which he did not choose to write confidentially. Letters by the Same Vessel confirm the Accounts of 26th of the St. Estatia fleet being taken by the French & carried into Port & five others by privateers, and that but five arrived safe at Cork. Tis true that Mr. Neckar the great Financier of France is displaced owing tis said, to Court Parties, tho' his successor is accounted a Person of great abilities in that way.

Lord Cornwallis after imbarcking his troops & manœuvring in the Bay, and inducing a belief that he meant to land in Maryland, suddenly went up James River and landed at York Town which

is an advantagious Post for harrassing the Country being favorable for his other Post at Portsmouth. This conduct was owing to Advice received from New York by an express Boat, which makes it probable Sir Henry Clinton is under no great apprehensions from our operations against New York. At the Southward near Charles Town, 45 of the Enemies Horse were taken lately by surprise by a Party of Colo. Lee's without any loss on our Side. Flags of truce are daily arriving here with unfortunate & distressed families from Charles Town & Savanah, many of whom are forced away. By the last Letters from Gen'l Green of the 17th of July, we are informed that a Reinforcement has been received at Charles Town, tho' not designed for that place. They were engaged to come over as settlers of the Country and were not to fight except in the Defence of their own Settlements. Finding a necessity for them at Charles Town they were embodied, which occasioned a mutiny, & in one regiment One Hundred were killed & wounded before the others would submit. Ten sail of the Line and 8000 Troops are going from Spain, I think from the Port of Cadiz on a secret Expedition. Many are the Conjectures of their Destination. This intelligence by Mr. Carmicles Letter. I hope in case they should be successful they will not send their Garrisons taken to New York to fight against us, as they have done in the late history of Pensacola. The enclosed Instructions tis sup[posed] sufficiently explains the dubious clause in the Ordinance passed in March last, by confining such seizing to the High Seas or between high water and Low water marks. I shall be glad to hear from you whenever you may find it convenient to write, and am with great respect and esteem Your Excellency's most obedt. & very Humble Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.



[No. 3908.]

*Correspondence Between Colonel Hay and Colonel Timothy Pickering,  
Q. M. G., in Regard to their Dispute over Forage.*

Poughkeepsie, July 5th 1781.

Sir, Having appointed Captain William Brown, my Assistant, for the purpose of executing the inclosed law relative to the sequestered or confiscated Estates in West Chester County, I have desired him to become the bearer of this and shew you his instructions from me on that Subject, hoping such part of them with which you are more immediately connected will correspond with your ideas of the mode in which this business ought to be transacted, but if you think any Amendment or alteration necessary I will with pleasure enter into either the one or the other as far as the duties of my Office will permit. I am respectfully  
Sir, your most obt. Srt.

Udny Hay.

To Colonel Timothy Pickering.

The following came enclosed in the foregoing letter.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Commissioners of Sequestration, for the county of West Chester, do permit the State Agent or either of his assistants to collect any forage or other supplies for the Army which may be found on any of the Sequestered or Confiscated Estates in the County of West Chester, and which otherwise it would be the duty of the said Commissioners to collect and Dispose of, and that the said forage and other supplies shall be disposed of by the said Agent, as other supplies furnished by the State for the use of the Army. And further That it shall be lawfull for the Commissioners of Sequestration, in the Several Counties, and they are hereby required to deliver to the State Agent, or one of his assistants all such Beef Cattle, Sheep or Swine, as they now have or hereafter shall have in their possession as Sequestered Goods to be delivered and disposed of by the said Agent, as other supplies furnished by this State, for the use of the army.

A True Extract taken from "An Act relative to the office of State Agent" (passed 1st July 1781)

Udny Hay S. Agent.

No. 3 From Udny Hay S. Agent to Tim: Pickering Q. M. G.

Camp White plains 25th July, 1781.

[See pages 129-132.]

No. 4 From Timothy Pickering Q. M. G. to Udny Hay State Agent.

Camp near Dobbs ferry July 26th, 1781.

Sir, Your letter of yesterday's date, which you handed me last evening, I have read with attention. Divers passages in it would lead a stranger to suppose that a quarrel subsisted between us on the score of forage consumed by the Army in this part of the State of New York, and that I had discovered no small aversion to an amicable settlement. It even seems to be intimated that I entertained perverse, or at least very singular sentiments on the subject; and that I could lay

them aside and adopt others with as much ease as I could throw by an Old coat and put on a new one, cut more to the fancy of the Tailor. But that my sentiments are not singular you have yourself borne witness, in telling me you found the same among the gentlemen in general in the army with whom you had spoken; *tho' in a few words you convinced them of their mistake.* They are sentiments to which some at least of the owners of lands here have entertained, who visiting their old habitations, expressed their satisfaction that the army was using their forage which otherwise would either fall into the enemy's hands or perish on the ground.

How an opinion so palpably erroneous (as you suggest this is) should so generally prevail without some foundation for it in reason, I own does appear extraordinary. I am misinformed, if this opinion is not current in the French as well as in the American army. At the head of the latter I may quote the opinion of the Commander in Chief; which being known, was sufficient to teach me caution how as a public officer, subject to his command, I acted in direct opposition to it. Now altho' for an act of injustice no man should shelter under any name, however great, yet as an apology for a supposed error in judgment, one may certainly be allowed to quote the opinion of a superior. But I would not have done it in this Letter, had you not told me that you had already written, I suppose to the Governour or some gentlemen in power in the state, *that the commander in chief not only declined intermeddling at all in the matter but even giving an opinion on the subject:* By which I perceive that the flame which you tell me is already kindled against me is to be increased. But I am wholly ignorant of myself if either an arrest which you have repeatedly held up to my view, or even the actual imprisonment of my Person, for a debt really or supposed to be due from the United States to any particular state, or any individual subject of it, would at all influence my determination. A seizure of my Person or property for a debt contracted by me as a public officer, I should indeed consider as an act of cruel injustice. And even if it were warranted by law (of which however I may at least express a doubt) yet 'tis an act, against which the common sense of mankind revolts. This is so true, that notwithstanding the sufferings, for many years past, of thousands of public Creditors, not two instances I believe can be adduced where the person or property of the public officers have been touched. It would be an absurdity to suppose that the public creditors deemed the public officers to be sureties for the debts they contracted on public account, it being universally known that the riches of the wealthiest Officer in America bear no proportion to the public debts contracted in some Departments.

In mentioning the opinion of the Commander in Chief, I have no idea of exposing him to censure. For I trust the time is not yet arrived when an American may not *think independently, & speak what he thinks.*

That any one should imagine I wished to deprive this state of one particle of its property, is doing me great injustice. I have seen its exertions—I have been a witness to its sufferings—I have represented them to Congress—I have spoken of them on all occasions. To Congress I said "The people in the State of New York are under very peculiar disadvantages. Their trade with the neighbouring states is so confined—the Troops have been so long unpaid—& the public officers there have for so long time past been furnished with so little money—at the same time that the army has drawn from it such considerable supplies, money of consequence must be extremely scarce. For its quota of supplies not money but state certificates were given. In addition to these supplies the army make large draughts on this state for forage, lumber, wood, &c. and the service of teams: For all which no consideration can in general be given but certificates, & these not receivable in taxes; whereby the inhabitants of that state are exceedingly distressed. There is nothing which the army wants and that state can furnish which is not taken by impress, when not otherwise to be obtained which often happens. The people submit to these oppressions (for such undoubtedly they are, tho' unavoidable) with astonishing patience, partly from a conviction that the articles so obtained are essential to the army, & partly thro' the influence of the military, who either are in fact, or are expected to be called to enforce the execution if opposed. Other states out of the army's reach, experience no such oppression. The inhabitants make their own terms for supply and services required of them; and without money, or promise of speedy payment, refuse to yield either."

To Mr. Morris the Superintendent of the finances of the United States, I have represented the distress of Colonel Hughes D. Q. M. of this state, for want of money—that his small warrant of 20,000 new emission dollars on the loan office of this State was

not yet paid off—that a considerable balance yet remained due, which he could not obtain—that this was his only resource for money from the time of his Appointment to this day & that “almost all persons of course remained unpaid for services and supplies” (Then subjoining “These added to the Debts of the old Department would have long since put a stop to public business here, were there not peculiar energy in the executive of the State, and a military force at hand to carry into effect every necessary order. If any relief can be afforded, I know not where it can be better applied. It is due to the public Officers, and to the inhabitants of the State. The United States will also be benefitted, for the doing the public business here wholly without money, increases the public debt beyond conception.”

I have said thus much to justify myself from groundless aspersions; and in a matter so interesting to me as a man, and still more as a public officer, I trust you will excuse me, even if you should deem me tedious.

In adjusting this business, I have no other object in view than to avoid an improper charge against the United States. Any Certificate of facts, with that caution, I am content to give. To determine with any degree of precision, the separate Quantities of forage consumed on confiscated Estates and the lands of individuals, is beyond the power of calculation. I therefore would not choose to attempt it: nor will it be just (admitting the claim to some compensation to be right) that anything be allowed for forage destroyed on the ground, and not eaten by the public Cattle; for such will only be lost as the whole would have been but for the accident that the army has taken post here. To avoid therefore a perplexing discussion, I am content that the number of Cattle eating public forage should be ascertained; tho’ not in the mode you propose; for it would be an indignity to a public officer to submit to it. However, I will cause the necessary returns to be made, by which the number of such cattle may be determined as accurately as circumstances will admit.

If I comprehend the meaning of your proposition for fixing the value of the forage, thus applied to the use of the army, it is this— That if one ton of hay worth six pounds (or 15 dollars) will subsist any given number of horses one day, then that the United States should be charged the same sum for every like number of horses of the army for every day they subsisted on the forage growing in this County. But this I can never agree to. Its very situation within the enemy’s lines, and at such a distance from a market must greatly lessen its value: for I presume it will not be suggested that a Market is at hand, Viz: the army, because this, by marching & rescuing the forage from the jaws of the enemy, has rendered it of any value at all. The pasturage in this County is also lessened in value because the lands lay desolate & waste, without inclosures, which obliges us to employ great numbers of herdsmen to watch the Cattle to prevent their going astray, To these considerations is to be added the general one, that pasturage which will subsist any number of Cattle one week, is far less valuable than the Quantity of Hay which shall support the same cattle as well during the same time.

I must also observe that Congress have for the present year demanded no forage of any state; and that the Prices must therefore be fixed by the public officers and the owners of forage. Six pounds per Ton for the best of hay, in this plentiful year, is beyond all reason. I have no idea of saddling the United States with such an enormous debt as that would create. The best upland hay delivered immediately from the field, *after being cut and cured by the owner*, will not be worth half the money. Nay I doubt whether more than one third of that price paid down in hard money (and in hard money the accounts of this state with the United States are to be finally settled) will be given for the best hay in any County in the State; much less should it be the price of hay within the enemy’s lines. These observations will also apply to every species of grain used for forage.

On these grounds I am ready to fix with you the value of the forage which shall be judged to be eaten by the numbers of Cattle ascertained as above mentioned, for which I should propose to give Certificates in some such form as this, viz:

I certify that from the .....day of .....horses & Oxen in the public service & ..... fat Cattle as nearly as the numbers could be ascertained, were subsisted on good pastures and meadows (the property of whom I am unable to determine) in the County of West Chester, in the State of New York. That during the same time the fields in general in that County lay desolate & waste, without inclosures, which rendered it necessary to employ considerable numbers of men as guards or herdsmen to watch the Creatures so pastured to prevent their going astray and being lost. That the parts of the County thus foraged were deemed to be within

the enemy's lines; & till the army marched down, were so totally in the enemy's power that the forage must have perished on the ground or been carried away by the enemy unless thus consumed by the army. I am &c

Tim'y. Pickering Q. M. G.

No. 5 From Timothy Pickering Q. M. G. to His Excellency the President of Congress.

Camp Near Dobbs ferry July 27th, 1781.

Sir, When the army moved into this County, particularly to this Quarter, so far within the enemy's lines, it was generally supposed by the Officers, that the forage growing on the desolate lands would be freely used by the army, without any claim for payment from the owners of the soil. This I knew was the prevailing opinion at Head Quarters as well as elsewhere. It was therefore a matter of no small surprise when the State agent appeared armed with a recent law of the State to take possession of all the forage growing on what are called "Sequestered estates," to apply the same (it is true) to the use of the army, and take certificates for the amount. A copy of the law (as handed to me by the State agent) I beg leave to inclose. The principal agent (Colo. Hay) has at length come down, and pressed me for a decision. I told him what I understood to be the sentiments of the army in general, and the opinion of the Commander in Chief; and that I should not think it proper to act in opposition to the latter. After this Colonel Hay himself spoke to the general, who then (as he says) declined intermeddling in the matter, or even giving an opinion about it.

It was now agreed by Colo. Hay & me that he should state in writing his demands, to which I would give him an answer also in writing. This being done, but not to his satisfaction, he proposed that the matter should be laid before Congress, thro' the Delegates of the State. To this I had no objection. At the same time it seemed proper that I should communicate to your Excellency the substance of what had passed between Colonel Hay and me, on the subject. His two propositions, & my observations in consequence thereof, I do myself the honour to inclose.

How it happened that the same idea was taken up generally, & almost universally in the army, unless it had some foundation in reason, must appear a little extraordinary. What were the reasonings of the Officers on the subject I cannot determine. Many things from some obvious circumstances attending them, strike us forcibly as right or wrong, without any formal reasoning at all. Certain facts presented themselves here at the first view—as, that the Country was generally abandoned both by Whig and Tory—That the fields lay desolate & waste, without inclosures—that the forage growing there would have been carried off by the enemy or perished on the ground—& that it could generally be used by nobody save the army, & by that only on the spot where the forage grew. If I am not misinformed, the same sentiments prevail in the French as in the American army.

The question arising on this subject, and of which I request the decision of Congress, I take to be simply this. Whether the United States shall or shall not be charged with the value of the forage produced in this County, under the circumstances above mentioned, that has been or shall be consumed therein by the army? Of this I beg leave to ask as early a determination as possible.

I have the honour to be &c

Timothy Pickering, Q. M. G.

\*No. 6. From Robert Graham Esqr. Chairman of the Refugees assembled at White Plains 30 July 1781 to Colonel Timothy Pickering Q. M. Genl.

White Plains 30th July, 1781.

Sir, Astonished at the information of an attempt being made, to take by force for the use of the army the produce of our farms, without making us the least recom-

\* On motion made Resolved unanimously that a letter be wrote to the Q. M. G. of the American Army demanding of him pay for what forage or other articles he has obtained from either of their farms & at the same time give him their opinions of his conduct as Q. M. G.

Resolved unanimously that Colo. Udny Hay State agent prepare a draught of said letter.

On the said letter being read, paragraph by paragraph, the same was unanimously agreed to—

Extract from the proceedings of the Refugees of the County of West Chester at the White Plains on the 31st of July, 1781.

Ebenezer S. Burling.

North Castle August ye 9th, 1781.

(Attest)

penance, nay even refusing an acknowledgment by which we would obtain pay hereafter, and having met this day and appointed Robert Graham Esquire Judge of this County as our Chairman, the Agent of the State at our request favoured us with a correspondence between you and him, that has fully confirmed the information we had received, and which impells us to tell you Sir (for your unprecedented and unwarranted attempt to trample on the Laws of that State to which we are subject, and of which we have, and ever will be the firm and unshaken supporters, forbid every degree of delicacy.) That we are determined to have full and speedy satisfaction, for the insults offered us, by taking such Steps as the Laws of our Country will warrant, for compelling you to do us Justice; while we cannot refrain from smiling with disdain at the folly of any individual however high in station, presuming openly and without the smallest necessity to set the Law at defiance. We nevertheless should think it necessary to show our immediate indignation at such a character, were we not with held from doing so by that love of our country and regard for the general cause, which induced us at first to quit these habitations & these fields, which you wish to prove our right and title to extinct.

Actuated by these motives, and at the particular request of the State Agent, not from the smallest inclination to show you any favour, we shall defer putting the Law in execution till the tenth of next month, against which time you will probably have received such instructions from Congress to whom we are informed you have wrote on the subject, as may prevent any further altercation.

We have carefully read over the Agents Letter to you and your answer, taking both up by Paragraphs and made the necessary comparisons, and would make no observation, Sir, on the absurdity & childishness of your reasoning but impute that to the weakness of your head, did not the wickedness of your heart appear too glaring for us to pass over unnoticed in your attempt to make it be believed your illegal practices have been commenced & pursued in consequence of an opinion received from our illustrious commander in chief. The well known character of that great man, his exerted attention on every occasion to support the rights of individuals the sacred regard he has ever shown to the civil authority and Laws of this State, all join in defeating your wish to make us believe he would countenance the infringement of a Law (unless compelled thereto by some unavoidable necessity) did he even think the Law in itself improper or impolitic. Be assured therefore we have not the most distant idea of your being able to screen yourself in an illegal Act under a shield which would give you such importance.

We have thus Sir, with that liberty which as free Citizens of America we Claim, as one of our most invaluable privileges, declared our Opinion of your late proceedings respecting the forage taken by your direction in this County, and our determination is firmly fixt to assert our rights & rescue our property, out of the hands of every invader thereof, whether under the colour of an open enemy a secret Tory or a self interested and designing Whig.

We have requested Captain William Brown and Mr. Francis Chandonet to deliver you this Letter at your office in Camp, and beg your answer directed to their care at the Widow Miller's, White Plains.

I am Sir, In behalf and by the unanimous order of the Refugees of West Chester County met at Mr. William Fields, Your most Obed't humble Serv't.

Robt. Graham, Chairman.

No. 7. From Udney Hay S. Agent to Timothy Pickering Q. M. G.

Camp near Dobbs ferry 8th Augt., 1781.

Sir, incited by inclination, and at the request of sundry of the Refugees who are to meet at the House of Michael Hayes, in North Castle, to morrow at ten in the forenoon, I take the liberty of requesting your company there, that the whole meeting (which I believe will be both numerous and respectable) may have an opportunity of hearing whatever arguments you may think proper to offer in support of the propriety of your conduct in refusing to make satisfaction for the forage used by the army in this County. I am Sir, Your Most Obed. hble. Serv't.

Udney Hay, S. Agent.

No. 8 From Timothy Pickering Q. M. G. to Udney Hay State Agent.

Camp, Augt. 8th, 1781.

Sir, As soon as I found the Refugees were to have another meeting, I determined to attend it; to remove the prejudices of a number of the citizens of this State, who

by the virulence of their reproaches heaped on a man to whose real character they were strangers, I saw had been deceived and irritated by misrepresentations & inflammatory speeches. But for this consideration I should have made no answer to a Letter conceived in such indecent terms. I am sir, Yours &c.

T. Pickering, Q. M. G.

No. 9 From Timothy Pickering Q. M. G. to Robt. Graham Esqr. Chairman &c. to be communicated to the Refugees who were assembled at White Plains on the 30th July last.

Camp near Dobbs ferry Augt. 3rd, 1781.

Gentlemen, I received a letter dated the 30th Ulto signed Robert Graham chairman in behalf of the Refugees of West Chester county. I should have been more surprised than I was at the contents, had I not believed you had been unwarily drawn into the measure by gross misrepresentations of my character and conduct. Had I not supposed you thus deceived, I should have returned your letter unanswered. The terms of it are so indecent so improper, so unbecoming the honourable characters you profess to maintain, as the supporters of the Laws & Liberties of your country. But as your reproaches have arisen from mistake & misrepresentation I am willing to undeceive you: and this much more to prevent my usefulness as a public Officer being lessened, than from any concern for my personal reputation: for this would sustain no injury from such an attack as yours, in the opinion of any Gentlemen to whom I am personally known. You Gentlemen have been made to believe that I have first knowingly committed an act of palpable injustice, and this in a case wherein I am totally disinterested, in which I cannot gain or lose one farthing, in which there is no conceivable motive to do wrong: and then, to cover this unjust act, that I falsely accused the Commander in Chief as giving countenance to it! You were not aware gentlemen of the enormity of the crimes you have thus groundlessly laid to my charge. They are crimes of which the most abandoned of mankind could scarcely be guilty: for which there not only exists no conceivable motives, but, on the contrary, very powerful reasons against committing them! By the supposed act of injustice I exposed myself to the resentment of the refugees—to the frowns of your Legislature and to the displeasure of the whole body of the people of this State! By the supposed false accusation of the Commander in Chief, I subjected myself to his indignation, & to be Broken with infamy! Yet these are crimes which you have imputed to me. To a man who for divers years past has executed several important public offices without the imputation of the smallest crime! To a man who after such experience of his fidelity, was called by the unanimous voice of Congress to his present office! To a man (to whom indeed you must have been strangers, and should not therefore have so rashly censured) who from his earliest youth to the present hour, has sustained the reputation of unspotted integrity & truth! I will go farther (and the cruelty of these charges would even warrant boasting) you have imputed these aggravated crimes to a man who bids defiance to the whole world to produce proof, or even the shadow of evidence, that he was ever guilty, even in a single instance, of an act of dishonesty or falsehood! Guilt you are sensible, Gentlemen, implies knowledge. I have doubtless often erred thro' ignorance & mistake. I lay no claims to infallibility. The wisest of men may sometimes err: much more may I, and it was only for a supposed *error in judgment*, that I sought for countenance in the opinion of the commander in chief. If you again read my letter to Colonel Hay you will see that so far from seeking protection on any other Ground, I say expressly "for an act of injustice no man should find shelter under any name, however great." I have indeed a better shield than the greatest name on Earth can give me— *conscious innocence*.

Suffer me now to inquire, what foundation there was for so much calumny?

You begin to this effect, that you were informed that I had attempted to take by force, for the use of the army ('tis fortunate that it was not for my own use) the produce of your farms, without making you the least recompense: that I even refused giving an acknowledgment by which you could obtain payment hereafter; and that the correspondence between Colonel Hay and me had fully confirmed that information. The word force in the sense in which you use it, seems hardly applicable to the case in Question. However, I do not mean to dispute about words. It is a fact, that when the army marched into this country, every man turned out his horse & his Ox to feed where he pleased (excepting into fields of grain, which I believe were generally preserved till ripe) nobody appearing to forbid it. After some days (I do not recollect how many) Mr. Brown brought me a letter from Colonel Hay State Agent, inclosing

an extract of a law of this state, requiring the commissioners of sequestration, to permit him & his assistants to collect any forage for the army which might be found on any sequestered or confiscated estates. I expressed some surprise for I had entertained the same opinion that generally prevailed in the army, that the forage consumed here would never become a charge against the United States. As Mr. Brown had come instructed to collect the forage, I asked him where he was to carry it. He answered up above. I asked if he had men & tools & teams to cut & carry it away. He replied that he had not; but depended on the army for those things. This was the substance of what passed between us, as nearly as I can recollect; & being very busy I referred him to Colo. Lutterloh the commissary of forage: but (I do not know why) Mr. Brown neglected to call on him. I heard little said on the subject afterwards, till Colonel Hay came down, I believe I repeated to him what had passed between Mr. Brown & me. We conversed some time on the subject & finally I told him I should not choose to come to a determination until I had consulted the commander in chief. I accordingly mentioned the matter to His Excellency. He immediately said that He thought the demand a very extraordinary one, or words to that effect. I observed that the state had made a law concerning it; at the same time presenting him with the extract from it which I had received from Colonel Hay. He cast his eyes on it, & said "I think it is a strange (or very strange) law," this conversation I communicated to Colonel Hay.

Thus knowing the general's opinion, from his own mouth, I did not think myself warranted in giving such certificates as Colonel Hay desired, that would positively make the United States debtors for all the forage consumed by the army in this county. I believe I then proposed that Colonel Hay should himself speak to the General, to get his determination. He afterwards informed me that he did so, but that the General declined intermeddling in the matter, or even giving an opinion on the subject. This however was not satisfactory to me. If the case had been so very clear as you seem to think it, why should the Commander in Chief whose justice no one will call in question, hesitate to direct, or at least advise me to give the Certificates demanded? This circumstance alone should have rendered you Gentlemen more cautious than to have rashly accused me as you have done, with the infamous crime of telling a *falsehood* for quoting his opinion as agreeing with my own.

As to a recompense for the forage, I grant I did not offer any, not being convinced that it was justly due; but that I refused giving an acknowledgment whereby such recompense, if judged right, might be obtained hereafter is not true. I was willing to the best of my recollection, even the first day I saw Colonel Hay, to give him a certificate for that end: but he has ever demanded one of a different kind, which without farther inquiry would make the United States chargeable. In the letter to Colo. Hay I say explicitly "That in adjusting this business I had no other object in view than to avoid an improper charge against the United States, any certificate of facts with that caution I am content to give" afterwards, it is true, I propose a particular form, but subject to alteration if not approved, for I say expressly, "in some such form as this" which plainly implies a willingness to alter it if objected-to. For the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of forage consumed by the army, Colo. Hay proposed two methods, 1st to find the number of horses, oxen & fat Cattle belonging to the army which had subsisted on forage growing in this County—or 2d to have appraisers appointed to estimate the forage used by the army, distinguishing what was taken from Confiscated or sequestered estates, & what from the lands of individuals, according to which certificates should be given. It being thus referred to my choice, to take one or the other of these two ways of ascertaining the forage used by the army in this county, I preferred the former, and proposed calling for returns to fix the number of Cattle, subsisted as above mentioned, according to which certificates should be given that would intitle the owners of the lands to payment if it should finally be adjudged by those who had a right to determine the point, that justice required such forage to be paid for. Colo. Hay subjoined a number of questions to which he desired answers, in case I closed with neither of his propositions: but as I agreed substantially to the first, such answers were unnecessary.

Colonel Hay, after reading my answer to his Letter, proposed taking the sense of Congress on the affair. I readily agreed to it. He said he would write to the Delegates of the State; & I told him I would write to the President of Congress. I did so, and ordered an express to be ready to take the letters, as soon as his should be brought to my office.

The business being thus submitted, & at Colonel Hays own motion, to the decision

of Congress, I confess I was not a little surprised at being presented, six days afterwards, with a letter written with so much acrimony as yours, & could not avoid thinking that much industry had been used to excite your bitter resentment, when there was so little ground for it.

Now Gentlemen permit me to ask—In what part of these transactions do you discover any foundation for accusing me of the heinous crimes you have laid to my charge? Besides those already noticed, you speak of my “trampling on the laws of the State”—That is a strong expression, & means a contemptuous disobedience to those Laws; but I am not conscious of any such thing; I have on the contrary ever spoken of this state with the highest respect. But suffer me to ask, gentlemen, whether a particular state may not pass a Law which an officer of the United States might justly hesitate to obey? Suppose the army were in Jersey & that the Legislature of that state had made a law fixing the price of hay at twelve pounds a ton, (& being sovereign & independent it could pass what law it pleased) while New York set it only at six, agreeably to the act of Congress. Suppose then that the agent of Jersey should demand of me certificates for forage taken then by the army at that rate: Would you think me justifiable in complying with it? Would you not rather think I went far enough in offering a certificate of facts, untill the United States in Congress, (whose servant I am) should determine whether the price of forage demanded by Jersey should be allowed? But the Legislature of New York have made a Law authorizing a demand of pay for forage, for which it was generally thought in the army, no recompense at all ought to be given. I was of that opinion. The principal officers of the army whom I heard speak of it held the same opinion; and I have told you already it was the opinion of the Commander in Chief. Under these circumstances, Gentlemen, what was my duty? What more could I have done with propriety than I have offered to do? Be pleased to bear in mind that I am an *officer of the United States*, under Oath “to discharge the trust reposed in me with *Justice & integrity* to the best of my *skill & understanding*.” What judgment then would you have formed of my attention to the duties of my office, of my “Justice & integrity” if I had pursued the line of conduct required of me in direct opposition to my “understanding” of what was *just & upright* in contempt of the opinion of the principal officers of the army; and especially of the commander in Chief! Yet I do not say this opinion was not an erroneous one: I never said it was not; but it was an opinion, supported as it was by the authorities I have mentioned, by which I thought my conduct ought to be governed.

I forbear Gentlemen, to remark on those reproachful expressions with which every Paragraph of your letter is dishonourably marked. I have written this reply not to retort, not to irritate, but to inform. I have aimed at giving you a true detail of facts, according to the best of my recollection. If there be any circumstance which command a further explanation I am ready to give it. I wish only to have my conduct fairly understood. I ask for justice only and not favour from any man. Tho' poor yet I feel myself perfectly independent. Having neither Ambition nor Avarice to gratify, I am not even under a temptation, much less am I disposed, to do an unjust, or an improper act, knowingly, for the sake of pleasing any man or any body of men. What appears to be right, whether agreeable or disagreeable to others, I mean ever to pursue. Yet I am not indifferent to the opinion of my fellow men: I wish my action to meet with their approbation. To this period they have generally received such approbation. Yet I never used any species of bribes or flattery to obtain it. I never even asked for any one of the offices I have held under the United States. Yet I have been appointed to three very important offices in succession, One of them under the immediate observation of the delegates of your State & of all the members of Congress, for upwards of two years: but after this to have unanimously elected me to an office of such magnitude as the present, if I at all deserve the character you have so freely given me, must have shewn them to be as destitute of wisdom as regardless of the interests of their Country.

I am Gentlemen Your much injured fellow citizen,

T. Pickering, Q. M. G.

P. S. I have Recd. no answer from Congress on the question submitted to their decision.

No. 10. Resolved That we will wait till the 20th inst. before we enter any suit against Col. Pickering for the forage taken in this county, provided he will give bond to that he will be accountable to our agents hereafter to be appointed for all



losses that shall legally appear we may sustain by such delay; and we agree that every possible method shall be taken on our side to prevent any such damages.

North Castle Augt. 9, 1781.

I did not think it proper to give such bond.

T. Pickering Q. M. G.

N. B. At the close of ye meeting at North Castle at Colo. Hay's desire I gave the certificate relative to ye Bond proposed in the above resolution.

No. 11 At a meeting of the Refugees at Michael Hayes in North Castle 9th Augt. 1781.

Will you give such certificates for the forage taken for the use of the army, from the sequestered or confiscated Estates in West Chester County and the Estates of individuals within the said County since the army has lately been therein as an agreeable to the Laws of the State of New York & consonant to such as you generally give.

Ab'm. Leggett Chairman.

To Colo. Pickering Q. M. G.

No. 12. To Abraham Leggett Esqr. Chairman of the Refugees assembled at Michael Hayes in North Castle Augt. 9th, 1781.

Gentlemen, In answer to the Question you have proposed I say, That I am content to appoint immediately one Person, the Refugees to appoint another, these two in case of disagreement to chuse a third, to ascertain the Quantity & value of the forage taken or which shall be taken from their respective Estates in West Chester County for the use of the American Army. Agreeably to which certificates shall be given by me or the Commissary of forage. The same Appraisers, if Agreeable to the State Agent, shall determine the Quantity & value of the forage taken or which shall be taken for the use of said army from confiscated or sequestered Estates, or if not, others may be chosen by him & me. The form of the Certificate may be like this, viz:

I Certify that.....(hay, grain, or pasturage, which ever it may be) of the value of.....has been taken for the use of the American army, from the Estate of A. B.----- (or a Confiscated or Sequestered estate) in the County of West Chester in the State of New York.

As the only point in question has by mutual agreement between Colonel Hay & me (& at his own motion) been submitted to Congress, I cannot with propriety or decency undertake to determine it, untill I have made acquaintance with the decision of Congress thereon. Colo. Hay at the same time said he should not think himself bound by such decision.

Timothy Pickering Q. M. G.

To Israel Honeywell, Francis Chandonet & William Brown Esqrs. Agents for the Refugees.

North Castle August 10, 1781.

Gentlemen, In consequence of the power of Attorney recd. from a number of Refugees in West Chester County—you will please immediately apply to the Quarter Master General and endeavour agreeable to his proposal of yesterday to determine the value of the forage used by the Horses, Oxen or Fat cattle of the army on the farms of said Refugees, fixing the value of pasture upon this principal that hay is worth about three pounds in Specie per ton, if the Q. M. General consents to begin upon this business immediately we wish you not to enter any suit against him till the 20th inst. unless he or the state agent receive an answer from Congress on the subject previous to that time and he should after the receipt of such answer refuse giving you such Certificates as were demanded of him yesterday.

We desire you to acquaint the Quarter Master General that you are ready to have the farms valued agreeable to the above instructions where he may hereafter chuse to order the horses and cattle of the army to be pastured, as it will be better to have the pasture valued before the horses & cattle are put thereon then after they have eat up either part or whole thereof.

As you are well acquainted with the customary methods hitherto used for the payment of Forage taken for the use of the Army we desire you to regulate your conduct in every respect by such customs agreeable to the laws of the State. We

desire you on all difficult matters to consult with the state agent and take his advice provided it is not contradictory to the spirit of the above instructions.

Abraham Legget  
Jonathan G. Tompkins  
James Requaw  
Isalah Maynard

Francis Chandonet } Esqrs.  
William Brown }

Camp August 11th, 1781.

Gentlemen, If Colonel Pickering should think proper to comply with his promise made on the 9th inst. respecting the appraisement of forage already used by the army in this county, you will take care to have a clause at the bottom of the certificate for such forage of any sort as appears taken from any of the confiscated or sequestered Farms that it is mutually agreed by the Quarter Master General & the state agent that it shall be left to Congress & this state to determine whether said forage is finally to be credited to the state at and in proportion to the rates fixed by Congress for the final settlement of the Quotas of each state or at the current specie price at the time & place where said forage is taken as I think it would be better for the quarter master general & me to enter into a general agreement for this purpose, and give mutual obligations to each other signifying our joint consent. I wish you to mention it to him.

I am with much esteem Gentlemen Yours etc.

Udny Hay, State Agent.

From Colonel Hay State Agent to Colo. Timothy Pickering Q. M. G'l.

Camp, 11th August, 1781.

Sir, I am sorry to find you took amiss the first paragraph of my instructions to Messrs. Chandonet & Brown, it arose from my not esteeming you in any respect bound by the promise alluded to therein, as at the meeting it was rejected on the part of the Refugees and you of consequence had a right to retract.

I am informed you know a delay has been proposed as long as the 20th instant before any prosecutions should be entered, unless circumstances should turn up to make a speedier prosecution necessary; as the agents for the Refugees are to take my advice upon all difficult occasions, & as another meeting of Refugees is called on the 22d inst. I think it my duty to acquaint you that I shall advise them in the strongest manner not to delay longer than the 17th inst. before they demand your final answer and think it necessary to give you the earliest notice thereof in my power, that you may have the best opportunity of taking such steps as will most effectually enable you to determine with propriety.

I am sr. Your most obdt. h: serv.

Udny Hay S. Agent.

From Colonel Udny Hay State Agent to Timothy Pickering Q. M. G.

Camp, 14 August, 1781.

Sir, As the longer the dispute betwixt you and me respecting the forage taken in this quarter for the use of the army remains unsettled, a final adjustment will not only become more difficult, but the Quarrel betwixt you and the individuals of the State, especially such of them as are known by the name of the Refugees, must unavoidably increase, and the time must be prolonged before a demand can with propriety be made on the French army for the Forage they have taken as well as for many other reasons too long to detail in a letter: if agreeable to you I should be glad to meet with three or four of our mutual friends belonging to the army at any time and place you may think convenient and coolly and dispassionately weigh the advantages and disadvantages that may result from your agreeing to give me a promissary obligation that on or before twelve o'clock in the forenoon of 20th inst. you will grant the usual certificates to me for the forage already or hereafter to be taken from the sequestered or confiscated lands within this county, and to individuals for what is taken from their lands, provided that Congress has not given you positive instructions to the contrary before that time.

That I may continue the same openness and candour I have endeavoured hitherto to guide my whole conduct by in the course of this altercation business. I honestly confess my having two views in this letter. The first is to bring about a speedy and amicable settlement before the next meeting of the Refugees without which

I will venture to predict there will soon be such a rupture between the inhabitants of the State and you as will tend further to clog the business of your very important department already too much embarrassed by unavoidable causes; The second is that should you not comply with this requisition, I may have an opportunity of shewing them, the various proposals I have made and you have rejected.

I am sir, Your most obdt. h: Servt.

Udny Hay, State Agent.

From Colonel Pickering Q. M. G. to Colonel Udny Hay State Agent.

Camp, August 15th, 1781.

Sir, I have already fully explained myself on the subject of your Letter of yesterday; & I am sorry my explanations have failed in any degree to answer my wishes which are to inform & convince those who were strangers to facts, & to put the matter in so clear a light that the arts of designing men, who desire to foment differences, might be ineffectual.

Having submitted the matter to Congress, their decision I am bound to wait for and obey. When that arrives I shall immediately act in consequence thereof and lest there should be an unnecessary delay, I have wrote a second time by express, representing the necessity of, and intreating their immediate decision. In the mean time I shall not be intimidated by any threats: for I have from the beginning offered to do in this affair whatever was consistent with my duty; and disinterested men of discernment and candour, acknowledge it; I have also shewn every disposition to cultivate harmony with this State and the citizens thereof concerned in this business; nor would anything but an adherence to my duty induce me to hazard an interruption of it: but as I have acted intirely in a public character, without any private views (none such, indeed, can possibly exist) I am willing to abide the consequences of my conduct.

I am sir Your humble serv't.

T: Pickering Q. M. G.

From Colonel Pickering Q. M. G'L. to Colonel Udny Hay State Agent.

Camp, August 16th, 1781.

Sir, Mr. William Keese the bearer is come down for the purpose of joining with such person as shall be chosen by the agents of the owners of the lands where the army have consumed any forage in this county, in making appraisements of the quantities eaten or taken from those lands respectively, & the value thereof, agreeably to the proposals I made at the meeting of the refugees on the 9th inst.

I did not consider myself bound by those proposals, seeing they were rejected by the refugees and you: yet as my intentions were the same from the beginning, viz. to give a certificate of facts, where required; so I could have no objection, on general principles, to an adherence to the proposals I had made. The ill treatment I have received from you, & thro' you from the refugees, would indeed warrant, or at least excuse, my throwing every possible embarrassment in your way: but resentment will have no influence on my conduct: I am still ready to take any proper measure in my power to ascertain the quantity & value of the forage in dispute; that the owners of the lands, if pronounced entitled to a compensation, may have the proper evidence of their respective dues.

If your meaning in the first paragraph of your Instructions of the 11th inst. to your two assistants, was merely what you explain in your letter to me of the same date, I cannot but think your words were very ill chosen. However, seeing Mr. Keese is arrived, & I would make no delay by a dispute about words, I will content myself with your explanation. Mr. Keese therefore may proceed to the appraisement of the forage taken from the sequestered lands, as well as the lands of refugees.

I am sir Your most obdt. servt.

Tim: Pickering Q. M. G.

From Colonel Udny Hay State Agent to Colonel Timothy Pickering Q. M. Genl.

Camp, 16th August, 1781.

Sir, As your resolution to abide by the determination of Congress, respecting the forage taken in this quarter for the use of the army, is so unalterably fixt, yours of

yesterday would require no answer, was there not a possibility of your misapprehending the advice I promised in mine of 11th to give the agents for the Refugees, as connected with instructions I might give them as assistant State agent; I think it necessary therefore now to acquaint you in this latter capacity they have my orders to fall in with your proposal of 9th ulto.\* for the present and untill I have advice from proper authority to adopt another method, even tho you have not appointed the person on your part immediately as promised in the proposal, for always willing to put the best possible construction on any breach of promise I suppose the delay has arose from unforeseen & unavoidable causes.

How your assertion of having shewed every disposition to cultivate Harmony with this state & the citizens thereof, while you are ordering their property to be taken away without the least compensation, contrary to Law, contrary to the established custom in similar cases, and without any official authority to warrant such procedure, is a Paradox that certainly requires uncommon talents and abilities to explain.

Though I acknowledge myself having had a very principal hand in opposing your measures in the whole of this business, I will not suppose that "the arts of designing men, etc.," is intended against me as I defy malevolence itself to prove that I have either used sinister art, Equivocation, falsehood or deceit in favour of this cause which both Duty and Inclination incited me so warmly to espouse, my conduct I know though warm has been open and unequivocal.

Time will shew whether every one concerned can prove theirs to have been actuated by Principles equally honest & honourable.

I am Sir, Your very hum: servt.

Udny Hay, State Agent.

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[No. 3909.]

*Major Moses Hetfield Visits Posts on the Ulster Frontier, Forwards a Favorable Report With a Return of the Stations.*

Goshen, 17th August 1781.

Agreeable to General Orders I visited the Different posts on the western frontiers of Orange & Part of Ulster Counties, (the 15th Instant) Commanded by Major DeWett; find them in Good order; the Inhabitence well Satisfyed with the Conduct of the officers & behaviour of their men—as the distance from the Block house to fort Westfall on the frontiers of Orange was five miles, I thought it necessary to have one Station between them. Consulted Major De Wett on the subject who Joined me in opinion. I have ordered the post at Capt West Brooks and to be guarded by the Levies Last Raised from this Regt. Hope it will meet with your Excellencie's Aprobation. Inclosed is a Return of the Different Stations, their distance from each other the Num-

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\* The 9th instant, it should have been.

ber of officers & privates at Each. I have the Honour to be your Excellencies obedient serv't.

A Return of the Detachment of Col. Albert Pawling's Regt. of Levies at the Stations on the western frontiers of Orange & Ulster Counties, Commanded by Major Thomas DeWett.

15 August 1781.

| NAMES OF THE STATIONS.                       | Distance. | Captains. | Sub-alterns. | Ser-jants. | Corporals. | Privates |
|--|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1st<br>Peter Kirkendals from the Jersey line | Mile<br>1 |           | 3            | 3          | 3          | 28       |
| 2nd<br>Fort Westfall                         | 5         | 3         |              | 3          | 3          | 18       |
| 3d<br>Fort Gremans                           | 3         |           |              |            | 2          | 9        |
| 4th<br>Fort Depews                           | 3         |           |              |            | 2          | 7        |
| 5<br>Fort DeWitt                             | 3         |           | 3            | 3          | 3          | 15       |
| 6<br>Fort BeahersKill                        | 5         |           |              | 5          |            | 11       |

Moses Hetfield, Major.

[No. 3910.]

*Colonels Cantine and Pawling Report the Wawarsing Affair to the Governor.*

Marbletown, August 17th, 1781.

Dr Sir, The Enemy (by Account from a Deserter from them) wear four hundred in Number and under the Command of a certain Capt. Caldwell, made a Descent last Sunday Morning on the Frontiers of Warwarsink, killed & scalped one Man, burnt about thirty buildings of Houses & Barns, & moved back about ten o'Clock the same Morning, taking with them a number of Horses supposed to be about fifty some horn Cattle Sheep &c. We immediately endeavored to collect proper Force to pursue them by dispatching repeated Expresses to the neighboring commanding officers of the frontier Militia Regt. requesting their Aid, tho' in vain. We moved on Monday morning with the Levies & the Militia from Marbletown & Rochester and a few

others about two hundred in Number, in pursuit of them, leaving orders for such of the Militia as should arrive to follow on, which those from the New Palts did & by a forced March of about thirty five miles endeavored to over take & fight them, but finding ourselves not able to succeed they being apprized of the Pursuit by their spies who we started several times & hastening their Flight with too great Precipitation, we returned. We had two Men taken, Buyker & one Hyne. As the Deserter informs us on their Return about twenty Miles from Shadawkan where they were sent to as spies. This unfortunate Circumstance favoured the Enemy's coming upon us without being aware of them. Before we close we beg leave to inform your Excellency that we should have informed you of the Enemy's Attempt on the Frontiers, ere we moved out, but being earnestly & very busily employed in collecting both Men & Provision to be revenged on the Villians we passed it by till our Return which was last Evening.

We have the honor to be with high esteem Your Excellency's most obed. humble Serv't.

John Cantine,  
A. Pawling.

P. S. The Enemy passed by the Fort at Laghwick in the dead of Night which from the situation of the ground might easily be affected.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3911.]

*Cornelius Post Makes Affidavit of the Treatment of Prisoners in Canada.*

Ulster County) SS: Cornelius Post, of full age being duly sworn on the Holy evangelist, of almighty God Deposed and Saith that he the Deponant, was with a party under the Command of Capt. Vroman, from fort Stanicks, to the Onida Lake to destroy

the Batoes of Sir John Johnson, and were taken prisoner On his way at Conosarago on the Twenty-third Day of October 1780, and was carried from thence to Oswego & from thence to Montreal where he arrived on or about the seventh of November last, and Sometime after he arrived at Montreal found some of his neighbors in Close Confinement Viz: Capt. Jeremiah Snyder, Elias Snyder, Peter Short, Peter Miller; and some time during the winter the prisoners received Good Usage in provisions, and the Deponant farther Saith that sometime in May David Abell and his son, Anthony Abell, was brought in as prisoner and also being Close Confined, and then the Allowance for the prisoners Chiefly being horse meat, being Condem'd as the Deponant was Informed and the allowance for the prisoners being one pound of beef and about one pound of bread pr. Day each, and the Deponant farther Saith that he Brooke Goal at Montreal, and Made his escape on the Twenty Third day of June last, and left the prisoners in the Condition as above Mentioned, and further Saith not.

Cornelius Poust.

At Kingston Sworn before me)

this Sixteenth Day of August 1781.) Johs. Snyder, Justice.

[No. 3912.]

*Levies in Swartwout's Brigade.*

Return of Levies Received at Fishkill, from Different Regts.  
In General Swartout's Brigade Augt. 18th, 1781.

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|                              |                     |                      |                         |                       |                            |                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Colo.<br>Brickerhoff's<br>33 | Do.<br>Frears<br>31 | Do.<br>Fellids<br>33 | Do.<br>Ludinton's<br>31 | Do.<br>Graham's<br>34 | Do.<br>V. D. Burgh's<br>18 | Do.<br>Hopkin's<br>33 |
| Total 225                    |                     |                      |                         |                       |                            |                       |

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Christopher Codwise, Capt. & M. Mastr.

[No. 3913.]

*Major Delivan Appeals to Governor Clinton in Behalf of William  
Lucas, a Victim of the Sugar House and the Old Provost.*

Fishkill, August 18th, 1781.

Dear Governor: Inclosed I send you a letter from poor unhappy Lucas, you will please to see the Contents. Could wish if your Excellency see proper to Exchange Mr. Lucas. Should have waited on you on the subject had I not have heard your Excellency was from home, as I think I cannot do to much for one in his situation as knowing him to be a good & Vigilent Soldier when under Command & faithful. Lucas Deserted the British about twenty years Since at Cannada, and was taken by Delancey's core at North Castle on Bedford N: purches some time in June Last, Lucas was their with proposals of Exchange from Mr. Doge, Commissary of Pr. for his Son who was made a prisoner by the same Core some time before. Lucas [has] a poor Distressed wife & a Number of small children in a pittiful situation. I have waited on Col. Thomas on the subject, not having the enclosed by me but told him the contents; the Col. Desired me to make mention his Desire that Lucas might be Extreacated from the Hands of our cruel Enemy. I have also waited on a number of Gentlemen of our County who unanimously are of opinion that if your Excellency [thinks] it proper to let the within Vermilla be proposed for W. Lucas, but I would leive the matter to your Excellency's Better Judgment Respecting the above mentioned affair. I am, Dr. Sir, Your Excalency's Hum. Servt.

Nath. Delivan.

## MR. LUCAS TO MAJOR DELAVAN.

Sir: I have lately been brought from the Sugar House to this place, and am held as a british subject, and threatened with immediate death, therefore, I do, in the most pressing and urging manner, request you to use your influence any every possible means. to extricate me from the hands of my Cruel and mortal Enemy, by obtaining John Vamilla who is under the sentence of Death at Poughkeepsie or some other person under the same predicament, that they will accept for me; if I have any friends in the country I Ardently desire there friendship, as I never can stand in grater need than at the present time; my fellow Countrymen, friends, and acquaintances do but seriously consider my wofull situation. I now stand on nothing but the brink of a frightful precipice, expecting dayly to be plunged headlong into the abyss of eternity. You are not insensible of my zeal and attachment to the Cause of America, therefore, I have no occasion to expatiate on that subject. God speed you; delays on this occasion are Dangerous.

I am Sir, Your most obedient and Humble servt.

Wm. Lucas.

Provost, Augt. 4th, 1781.  
Major Dellvan.

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[No. 3914.]

*General John Stark Requests the Intermediation of the Governor in  
Behalf of Captain Brunson—The Governor's Reply.*

Albany, 18th August 1781.

Dear Sir, An exchange is proposed from Canada of Capt. Brunson of Colonel Warner's Regiment now a Prisoner there, for one Smith a Son of Dr. Smith, a State Prisoner now in this City Hall. I cannot but think that the exchange will be very beneficial to the Community, as Brunson is a man who has given undeniable proofs of his soldiership and firm attachment to the cause of his country—as a specimen, he has been in its service ever since the commencement of the War, and discharged his duty with universal approbation; such men are an ornament to the Country, and from such we may hope to have it one day extricated from its cruel Enemies—while on the other hand, Smith is but a youth who cannot have it in his power to do any essential Service to the King, and the injury he can do the Country we may look upon with contempt. Therefore, if there is nothing in Smith's circumstances more than I have heard, I have no reason to doubt your Excellency's readiness to con-



sent to an exchange that has every appearance to be infinitely in our favour.

I have the Honor to be your Excellency's most obt. & Humble Servant.

His Excellency, Gov. Clinton.

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DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO GENERAL STARK.

Pokeepsie, 23rd August 1781.

Dear Sir, I am not authorized to Exchange an Inhabitant of this State for any other than one of its subjects. If Capt. Brunson comes within that description I shall cheerfully consent to give young Smith for him, provided he is not Committed by the Civil Authority for an offense which would render his release & exchange improper. Whether this is the case the Commissioners of Conspiracies will be able to inform you. Doctor Smith, the Father, at the Time of his Elopement was under Bonds to effect his own Exchange for Capt. Wood of this State, now a Prisoner with the Enemy in Canada, which he has not yet done & perhaps he may falsely imagine that his Sureties are released from their Obligations by his having been in Confinement subsequent to the Execution of them, tho for a crime that had no relation to him as a Prisoner & for which he was amenable as a Subject. It would be proper—therefore, to have this matter settled before young Smith's Exchange is consented to, as by his detention we have additional Security for the Doctor's Compliance with the Conditions of his Bonds. Great care ought to be taken in conducting this business not to establish the principle of exchanging Citizens for persons taken in Arms, as from our situation the Enemy would derive obvious advantages by the

Measure, in acquiring a soldier for every Inhabitant they have taken from our Frontiers.

I shall always be happy to hear from you & beg you to be assured it will afford me Pleasure to facilitate your Commands & render it effectual by every Means in my Power.

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[No. 3915.]

*Colonel Willett Reports to the Governor the Presence of a Party of the Enemy Whom He Vainly Pursued.*

Fort Renselaer, 19th Augt. 1781.

Sir, Your Excellencies letter of the 14th Instant was handed to me yesterday evening at the German Flats, where I have been upon the business of removing part of the ordnance and stores from that place agreeable to Instructions for that purpose from General Clinton. I feel for the Inhabitants of Wawarsink who have lost their houses and Cattle. We will endeavor to be in a situation to meet those fellows should they bend their course this way.

Every day since I left Albany I have been upon the move—The morning after my arrival here from that place a party of one hundred and fifty Indians &c made their appearance six miles above this place on the North side of the river. They burnt two empty houses and barns and three or four stacks of wheat, and made an attack upon the house of Mathew Timmerman, but were forced to quit it, without affecting anything. Upon the appearance of a small Detachment of levies and the assembling of the neighboring Inhabitants they fled shooting a few horses and cattle as they went off. I was two nights and part of three days in pursuit of them. But their flight was too brisk for me, and I lost considerable ground on taking a rout by the advise of

my Guides to endeavour to gain their front. So that I was obliged to quit the pursuit, having no prospect of overtaking them. The men worn down with fatigue and quit out of provisions. By a fellow who through lameness had delivered himself a prisoner to one of the Inhabitants, I learnt the strength of the party, and that they came from Buck Island, which place they left the first of this month.

I should be glad to be informed by your Excellency who is to Muster the levies, and be directed into the particular modes necessary to be taken in order to receive their pay.

The returns called for in your letter of the 7th Instant shall be prepared and forwarded as soon as possible. I find much attention and labour necessary in order to procure a supply of provisions.

I have the honor to be your Excellencies most obedient and very humble serv't

Marinus Willett.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

P. S. I have just learnt that a sergeant belonging to the levies who had been two weeks in Albany, and was ordered to march this way, was stopped by the sheriff just as he was coming out of town and confined in gaol for Debt. Such Villanous practices as these ought to be stopped if possible. Tiner and such rascals will delight in intriguing in this way.

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[No. 3916.]

*James Duane Furnishes the Governor with News of Hyder Ali's Operations Against the English in India.*

Philadelphia, 20th Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have been punctual in corresponding with your Excellency since I resumed my seat in Congress, but have not

learned whether one of my letters has been received. The Vermont business goes on briskly: If their agents had been authorized to renounce their late Encroachments everything was prepared for establishing their independent state within the Limits of their first claim. But those people have connected themselves so closely with the settlers of the grants on the East side of Connecticut River that they find it difficult to shake them off. Under these circumstances we shall endeavor to get everything effected for the future security of our State against encroachments, which shall be in our power. I am, however, perfectly satisfied that much will depend on a liberal system for appropriating and settling our western country. Happy would I have been had my former plan which met with your Excellency's approbation, been adopted. I trust the wisdom of it will be more and more conspicuous. Some of its advantages are already lost, forever.

We have private letters giving accounts of the rapid progress of the Arms of Heyder Ali Kan [Hyder Ali Khan] against the British in the East Indies. He has, it is affirmed, taken by storm after three unsuccessful attempts a garrisoned place called *Arati* in the vicinity of Pondicherry and put every man to the sword amounting to 1500 Europeans, 50 of them officers and between 3 & 4000 Moors. Polliloor & Porto Novo & Pondicherry have also been taken, and it is added that 60000 Moors were marching to attack Bengal, which had thrown the English there into the greatest confusion & Consternation. It is further added that Heyder Ali Kan was besieging *Velour* the strongest settlement of the British in the interior parts of Indostan. We have this intelligence by the way of Martineque where it had arrived from Marseilles, but last from Malega. This being the

that these Commissions were originally granted with Intentions to promote the Common Cause; but from the great and numberless abuses committed under them, I conceived they would produce greater Evils than they were intended to prevent, and that, therefore, they ought to be revoked on the score of inexpediency. From the Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly which accompanied my Letter, your Excellency will discover that the Legislature have reasoned on the Legality of the Commissions, and supposed that if they were not warranted by Instructions from Congress they were void, and that Congress would direct Restorations to be made to the sufferers. The Resolutions are perhaps not sufficiently pointed and explicit and I shall, therefore, take the Liberty of Communicating more fully what appeared to me to be the Sentiments of both Houses on the subject.

By the Confederation, no State shall grant a commission except only under such regulations as *Congress* shall establish, so that a previous Regulation *by Congress* is essential to a commission; and the States *separately* have only a Power to determine the Persons to whom they will grant Commissions: but a Commission granted before any Regulations established or contrary to Regulations if established, is void. This reasoning the Legislature conceived to be conclusive, and I believe it was their wish it should be applied to the Case of the Commissions granted by your Excellency; and altho in suits against persons acting under them, their validity might judicially come in Question, and should they be adjudged void as not warranted by an Instruction from Congress, the Party acting under them would be liable to make reparation, and be subject to a farther Prosecution in behalf of the Public; yet we flattered ourselves that if

the principles above advanced are true, and if on the application of them to the present case, these Commissions should be deemed void. Your Excellency in order to prevent the numberless suits and controversies to which the Commissions in their Present Form would give birth, would have recalled them. And from a most earnest desire to preserve that good understanding and Harmony which hitherto has subsisted between your State and us, I must intreat your Excellency and the Honourable Council to reconsider this matter and take it up on what we conceive to be its true Ground. What adds to my solicitude on this Occasion is Accounts I have lately received and which merits the fullest Credit, that Enormities still continue to be practised by Persons acting under those Commissions and Particularly that two Persons of the Name of Miller at Millers Place on Long Island, were lately robbed and plundered by a Boat's Crew and a son of one of them most cruely murdered.

I have the honor to be with the highest Respect & Esteem,  
Your Excellency's most Obedt. Servt.

His Excellency Govr. Trumbull.

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[No. 3919.]

*Captain John Grinell to the Governor in Regard to the Plundering of  
Long Island Inhabitants.*

Danbury, 20th Aug. 1781.

Sir, Inclosed is a letter recd. from Mr. Benson for you which expected to have had the pleasure of delivering to your Excellency at Camp, but was two hours too late, being detained on the road by rain; the inclosed accounts of sundry persons I had from Col. Wadsworth for you; which suppose he has explained, as I am informed that you saw him at Head Quarters. Am

waiting at this place for Governor Trumbull & Council to determine whether the Permits your Excellency granted to sundry persons to remove from Long Island, shall be usefull to them; was in hopes a road would have been opened shortly, whereby the necessity of asking a passport through this State would be avoided, but the situation of those men on the Island demand their speedy removal. From them is to be expected a large addition to the Cloathing already lodged at Poughkeepsie.

Col. Floyd has advised to Changing the place of landing the goods and fixed on Fairfield, as we have met with some difficulty at Middletown, and threats of seizure the next time. Major Davis desired me to ask your Excellency if there was any prospects of obtaining the men he Mentioned. They have become more necessary than heretofore as the plunderers now practice laying in wait in the middle of the Island for the Waggon, and we apprehend the loosing a Quantity of Goods, by that means; a large contract is made and a third part of the amount is to be ready the last of this month, if your Excellency cannot prevail to have the Continental troops requested; a Subaltern's Command of the New levies would answer in their stead; and beg leave to intimate (if your Excellency grants us those troops) that Capt. Codwise may command them, being not only acquainted with us but with many Characters on the Island. As soon as I have Governor Trumbull's answer, shall proceed to Fairfield and endeavor to get Lieut. Brewster of the train (stationed at that place) to convey us across the Sound; from whom Capt. Codwise or any other officer your Excellency shall order, may hear of us. I wish to provide against every mischief that likely may happen, as the Concern on the State Account, independent of the goods, from the persons moving by your permission, will

be worth near four thousand Pounds first cost. I am with respect, Your Excellencys Most Obed. Humbl. Servt.

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[No. 3920.]

*Congress Vetoes the Attempt of Vermont to Seize a Slice of New York Territory.*

By the United States in Congress Assembled, Augt. 21st, 1781.

On a reconsideration of the Resolution respecting the New Hampshire Grants it was altered & agreed to as follows:

It being the fixed purpose of Congress to adhere to the Guarantee to the States of New Hampshire and New York contained in the Resolution of the seventh instant.

Resolved, that it be an indispensable Preliminary to the Recognition of the Independence of the People inhabiting the Territory called Vermont, and their admission into the Federal Union, that they explicitly relinquish all Demand of Lands or Jurisdiction on the East side of the west banks of Connecticut River, and on the west side of a Line beginning at the Northwest Corner of the State of Massachusetts, thence running Twenty Miles East of Hudsons River, & so far as said River runs North Easterly in its General course. Thence by the west Bounds of the Townships granted by the late Government of New Hampshire to the River running from South Bay to Lake Champlain, thence along the said River to Lake Champlain, thence along the Waters of Lake Champlain to the Latitude 45 Degrees north excepting a Neck of Land between Missiskay Bay and the Waters of Lake Champlain.

Extract from the minutes.

Geo. Bond, Depy. Sec.

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[No. 3921.]

*Colonel Udny Hay to Governor Clinton, Requesting Specie to Pay for Flour Casks.*

(Answered in Person.)

Poughkeepsie 21 August 1781.

Sir, Having assured the Financier General there was a great probability of my furnishing from this State three thousand barrells of flour by the middle of next month, provided I could be furnished with Casks or a sufficient sum of money to purchase them, He desired the Commissary General to furnish me with all the empty casks he could, which I find will not exceed two hundred. My sole dependance, therefore, must be upon your Excellencys supplying me with a sufficient sum of hard money for the purpose of buying the necessary number of casks, as in case of failure in the Commissary General, I am referred by Mr. Morris, to your Excellency for such a supply. Let me



request you will favour me with an immediate answer as the time in which the business is to be done elapses very fast.

I have the honour to be your Excellency's most Obed. & very humble servt.

Governor Clinton.

[No. 3922.]

*Governor Clinton Requests General McDougall at West Point to Hold Jacob Storm, a Prisoner, for Robbery.*

Augt. 21st, 1781.

Sir, Among the Prisoners in custody of the Provost lately sent from Camp to West Point, I am informed there is one Jacob Storm, who last spring was concerned in the Commission of several atrocious Robberies in this County, Particularly those of Comfort Sands & Zachaus Newcombe, Esquires. Least this fellow may be returned as a Prisoner of War & by being exchanged as such escape the punishment due to his crimes, I have sent the bearer, Capt. Dodge, to your Post, & if upon inquiry, the above Information should prove true, I have to request that you will be pleased to give him such assistance as shall be necessary to have Storm conveyed safely to this Place.

To Genl. McDougall.

[No. 3923.]

*Colonel Fred. Weissenfels Commends His Levies to Governor Clinton and Suggests Several Young Men for Commissions—The Governor's Reply.*

Fishkill, August 21st, 1781.

Sir, Mr. Welch is returned from his route and waits upon your Excellency with his report. Mr. Loudon did not print last week but I have taken care that the several Colonels of militia have sufficient Notice to Govern themselves.

The best Levies, with respect to the Exterior appearance, I believe, that have been raised in this State, I have the honor to Command, and hope the most of them serve from Principle, which will Promiss success; the arms are in good order and all Bayonetted, and the officers I flatter myself will do honor to their respective commands.

I have examined the affair of Mr. Welch and believe his Crime Comitted in the regular service, does not amount, to a disgrace, but he may fill his post as an adjutant, if your Excellency would Please to appoint him. I judge him capable. A quartermaster will soon be very necessary, and I beg leave to recommend Lt. Mott for that Post, if we are regulated by the Regular Troops, the adjutant and quartermaster are officers Exclusive of the Company officers.

If your Excellency has no particular Gentlemen in View, to fill the post of a Surgeon, I have presumed, to recommend Henry Buck.

If I had a list of the several Militia regiments, and the Quotas they were to furnish the several Countys, I schould in my last return made the deficiencies known to your Excellency.

I expect this day an order from the General of the Department, Amunition and other necessarys, but am at a loss, when ordered to march, how to transport the baggage, which hoever small will want some carriage.

Winslow is well secured; and I have discovered him to belong formerly to Colo. Courtland's Regiment; whether he is deserter, or a three year's man I am not able to say, I have secured the villain well.

I waite your Excellencys order and am with sincerest Respect  
Your Excellency's most obiedient Humble servant

## DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Sir, I am favored with your letter by Mr. Welsh. As I am not able at present to convene a Council of Appointment, I must leave it to you to nominate such of the Officers as you shall judge best qualified to act as Adjt. & Qu. Master. I doubt not they will be approved in form on the Meeting of the Council. With Respect to a surgeon I have no other objection agt. Doctor Buck than that I have been informed he engaged in the former levies and received a Bounty. If this is so, it would be improper to give him the Appointment you recommend him for in your Regiment. I have not rec'd of the Commanding Officers of the Militia Regt. returns of the Quotas of Men they are respectively to furnish. I presume Genl. Swarthoudt will be able to furnish you with those of this County. I am &c.

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[No. 3924.]

*General Scott and Mr. Ward to the Governor Relative to Colonel Hay and the Forage Question.*

Fish Kill, 22d Augt. 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to the Notice which you have seen in Loudou's paper, we have had a meeting of the Refugees, at which Col. Hay attended. A Copy of the Acts of this meeting will be transmitted to you without Delay. We have many reasons to wish that Colonel Hay should wait on Congress,—which he will explain to you. We therefore, request, if you should not see it improper, that you will give him a line to Justify him in his Absence from duty on the spot, & in the Expences which will necessary attend his Journey.

We are with the greatest Respect Your Excellency's most obedt servants.

Stephen Ward.

Jno. Morin Scott.

His Excellency, The Gov.

[No. 3925.]

*Governor Clinton Grants Colonel Vandenburg's Request for the Capture of a "Noted Robber."*

Beekman's Prect., 22d Aug. 1781.

Sir, The Bearers Mr. Jessup and Clark I am acquainted with and Recommend them to be Gentlemen of Character. Am sir your most obedient Humble Servt. James Vandenburg.

To His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

N. B. If your Excellency will permit me to take a guard of five men out of Levies sutch as I shall chuse, think it in my power to apprehend the noted Rober Jenkins and sum others who are gone toward the Stat of Vermont. Am as above James Vandenburg.

Sir, I have no objection to your having a guard of four or five of the levies to assist in apprehending the robbers you mention & on application to Colo. Wessenfels, they will be ordered provided the business can soon be effected. I am &c.

G. C.

[No. 3926.]

*Governor Clinton Writes to the New York Delegates in Behalf of Dr. Young and His Application for Relief.*

Po. Augt. 22, 1781.

Gentlemen, The Bearer, Dr. Young, with whose character I presume you are not altogether unacquainted, influenced as I have reason to believe, by Zeal for the service of his Country, at the Commencement of the War, quite a decent Private Practice in the City of Albany & entered into our Hospital as a Surgeon, giving at the same time to the public his Shop of drugs

and medicine at a very moderate price in paper Money. He continued in the service and discharged his duty of surgeon with Reputation, until the late rearrangement of the Medical Department took place in which he was omitted & Juniors who had entered at a late Day [were] continued & promoted.

Doctor Young is encouraged by the present Director, Dr. Cochran, who has taken some measures in his Favour to hope for redress & with this view now attends upon Congress. The peculiar hardship of his Case, and the pleasure it will afford you to promote Justice, will I am persuaded, sufficiently apologize for this Liberty I take of requesting for him your Countenance & Assistance. I have the Honor &c,  
Delegates.

[3927]

*Return of Colonel Weissenfels' Levies.*

A Return of the Reg't of New York Levies under the Command of Lient Col Com'd't Weissenfels. Fiskill Aug't 24th 1781

| COMPANIES                              | OFFICERS PRESENT FIT FOR DUTY |       |              |         |       | RANK & FILE      |         |         |             |                | WANTING TO COMPLETE | ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST RETURN |        |             |                  |              |             |            |              |       |        |             |                                    |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|------------------|---------|---------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------------|------------------------------------|------|------------|----------|-------|-------------|-------------|--|
|  | FIELD                         |       | COMMISS-ON'D |         | STAFF | FOR COMMISSION'D |         |         | SICK & FILE |                |                     | SICK & FILE                   |        | DEPARTED    |                  | JOINED       |             |            |              |       |        |             |                                    |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
|  | Lient Col Commandant          | Major | Capt'n       | Sub't'n | Adpts | Quar Master      | Surgeon | S. Mate | Ser't Major | Quar. M. Ser't |                     | Drum & Major                  | Ser'ts | Drum & File | Present for Duty | Sick Present | Sick Absent | on Command | on Furlough  | Total | Ser'ts | Drum & File | Rank & File                        | Dead | Discharged | Deserted | Ser't | Drum & File | Rank & File |  |
| Capt Goodwin                           |                               |       |              | 2       |       |                  |         |         | 1           | 1              |                     |                               |        | 49          | 7                | 2            | 2           | 3          | 50           |       |        |             |                                    |      | 1          |          |       |             |             |  |
| Capt Sheppard                          |                               |       | 1            | 2       |       |                  |         |         | 4           |                |                     |                               |        | 54          | 3                |              |             |            | 57           |       |        |             |                                    |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
| Capt White                             |                               |       | 1            | 1       |       |                  |         |         | 4           |                |                     |                               |        | 53          | 2                | 2            |             |            | 55           |       |        |             |                                    |      |            | 4        |       |             |             |  |
| Capt Bruster                           |                               |       | 1            | 1       |       |                  |         |         | 3           |                |                     |                               |        | 53          | 2                |              |             |            | 55           |       |        |             |                                    |      |            | 1        |       |             |             |  |
| Capt Thompson                          |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         | 3           |                |                     |                               |        | 53          | 2                |              |             |            | 55           |       |        |             |                                    |      |            | 4        |       |             |             |  |
| Capt Hunt                              |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         | 2           |                |                     |                               |        | 52          | 2                |              |             |            | 54           |       |        |             |                                    |      |            | 1        |       |             |             |  |
| Total                                  | 1                             | 1     | 4            | 5       | 1     | 1                |         |         | 19          | 1              |                     |                               |        | 245         | 89               | 3            |             |            | 315          |       |        |             |                                    |      | 6          |          |       |             |             |  |
| Sick Present                           |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         |             |                |                     |                               |        |             |                  |              |             |            | At Hope-well |       | 7      |             | With Capt Dodge gone to West Point |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
| Sick Absent,                           |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         |             |                |                     |                               |        |             |                  |              |             |            | 1            |       | 2      |             | At New Fairfield after Deserters   |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
| Capt Dodge on Command at West Point    |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         |             |                |                     |                               |        |             |                  |              |             |            | 1            |       | 1      |             | At R. Beck.                        |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
| Lient Weeks on Furlough, Nine Partners |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         |             |                |                     |                               |        |             |                  |              |             |            | 1            |       | 1      |             | At Haverstraw Sent by the Com'd't  |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
| Lient Peter Welsh, Adj't               |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         |             |                |                     |                               |        |             |                  |              |             |            | 2            |       | 11     |             |                                    |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |
| Lient. Kott, Quarter Master            |                               |       |              |         |       |                  |         |         |             |                |                     |                               |        |             |                  |              |             |            | 1            |       |        |             |                                    |      |            |          |       |             |             |  |

PETER WELSH, Lient & Adj't

Fredr: Weissenfels, Lt Colo Comandant

[No. 3928.]

*Governor Clinton Furnishes Colonel Webb with a Letter for Governor Livingston of New Jersey in Behalf of Mrs. Bancker.*

Camp on the Heights of Peekskill, 24th Augt. 1781.

The Present situation of the Army has induced me to pay a visit to my friends in Jersey, for which I propose acting of in the course of two or three days, if your Excellency can favor me with a line to Governor Livingston requesting his permission for Mrs. Bancker to go into New York & return again, you will add greatly to the many favors already conferred.

I assure you upon the honor of a Gentleman, the reasons mentioned at our late interview are the only ones, which have induced me to ask this favor—and I have every reason to suppose she will accomplish her Business,—the present Opportunity will be a very favorable one—as its probable no operations will soon commence against that City.

In haste I am with real Esteem and Respect, Your Excellency's most Obedt. friend & Very Hum. Servt.

Saml. B. Webb.

P. S. The Bearer will wait your Excellency's pleasure for your letter.

Govr. Clinton.

Dear Sir, Inclosed you have the letter to Governor Livingston you request which I intended to have transmitted to you by Colo. Hay who is to set for Philadelphia Tomorrow & intends passing through Camp. I am with real regard & esteem, Yours, &c.

G. C.

Colo. Samuel B. Webb.

26th Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have been applied to by Mrs. Bancker formerly of this State, for Permission to go into the city of New York for a few days to settle some private business and Return. The Reasons she offers for asking this indulgence appears to me so particularly interesting that if I could consider my interference as proper, I should be induced to depart from [the] General Rule of Conduct I have established on these occasions & comply with her Request, but which I have refused to do and referred her to your Excellency as I consider her an Inhabitant of your State. At the same time I have presumed to encourage her to hope that she will be successful in her application if a compliance with her request would not be improper. I am,

G. C.

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 [No. 3929.]

*Colonel Hay Notifies Governor Clinton of the Reasons for Desiring to Go to Congress—The Governor's Reply.*

Poughkeepsie, 24th August, 1781.

Sir, In consequence of your Excellency's desire, I beg leave to mention the principal reasons which induce me to suppose my going to Philadelphia at this time might be of service to the State.

As I have such glaring falsehoods from under Colonel Pickering's own hand respecting the forage business in West Chester County, as the most expanded charity can scarce suppose to be the effect of a meer mistake, I am affraid he has misrepresented that matter to Congress in such a degree, as will either retard their disapprobation of his measures, or occasion some resolution that may produce a very disagreeable dispute between that



authority I do not give the informataion as certain tho it is highly probable.

I enclose your Excellency a handbill circulated about the town, on a subject very unfit for publication.

This will be handed to you by young Mr. Roosevelt. Tomorrow we shall have the honor of writing your Excellency an official Letter. This is a friendly scrawl and you will pardon its defects.

With most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Clinton, I am ever Dear Sir, Your Excellency's affectionate & most obedient servant

Jas. Duane.

P. S. The Financier returned from Camp this morning & I have by him the pleasure of hearing of your health.

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[No. 3917.]

*Lieutenant Caleb Brewster Calls Governor Clinton's Attention to Several Atrocities Committed on Long Island by Boat Parties.*

Fairfield, Augt. 20th, 1781.

Sir, I have taken the liberty to inform your Excellency of the Conduct of the plundering boats lately; two boates crossed on the fourteenth instant landed at Millers place, went up about twelve at night to the houses of Capt. Ebenezer Miller and Andrew Miller, demanded entrance which was granted, as soon as the door was opened they demanded his arms which he gave up; his son hearing a noise below stairs got up out of bed shoved up the chamber windo. One of the party without ever speaking to him, shot him dead in the windo; the other boate's crew at the same time went to Mr. Andrew Miller's demanded Entrance in the like manner; as soon as Mr. Miller got the door oppen, one of the party struck him with the breech of his gun,

broke the bone over his eye, tore his eye all to pices, broke his cheek bone and left him for dead, as they thought; these outrages was committed with out any opposition at Either house. They have been over at several other times at the Westward, at Oyster Bay. Went to the houses of Mr. Simon Flint's and Gilbert Flint's, plundered their houses of their furniture, hung Mr. Gilbert Flint till he was so near dead, that they had to apply the dockter to fetch him to and abused their families to a shameful rate. Another time they went to great Neck plundered Major Richard Thorn and hung him up to make him tell where his money was till they thought him dead, then cut him down and after awhile finding life yet in him, one of the party took his knife and cut him under his jaw from one ear to the other, as he ment to cut his throate, then went to Esqr. Coulne and hung him up in the same manner to get his hard cash and plundered his house. Theres not a night but they are over; if boates can cross people cant ride the roades but what they are robbed. It is impossible for me to numirate the instances the time and places in which they have robbed. I came of on the 16th instant from the Island.

Gov. Clinton.

[No. 3918.]

*Governor Clinton Suggests to Governor Trumbull the Necessity for the Revocation of Certain Commissions.*

Poukeepsie, 20th August 1781.

Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 20th July, in answer to mine on the subject of the Commissions granted by your Excellency for seizing British Goods &c on Long Island. As in my former, so in this, I must observe, that from the character of your Excellency I presumed

Body and this State, and I flatter myself, from my thorough knowledge of, and the very principal share I have had in the whole of this altercated business, I should be able to sett aside the force of these misinterpretations, if any such there are.

The Settlement of the public awards on which subject I had the honor to attend a Committee of Congress about three months ago, who made a report to Congress thereon, is another matter of no small importance to the State and of infinite Consequence to myself; and as a principal part of the papers on which said report was founded went through my hands, none of which, as our Delegates have lately wrote me, can now be found, or as I suspect even the report itself, I think my attendance on our Delegates a few days might be of considerable service in bringing about this settlement so much wished for by the Legislature.

Congress have not as yet passed any particular resolve for the settlement of the Quotas demanded of each State betwixt the Agent for each State and the public officers whose Certificates Congress will admit as a sufficient voucher against them, as I am convinced this State has furnished a larger part of its Quota than most others, it would be of considerable importance that a plan was immediately adopted by which each State would have it in their power to show the exertions they have made, and as many irregular vouchers will, agreeable to an Act of the Legislature last winter, be paid by me and my assistants, it might be very serviceable that I had an opportunity of personally conversing with our Delegates on that subject.

These are the three principal reasons, Sir, which induce me to wish I might go to Philadelphia at present, and to request your Excellency's advice on the subject. I Have the honor to

be with every sentiment of respect, Your Excellency's most obedient & very humble servt.

Udny Hay.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY TO COLONEL HAY.

Poughkeepsie Augt. 25th, 1781.

Sir, I have perused your letter of yesterday and I conceive the reasons suggested therein for your immediately attending Congress are weighty & if the business of your office as State Agent, upon the prompt & faithful execution of which so much depends, will not suffer by your absence, you would in my opinion, be justified in repairing thither. But as this is a matter which depends upon the train in which the Business of your Agency is in at present & of which you must have the most perfect knowledge, you will be best able to judge, of the propriety of your proceeding to Phila. I am &c

G. Clinton.

Udny Hay, Esq., State Agent.

[No. 3930.]

*Dominie de Ronde Fails to Secure Exemption for His Sons from Military Obligations.*

Saugerties, Aug. 24th, 1781.

May it please your Excellency, While my situation is not so favorable that I can get an opportunity of waiting on your Excellency, I find myself obliged to write to you about a matter in which I want your advice or rather assistance. I do not doubt but your Excellency is fully sensible of my sentiment concerning this our unnatural & unjust war with great Britain—nay rather than that I should have been forced to do anything that would be repugnant to my conscience, I left in the year

1776 New York with all my family. Since that time having been yearly deprived of £300 salary, nevertheless obliged on my own expense to maintain my Family, & after the loss of eight thousand pounds hard Money by the depreciation of the Congress bills & otherwise, not being able to hold it out any longer, I was under a necessity to look out for a place where I could be of service to the Congregation, which by God's Providence I got here at Saugerties receiving a salary of which I cannot subsist. This being so, instead then that Consideration should be used, compassion exercised, & regard shewn to a Minister & his Family, both my sons, (who being without any publick Employment function or business, or in a way of getting Money, but in every respect depending upon me,) are ordered and placed on the list to appear & contribute to the raising of men, which is just the same as if they ask it from me, for not my sons, but I must pay for them. Indeed an hard task for me as a Minister, a fugitive & a great sufferer. I wrote last May a friendly letter to Col. Snyder in Esopus about this matter, but it seems he could not condescend to answer me. For this, therefore—I presume to apply to your Excellency, Kindly requesting to take my circumstances in due Consideration & if there be any possibility of exempting my sons or rather my person from whom all expences must proceed, you would greatly oblige, Your most obedt. Humble Servant

Saml. DeRonde.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO DOMINIE DERONDE.

Rev. Sir, This acknowledges the Receipt of your letter of the 24th Ult. requesting me to exempt your sons from being classed in the Militia.

Altho' I sincerely lament the Situation to which you and many others of our distressed fellow Citizens are reduced by the Calamities of War and, therefore, would cheerfully do all in my Power to relieve them, yet you must be sensible that as an Executive Officer the Law must be my Rule of Conduct and in this Instance it prohibits me from complying with your request.

I have authority in certain cases to grant Exemption from Militia Duty but this Authority will not extend to the Case of your Family and I am wholly unauthorized to exempt persons from being classed; it is notwithstanding my sincere wish that if at any time your sons should be classed that in assessing them their Present Situation should be attended to and that the Burthen should be laid on them as light as possible and if you suppose my Sentiments would be of service to you, you are at liberty to communicate them to the Person who may make the assessment.

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[No. 3931.]

*Colonel Van Schaick En Route to Lay His Case Before Congress.*

Pompton, Augt. 25, '81.

Sir, I take the liberty to Inform your Excellency that I am thus far on my way to Congress in order to lay my Case before them.

Your Excellency will do me a particular Kindness to forward by the first Conveyance to the Delegates of our State at Congress the official Letter you was pleased to promise me when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Dobbs ferry.

Governor Clinton.

[No. 3932.]

*Thomas Barclay Appointed by Congress as Commercial Agent in France Offers to Act as Such for New York State and So Notifies Governor Clinton.*

Sir, Some time ago Congress did me the honor to appoint me to attend the Public Commercial business in France, for which place I intend to embarque in a few weeks. I take the liberty before my departure of making to your Excellency and to the State of New York an offer of every service in my power during my stay in Europe. The conducting the supplies from France for the United States generally, will fall under my care, but it is possible that your State may have commands exclusive of those given me by Congress, in which case I shall think myself honoured in receiving them. I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in assuring you that tho' I have not the happiness of being personally known to you, yet if I can render you any agreeable services in Europe it will be a particular pleasure to me, having the honour to be with great respect, Sir,  
Philadelphia, 25th Aug. 1781.

[No. 3933.]

*Governor Clinton to Thomas McKean on the Vermont Controversy—  
New York's Contribution in Aid of South Carolina Refugees Not  
Likely to Equal the State's Feelings and Wishes.*

Poukeepsie, 25th Augt. 1781.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 8th instant covering two Acts of Congress of the 7th, the one relative to the District distinguished by the name of the New Hampshire Grants and the other to the Commissions granted by the Governor of Connecti-

cut for seizing British goods &c, on Long Island. With respect to the former I have only to observe that this State would undoubtedly acquiesce in any Decision of Congress made agreeable to the Submission or the Articles of Confederation; but whether the present procedure is warranted by either is not within the line of my Duty to determine. With respect to the latter, I begg leave to inform your Excellency that previous to the Receipt of it, I received a letter from Governor Trumbull on the subject of these Commissions, a copy of which with my answer I now take the liberty of inclosing as I am apprehensive there will be a necessity of a farther Interference by Congress and a Decision of the Question concerning these Commissions on what we conceive to be its true Merits.

On this Occasion I also do myself the honor of acknowledging the Receipt of the Act of Congress recommending the opening of Subscriptions for the Benefit of the distressed Refugees from South Carolina. Congress may be assured of every aid and support from me to their Benevolent Intentions; but from the peculiarly distressed situation of this State I am fearful our Contributions cannot equal our Feelings & Wishes. I am Sir, with the highest Respect & Esteem,

His Excellency Thomas McKean, Esqr. Presdt. of Congress.

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[No. 3934.]

*Colonel Willett Mildly Criticises Governor Clinton, who Promptly Vindicates Himself.*

Fort Rensselaer 25th Augt. '81.

Sir, I am informed by General Stark that one hundred of the troops designed for this river is [are] detained at Schohary by your Excellency's orders. As their are two Companies of Levies



stationed at that place, which is its full proportion, and I am put to the greatest difficulties for want of men in this Quarter having at present only fifty one men Including ten sick at this place, and most of the Forts above and below me without a single soldier, many of the best inhabitants dayly applying to me for Guards, to enable them to save their grains, which I am totally unable to afford them and the country constantly Infested with parties of the enemy, more I am well assured than any other frontier we have, I must earnestly request your Excellency, that the disposition I had made with the Concurrence of Genl. Clinton may not be altered, and that those troops may be ordered this way without loss of time. The people of Schohary & many other people upon the frontier may depend upon it, that should any enemy appear near them and it is in my power to give them succor, they shall not want it, for to Chastize the Wretches who trouble our frontier, for this campaign, I am determined to make my meat and my Drink. But this mode of deranging our dispositions put me not a little out of my guesses. I am your Excellencies most obedient and very humble serv't.

His Excellency Gov'r. Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO COL. WILLETT.

Pokeepsie 29th Augt. 1781.

Sir, I am this Moment favoured with your letter of the 25th Instant. On the late Incursion of the Enemy into Ulster County, I informed B. Gen'l. Gaansevoort of that event by letter which is nearly similar to that addressed to you on the same occasion, & advised the marching Part of his Brigade to Schohary to remain there until we should obtain certain Intelligence that the Enemy had left the Country; but I never gave orders for any

part of the Levies to march to that or any other station, nor indeed would I have conceived my Interference with respect to them either necessary or proper as I placed the most perfect confidence in those under whose more immediate command they are, who being on the spot were better able to determine.

I wish you to continue to make such Arrangements & disposition of the Force under your immediate command as shall appear best calculated for the general protection of the Frontier. You will, therefore, please to give such orders to the Levies at Schohary as you shall judge conducive thereto. As soon as I can possibly get a sight of the Levies which are in the hands of General Scott I will answer your letter which did not reach [me] till very lately.

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[No. 3935.]

*Colonel Weissenfels Ready to March and Awaits the Governor's Orders—The Governor Corrects a Misapprehension.*

FishKill, August 25th, 1781.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency the weekly Return, of the troops here assembled, by which will appear a disproportion of officers, which is submitted to your Excellency's notice.

I have drawn amunition, Flints, Canteens, Camp Kettels, axes, for the men, and spontoons for the officers, and are so far, in perfect readiness to march, whenever your Excellency is pleased to order a movement.

I have sent to Examine in the affair of Doctor Buck, and if the matter is not so as represented, would judge it necessary to send for him or have by your leave any other nominated, to be present

to judge, of the repeated complaints made by the men. I am with perfect Respect, Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant.

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*Return of Levies.*

Return of Levies Received at Fishkill from ye Different Regts. in General Swartouts Brigade.

Fishkill Augt. the 25th, 1781.

|                     |                     |                |                  |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Colo. Brinckeroff's | Colo. Frear's,      | Colo. Fald's,  | Colo. Ludinton's |
| 35                  | 35                  | 37             | 35               |
| Colo. Graham's,     | Colo. V DerBurgh's, | Colo. Hopkin's | Total.           |
| 41                  | 35                  | 54             | 261              |

Christopher Codwise, Capt. & M. Mastr.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO COLONEL WEISSENFELS.

Sir, I am favoured with your letter of equal date. Your orders for moving must come from the Commanding Officer of the Department to whom you will please to make a return of your Regt. and report your situation. The two Companys raised from West Chester & the lower end of Orange, ought not to be taken from those Parts of the Country unless they are well covered with other Troops and none are better adapted to that service. I inclose you a return of the Officers appointed. If any decline serving, others will be appointed.

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[No. 3936.]

*Colonel Pickering to Governor Clinton—Openly Charges Colonel Hay with Trying to Supplant Him as Quartermaster General.*

Kings ferry, August 26th, 1781.

Sir, I fear your Excellency has already heard too much on the subject of the forage taken by the army in the county of West Chester: yet as my character has been unjustly aspersed by

some men who have other views than to promote the public good, I think it my duty, holding an office of so much importance as that of quarter master general, to request your Excellency's attention to the inclosed papers, which contain a state of facts, which I also wish to have communicated as you shall think proper.

Altho' many observations occur which would farther tend to justify my conduct in this business, yet I will waive them, & rely on what is contained in the papers above mentioned; only begging leave to refer your Excellency to John Lawrance, Esqr. Judge Advocate General, for information of what passed at the meeting of the Refugees on the 9th inst. He will, I doubt not, satisfy you that so far from aiming at an amicable settlement, as Colonel Hay had ever pretended, he was the sole cause of preventing it. The Refugees have now no means left of ascertaining their respective dues—for which perhaps they may blame me: but your Excellency will judge whether it is not rather due to their violent advocate. For from the beginning of my conversations with Colonel Hay on the subject, I offered to give any certificate of facts; which would have answered every purpose the refugees could reasonably wish for. However, as resentment for the ill treatment I have received will have no influence on my conduct towards the proprietors of the lands in West Chester County, so I shall not decline communicating to them any information in my power respecting the quantity of forage taken by the American Army from those islands. The entire quantity may be ascertained with some degree of accuracy by the returns of the numbers of horses & working oxen employed with the army while in that county, which I will transmit to Col. Hughes, & by the returns of fat cattle, which can doubtless be

furnished by the Superintendant of live stock. I have taken the liberty of referring your Excellency to Judge Lawrance for information in the case before mentioned, because Colonel Hay will probably produce certificates of propriety, firmness, & even decency of his behaviour at that meeting. It may seem strange that a man whose conduct had been evidently governed by those principles should think of getting certificates to prove it. Colo. Hay, however, asked for & obtained them, as I was informed. One gentleman, indeed, who had understanding, candour & fortitude, to think & determine for himself, did not sign it. This was Mr. E. S. Burling, clerk of the meeting. He offered to sign the certificate if the word *decency* were struck out. Your Excellency will judge from this circumstance what kind of *firmness* Colo. Hay exhibited, and whether another word would not more properly characterize his conduct at the meeting.

Colonel Hay may attempt to palliate all his virulence toward me by haranguing on the sufferings of the refugees,—the *injustice* of depriving them of their property, but I will venture to say that all his bustle and clamor on the occasion, spring from another Source than a tender concern for the Interests of the State or the sufferings of the refugees; and that the affair of the forage was only used as a handle to promote his private designs. But he has overshot his mark; and convicted himself of having used too much violence; by adopting at last the proposition which I substantially made near a month before.

Colo. Hay had ever professed a respect for me & repeatedly expressed his desire to render every assistance in his power to my department. These professions were continued untill his receipt of my letter of the 26th of July; and even longer; for he had the art to make the refugees, met at White Plains July 31st,

believe that he still wished not to embarrass me, by desiring that their suits might be postponed: & yet he himself wrote the infamous letter signed by Judge Graham in behalf of that meeting: and this letter he doubtless prepared before the refugees assembled: I observe it is dated July 30th—& the proceedings of the meeting bear date the 31st. This irritating transaction, too, your Excellency will observe was but three or four days after the matter, on his own motion, had been referred to the decision of Congress, for the purpose of effecting an *amicable* settlement! All these proceedings were likewise subsequent to the writing of a piece of scurrility published in Loudon's paper of the 9th of August, which was designed by the writer to represent me in a ridiculous point of light. I do not hesitate to pronounce Colo. Hay the author of it. The stile corresponds exactly with that which he exhibited at the meeting of the refugees on that same day; there are divers references in it to some letters which I wrote to Congress last March on the subject of retrenchments (some of which they were pleased to adopt) & which Colo. Hay unluckily told me he had read when in Philadelphia;— & the original appeared in the handwriting of one of his people or dependents. It was left at the printers some weeks before it was published; Loudon having refused to print it; but the person who brought it at last insisted on its being printed. The true history of the affair to which this piece alludes, is contained in the enclosed extracts of the letters of May 10th to Genl. Washington & from & to Mr. Tilghman, his aid de camp. The plan however was not pursued, & I had no other concern in the affair. I do not even recollect to have heard one word on the subject after that day, untill I was told the fish were spoiled & thrown into the river. I will only observe here, that one Monell

& another assistant of Colo. Hay were (as I have been informed) the undertakers to catch and cure the shad for the army.

As I had never injured Colo. Hay, but on the contrary, from the character given of him, had thought and spoken of him with respect, I can account for his unprovoked abuse but on one principle: *His wish to oust me of my office.* Early in the dispute I suspected, from his management, that this was his design, that he might come in as deputy for the State of New York, under some principal who with him was plotting to destroy my reputation, as the sure means of getting me displaced: some circumstances since made known to me, put this almost beyond a doubt. But I cannot avoid despising attempts so basely conducted, because I am sure they will be ineffectual; and because a removal from my office (so it were not with disgrace) far from distressing would rather relieve me of a very heavy and painful burthen.

I beg your Excellency's pardon for these observations, but while I continue in my present office, it is of public importance that I support my reputation; & it is on this ground alone that I trouble your Excellency with this letter & its inclosures.

I am, Sir, with the highest respect Your Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

Tim. Pickering, Q. M. G.

His Excellency Governour Clinton.

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[No. 3937.]

*Letter from Governor Clinton to Delegates in Congress in Favor of Dr. McCrea.*

Poughkeepsie, 26th Augt. 1781.

Gentlemen, The Bearer Dr. McCrea an Inhabitant of this State at the Commencement of the Controversy with Great

Britain, took an active & decided Part in Favour of this Country & at a very early Period entered our Service in the Line of his Profession & served with Fidelity & Reputation first Surgeon to one of our Regiments, & since as a senior Surgeon in the Hospital until the late Arrangement of the Medical Department, when he as well as many other Worthy Characters who had relinquished their private Practice & subjected themselves to the Dangers & Fatigues attending on a Military Life, were deranged and in some instances Juniors appointed in their stead. In this disagreeable situation & despairing of redress, the Doctor is induced to seek his Fortune at Sea & wishes an Appointment to a Surgeoncy on board of one of our Ships of War. From a regard to his Merits, I have taken the Liberty of recommending him to your Attention with my fullest Persuasion that you will render him any Service in promoting his Intention which may lie in your Power consistent with the Duty of your Station. I am with the highest Respect & Esteem,

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[No. 3938.]

*Letter from the Governor to Delegates to Rectify an Injustice to Colonel Van Schaick.*

Poughkeepsie, 27th August, 1781.

Gentlemen, In the Course of a few days past I have taken the liberty of addressing two Letters to you in Favour of Doctors McCrea & Young who conceive themselves much injured by the late Arrangement of the Medical Department, and it is with much regret that I now find myself under the necessity of troubling you on a similar subject. Colo. Van Schaick of this State, who as eldest Colonel in the Line of the Army, was entitled to & had every Reason to expect Promotion on the first



New Appointment of a Brigadier, has the mortification to find himself superceded by a late Promotion of a Junior Officer in the same Division, contrary to a previous Resolution of Congress on that Subject. You will be better able to judge of the feelings of a good Officer in this Situation than I am able to describe them. He cannot submit to this degradation & continue in the Army & to retire from the service at this late Hour without any compensation would be peculiarly injurious & distressing. He is now on his Way to Congress to appeal to their Justice & Redress & has requested of me to ask what I am persuaded he would receive without any interposition of mine, your Countenance & Assistance.

To the Delegates.

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[No. 3939.]

*Dr. Samuel Stringer, of Albany, Informs the Governor that a Packet of Letters was in Transit to New York from Canada.*

Albany, Monday 27th Aug. 1781.

Sir, It is proper I should inform your Excellency that I have certain Inteligence that a large Packet from Canada was brought to this place yesterday, to be forwarded to New York. If you should be acquainted with the channel the Enemies Expresses generally take, 'tis possible you may make such a Disposition as to possess yourself of those Dispatches. They have had one narrow escape. As it rained hard last night from Evening, I doubt whether they are yet out of town. I am extremely sorry that I missed an opportunity of sending you this notice by an Express, the Quartermaster (upon enquiring of him for a Conveyance) told me he had just sent off to your Excellency this morning.

I am, Sir, Yr. Excellency's most obedt. & Humble Servt.

[No. 3940.]

*General Heath Forwards Several Prisoners—Notifies Governor Clinton the French Army has Crossed to the West Bank of the Hudson.*

Headquarters, Peekskill, August 27, 1781.

Sir, I send to be disposed of as your Excellency may deem proper, Robert Seaman, sometime since of Delancy's corps. He was sent me yesterday under guard, with the inclosed from General Parsons.\* In a letter I received last evening from Justice Honeywell, he observes as follows: "I am informed that Robert Simmon is now on his way to you a prisoner. The Commissioners of conspiracy ordered him forty miles back from the lines, but he went off into the State of Connecticut, and has continued there—"

The last evening Colonel Putnam sent up three prisoners belonging to Colonel Delancy's corps. Their names are John McFadin, James Miller & Joseph Purdy. They were taken in arms driving down about thirty sheep. They are sent to the provost at Fishkill. As they had their arms and regimentals, and were under the command of a sergeant, they consider themselves prisoners of war. If you view them in a different light, they shall be given up to your requisition.

I had yesterday six deserters from the enemy. Wormb's and Delancy's corps begin to venture out. Colonel Putnam with a strong detachment is below. A more vigilant officer cannot be placed there. We have no news at present. The French army finished crossing at Kings ferry yesterday morning. I have a letter from his Excellency General Washington this morning, dated the 26th at Ramapough.

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\*Not found.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3941.]

*Lieutenant Colonel Cornelius Van Veghten Lays His Troubles Bare to Governor Clinton—The Governor Replies.*

Saratoga, 27th Augt. 1781.

Sir, I Received the orders for raising the fore months men on the 20 August instant. I immediately Convened the officers of my Regemt. with a return of their Companies in their beits. In order to prosied upon the businiss, the Capts. Broght in so minne Complain that the was allmoost consand upon gard & patrolling & that For the fence of the State & neglectin their one Besnis and that the was not able to heire inne more.

I must confess that the behaved in rising the Countynantle & nine monts men in full which I can prodius Recpt for the hool but with a Great Deal of truble in the Claim of Vermont which we had at all most to recover By the Corse of the law.

Which I find as I do prosied according to law That a Great Part of the inhabitants will Breack up even as it Stands now I belief Nombres will lave them. Phaps by what Infermation we receive from the Enemy We will have them among us.

I should been happy to comply with The Generals order but at present as things are, I cannot concive how to prosied in at present. I hope his Excellency will take at in consideration the Diffcloats I laber under at present.

At the time I had the officers to Gether and hear their com-  
plence of there men and alarming tims Which I am Convinced of,

I took at in consideration till such time as I cold have an answer from his Excellency. At the same time I gave orders to keep up their patrolling parties and their Compines In perfect radinus.

I hope the Regiment may be excused for saveral Reson. As for my one part I do Determine now to send my famely Down. By What infirmation I have from the Norred our Relief Coms and soo slow that I dare not trust at no longer with my famely at there as now relief In fore or Fife Days I belief number will leve ther places.

But in the same Time I will try to keep up the Sperrit. In last alarm we had the turnnet out as well as cold be expected.

I am with respect your most humble Servent.  
To His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

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THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY TO COLONEL VAN VEHTEN.

Poughkeepsie, Sept. 9th, 1781.

Sir, I have reed. your letter of the 27th ultimo. In answer to which I have only to observe that the Law on which my Orders of the 1st of July last for raising troops for the immediate defence of the State are founded, does not authorize the Exemption of any Regiment from that Duty, and it would, therefore, be unjustifiable in me to countenance the idea in your Regiment. It is to be presumed that the Legislature were acquainted with the Circumstances of the Inhabitants throughout the State and if any exemptions could with Justice have been made in Favor of particular Districts they would have been expressed in the Law. But as this is not the Case, it is my Duty to see that the whole yield a Compliance at once & however disagreeable the task to direct Prosecutions to be commenced agt. any officer who shall be found deficient, which I trust shall not be your case.

[No. 3942.]

*Captain Elihu Marshall Notifies the Governor that He Is Stationed at Albany to Collect and Forward Levies—The Governor's Reply.*

Albany, Augt. 27th, 1781.

Sir, In compliance with Col. Willett's orders I am attending at this place for the purpose of collecting and forwarding on the four months Levies. That I may know when I have got them all I wish your Excellency would furnish me with a return of the number each Regt. was to Levy in this quarter.

There are several Regts, I find much deficient; however shall be assiduous in facilitating the matter.

I am with great Esteem Sir,

DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Sir, I have by this Conveyance directed B. Genl. Renselaer & Gansvoort to order you the returns requested by your letter the 27th Instant. I am with &c

[No. 3943.]

*Governor Chittenden Stirs Up Strife Again—Warm Correspondence Between Him and Colonel Peter Yates.*

Sir, Inclosed I send you a Letter, I received from Thos. Chittenden, with a copy of my Answer thereto. I beg your Excellency to return me the original letter inclosed, together with such directions to me relative to the Contents, as you shall deem necessary.

I am your most obedt. & very hum. servt.

Peter Yates.

Schachtekoke, 28 Aug. 1781.

P. S. I beg your Excellency to write me on the subject as soon as possible that I may know how to conduct myself as I expect Trouble daily; and great Confusion, if something is not speedily done.

DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY OF THE 4TH PROX. TO  
PETER YATES.

Pokeepsie 4th Sept. 1781.

Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 28th Augt. inclosing one from Thos. Chittenden to you & a Copy of your Answer. The Original, agreeable to your Request, is now returned.

I presume the inhabitants mentioned in his Letter to be drafted into the Service of this State are Detachments made from Delinquent Classes within the known limits of your Regiment, pursuant to my Orders of the 1st July last. This being the case I have no further Directions to give you on the subject. These orders are founded on a Law of the State which I have neither Power or Inclination to dispense with & they will of course be the rule of your Conduct. Should Mr. Chittenden intend to interrupt you in the Execution of them & thereby disturb the Peace of the Confederacy, he must answer the Consequences. I am, &c.

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COPY OF THOMAS CHITTENDEN'S LETTER TO PETER YATES.

Arlington, 24th Augt. 1781.

Sir, I am unhappy in hearing that you are officiously engaged in exercising the authority of New York within the western Claims of this State by draughting and forcibly compelling sundry Inhabitants on the East side of the Hudson (in the claim aforesaid) into the service of the State of New York, And under what Pretext soever I consider it done in Despite and for the Purpose of creating disregard to the Jurisdiction of this State. I am very loth to enter into (and absolutely refuse) an alterca-

tion of this kind, while I consider the danger the Frontiers and even the City of Albany is in, from the Common Enemy.

The late Exertions of the People in the Union witness their Alacrity and Conditions of Defence to this Government and the Common Cause. They therefore need no authority but what is derived from this State. I must therefore earnestly request you to desist exercising your power over any of those People for I assure you, Sir, the Consequences will be inconvenient.

A Determination of Congress may decide these Jurisdictional disputes to the satisfaction of all Parties, but until then you may depend that Government will not be impeded to the extent of the Claim, neither will your persisting in Contempt thereof pass with impunity. I am Sir, your hum. Obed. Servant

Thos. Chittenden.

Colo. Yates.

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REPLY OF COLONEL YATES TO THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

Sir, You are wrong in supposing that I act as Colonel in despite and to create disregard to the Jurisdiction claimed by Vermont. As a Colonel of Militia in the State of New York, you can be no Stranger that I have taken an Oath of Office, for the faithful discharge of that Trust; as also an Oath of Allegiance to the State, long before the time it was even in contemplation that Vermont would assume a Jurisdictional Claim westward from the Grants to Hudsons River. Do you conceive Sir, I can dispense with this oath because a few discontented Whigs (supported by the Tories of our District) have joined in Union with you. As an Inhabitant and a Military Officer in the State of New York to whom honor and the obligation of an Oath is sacred, I hold it my indispensable duty to Obey the orders I

received from my Superiour Officers in the Said State Unless Congress should alter the jurisdiction.

You desire me to desist from exercising any Authority under the State of New York, until Congress shall decide these jurisdictional Disputes, but do you think it just and equitable that I should submit to your Government, and violate my oath of Allegiance, before the Supreme Tribunal of the Confederated States shall determine the Jurisdiction in your favour? Or does your Assumption of the powers of Government, over any extent of Country constitute a Right until Congress prescribes your Limits, or do your proceedings not rather evince that you mean to avail yourselves of the distresses of the Confederated States and Assume Rights in Opposition to them, & incompatible with the Confederacy.

Whatever consequences may attend my non Compliance with your requisition, I mean to do my duty as an honest and conscientious man and I leave it to God and Congress to decide between us.

I am, Sir, Your humble servt.

Schachtekoke 27th Augt. 1781.

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[No. 3944.]

*Daniel Moore, William Williams and Hugh Maguire, Claiming to be British Deserters, Having Been Arrested on a Charge of Counterfeiting, Ask Governor Clinton's Intercession.*

Poughkeepsie Gaol, Augt. 29, 1781.

Honoured Sir, We humbly beg that your Excellency will Excuse us your Humble Petishoners for Troubling your Excellency with the request of Befriending us at this present. We are three soldiers In the Eight Months Service who is charged with



Counterfitting some Dollars that we took innocently of a Man that sent the Money by us to Purchase him some Linnen to Ware, but it being found to be Bad we three are taken up on Suspicion of Being Acompliance to It. But the man has since made his escape and we are now under Confinement for the Same. May it pleas your Excellency We are all three Deserters from the British Service and has allways since Behavouring true to the States of America. Which the Capt. Gilbert Lewiston that is in town can certifie that we have Behaved ourselves Well and soldier like. Besides the Inhabitants can recommend us for our good behaviour ever since we resided within the State.

Daniel Moore, William Williams, Hugh Maguire.

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[No. 3945.]

*General Heath Asks Governor Clinton for Information Regarding the Forage and Flour Question—The Governor's Reply.*

Headquarters, Peekskill, August 29, 1781.

Sir, I am informed that this army must in a great measure depend on the State of New York for a supply of flour. This leads me to request that such measures may be adopted as will seasonably and effectually ensure the supplies. I propose West-point as our grand magazine, and wish the flour which is to be furnished by your State may be deposited there with all possible expedition. The army will stand in need of large quantities of forage. Such as can be drawn from below the lines, will be secured. This, however, will be but an inconsiderable quantity, compared with our wants. I will thank you for information whether any requisitions for forage have been made on the State, or in what way the forage necessary can be obtained.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

## DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Poukeepsie 1st September 1781.

Sir, The State has long since made provision for collecting its full Quota of specific supplies: and I have reason to believe the state Agent is pursuing the Measures directed by Law to have them collected. How far he has accomplished this business already & when he will be able fully to effect it, I am not able to determine & as he is not at present in this neighborhood, I can not be informed.

There have not been any requisitions for Forage made on this State & I presume the necessary supplies can be obtained in no other way than by Purchase. I thank you for your attention in causing the Persons guilty of plundering on Long Island to be apprehended & sent to this Place, & am with Great Esteem & regard, Sir, Your Most Obedt. Servt.

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[No. 3946.]

*Colonel Weissenfels Forwards to the Governor a List of the Officers of His Regiment.*

Fishkill, August 29th, 1781.

Sir, Inclosed I have the honor to transmitt a list of the officers of the Regiment—and as Mr. Hanmore, on account of his bad state of health, requested me to acquaint Your Excellency that he cannot serve, I have not mentioned his name—so that there appear two vacancys.

I have heard nothing of Mr. Hannen.

I would be glad to have your Excellency's order what shall be done with Winslow.

I have sent my return to General McDougal, and waite his order.

I am with Respect Your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant.

P. S. I made a mistake there are three vacancys.

List of officers, as they stand arranged—Colo Weissenfels Regiment of Levies.

| CAPTAINS  | Subaltern     | Staff         |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Goodwin   | McArthur      |               |
| Dodge     | { V. Wyck     |               |
|           | { Weeks       |               |
|           | { Ponderson   |               |
| Schepherd | { Finch       | Mott, Q. M.   |
|           | { Weissenfels | Welsh, adjut. |
| White     | { Hannen      |               |
|           | { Tutchill    |               |
| Hunt      | { Gilderallve |               |
| Thompson  | { Meyers      |               |
| Brewster  | { Elsworth    |               |
|           | { Stewart     |               |

[No. 3947.]

*Respecting Exchange of Prisoners—The Board of Commissioners at Albany to Governor Clinton and the Governor's Reply.*

Albany, 30th August 1781.

Sir, Application has been made to us within a few days by several Women whose Husbands are with the Enemy who are desirous of being exchanged. We have long wished that they should be removed and have made repeated Application for a copy of the last Act for their Removal & as we have not been furnished with a Copy of it, we presume that possibly for Reasons of State it may have been detained; we are well persuaded that they are the cause of infinite Mischief and have Reason to think that their Removal would be attended with great Advantage to the State.

We inclose your Excellency a List of those Persons who have

made Application to be exchanged and would submit to your Excellency the Expediency of the Measure.

Parson Stewart has also been with us and says that he has given Bonds last Spring to General Clinton to send from Canada in Exchange for himself, Colo. Gordon, or some other Persons mentioned in the said Bond; he is very pressing to go and thinks nothing further is necessary than a Discharge from us which we have declined to give him, till we have heard from your Excellency which we wish as soon as possible.

Inclosed we also send your Excellency a copy of a Parole which Mr. Adam Fonda has entered into previous to his Departure from Canada; he is anxious to have it determined whether he is to be exchanged for Young Smith and would wish to know your Excellency's Pleasure concerning the Matter.

We are informed by some of the Prisoners (of which 127 we hear are come from Canada for different States) that they appear in Canada to be solicitous to have Parson Stewart exchanged, and there is the greatest Probability that if he should be sent to Canada, that the Commanding officer in that Department would immediately send out Colo. Gordon;—whether the present Situation of Publick Affairs will admit of his being sent or any other at this Time is a Matter which we likewise submit to your Excellency. We are Your Excellency's Most Obedient & Humb. Servants.

Saml. Stringer,  
Stewart Dean,  
Isaac D. Fonda,  
Commiss. for Conspiracy.

P. S. We would suggest it to your Excellency if you should think proper to exchange Young Smith (who is in confinement)

whether it would not be advisable to do it with a Provision that he remains here till his Father Dr. Smith sends out an Exchange for his own Person.

His Excellency, George Clinton, Esqr.

On Board the Royal George, Lake Champlain, 21st August, 1781.

We the Commissioners appointed for the Exchanging of Prisoners with the Approbation of his Excellency General Haldimand, Commander in Chief of the Province of Canada Permit Adam Fonda, to go to his Home upon Parole and that he will send in Exchange for him Terence Smyth Prisoner in Albany.

In behalf of the Commissars.  
To the Authority in the City of Albany.

A. Dundas, Major.

GOVERNOR CLINTON TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

Poukeepsie 7th Sept. 1781.

Gentlemen, This morning I addressed a letter to your Board requesting you to communicate with the Commanding Officer of the Department my Consent that the several Women therein mentioned should go to Canada where their Husbands or Friends are (provided you are possessed of no circumstances respecting them which would render the Indulgence improper) that he might grant them passes for the Purpose if he judged it expedient. I also informed you that I had wrote to Genl. Starke respecting Parson Stuart & Young Smith, that you might in case of any application refer them to him. I have since been favored with your letter of the 30th ultimo & now inclose you my consent that the Women & Children mentioned in the list you transmitted, be permitted to pass to Canada, as I am not possessed of the last Law for sending off the Women whose Husbands are with the Enemy, but I have reason to believe it is merely a renewal of the Former, which made it the Business of an ordinary Magistrate to notify them to depart, which they were to do within 20 days or be out of the Protection of the Laws of the State. I perfectly coincide in Sentiment with you respecting Young Smith & I have so expressed myself to Genl.

Starke. Capts. Wood or Drake are the Persons Dr. Smith has despatched to have exchanged & Colo. Gordon is one of the Persons named in Stuarts Bond.

I am Gentlemen, with greatest respect Your Most Obedt. Servt.

[No. 3948.]

*The Reverend John Stuart Brings Up a Matter of Exchange to Governor Clinton, and Incidentally His Reverses.*

Augt. 30, 1781.

Sir, I take the Liberty of addressing your Excellency in Regard to my present Situation, hoping that your known Humanity to the distressed will prompt you to grant me Relief.

In April last, I had your Excellency's Permission to proceed to Canada by the first Flagg, having given bond in £500 to send either Messrs. Gordon, Harper, Snyder or Fonda in Exchange for me. Now, Sir, Mr. Fonda is returned in Exchange for Dr. Smith's Son, & informs that Mr. Gordon will not be given for me at present, Sir John Johnson having sent the sd. Fonda upon a verbal Promise that I should be returned in his stead. Genl. Clinton has not left my bonds here that they might be altered to suit circumstances.

Fonda informs that the Boats in which he came are to remain at Skeenesburgh until the 20th of Sepr. to take in the Prisoners in return: upon which I applied to the Commissrs. for a Permission to embrace the opportunity. They think they are not justifiable in granting it, without previously having your Excellency's orders for that Purpose, in which Case they will have no objection.

Genl. Starks waits likewise for your Pleasure on this subject. My present situation obliges me to be importunate with your

Notwithstanding the Great Majority in favour of New York they have chosen Civil and Military Officers, and are about to collect Taxes and Raise Men. A Large Number have Entered into Combination both in this District and Black Creek to oppose it with their Lives & fortunes, till Congress shall-determine it. We are, therefore, desirous of your Excellency's opinion in the Matter and directions how to conduct for the future. We regret the situation we are in, as there is the greatest reason to believe the Enemy will visit us in Force, in a few days. Scarce any Amunition, tho we are about to send to Albany, in pursuance of Directions to Colo. Pain, no field Officers worth Notice in the County, nor Guards, excepting a few from Vermont for a few days in front of Us. Its true there are about 200 at Saratoga, but as the Enemy can easily penetrate between fort Edward & Skeansbrough—to us without being Discovered, it w'd. be expedient that a scouting party ought to be kept in that Quarter. There are men to be raised in this District by a late Law, but the Classes are so intermixed with Vermonters, it cannot be easily done tho the friends to New York will exert themselves, And in case it can be done we must request you will send to Genl. Stark for there being placed here.

We have nothing to inform you as to News; only that there are ten Small Scouts of the Enemy Lurking about us.

Remain your Excellency's Most obed. and most Humle. Servt.

Jno. Williams.

Joseph McCracken.

Hamilt. McCallister.

Ebenzr. Russel.

John Armstrong.

N. B. Since writing orders from Vermont is received for raising men.

To Governor Clinton.

[No. 3951.]

*General Stark Lays a Line of Grievances Before Governor Clinton.*

Albany, 31st August 1781.

Dear Sir, My embarrassments in this department are almost intolerable. I have not a single grain of forrage nor none can I procure. When I apply to the Quarter Master he says, "What can I do," and that is all I can get from him; that is all that he does, and almost all that he says. You must be sensible that it will be impossible to transact the Public business without some magazine of forrage is laid up, or at least some for immediate consumption. It is a month that I have been on the ground, and rec'd. nothing from the Quarter Master except a little swamp hay and none of that for these ten days.

I have almost daily calls from the frontiers for Provisions, but am not able to send them any assistance as the Quarter Master has no money to hire Teams, and no authority to impress them; and as you promised me every assistance in your power to facilitate my command and the Public business, I must now claim the benefit of your promise, and beg your assistance in this critical Period.

Major Shurtliff, who will have the Honor of Delivering this, can enumerate many difficulties that I have not mentioned, and which if mentioned, would stretch this letter beyond its designed length. I shall be very happy to be favored with your advice, and shall apprise you of all intelligence that comes to my knowledge which appears to affect the State.

I am Dear Sir, with much respect and esteem, your most obedt.  
& very hble. Servant.  
Gov. Clinton.



[No. 3952.]

*Governor Livingston Declines Mrs. Bancker's Request for a Pass to New York and Gives Governor Clinton His Reasons.*

Trenton, 31st Augt. 1781.

Dear Sir, I am just now honoured with your Excellency's Letter of the 26th instant in favour of my granting a Passport to Mrs. Bancker to go to New York upon private Business & to return into this State.

I am confident I need use no Arguments with your Excellency of my readiness to pay the utmost attention to your Recommendations; & that nothing but my apprehensions of the ill consequences of the Precedent & my greater opportunities of knowing the political Character of the Lady could prevail upon me to submit to the mortification of disappointing her after being recommended by so respectable an Intercessor.

From the incredible Number of applicants to go into the Enemy's lines on private business, some of whom made use of that pretence merely to deceive, & others who really had demands in New York, were constantly disappointed in their expectations of succeeding, I found it absolutely necessary to refuse all such applications, except as to those who previously furnished me with probable evidence that they would obtain their debts by going in person, & not without it. And even to those of this Class who have been peculiarly distinguished for their disaffection to our Cause, & consequently entitled to no favour from Government, I have refused it by way of punishment for their malignity, save only on the condition of not returning, which not favouring their treacherous designs, few of them have been willing to accept. My adherence to this Plan, has reduced those kind of Itinerants within proper bounds; &

it is of the utmost importance to the public, that I do not deviate from this line of Conduct. The Lady in question has, during her residence with us, been always reputed a Tory. It is not clear to me that she has any private business at New York. If she has, her Interest with the British is, I doubt not, sufficient to have it transacted by her Friends, & her obtaining a pass would give umbrage to hundreds of good and zealous Whigs in this State.

I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3953.]

*Report of Judges to Governor Clinton as to the Convictions of Burglars at the Special Court of Oyer and Terminer.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 3954.]

*The Case of Benjamin Freer—Colonel Weissenfels to Governor Clinton.*

Fishkill, Sept. 1st, 1781.

Sir, Inclosed is a letter from Captain Goodwin, which this morning was to be sent to your Excellency, with Mr. Frair. I know nothing about the Matter, only that Mr. McArthur requested of me a file of men to Convey a fellow to this place, of a bad Character. Nothing can be moore distressed to my feelings, then that by my knowledge the libertys of any subject should be infringed, and I always have given manifest tokens of my Respect to the Civill authority. I will order Mr. McArthur to Poughkeepsy to attend—and answer for his Conduct. I am Sir, Your Excellency's most obiedent and humble servt.

## GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 1st September 1781.

Sir, I am favoured with your Letter of equal Date accompanied with those from Capt. Godwin and Mr. McArthur. No Conduct of Frere's however reprehensible, could justify taking him in custody by Military Authority. If he has acted in the manner represented, he is liable to Answer for his Offence as the law prescribed and bear the punishment inflicted. Therefore, without examining any Witnesses on the subject I must insist on his being immediately released in the first instance, and Reperation made for the Injury done him. I cannot doubt your attachment to order and good government, & I am Sir, Your Most Obedt. Servt.

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CAPTAIN HENRY GODWIN TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Fishkill, August 31, 1781.

Sir, The Prisoner Benjamin Frayer herewith sent to Your Excellency became Security to me for the Delivery of one John Salsbury whom he brought to be mustered—but has since deserted. I wrote and likewise sent to said Frayer to produce an other person, but he absolutely refused, and in a most ridiculous manner he abused the Muster Master and gave other abusive Language. I applied as well as Lieut. McArthur to Colonel Wiessenvelts on the subject and he sent for him to this post:

Your Excellency has his Crime Inclosed and will Deal with him as you think fitt.

His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

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LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER MCARTHUR TO CAPTAIN HENRY GODWIN.

New Burgh, 31st of August 1781.

Dear Sir, I herewith send by the bearer, Sergeant Ward, the person of Benjamin I. Frayer, head of a Class. The Crime of

the prisoner can be more fully made Out when you Examine Serjent Ward, who knows the Several Witnesses against the prisoner. Their Names Are John Scott, Capt. Silas Purdy, Charles Sniffen, Francis Smith.

His Crime at Present as I understand from Serjent Ward, is, first, for being concerned with John Salisbury, the person who he hired for the Class in Taking his Arms from him, & Adviseing him to desert., 2d for bringing the person without Arms & proper Appointments, to be mustered, & on his Way to Borrow Arms, On purpose to Deceive the Muster Master, 3d As the Muster Master was Apprized of the above Behaviour, sent Mr. Frayer a Letter, in which was requested that he would furnish Another man in the place of the above John Salisbury. He immediately began to abuse the Serjent in a very Abrupt Manner, & Dam'd him & the Muster Master. The Above Witnesses can from what I have heard, inform you more Particularly Concerning the prisoners Conduct in this Villainous Affair.

I am with Proper Respect Dr. Sir, Your Most Obedt. & Very Humble Servant.

The prisoner was very obstinate last Evening, when we took him & Swore all the Men in Fishkill could not bring him there, but he has found his mistake.

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[No. 3955.]

*Governor Clinton to General Stark Regarding Flags and Exchanges of Prisoners.*

Pokeepsie, 1st Sept. 1781.

Dear Sir, When I was in Albany last winter I addressed a Letter to Governor Haldimand respecting the Exchange & Liberations of a number of Women & Children captured by the Enemy on the Frontiers of this State which was to have been forwarded

by a Flagg. Brigr. Genl. Clinton intended sending to Canada to effect the Exchange of Doctor Smith & others. But it seemed the Situation of our Affairs while he had the Command, rendered such Communication inexpedient & he has returned me the Letter & Papers least the forwarding of them at this late Day might be deemed improper. I now take the liberty of enclosing them to you & to request that the Letter be forwarded by the first Flagg; as the Letter is sealed I enclose you a copy of it to which and the other inclosed Papers I begg Leave to refer you for Information. It is only necessary for me to observe, that I am possessed of the obligation of Mr. Stuart, executed by himself & two Freeholders, complying with the Condition expressed in the Paper signifying my Consent to his being exchanged & for the Liberation of an Inhabitant of this State now a Prisoner with the Enemy for a Negro Man, he is to be permitted to take with him, And also of Doctor Smith's obligation also subscribed by two other Persons for the Exchange of Capt. Wood or Drake agreeable to the State Commissary of Prisoner's Certificate. You will find among the Papers now transmitted, a Petition of Margaret McKenny supported by one in Favour of her Request by a number of the most respectable Inhabitants of Schenectady. I should be happy if I was at Liberty to grant her the indulgence she asks, as I believe her Case (& it is an extream hard one) is truly represented by the Gentlemen of Schenectady who have interfered in her behalf. But, however, Insignificant in Character, I do not conceive myself authorized to permit a subject of the State to change their Allegiance without a Compliance with a Law of the State which impowers me to exchange them on making proper application for the Purpose as mentioned in my Certificate at the Foot of the Peti-

tion. Mr. McFarlands Character as zealous Whig induced me to consent to his accompanying the Flagg and I believe he may be confided in. You will please to return me the papers respecting Mrs. McKenny when you have perused them. I transmit them to you under the idea of her applying to you on the subject and perhaps she may conceive herself able to comply with the Law to facilitate which I will agree to take the most insignificant Character in Exchange for her on an engagement to return when requested in case she cannot effect any. I am Sir, with great Regard &C

Brigr. Genl. Stark.

[No. 3956.]

*Governor Clinton Suggests to General Heath that Colonel Weissenfels Regiment is Ready for the Field.*

Pokeepsie 1st Sepr. 1781.

Dr Sir, It is some Time since I directed Colo. Weissenfels who commands the Levies of this State intended to reinforce the Army to make a Return of his Regiment to the Commanding Officer of Department & take his orders. They are now at Fishkill & I conceive it would not only be an advantage to themselves, but of public service to bring them into the Field as soon as may be. I trust their Appearance as well as Conduct will please you. I am &c  
Genl. Heath.

[No. 3957.]

*Levies in Swartwout's Brigade.*

Return of the Levies Receiv'd at Fishkill from the Different Regts. In General Sartwout's Brigade, September the 1st 1781.

|                      |               |              |                  |               |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Colo. Brinckeroff's, | Do. Frear's,  | Do. Felld's, | Do. Ludlinton's, | Do. Graham's, |
| 35                   | 40            | 39           | 27               | 42            |
| Do. V Der Burgh's,   | Do. Hopkin's, | Total        |                  |               |
| 4                    | 54            | 261          |                  |               |

Christopher Codwise, Capt. & M. Mastr.

[No. 3958.]  
*Levies of Colonel Willett's Regiment.*

Return of the Reg't of N. Y. Levies Commanded by Marinus Willett Esq'r Lient Colo Command't with the alterations and Casualties from the formation of the Regiment to ye 1st Sept 1781 and an account of the Brigades and Regiments by whom the men were furnished

| COMPANIES          | OFFICERS PRESENT |               |             |          | RANK AND FILE |          |                   |                      |              |             | ALTERATIONS |               |          |       | REGIMENTS AND BRIGADES OF MALITIA FROM WHICH THE MEN WERE LEVIED |            | DEFICIENCIES |          |                 |                        |                |          |          |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------|-------|--|------------|--------------|----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|
|                    | FIELD            | COM-<br>MUN'D | KOV<br>COM. | Captains | Lieutenants   | Sergants | Drummers & Fifers | Present fit for duty | Sick present | Sick absent | Command     | Extra command | Furlough | Total | Dead   | Discharged | Transferred  | Deserted | Taken prisoners | Regiments              | Brigades       | 9 months | 4 months |
|                    |                  |               |             |          |               |          |                   |                      |              |             |             |               |          |       |  |            |              |          |                 |                        |                |          |          |
| Captain Livingston | 1                | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 44                   | 4            | 10          | 5           | 1             | 54       | 3     | 8  | 5          | 5            | 5        | 5               | Colo. Henry Livingston | Gen'l Ranselae | 34       | 32       |
| Marsall            |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 44                   | 4            | 5           | 1           |               | 54       | 3     | 8  | 5          | 5            | 5        | 5               | H. V. Ranselae         | do             | 27       | 24       |
| Conlie             |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 33                   | 6            | 7           | 4           |               | 44       | 12    | 12   | 1          | 4            | 8        | 8               | V. Alayne              | do             | 50       | 24       |
| Welp               |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 33                   | 6            | 7           | 4           |               | 44       | 4     | 8  | 4          | 4            | 8        | 8               | V. Ness                | Gansevoort's   | 21       | 19       |
| Ranselae           |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 33                   | 6            | 7           | 4           |               | 44       | 4     | 8  | 4          | 4            | 8        | 8               | K. V. Ranselae         | do             | 18       | 23       |
| Gray               |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 33                   | 6            | 7           | 4           |               | 44       | 4     | 8  | 4          | 4            | 8        | 8               | H. K. V. Ranselae      | do             | 25       | 23       |
| Ista Esworth       |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 30                   | 1            | 2           | 4           | 1             | 39       | 7     | 1  | 5          | 24           | 2        | 2               | Lt. Col. Blair         | do             | 17       | 11       |
| Dubois             |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 16                   | 1            | 1           | 1           | 1             | 16       | 1     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | Major Taylor           | do             | 10       | 6        |
| Harrison           |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 21                   | 2            | 7           | 1           | 1             | 31       | 1     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | Colo. Peter Yates      | do             | 26       | 25       |
| Wright             |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 40                   | 2            | 7           | 1           | 1             | 51       | 1     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | C. F. Schuyler         | do             | 23       | 22       |
| Wale               |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 47                   | 2            | 1           | 1           | 1             | 50       | 1     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | V. Bergen              | do             | 23       | 22       |
| Wale               |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 47                   | 2            | 1           | 1           | 1             | 50       | 1     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | W. Bergen              | do             | 23       | 22       |
| Grate              |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 34                   | 2            | 1           | 1           | 1             | 38       | 4     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | Women                  | do             | 53       | 25       |
| Skinner            |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 28                   | 2            | 1           | 1           | 1             | 32       | 4     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | Tryon County           | do             | 50       | 2        |
| Dunham             |                  | 1             |             | 1        | 2             | 2        | 1                 | 28                   | 2            | 1           | 1           | 1             | 32       | 4     | 1  | 1          | 1            | 1        | 1               | do                     | do             | 50       | 2        |
| Totals             | 1                | 1             | 12          | 31       | 41            | 7        | 503               | 16                   | 13           | 30          | 18          | 4             | 584      | 14    | 1  | 12         | 53           | 13       | 13              | Charlotte County       | Swartwoot's    | 75       |          |
|                    |                  |               |             |          |               |          |                   |                      |              |             |             |               |          |       |  |            |              |          |                 | Dutchess County        | do             | 484      | 315      |

Marinus Willett, Lt Col Com'd't

*Description of the Within Deserters*

| NAMES              | WHERE BORN    |                 | COMPLETION | COLOUR OF |      | AGE                   | MARKS |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|------|-----------------------|-------|
|                    | STATE         | COUNTY          |            | HAIR      | EYES |                       |       |
| John Wood          | N. York       | Dutchess        | Fair       | Brown     | 24   |                       |       |
| Joseph Galhway     | Connecticut   | Hartford        | do         | do        | 26   |                       |       |
| Josiah Brunson     | Connecticut   | Hartford        | do         | do        | 26   |                       |       |
| John Stewart       | Scotland      | do              | dark       | black     | 25   |                       |       |
| Arron Child        | N. York       | Dutchess        | do         | do        | 23   |                       |       |
| Guerra O'Neil      | do            | do              | do         | do        | 23   |                       |       |
| Guerra Ten Eyck    | do            | do              | do         | do        | 41   |                       |       |
| William Ferris     | do            | do              | do         | do        | 48   |                       |       |
| Seamus Tutball     | do            | W. Chester      | do         | do        | 23   |                       |       |
| John James         | do            | Tryon           | do         | do        | 31   |                       |       |
| David Farrington   | Pennsylvania  | do              | do         | do        | 21   |                       |       |
| Charles Carrington | N. York       | Long Island     | light      | do        | 36   | Scar on ye left cheek |       |
| Esquire Parks      | Prussia       | do              | do         | do        | 30   | do                    |       |
| William Louck      | Massachusetts | do              | do         | do        | 31   |                       |       |
| Casperus Stark     | N. York       | Man. Livingston | do         | do        | 26   |                       |       |
| Calvin Bellco      | Germany       | Hartford        | light      | do        | 18   |                       |       |
| William Lloyd      | Connecticut   | do              | do         | do        | 23   |                       |       |
| William Sully      | Virginia      | do              | do         | do        | 31   |                       |       |
| Jacob Hartman      | Germany       | do              | do         | do        | 21   |                       |       |
| John White         | do            | do              | do         | do        | 21   |                       |       |
| Hony Shiple        | New York      | Albany          | do         | do        | 24   |                       |       |
| Zadack Waley       | do            | do              | do         | do        | 27   |                       |       |
| John Reed          | do            | do              | do         | do        | 25   |                       |       |
| Wm Ferguson        | Ireland       | do              | do         | do        | 30   |                       |       |
| John Fidler        | Scotland      | do              | do         | do        | 31   |                       |       |
| James Johnson      | Germany       | do              | do         | do        | 30   |                       |       |
| Isaac Butler       | Ireland       | do              | do         | do        | 34   |                       |       |
| Thomas Connelly    | do            | do              | do         | do        | 29   |                       |       |
| Andrew Becker      | do            | do              | do         | do        | 40   |                       |       |
| Thomas Hurlmun     | do            | do              | do         | do        | 23   |                       |       |
| Levy Padlock       | do            | do              | do         | do        | 28   |                       |       |
| Levy Padlock       | do            | do              | do         | do        | 28   |                       |       |
| Jeremiah Young     | do            | do              | do         | do        | 24   |                       |       |
| Wm Johnson         | do            | do              | do         | do        | 34   |                       |       |
| Jonathan Coleman   | do            | do              | do         | do        | 18   |                       |       |
| Jeremiah Taylor    | do            | do              | do         | do        | 18   |                       |       |
| Robert Bradford    | do            | do              | do         | do        | 19   |                       |       |
| Charles Butcher    | do            | do              | do         | do        | 17   |                       |       |
| Benjamin Day       | do            | do              | do         | do        | 17   |                       |       |
| Nicholas Killman   | do            | do              | do         | do        | 25   |                       |       |
|                    |               |                 |            |           | 33   |                       |       |



|                    |               |             |   |    |       |       |       |    |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|---|----|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Thomas Binnett     | do            | Ireland     | 5 | 8  | do    | black | blue  | 20 |
| Blind Vaughn       | do            | Connecticut | 5 | 10 | do    | black | blue  | 24 |
| Ebenezer Green     | do            | do          | 5 | 6  | do    | black | black | 26 |
| Jan Spear          | do            | N. Jersey   | 5 | 6  | brown | brown | grey  | 30 |
| Peter Ervin        | do            | Connecticut | 5 | 8  | do    | do    | black | 34 |
| George V. Tyler    | do            | N. York     | 5 | 6  | fair  | do    | Gr. Y | 37 |
| Seber Pettis       | do            | N. York     | 5 | 7  | do    | do    | blue  | 38 |
| William Berlin     | Claverack     | Old England | 5 | 8  | brown | black | black | 55 |
| Peter Schermerhorn | do            | N. York     | 5 | 10 | black | do    | do    | 58 |
| James Peader       | M. Livingston | Ireland     | 5 | 5  | dark  | black | grey  | 55 |
| Joan Chase         | do            | Old England | 5 | 6  | light | brown | grey  | 51 |
| Joan Derontie      | Nine Partners | N. York     | 5 | 6  | fair  | red   | grey  | 30 |
| Samuel Ferris      |               | W. Chester  | 5 |    |       |       |       |    |

[No. 3959.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath on the Enemy's Method of Communication Between Canada and New York.*

Pokeepsie, 2d Sepr. 1781.

Sir, I this Moment received the Letter of which I inclose you a Copy. Notwithstanding the extraordinary Delay it has met on its way from Albany, I conceive it my Duty to transmit you the Intelligence it contains, as the Dispatches from Canada aluded to, may not yet have passed our Lines & I think it probable they have not. I am not acquainted with the Enemy's present channel of Communication but I am lead to believe it will be either through the Eastern Parts of this County & into West Chester and Smiths Clove & so to Elizabeth Town or Paulus Hook on the west side of the river; on either route there are so many disposed to give their Assistance that it is impossible to fix upon Particular Persons. The most probable way of intercepting them is to apprize the Magistrates & Militia Officers near the Lines to have trusty Persons to watch the Roads and no persons suffered to pass unless well known without being strictly examined. The communication for some time past from Canada to New York I have reason to believe has been principally through the Grants or across the Country by Niagara. I am &C.

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 [No. 3960.]
*Colonel Willett to Governor Clinton Regarding Three-Year Men—A Raid on Cobleskill—Governor Clinton's Reply.*

Fort Renselear, 2d September, 1781.

Sir, I am endeavouring to procure the necessary materials to send you a return agreeable to your Excellencies directions

in your letter of the 7th ultimo. Some of the returns I have ordered to enable me to do this business have this day arrived, and Notwithstanding my having sent to each officer Commanding a Company a plain and easy form to make the returns by, two that I have received are both wrong, so that I shall have to send them back to be rectified. Should this go through, the whole of the Companies distant from this post, which I have reason to fear on account of the Greenness of most of the Officers, it will be some time before I shall be able to furnish a return agreeable to my wish. I shall do my best to send you one as good and as soon as I can.

With respect to the Three Years men—By returns from the different officers who were recruiting for my regiment, the first of August their appeared to have been forty seven Inlisted, Only twenty two of which were Mustered and five of those on Furlong, so that there were only nineteen who had Joined. Since that some have been Inlisted out of the levies. These, however, reinforce us none, And the Nineteen are in such a situation that they are hardly worth naming in the Article of strength at present. About half of them are with Captain Wright at Saratoga and the rest scattered among the Companies of levies from Schohary to Fort Herkimer. What number Major McKinstry has I don't know. But conceive it would be best to have the whole formed into some Corps, and all ordered to one place. Tryon County is undoubtedly the place I would wish to have them, and it is without Doubt the place that stands in most need of assistance. For Saratoga must have 5 or 600 hundred men for Itself from the New York & New England levies, and the whole New England World at hand to augment their strength in time of need. While our remote situation will al-

ways render us more exposed and require more time to afford us succor. But whether they are ordered to this or any other Quarter they assuredly had best be formed into some kind of a Corps, and ordered to take post together in some particular place, for at present they are every where & no where.

I beg leave, therefore, to request Your Excellency to give some orders respecting these troops, and it will be necessary to do this as soon as may be, as the men ought to be furnished with Cloathing which can hardly be done in their present situation.

Permit me likewise to suggest to you, Sir, Whether it would not be worth while to procure if possible, some cloathing ready to issue to such men as may Inlist into this service from the levies, I think this will become a strong Inducement for men to Inlist, as the Weather grows cold and the men becomes *bare of Cloathing*. If your Excellency should be of this opinion, I should be Glad to have your assistance in endeavoring to procure a supply of Cloathing to be sent to these posts as soon as possible.

There is a Lieutenant Simmons of my regiment who has himself been a prisoner in Canada from whence he made his Escape. He has a brother who was taken at the same time he was and who is still a prisoner, and is treated with remarkable severity at Chambly. If your Excellency can provide any way to have him exchanged I am well informed that it will deliver a good Whig from great Distress. Some prisoners have been taken from the enemy this way. I shall send one we have here belonging to the Thirty-fourth British regt. now at Canada to Albany to-morrow, perhaps this one or some other soldier, or it may be a Tory, would be received for the said Simmons. Should it be thought right I wish to have the Commissary of

prisoners directed to try to effect his exchange because he is a suffering Whig.

I should be glad to know what is to be done with the places of such disaffected persons as may be removed from the frontiers into the Interior parts of the State. If Colonel Benson can furnish me with the whole of the law for this purpose I shall be much obliged to him.

Last Sunday a party of the enemy Went to Cobes-kill, and did, as I have been informed a considerable deal of Mischief. It was more than thirty hours after they were gone before I knew any about it, so it was not in my power to do anything with them. How it came to pass that I had no early intimation of this affair from a distance of about 24 miles I have not yet learned. And I had a considerable party at Terloch which is only 8 or 10 miles distance who were longer than I was before they knew anything about it.

Cobes-kill is a place that we have had no Guards at for some time, nor Will it do for me at present to extend my Guards that way.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellencies most obedient and very humble servt.

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DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 11th Sepr. 1781.

Sir, I was favoured with your Letter of the 2nd Instant yesterday. Previous to which I had issued an order of which I now enclose you a copy, to Capt. Job Wright to take charge of such Recruits in Saraghtoga and its Vicinity as were enlisted on Bounties of unappropriated lands & I directed the Muster Master to repair to that Place & muster them. From his Repre-

resentation of them they can be of little service anywhere as they are chiefly unarmed & it is not in my Power at present to provide any for them, it would, therefore, not add sufficiently to your strength to compensate for the Trouble of moving them into Tryon County. I am persuaded could we cloathe the few that are already enlisted it would induce many more to ingage but this is equally out of my Power & as I was not formulated with any Returns of new Recruits tho repeatedly called for. Before the Commander in Chief left this Quarter, I was not authorized to make any application to him on the subject & I have Reason to believe he has left no Orders respecting them. I will nevertheless take the earliest opportunity of mentioning this Matter to Genl. Heath & urge him to have them Armed & Cloathed. You may recollect that the Time for compleating these Corps expired last Month and I am no longer authorized to take any measures for effecting it. It is nevertheless my Opinion that the Idea ought not be relinquished and I mean to propose to the Legislature who are to meet at this Place the beginning of next Month an enlargement of the Time & some additional Encouragements for this Service & I would wish to have your Ideas of what would be effectual. I have directed the State Commissary of Prisoners to pay particular attention to the Exchange of Mr. Samons in a Letter this Day addressed to him & informed him that you will send a Prisoner from Tryon County to offer for him. I have carefully inspected all the Laws which have any Relation to the Levies & find I have no authority to draw any Money from the Treasury on Account of their Pay. It I had in the Case of the 45 Days Men raised last Fall extended to no other. I sincerely wish it was in my power to relive you from embarrassment for want of Cash

to answer contingent Expenses. Experience for two years past gives me the fullest Conviction that it is almost impossible to conduct public business without it. I have Reason to believe Genl. Heath might spare with safety a small additional Force for the frontier from his Army & I wrote him yesterday upon the subject & pressed they might in such Case be sent immediately sent to your Assistance. I am &c &c.

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[No. 3961.]

*General Heath Reports to the Governor the Arrival of English Reinforcements.*

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Sept. 3rd, 1781.

Sir, I have been honored with your two favors of the 1st Instant. I hope the agent will be able seasonably to collect the specific supplies, which are to be furnished by the state; with respect to Forage I am apprehensive that without some extra aid, the Commissaries will not be able to obtain a sufficiency.

Colonel Weissenfel's Regiment will be immediately ordered to reinforce the garrison of West Point, or join this army. I will thank you for your opinion, where the Regiment will probably be most usefull, whether in the Garrison, or on the Lines.

By a New York paper of the 30th, I find that on Tuesday last Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, arrived at Sandy Hook, with Fourteen Sail of the Line, Four Frigates, one Sloop and a Fireship. The Barfleur of 90 Guns, thirteen of 74, Three of 44 and one of 28, it is said three old British Regiments Viz: First Battalion Royal, the Thirteenth and Sixty-ninth, came in the fleet; these Regiments probably are much reduced by sickness, in the West Indies.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect your Excellencys Most Obedient Servant.

[No. 3962.]

*General Heath Informs Governor Clinton He is Watching for the Courier from Canada to New York.*

Head Quarters, Peekskill, Sept. 3rd, 1781.

Sir, I am this moment honored with yours of yesterday, enclosing intelligence of a Packet from Canada being on its way to New York. I thank your Excellency for the information. I had received a hint of it a day or two since from General Schuyler, and had given particular instructions to the troops on the Lines, on both sides of the Hudson to keep a sharp lookout; it is also communicated to the Guides, and some trusty militia officers, but I fear so much time has elapsed, that the person has passed even before I had the first notice of it, as Genl. Schuyler's letter was dated the 29th ulto. and he observes the man passed two Days before. A sharp watch will however be kept for some time to come.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect your Excellencys most obedient servant.

Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3963.]

*Hugh Mitchell Writes to the Governor in Regard to Exchanges and of an Outrage Committed at the Helderbergs—The Governor's Reply.*

Schenectady, the 3rd Sept. 1781.

Sir, I think it my duty to inform you that on the arrival of the last prisoners from Canada a number of Women whose husbands are with the enemy made application to me for leave to go there by the flagg that brought the prisoners or the first that is sent from here. There is a Number of them that I know no Reason why they may not be permitted to go of the first oppor-



tunity. Their is others who I am at a loss to know how to dail with and beg your direction in the matter. They have sons from twelve to sixteen years of age, and if the mothers is permitted to go or sent of (which in my opinion some of them ought to be) their sons will follow them as soon as they are able. If they are detain'd long they will send their sons of as soon as they are able to perform the journey; this I know to be their Common practice here. In order to avail ourselves of them while in our power, I beg leave to mention for your Consideration whether it would not be best to Exchange such boys as soon as possible for some of ours now with the Enemy, and should you approve of such a Measure whether it would not be best to appoint some person at Albany to negotiate the business in such a Manner as you think proper. The distance is so great that many of the poor women is not able to make application to you in person and I am told that their is several old men whose sons is with the Enemy and themselves of no use to us desires to be Exchanged. I further beg leave to mention to you that I know a number of families in this Quarter of the Country much distressed on Account of the men who laboured for their support being Now in Captivity and sincerely wish that every Step may be taken for their Relief Consistant with the publick good.

I have been told by some of the prisoners who is come from Canada that Colonel Gordon is sent to Quebeck on Account of some suspission they have of his Corresponding with us. He is a valuable officer and I am afraid he will suffer. Mr. Stewart is now going down to wait on your Excellency on the business of his Exchange. I wish it might take place for Colonel Gordon.

I just now rec'd. Information by a party who had been to the Helbergh on a Scout, that one Captain Teets who lived at the

Beaver Dam was taken prisoner last Saturday night by a party of the Enemy consisting of about twelve or fifteen men mostly Indians. The rest of Captain Teets family consisting of his old Father and seven other persons were most inhumanly Murdered, and his house and barn burnt. Their was but this and another family in that settlement who were deemed friends to the Country. My opinion is that not a house Ought to be left standing in the settlement. There is not one of the disaffected people ordered of from this district yet, and I am sure we can never be safe while so many of them are amongst us.

I am with Respect, Your Excellencys

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DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO HUGH MITCHELL.

Pokeepsie, the 5th Sept. 1781.

Sir, I am this Moment favoured with your Letter of the 3rd Instant by Mr. Stuart. I shall have no objection agt. giving my Consent that such Women whose Husbands are with the Enemy in Canada be permitted (with such of their children as are not capable of bearing arms) to join them, in such manner as to affect the Liberation of an equal number of our Friends captured on the Frontier, this being the only object which could render their Detention necessary, and upon a List of their Names being transmitted, I will accordingly signify my Consent to the Commanding Officer of the Department who will when he finds it expedient grant them his Pass. With respect to those who have sons grown up, I perfectly agree with you that if they incline to be exchanged it would be most advisable for the Reasons you mention to indulge them; but in this Case they must make their Request to me in writing agreeable to the Law passed last Session

& it would be unjustifiable in me to depute any other Person to transact this Business.

I am sorry for the Disaster of Mr. Teets and his Family and it is with surprise I learn that the disaffected have not been ordered in from that Part of our Frontier as Genl. Gaansevoort had my orders for that Purpose with an Extract of the Law making it his Duty transmitted him last spring. I am &c.

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[No. 3964.]

*Major John McKinstry Recommends Abram Fonda to Command a Company—The Three Years Levies—The Governor's Reply.*

Saratoga, Sept. 3rd, 1781.

Honoured Sir, The Baror Capt. Wright, of my Regiment, will be able to inform your Excellency of the Difficulties we Labour under in recruiting for the three year service for the want of Cloaths to give to those already engaged. I have about seventy very likely Men, if the Cloathing Could be obtained for them, and some suits to spare ready for those who are inclined to engage, would be of great service. I dare say if I had cloathing to give I could Engage a number of the Bay Levies now on the Ground.

Lieutenant Abraham Fonda, who was last Spring Recommended by General Renselaer for a Company, I have given the Command of Capt. Dunham's Company, untill your Excelecey's Pleasure might be known. I can Recommend him as a fit Person to Command a Company; if thought proper to have him appointed to the Company he now has in Care as he has always heretofore been a Capt. in the Militia.

I am Your Exceleceys Most Obedt. Humbl. Servt.  
His Excelecey George Clinton.

## DRAFT OF GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO MAJOR MCKINSTRY.

Pokeepsie, 9th Sept. 1781.

Dr. Sir, I have recd your Letter of the 3d Instant & conversed fully with Capt. Wright on the subject to which it relates. I am unhappy it is not in my power to obviate the Difficulties which attend the raising of the Levies on Bounties of unappropriated lands. Altho I have frequently called both upon the Recruiting Officers & Muster Master for Returns, I never have been favoured with any except one from the latter of 7 Men which he had mustered & before I saw Capt. Wright I had little Reason to believe that any greater Number were actually enlisted. It could not be expected that the Continent would advance Cloathing for men before they were Mustered, especially at a Time when they are scarcely able to supply those actually in Service. The Time when these Regts. were to have been compleated is now elapsed, & I am no longer authorized to take Measures for compleating them. I will, however, Order an Officer to attend & muster those already enlisted and give the command of them to proper Officers and on the Meeting of the Legislature, which is appointed for the 1st next Month it is probable they make some new Provision for protecting this Service at least enlarge the Time for its completion. If the Number of Men you have under your Command will warrant the appointment of Capt. Fonda in the place of Dunham, I have no objections to its being done. I wish to be favored with a return of the Levies under your immediate Command & am with great regard, &c.

[No. 3965.]

*Elizabeth Newman Petitions the Governor for the Exchange of Her Husband.*

Caughnawaga, 4th September, 1781.

May it Please Your Excellency: To hear the Cryes of your Humble Petitioner who has had the misfortune to Losing her husband, a True Subject of the State of New York and a well wisher to the American Cause; he was taken the Last of March in the Year Eighty by a Party of the Enemy commanded by Gilbt. Tice and by the Information of the Late Flag from Canada was carried to Niagary and from thence was brought to a Farm belonging to Joseph Brant Lying within Sixty Miles of Niagary, and your Petitioner being in Great Distress, having a Family of three small Children and nobody but herself to maintain those small children and your Petitioner Desires to have her husband Exchanged by the Present Flag; might it Please Your Excellency to Grant Request and your Petitioner as in Duty Bound will for Ever Pray.

Elizabeth Newman.

N. B. the prisoner's name is Joseph Newman.  
To his Excellency, George Clinton, Esq. Governor and Commander of the State of New York and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

[No. 3966.]

*Governor Clinton to General Stark as to Provisions and Forage.*

Pokeepsie, 4th Sept. 1781.

Dr Sir, I was favored with your Letter of the 31st Ultimo by Major Shurtliffe yesterday Evening. From the Difficulties the Officer you releived had to encounter, I can easily conceive of the Embarrassments you meet with in your present Command. It cannot be doubted but I had a Disposition to render his command as comfortable & efficacious as possible & you may be assured, Sir, that equal Attention will be paid to the public Service under your Direction & if at any Times your Applications to me are ineffectual I beg you they may not be imputed to the Want of Inclination but of Power to serve you.

With respect to Forage, Congress has not made any Requisition on the State for that Article. It is, therefore, to be presumed that they have put it in the Power of the public Officers to provide a sufficient supply by purchase & this being the Case it would be utterly unjustifiable in me to grant an Impress especially for the ordinary consumption of the Department &

under this idea I refused every Application of this nature by Brigr. Genl. Clinton last Winter. As to Teams for the Transportation of Provisions for the Troops, you will find Warrants of Impress inclosed in my Letter of the 1st inst. in Answer to yours of the 21st ult. on that Subject, which are authorized by the present emergency. I am, Sir,

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[No. 3967.]

*William Spotten Transmits Letters and Information Bearing on the Vermont Case.*

Fishkill Landing, 5 Sept. 1781.

Sir, I do myself the Honor to transmit you two letters which I had intended myself the honor of delivering personally, but was prevented last evening by the fairness and freshness of the wind; have thought best to forward them now from this place, and I shall wait upon your Excellency for an Answer to them on my return which will be in a few Days.

I have the Honor to be very respectfully Your Excellency's very Humble Servant,  
His Excellency, George Clinton Esqr. Governor, &c.

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FLORES BANKER TO GEORGE CLINTON—THE SPOTTEN CASE.

New City 29th Aug. 1781.

Sir, As a Subject of the State of New York (though in no authority) I conceive myself under obligations to keep and maintain the peace of the same, which in this place has been greatly impeded and put in Convulsion by reason of the claim of Vermont being extended to the South of this place and including it within the Jurisdiction thereof. They have chosen their Civil and Military Officers, who Immediately are Sworn; they gener-

ally are composed of Persons of Little or no property or principal and are supported by the Tory faction. They seem to endeavor at all opportunities to dragoon people in compliance with their Governments; several frays have ensued which had I not interfeared in, and acted as Mediator between them—in all probability the consequences might have proven verry fatal.

On Saturday morning last, an Armed party of the Vermont faction took two sons of the bearer, Mr. William Spotten, of this place Prisoners; (one of them a Constable of this District under this State) notice of which was immediately brought me. I went out and got them released. The particulars of which Mr. Spotten can inform your Excellency. I have done everything in my power to Cultivate peace and Harmony here, as the contrary disposition lays us open to become an easy prey to our Enemies, who have threatened me, and one or two more Prisoners to Canada.

Lieut. Col. Henry Van Renselaer has received a Letter from Governor Chittenden forbidding him the Exercise of his Commission over the people within the new Claim, a copy of which will be handed your Excellency by Genl. Gansevort, whom I have consulted, concerning these disputes, as they Chiefly arise about Military Orders. I have recommended a Neutrality on both sides untill the Determination of Congress as I conceive the safety of the Whigs of this place require it.

Inclosed is the copy of an Advertisement put up in this place yesterday. Should be more particular but the Bearer, Mr. William Spotten, waits Impationately, it being just night and conceives himself unsafe in town any longer. I am & Remain Your Excellencies most obediant and most humb. Servt.

His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

## A NOTICE FOR THE CALL OF A VERMONT STATE ELECTION.

Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants of the Town of Schorticoke to meet at the House of Henry Jackson, in Tomhanock on tusday the fourth Day of September next at 9 O'clock on said day in Order to Elect a Governor, Lieut. Governor and twelve Counsellors and two Representatives for the year ensuing, also a States Treasurer by order of the Selectmen.

Jona. Hobbart, Const.

August 27, 1781.

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## ROBERT YATES TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Albany, Augt. 31st, 1781.

Sir, The Bearer hereof, Mr. William Spotten, an Inhabt of the new City, for his opposition to the usurpation of the Vermonters, has been obliged to quit his abode. He will inform your Excellency of their proceedings, and the insolency with which they treat the supporters of the Jurisdiction of this state.

As I have been long acquainted with the Gent'm. I presume to recommend him to your Excellency's notice, and that you can rely on the Information he will give. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedt. humble servt.

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[No. 3968.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton Regarding the Frontier and Levies.*

Headquarters, Peekskill, Sept. 5, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency the commander in chief in his instructions to me among other things is pleased to direct my attention to



the Northern and Western frontiers of the State of New York. I shall at all times think myself happy in affording them every assistance and protection in my power. From your knowledge of the State and its frontiers—unwearied attention and endeavors to protect them, you have the most perfect knowledge of their situation and what may at any time be necessary for their particular aid. Permit me, therefore, to ask your opinion and advice on every occasion in which the safety of the frontiers may require it. In granting this request I shall esteem myself much honored; and I am sure the safety of the State will thereby be much promoted.

If there are any levies on the frontiers which are considered as under my command, I will thank you for information where they are—by whom commanded—and whether you are of opinion they are stationed in the best places to cover the frontiers or whether a removal of any of them to other places will be more beneficial. If any sudden emergency should happen, I pray you to give such immediate orders to any of those troops you may judge necessary.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect and esteem,  
Your Excellency's Most obedient servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3969.]

*John Tayler Apprehensive that the Tories Will Destroy Albany and  
So Notifies the Governor.*

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 23d Ultimo I Received. I thank you for the paper you was pleased to Inclose. I wish I in Return could send you agreeable News from this Quarter—a

Report prevails that the Enemy are determined to attempt to burn this City many a[re] Packing up their Valuable Effects in order to have them Conveyed to some place of greater Safety. The City Regiment were Under Arms and Addressed on the occasion by the General, hard duty three nights in bed & no Rations. A Party of the Enemy Consisting of fifteen Tories & Indians, murdered Capt. Dietz's Father & Mother, his wife & four Children with one Scotch Girl & took himself off after having Exhibited to his View this horrid Scene; the house and Barn was Burnt. They were pursued & overtaken at Breakabeen, but permitted to escape.

Yesterday John Cuyler from Schenectady Inform'd that accounts were received from Coll. Willet that a large party were discovered by some Indians at Oneida, a part British, with Drums, &c. An Express from Henry Glen is just arrived, Informing that Lieut. Woodworth & Wilson with thirty eight men were Attacked near the Falls Hill; the Two Lieuts. with Twenty six privates are killed, twelve only Escaped, Collo. Willet is Collecting all the force he has in order to attack them.

Bettis & Myers are again in the Vicinity of this City; the Tories near the Town will I fear cause its destruction & our Militia officers will not Execute a law Enabling of them to remove them. General Stark sot off for Saratoga the day before Yesterday. Dunham & Grant are Gone with him in order to Receive I hope the Reward of their Treasons. They are to be tried at Saratoga. Mrs. Tayler begs to be remembered to Mrs. Clinton. She talks of packing up some few articles & sending them down the Country. I advise her to pack herself up with them & go to Poughkeepsie. This she declines; her Reason is that the Enemy may kill me, I, therefore, am to con-

sider her as my body guard. Present my best wishes to Mrs. Clinton and believe me to be with unfeigned Esteem,

Dr Sir, Yours most affectionately.

Albany Sept 1781.

[To George Clinton].

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[No. 3970.]

THE FRENCH FLEET IN THE CHESAPEAKE.

*Colonel Udny Hay informs Governor Clinton that Cornwallis is Regarded as a Prisoner.*

Philadelphia, 6th Sept. 1781.

It is with ever feeling of joy that I do myself the Honor to enclose for your Excellency's perusal the handbill announcing the arrival of the French fleet in the Cheseapeak esteemed by both Whig and Torey a prelude to one of the greatest events that has happened since the war. Cornwallis is already looked upon by all ranks and degrees of men as a Prisoner; his Escape is certainly barely possible.

We are a little uneasy about the French squadron from Rhode Island, as the English fleet under Sir Samuel Hood has been lately seen off the Capes of Delaware, and the Rhode Island squadron were to form a junction with Admiral De Grasse. I hope to leave this in a couple of days and in five after that be at Poughkeepsie.

I am with every sentiment of respect & esteem, Your Excellency's most obedient & very humbel servt.

Governor Clinton.

[No. 8971]  
*Return of the Levies Commanded by Lt. Colo Albert Pawling stationed at the Frontiers of Ulster & Orange County*

| COMPANIES   | FIELD    |          | COMMISSIONED |             |         | STAFF    |            |          | NON-COM-MISSIONED |               |          | RANK AND FILE                             |              |              |             |            |             | ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST RETURN |          |            |          |           | JOINED         |             |          |             |               |    |
|---|----------|----------|--------------|-------------|---------|----------|------------|----------|-------------------|---------------|----------|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------------|----|
|   | Colonel  | Major    | Captains     | Lieutenants | Ensigns | Adjutant | Q'r Master | Surgeon  | Ser't Major       | Q'r Mr Ser'jt | Serjents | Drum & file                               | Present duty | Sick present | Sick absent | On command | On furlough | Total                         | Dead     | Discharged | Deserted | Prisoners | In confinement | Transferred | Serjents | Drum & file | Rank and file |    |
| Capt Peasee   | 1        | 1        | 1            | 1           |         | 1        | 1          | 1        | 1                 | 4             | 4        | 53  | 1            |              | 1           | 1          | 56          |                               |          |            | 1        |           |                |             |          |             |               |    |
| Do Burnett  |          |          | 1            | 1           |         |          |            |          |                   | 4             | 4        | 49  | 1            |              |             |            | 50          |                               |          |            |          |           |                |             |          |             |               |    |
| Do Pawling  |          |          | 1            | 1           |         |          |            |          |                   | 4             | 4        | 44  | 4            |              |             |            | 44          |                               |          | 1          |          |           |                |             |          |             |               |    |
| Do Livingston                                       |          |          | 1            | 1           |         |          |            |          |                   | 4             | 4        | 8   | 4            |              |             |            | 74          |                               |          | 1          |          |           |                |             |          |             |               | 1  |
| Do Westfall   |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   | 6             | 6        | 23  | 1            |              |             |            | 81          |                               |          | 1          |          |           |                |             |          |             |               | 13 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b>     | <b>9</b>    |         | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>          | <b>22</b>     | <b>8</b> | <b>289</b>                                | <b>6</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>9</b>    | <b>305</b> | <b>2</b>    | <b>2</b>                      | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>1</b>       | <b>1</b>    | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>    | <b>14</b>     |    |
| New Shawangunk                                      |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   |               |          | with Commissary Patterson<br>Poughkeepsie |              |              |             |            |             |                               |          |            |          |           |                |             |          |             |               |    |
| Major Bunschooten Command Weechester                |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   |               |          | 1   |              |              |             |            |             | 1                             |          |            |          |           | 1              |             |          |             |               |    |
| Capt Livingston, Do Poughkeepsie.                   |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   |               |          | 1   |              |              |             |            |             | 1                             |          |            |          |           | 1              |             |          |             |               |    |
| Lieut Connor, Acting Q'r Master.                    |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   |               |          | 1   |              |              |             |            |             | 1                             |          |            |          |           | 1              |             |          |             |               |    |
| Lieut Du Bois, Acting Adjutant                      |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   |               |          | 1   |              |              |             |            |             | 1                             |          |            |          |           | 1              |             |          |             |               |    |
| A Ser'jt reduced to the Ranks included in the Total |          |          |              |             |         |          |            |          |                   |               |          | 1   |              |              |             |            |             | 1                             |          |            |          |           | 1              |             |          |             |               |    |

A. Pawling, Lt. Colo.

[No. 3972.]

*General Parsons Invokes Governor Clinton's Interest in Behalf of  
Major Lawrence.*

Middletown, 7th Sept. 1781.

Dear Sir, The bearer Majr. Lawrence waits on you upon the particular Circumstances of his Case—his Estate in the hands of the Enemy & he destitute of any Means of subsisting himself. I need say Nothing to you of him personally as you know him & his Character fully.

He is offered a Quantity of Goods from New York on his Estate, which will from the interest arising from it be able to support himself with Decency; this offer he cannot accept without your Consent & Permission to bring out the Goods. The Council of this State to whom he has applied inform me that he being a Subject of your State, your Permission ought to be granted & on such Permission they will give every necessary Aid he wants, and that they are convinced of the Propriety of the Grant.

As the Principles on which he applies are such as obviate all the material Objections to receiving Goods from that Quarter and perfectly coincide with the Principles on which Individuals have had Liberty to bring out their Effects, and public bodies, particularly your own State, have Supplied Necessary Clothing for their Troops, I cannot doubt your granting him the Licence desired; as no Payment is to be made 'till the War ends, supplies of Money or Provisions which have been the most substantial Objections seem to be at an end in this Case.

I cannot entertain a Doubt of your Friendship for him or me and have full confidence in your Compliance with his Request and am with the greatest Friendship & Esteem, Dr. Sir, your most obedt. Servt.

[Governor Clinton].

[No. 3973.]

*Ezra l'Hommedieu Predicts the Downfall of Cornwallis and the Capture of His Army.*

Philadelphia, September 7, 1781.

Sir, Mr. Smith this moment informs me that he is going out of Town. I have only time to congratulate you on the Arrival of the Count De Grasse at the Cheasapeake & inform you that Girt's Letter to the General is erroneous in Point of Time. By a Letter from the Marquis Lefayette to the Minister received last Evening, the Count De Grasse arrived on the thirty first, had landed 5000 Men including Marines. The Marquis was urged to make a stroke at Cornwallis, which he could do with probability of success, but declined it as the Commander-in-Chief was on his way, and there was no probability of Cornwallis being able to effect an Escape. The Marquis makes no mention in his Letter of the capture of Lord Rawden, which makes Girt's information doubtful. We are anxious to hear of Count de Barras with his fleet from Rhode Island, who sailed from thence the 25th as was said, to join De Grasse. General Washington was at the Head of Elke yesterday about noon. Vessels are there ready to receive the Troops, at least most of them, & he writes that he shall loose no time in forwarding them on. Our expectations are greatly raised, and those who are best acquainted with Cornwallis' situation make no doubt but his whole army must fall into our hands. I hope no unforeseen accidents (which are frequent in war) may deprive us of so great a Prize, which probably will put an End to the War in a short time. Colo. Lawrence has returned from France and has been very succesful in his Embassy of which I shall inform you by Colo. Hay, who has been necessarily detained longer than he expected, but probably will set

of next Day after tomorrow. Tis Determined that Certificates be given for the forrage taken in Westchester by the Deputy Quarter Master under the Direction of General Heath. I am Sir, with great Esteem & respect Your Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3974.]

*Act of Congress in Relation to Forage Taken in Westchester County.*

By the United States in Congress Assembled, Sept. 7th, 1781.

The Report of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Board of War upon the Letter from the Qr. Master General respecting forage in West Chester was taken into Consideration, whereupon,

Resolved, That Major General Heath or the Commanding Officer of the Eastern Department, can cause immediate and equitable Measures to be taken for Ascertaining the Quantity of forage expended by the allied army under the Command of General Washington in the county of West Chester in the state of New York during the present Campaign, which hath not been accounted for. And that he direct the deputy Quarter Master in that Department to give Certificates accordingly to the State Agent of New York, or any other person or persons authorized to receive the same.

Extract from the Minutes.

Geo. Bond, Depy Secy.

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[No. 3975.]

*Major Lewis Morris to Governor Clinton Respecting Depreciation of Pay.*

Society Hall, Sept. 7th, 1781.

I have done myself the honor to enclose your Excellency the ranks and dates of service which intitle me to depreciation. I have left the account to be liquidated by the commissioners, and your Excellency will oblige me by sending the certificates to my Father.

I should not have troubled you upon this subject, if I was not under the indispensable necessity of returning immediately to South Carolina. I brought dispatches from Genl. Greene to the commander in chief, and he has some matters of importance to communicate in return, which I am to be charged with.

A late resolution of Congress, directing the States to make up the depreciation of pay to their citizens in service, and should any one pay more than its proportion, the overplus to be refunded from the Genl Treasury, must obviate the objection which the State made to me, and as Lt. Colonel Smith, Major Platt and several others in the same predicament with myself, have received their certificates I shall conceive it peculiarly hard to be deprived of the same indulgence. I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obdt. Huml. Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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The State of New York to Lewis Morris junr. Dr. For the depreciation of his pay as Major from the 1st of January 1777 to the 9th of September 1779.

The State of New York to Lewis Morris junr. Dr. For the depreciation of his pay as Lt. Colonel from the 9th of September 1779 to the 1st of August 1780.

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[No. 3976.]

*As to Persons to be Exchanged or Sent Into Canada.*

Albany, 8th Sept. 1781.

Sir, We have just now received from your Excellency two Letters of the 4th Instant and observe the Contents.

Since writing our last, several Persons have offered themselves for Exchange whose applications to your Excellency in writing are inclosed, and against whom we have no particular Charges.

Numbers of Women whose Husbands and Friends are with the Enemy have also made application to go to Canada, and



have given in their Names to us for that Purpose: we could wish to know whether your Excellency will permit all the Women and Children who make application and are so circumstances to go with the Flag now, or hereafter, or whether there are any particular Persons whom your Excellency intends should be detained, and whether such as go should not be sent for Exchange.

We are informed that Mr. Dumond has taken with him Applications from William Shepherd and Joshua Bloore to your Excellency to be exchanged. Had Mr. Dumond communicated to us his Intention of taking with him such applications we would have advised him not to do it, as they, with Ivy Chambers, have been committed by us for Capitol Offences.

We are with Respect Your Excellency's very humble Servants  
Saml. Stringer, John M. Beckman, Commissrs. for Conspiracies.

His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

[No. 3977.]

## CLOSING IN ON CORNWALLIS.

*Major W. Popham Informs the Governor of Washington's Rapid Movement to the South—The Troops Paid in Specie for the First Time.*

Head of Elk, Sept. 8th, 1781.

Sir, After a very rapid march of near two weeks, attended with great fatigue we at length are collected at this place both French and Americans, amounting in the whole to near seven thousand, with an amazing train of ordnance and Military Stores, the light Corps under Scammell. The advance of the French, and the detached Corps of our Army will embark with the Stores &c tomorrow and proceed by Water—the remainder of the Troops will move by Land, at least as far as Baltimore. The Count de Grass has arrived in the Bay with twenty eight Sail of the line, and landed a considerable Body of Troops, who have joined the Marquis de la Fayette and taken post in the rear of Cornwallis, efectually cutting off his retreat, as his whole Force does not consist of more than four thousand six hundred efective men, who are entrenched on the South side of York River, at a Town of the same name. The Gen'l left Camp this morning on his rout to Baltimore where a Cutter is ready to receive him. Nothing can equal the Dispatch with which our Opperations are carrying on, in so much that by the 12th inst. it is hoped we shall clear out from this Post, and it is computed that five weeks from that Date will compleat the grand Design.

This Day will be famous in the Annals of History for being the first on which the Troops of the United States Received one Month's Pay in Specie—all the civil & military Staff are excluded. I cannot even obtain my pay as Captain in the Line.

It is very shagreening to be thus marked out as black sheep, but if we should be so happy as to capture Cornwallis, I shall be content. I will endeavor to borrow as much as will bring me home.

It is extraordinary that notwithstanding the Fatigue of such a long and rapid March, there is scarcely a sick man to be found. Our Provisions are good in their kind, and our supplies regular—and as far as my judgment will enable me to determine our Prospects are very flattering.

I have taken the liberty to intrude thus far on your Excel's Patience without any Apology, hoping it may not be disagreeable. I believe the Intelligence it contains may be depended on, as I have been particularly careful in collecting it.

The enclosed I beg your Excy will please to forward to its address—present my best respects to the Family, and believe me to be Sir, Your Excellency's most obt. Servt.

His Excy. Govr. Clinton.

[No. 3978.]

*General Swartwout's Levies.*

Return of the Levies Received at Fishkill, from the Different Regts. in General Sartwout's Brigade, Fishkill Sept. 8th, 1781.

|                    |              |            |                |              |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Coll. Brinckerhoff | Do Frears    | Do. Fellds | Do. Ludinton's | Do. Graham's |
| 35                 | 41           | 40         | 27             | 43           |
| Do. V. Derburgh's  | Do. Hopkin's | Totals     |                |              |
| 26                 | 54           | 286        |                |              |

Christopher Codwise, Capt. & M. Mastr.

[No. 3979.]

*Ensign William Peters Acknowledges to the Governor the Receipt of His Warrant.*

Schenectady, Sept. 8th, 1781.

Sir, I just now received a letter from Col. Benson Covering my Warrant as Ensign in the Second New York Regiment, which

I shall join without Delay. I Beg your Excellency will accept my Sincerest thanks for this instance of your kindness, and shall endeavor to merit a continuance of your good opinion.

I am with the greatest respect Your Excellencys Most Humble Servt.

His Excellency Geo. Clinton Esqr.

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[No. 3980.]

*Captain Job Wright Ordered to Command Levies at Saratoga.*

Hd. Qrs. Poughkeepsie, Sept. 9, 1781.

Capt. Job Wright will take Charge & Command of the Levies, now at & in the vicinity of Saratoga, raised on bounties of unappropriated Lands until further Orders. This Order is, however, not to be construed to the prejudice of any Officer who may have enlisted any of these Levies or to prevent him from any advantages he may be entitled to in consequence thereof.

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[No. 3981.]

*Captain Jacob I. Lansing Ordered to Repair to Saratoga.*

Poughkeepsie, Sept. 9th, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency the Govr. being informed that there are several Recruits raised on Bounties of unappropriated Lands, now at Saratoga who cannot without the greatest Inconvenience attend at Albany. He, therefore, requests that you'll go up & muster them as soon as possible. Altho the Time limited by the Law for completing these Regts. is expired yet he wishes to have all the men mustered & a Return of them made to him before the Meeting of the Legislature as they may think it expedient to extend the Time to a further Day. I am &c.

R. Benson.

Jacob I. Lansing Esqr. Albany.

[No. 3982.]

*Governor Clinton Writes of the Exposed Condition of the Albany and Tryon Frontiers to General Heath.*

Pokeepsie, 9th Sept, 1781.

Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 5th and 7th Instant & to thank you for the Attention which you are pleased to promise to the Frontiers of this State & I begg you to be assured, Sir, of every Assistance in my Power to facilitate your Command in every particular and render it effacious. At the Instance of the Commander in Chief I made the Disposition of the Force intended for the Protection of the Frontiers in the first Instance. They consisted of two Regiments of Levies Commanded by Lieut Colonels Willet and Pawling, each consisting of between four & five hundred Men. Willet's Regiment was dispatched to the different Posts on the Frontiers of Albany & Tryon County to wit Saraghtoga, Forts Herkimer & Rensalaer, at Schohary & other intermediate Settlements. The two New York Regiments were also at the Time on that Service. Pawling's Regiment is stationed on the Frontiers of Orange & Ulster from Minisink Northward to Joseph Lamontje at the Line of the County of Albany inclusively & occupy the different important passes in that extent leading from the westward to the settlements. William's & Sacketts Company in West Chester County are also part of this Regiment. Willet's Regiment is since augmented by the late Levies of this State (the quota directed to be raised in the Counties of Albany & Tryon being ordered to join his Command) but for want of a Return I am not able to ascertain the Amount & I am equally ignorant of the Number of Eastern Levies which were intended for Frontier service that have arrived but I presume Genl. Starke has furnished you with regular Returns.

With Respect to Pawling's Regiment I am of the opinion they cannot be better disposed of than they are at present and that with the aid of the Militia which is held in constant readiness they will be able to afford as great a degree of security to those Frontier Settlements as their Situation will admit of, for I presume the Force we are able to maintain on the Frontiers however formidable would be able so to guard such an Extent of Country as to give perfect Security to the Inhabitants agt. the sudden Incursions of small ravaging Parties of the Enemy & to cover every settlement would so divide a much larger Force than the present is as to prevent their being suddenly able to collect & oppose any large Body of the Enemy.

The Frontier Settlements of Albany & Tryon Counties are if possible still more exposed to the Enemy, not only from their being a less Distance from the Enemy's Posts but by their being more remote from each other & the natural Force of the Country not so easily collected. I should, therefore, conceive that any addition of Force in that Quarter that can be spared conveniently would be of real service. It would have been imprudent to have assigned particular stations to the Troops in Tryon County & to the westward of Albany, therefore Colo. Willet in whom I place great confidence & whom I wish may be continued to have immediate command of them, has discretionary orders to dispose of them according to exigencies. Genl. Stark who is stationed at Saraghtoga has the general direction, As I mentioned in my last I am ignorant of the circumstances attending the information received by the Mayor of Albany respecting the designs of the enemy agt. that city and therefore am not able to judge precisely of the credit it merits or of the measures most proper to be taken on the occasion, but I sho'd imagine that the

public service would be most effectually promoted and the city derive the best security by having the frontiers through which they must pass before they can reach it well guarded, and that therefore the bulk of the troops that can be spared ought to be applied to that service, reserving only a small number to mount guard in the city with the militia to incite to vigilance and intimidate incendiaries from any attempt they may have in contemplation against it.

I have the honor to be with great respect & esteem, Sir, your most obed't. servt.

N. B. Pawling's Regt. I believe from its being very remote from Genl. Starke is not included in his command.

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[No. 3983.]

*James Grant Asks Governor Clinton to be Relieved of His Parole.*

Please Your Excellency: The Duration of War is uncertain Its Effects hard and insupportable to me, Considering my conduct and Situation from the Commencement of it, to this Date, urges and obliges by making Application to your Excellency for Redress; the Regulations and Laws of the States being Settled Hopes from your Attachment to the Rights and Libertys of Mankind in generall, to have immediate Relief from my singular Disadvantageous Disagreeable suffering Situation, which Causes great loss and suffering to me without any possible Advantage to the States,

Early in the Troubles I formed my mind upon the best Lights that my understanding coud Convey to me, and has ever Acted agreeable to the Articles of Probity and the strictist Honor, yet the Exigence of the Times, were such, that in May Seventh Six, I was called on by Order of Congress to attend the County Committee of Dutchess; in Compliance I readily did, when Committee informed me that it was Ordered by Congress that I and all such as had not joined in full, shoud be paroled or give Equivalent satisfaction. I told them I coud not give my Parol as it would be Evincoeing that I was Opposed to Liberty, property, the Protestant Religion and no Taxation without True Representation which certainly I was not, this being all that was then held forth, But to give all the satisfaction possible for me thereto give. The Professons of the Committee then being great to King and Country, I made the following Bargain with and by Authority and Direction of Congress: To wit Should I become Disagreeable, they were to give reasonable notice to me to Settle my Business and go away from where they Ruled, it being agreeable to the Laws of Nations; should I not go accordingly, to become lyable to their Laws made or to be made good Bad or Indifferent, and on their part they were at any and all times to allow of my going without any the least hinderance, or Interruption from them or any Under Congress to me or any my Property, unless it was by the Laws that subsisted at the time of my Settling here.

Notwithstanding this Bargain which I held sacred on my part it was soon insisted on that I should give my Parol to the Limits of Six Miles as a Prisoner of War; 'tho I had no Hand in the War again to give more satisfaction, by great Persuasion & being Assured that giving such Parol should not Deprive me of my Bargain, on them Terms I gave my Parol.

My Parol and all other my Engagements I have strictly kept, Entreat that your Excellency would be pleased to allow me my first Agreement, as my Durance is become

Insupportable by its Duration and other Inconveniences; should it not be agreeable to your Will, or the Policy of the States to allow of my first Bargain, Expects Your Excellency will be pleased to Permit my going in some other Manner equally Honorable and as soon as possible and your Petitioner will ever Pray.

Mr. Benson the Attorney General can acquaint your Excellency with everything Relative to me. My necessity must plead my excuse for Importuning Your Excellency with this Letter, and from your Goodness be Pleased to grant my desired Relief.

I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's Most Obedient and Obliged Humble Servant,

Fredericksburgh the 10th September 1781. Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3984.]

*General Schuyler Fearful that the Enemy are Meditating an Attack Along the Mohawk or the Hudson River.*

Albany, Sept. 10th, 1781.

Dr. Sir, The scarcity of paper induces me to leave the letter for Gen. Heath under flying seal, after perusal please to close and forward it. It is given out that the Enemy offended at having been duped by the Vermontese, intend to attack them; this with the indications at St. Johns gives me great reason to suspect that they mean to attack the Mohawk or this river.

Yesterday two spies or british emissaries passed thro the town and found means, altho discovered, to escape.

I am, Dr. Sir, with great respect and esteem Your Excellency's most obedt. Servant, Ph. Schuyler.

His Ex. Govr. Clinton; &c. &c.

Information cont'd, in the Letter to Gen'l. Heath alluded to in the within:

That a Brigade of Troops had arrived at St. Johns from Quebec on the 29th Augt. Their destination not made public yet the Preparations made there indicated a speedy Traverse of the Lakes.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO GENL. SCHUYLER.

Pokeepsie, 14th Sept. 1781.

Dr Sir, I have this Moment received your Favour of the 10th Instant & have forwarded the Letter it enclosed to Genl. Heath



by Express. Previous to the Receipt of yours I had written to him on the Subject of the Frontiers & recommended the sending an Additional Number of Troops for their Defence if consistent with the safety of the Posts in the Highlands they could be spared from the Army under his immediate Command. You'll please to excuse this short Scroll as I am much indisposed & write with great Pain. I am &c.

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[No. 3985.]

*Hugh Mitchell to Governor Clinton with Lists of Women, etc., Whose Husbands are in Canada.*

Schenectady, the 10th Sepr. 1781.

Sir, I am Honoured with your letter of the 5th Inst. by Mr. Stuart Covering a letter with a warrant inclosed for Mr. Peters which I delivered and am much obliged to you for the favour don to him. I also delivered your Message to Mrs. McFarlan. I herewith transmit you a list of the names of a Number of women whose husbands are with the Enemy. I have not seen their Children but by the account they gave me all the males on the list is under twelve years of age. At the Request of a number of the Inhabitants of BallsTown I send you a list of the prisoners taken from that District that you may the better know who to apply for.

I am with Grate Respect Your Excellencys most Hubl. Servt.  
His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

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[No. 3986.]

*Governor Clinton to the Commissioners at Albany in Relation to Exchanges.*

Pokeepsie, 11th September 1781.

Gentlemen, I take the liberty of transmitting to your care a Letter to Capt. Dodge Commissary of Prisoners for this State now at Albany enclosing Papers Relating to his Office. As I wish you to be informed of the contents of the Letter I have left it open for your Perusal and when you have read it you will please to seal & have it delivered to him. You will observe I have ventured to recommend him to your Assistance in the Execution of the Business with which he is charged which I flatter myself will not be refused. If any of the Inhabitants on the

list to whose Exchange I have consented stand committed by the Civil Authority you will see the Impropriety of inlarging them & my Consent is to be considered as conditional that this is not the case. The Reason for not consenting at present to the Exchange of Bloore & Shephard is fully explained in my letter to the Commissary. I am &c.

Commissrs. for Conspiracies, Albany.

[No. 3987.]

*Commissioners at Albany to Governor Clinton as to Sundry Exchanges with an Interesting Statement Concerning Captain Moses Davis, who was Captured by Carleton's Men.*

Albany, September 11, 1781.

Sir: The Bearer of this is old Capt. Harris whose Son's character you have some knowledge of. As he has some matters of importance to communicate, we have insisted upon his seeing your Excellency with as much dispatch as possible. He is one of the Prisoners lately sent down from Canada, who with David Abeel, and Peter Short we have got exchanged for William Hogan, Zachariah Overmout, and William Summer as pr. a Receipt inclosed, signed William Marsh, dated at Skenesborough, 7th Sept. 1781, a Copy whereof we have filed with us for fear of Accidents. This Exchange has been hastened on account of the Information we understood they could give. With all due respect we are Your Excellency's hum. Servants

Saml. Stringer, John M. Beeckman, Commissrs, for Conspiracies.

Rec'd. Schenesborough Sept. 7th, 1781, Zachariah Overmout, William Hogan, William Somer, Citizens of the State of New York, in Exchange for Moses Harris, David Abeel & Peter Short, prisoners of War permitted to return from Canada on Parole.

William Marsh.

Capt. Moses Davis, of Kingsbury, was taken last October on his Way from his Home to Fort Anne by a Party detached from Maj. Carlton's Command. He surrendered to Moffat late of White Creek. The same Day Carlton took Fort Anne.

He was carried to Montreal where he continued a Prisoner untill the 14th Augt. last when he was permitted to come home on a Parole & is since exchanged. Three days before he came away one Hugh Mosler (formerly of Hicks Hollow, Dutchess County & who left that last Spring went to Coxsacke & then fell in with a Lieut. of Butler's Corps who had inlisted 10 or 11 Men & went with them across the Country to Niagara & owing to a Dispute with the Lieut. was sent Prisoner from there to Montreal) was sent to lodge in the same House with him by whom he was informed that all the People in Hick's Hollow except 4 Families had inlisted with Jno. Walter Myer & sworn in the British Service, that of these he remembers the Names of the following—one Stone as a Sergt. one of Silas Devils son as a Sergt. Thomas Gay (now lives at Coxsacke.) He left a suit of Cloaths a New saddle & Bridle that cost him twenty three Pounds Specie 40 hard dollars 9 Guenas 5¼ jos. with Gay who was to return them to his wife. Harris knew Mosler in Dutchess County & renewed his acquaintance with him without letting him know he was a Prisoner or any thing of his Political Character.

That on his way Home from Montreal they were detained three days about ¼ mile North of St. Johns where they encamped till the Boats could be prepared to take them across the Lake. That while there they had Liberty to go to the Homes in the Neighborhood to purchase Provisions &c. That one Bremon who formerly lived in Kingsbury with whom the Examinant was well acquainted, now resides in that Neighborhood & falling in with him invited the Examinant to lodge at his House & he accepted the

Invitation. That on Sunday night he thinks the 19th Augt. he was in Bed at Bremon's that Bremon's son who is a non-Commissioned Officer or Private in the Enemy's Service came to his Father's late in the night with a Dozen or more Indians with him. That he knew nothing of Harris's being in the House & was conversing freely with the Indians about the Designs of the Enemy. He said they intended to make a Bold Push. They intended to take Castle Town that it was garrisoned by 400 men that they intended to take howitzers & other light artillery ag't it & a strong force; that they intended also to burn Albany & Schenectady: that they had Friends plenty in the country that would substst and assist them to effect their Designs. The Indians said they would go with him; that they were now going a fishing & that by & by all the Indians, a great many, would come on & go along. There was no troops at St. Johns he thinks at that Time but the ordinary Garrison, as there were no Incampment, & he thinks when he left Montreal there was not more than 140 Troops at that Place, to wit 100 Hessians & 40 British. He did not understand that there was any Body of Troops collected at a Point in any one Place; they were divided among the different Posts which they garrisoned. Sir Jno. [John Johnson] was about 30 Miles up the river from Montreal with his Corps; Jessup at Sorrel with his, & Rodgers at St. Johns. The produce of the Country is almost totally destroyed by worms, except wheat which is also much injured. Their public stores he understands is almost exhausted & little or no supplies to be got in the country; Wheat 3 Dolls. pr. Bushel; Bess 20; Butter 40 & Cheese 40 coppers per pound Salt, a guina pr. Bushel. He did not hear of any troops coming from elsewhere to St. Johns when he left that. A sailor who came with the prisoners to take the Boats back and had some notion of Desertion told him he expected there would be an expedition on foot very quick. That he could take all the enemy's vessels on the Lake with boats well manned with good hands.

[No. 3988.]

*Sieur Holker Officially Recognized as Consul General of France in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.*

Sir: Inclosed herewith your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress of the 10th instant, acknowledging the Sieur Holker as Consul General of France in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware; and a form of an exequatur, or notification of his quality which is recommended as proper to be used by those States upon the occasion.

Similar forms are to be used in all such cases hereafter, as you will perceive by an Act of Congress of the 31st August herewith also inclosed. I have the honor to be, with very great respect, Your Excellency's Most obedt hbble Servant

Thos. McKean, President.

Philadelphia, September 12, 1781

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

By the United States in Congress Assembled August 31st, 1781.

RESOLVED, That upon \* \* \* \* presenting to the United States in Congress, Assembled his Commission as Consul General of France, an Act be thereupon passed recognizing him in his proper character. That upon the delivery thereof, the *exequatur* or a public Notification of the quality of \* \* \* shall issue from the supreme executive power without fee or perquisite of office.

RESOLVED, That until the ratification of some convention respecting Consular power between his most Christian Majesty & the United States, the same mode of recognition be observed.

Extract from the minutes Chas. Thomson, Secy.

By the United States in Congress Assembled Sept. 10th, 1781.

A Memorial of the Honble. Minister plenipotentiary of France was read, enclosing a Commission of the Steur Holker, Consul General of France in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, Whereupon Ordered, that the said Commission be registered, and that the Act of Recognition be in the following Words:

By the United States in Congress Assembled.

It is hereby made known to all whom it may concern, that full Credence and respect are to be paid to the Sieur Holker as Consul General of France, for the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, Which States are called upon respectively by Virtue of the powers delegated by the confederation to the United States in Congress assembled to furnish the said Sieur Holker with their Exequatur or Notification of his Quality, delivering one copy thereof to the said Sieur Holker, and causing another to be published in one or more Gazettes.

Done at Philadelphia this tenth day of September in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and eighty one, and in the sixth year of our Independence. By the United States in Congress Assembled.

Attest Chas. Thomson, Secy.

New York, to wit, To all whom it may concern

• • • having been recognized by the United States in Congress assembled as Consul General of France in the State aforesaid. It is hereby declared that the privileges preeminence and authority belonging to such character and quality are due to him.

[No. 3989.]

*Colonel Lush Asks Instructions from the Governor Concerning an Election Complication in Albany County.*

Albany, 12th Sept. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have received a Letter from Colo. Benson of the 9th Instant with some Letters without Directions for the Assembled Members of this County—he desires me to apply to *the sheriff* for their Names. Your Excellency doubtless knows that Wendell & Ten Broeck have each returned Poll Lists as Sheriff of the County. Under these Circumstances I conceived it improper to take the Members from either of their Lists, lest if it should be hereafter determined that if I acted wrong, your Excellency might be censured as it might be supposed I had rec'd your Instructions for the Purpose. Ten Broeck returns the following Persons:

Peter Wiessmer,  
John H. Van Renselaer,  
Abraham Cuyler,  
John Ja. Beckman,

James Barker,  
Volkert P. Douw,  
Isaac Vrooman\*  
Dirk Swart\*

Matthew Adgate\*  
Philip Rockefeller

Wendell returns:

Matthew Adgate\*  
Dirk Swart\*  
Isaac Vrooman\*  
George Palmer,

Jacob Ford,  
Philip Frisbe,  
Israel Thompson,

Samuel Ten Broeck,  
John Lansing, junr.  
George Calwell,

I have forwarded Letters to Adgate, Vrooman and Swart as they are on both Lists. As to the rest—if your Excellency conceives it absolutely necessary to transmit circular Letters one of the following Methods must be taken.

1st. To take Ten Broeck's List? 2. Or Wendell's?

3rd. Or Add the numbers on both Lists together and take those who stand highest? 4. Or send Letters to those that are returned by both Wendell & Ten Broeck?

The third method I should be prevented from doing here (if your Excellency should think proper to direct it) as Mr. Wendell has refused to let me enspect & take Extracts from the Poll Lists, but he informs me they are in the Secy's. office. The fourth I conceive (with submission) to be the best, as it will leave the Decision to the Legislature who are judges of their own members. If your Excellency is of the same Opinion, you will be pleased to direct Colo. Benson to send me Eight or nine more Blanks without Delay—and if your Excellency thinks proper, I will act as if without your particular Directions in the Business.

I have forwarded the Letters to Tryon County by an Express which went the day after I recd. them—the Letters for the Senators of this County are also sent and delivered. I am with the highest Respect and esteem your Excy's most obedt. Servt.

His Excy. Gov. Clinton.

[No. 3990.]

*Henry Glen Forwards to the Governor News from the Mohawk and Suggests Stronger Military Protection.*

Schenectady, 12th Sepr. 1781.

Sir, The Bearer goes too your Excellency with a Letter from Hugh Mitchell, Esqr. on the subject of one Dan'l. McKinney

Goeing with his family into Canada & has Requested a line from me. The matter stands as follows: McKinney is a poor forgotten man who at times is Not by his Services. The Family does not Come under the Directions of the Law for sending persons in to Montreal.

Mrs. McKinney had two Brothers, who died in that Country & Left this woman a Considerable Large sum of money & she wants to go there in order to Receive the Same & Carry her family with her. Its needless for me to say more; if his Excellency can any ways possible permit them to Go in the first Flag, will do them a piece of service & oblige his Most obedt. Humble Servt.

H. Glen.

His Excellency G. Clinton &c.

P. S. Since writing this letter I Recd some interesting Intelligence from the south, north and west. I shall give your Excellency the north & west. As to the southern you must had before it came this far.

Meaning by the southern news of the arrival of the French fleet in the Chesapeake & some of them at York Town; Great is the News! We have an Act. of all the force they can Spare in Canada was on the 25th ulto. at St. Johns in order to Come across Lake Champlain & its said they mean the Vermounters & that Sir John is in the Expedition & to have a Separate Command. I am a little of opinion Sir John will Come something near this Quarter. As there is a possibility of Albany or this Town being their object, both valuable, & an Eye sore to them. I could wish we had some more Assistance; if Sir John should come as low down as in this Neighborhood & No intelligence from any force from the westward, tho there has been a party of about 150 who have Surprised the Brave & Gallant Wood-

worth who Killed the Indians at Scandaga two years 1st March who was Killed with 11 more 14 missing with a Lieut. Willson & 15 made their Escape; this happened 5 miles from Fort Dayton on the 7th Instant; if my friend Colo. Willett was to move his force as Low as Johnstown & Conayaga might be of Service to this place & General Starck cutt of his Communication to send a Sufficient force Across from Saratoga.

You will please to Excuse my write. I am in a horry & did not like to miss this opertunity of leting your Excellency heare that I am still in the land of the Liveing & hope God will spare me to see and End of the Glories Cause we are Engaged in; our Town is at last Clossd. & in pretty Good condition could I But Convert some of the Inhabitants I should be happy to learn wether we cant without delay have some assistance from the Easthren Brethren or from General Heath? I remain Your Excellency most sincer well wisher & most obied Humb. Servt.

To His Excellency G. Clinton, &c &c.

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[No. 3991.]

*The Allied Armies Advancing on Yorktown.*

Extract of a letter from an officer in the Southern army, dated Elk, Sept. 12, 1781:

“Yesterday our grand fleet of nearly an hundred vessels sailed from Plumb Island, 4 miles from Elk, having on board French grenadiers, chasseurs, infantry of the Duke’s legion, American light corps, Second New Jersey regiment, colonel Lamb’s corps of sappers and miners, artificers of every kind, apparatus, and stores necessary for a long siege. This joyful day, the rear division with which general Lincoln embarked; consisting of

Hazen's, Olney's and First Jersey, sails. The remaining part of both armies have marched to Baltimore, where they are to wait the return of the vessels which carry troops from hence, or use such as can be procured by other means.

"It said this day, the marquis de la Fayette has written to Mr. Lee of Baltimore, that Lord Cornwallis had offered to surrender on the same terms which general Burgoyne did, but was rejected. His negroes have small pox raging amongst them violently. He has changed his position at Yorktown for Gloucester, which is directly across the river, and said to be more eligible."

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[No. 3992.]

*A Return of Levies.*

Albany, 12th Sept. 1781.

A Return of the Levies Rec'd. from the Difrent Regements Command by Colonels Cuyler, Killian V'n. Renslaer, Hen. V'n. Renslers, & P. P. Schuyler.

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|                          |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Col. Abrm. Cuyler        | Col. Kill. Vn. Rensslaer | Col. Hen. Vn. Rensslaer |
| 28                       | 29                       | 10                      |
| Col. Phillip P. Schuyler | Total                    |                         |
| 26                       | 93 Men.                  |                         |

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Jacob Hochstrasser, Lieut. N. York Levies.

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[No. 3993.]

*The Ambuscading of Lieutenant Woodworth's Party—Only Fifteen Out of Thirty-nine Persons Escaped—Captain E. Marshall Reports the Affair to Governor Clinton.*

Albany, Sept. 12th, 1781.

Sir, By Sundry letters within five Days from Colo. Willet, the Enemy have been too Successful in Ambuscading a party of our Men. The following are Extracts from the above letters:



Fort Plain Sept. 7, 1781.

“By information from Fort Herkimer the enemy are down in force. I am collecting the Militia, and shall pursue them as soon as possible. You will inform Genl. Stark of this as soon as possible.” This is the whole of his Letter of that Date.

Fort Harkimer Sept. 8th 1781.

“The Enemy have returned, nor does it appear the Party was anything like so Strong as was at first supposed. I am endeavouring to make every possible discovery. If I make any that will be an Object of pursuit I shall do it, if not, shall return to Fort Plain—please to communicate this, in your Quarter to prevent longer alarms than is necessary.”

Fort Plain, Sept. 10th.

“I am just returned to this place; the party that Lieut. Woodworth fell in with, and which has occasioned the late alarm—did not appear to be anything like so strong as was represented to me,—they were far gone before we could get near them. Poor Woodworth was taken in by their ambuscade & was unfortunately killed the Second fire; it cost us dear, only fifteen (out of Thirty Nine Men & Two Officers,) Escaped. Eleven of our Men including Woodworth were found Dead. The Remainder with Wilson we have no Account of; Wilson in doubt did everything in his Power. The Enemy were too heavy for him & I fear some of his men left him in the Lurch. It hi[a]s been an unfortunate affair; we must hope for better hereafter. Please to inform G'l. Stark & Governor Clinton of this Disaster; want of paper prevents me from doing it myself.”

I rec'd. your Excellencys favour of the 29th ulto. have applyd but can get no Returns—there are great deficiencies yet; by the enclosed you will see the Numbers furnished by the Regi-

ments within this Vicinity. I have applied & remonstrated repeatedly but it has been of little avail. Cuylers Regiment is complete.

I am with great Esteem Sir, Your Excellency's Most obedt. Humbl. Servt.

Governor Clinton.

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[No. 3994.]

*Gideon Baker to Governor Clinton—Petition for Pardon.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 3995.]

*Casey Eldridge's Petition for Pardon.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 3996.]

*Arnold Reynolds to Governor Clinton—Petition for Pardon.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 3997.]

*Lieutenant Peter Welsh Reports to the Governour on Secret Service—  
Robert Benson Makes Réply.*

Sir, The Bearer Richd. Prince, a soldier in the levies, is the person I have had Out with me amongst the McDonalds &c. I have had him out for Eight days since I have been at Poughkeepsie, and as he reports I am of opinion, there is none of those vilians in that quarter of the Country.

Isaac Tobious sends me word to be on my guard in future, as the Chief of little Britton was in pursute after me the next day after I left there, supposing me to be (as he thought) a

British officer he sends word they serched his house; he used the Bearer with the greatest kindness Imaginable.

Should any of those vilians atempt to harbour in this quarter of the Country I am in hopes to render you an agreable account of them.

I am, sir, with the strictest atention to your Design your Excelencies Most Obediant and very Humble servant

Peter Welsh, Lieut.

N. B. The Bearer will Inform the particulars of what passed while he was out. I wish to have a line to Know whether this matter may be Continued or not.

—  
Poughkeepsie Sept. 14th, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency is indisposed & therefoer could not examine Prince relative to the business you have employed him in. He however directs me to acknowledge the rect. of your Letter & to inform you that he leaves it to your Discretion whether it is necessary to prosecute the business any farther at present. If it should not be inconvenient to you at any Time & you should judge it necessary to renew the business you will take the necessary Measures accordingly.

I am &c R. B.

Lieut. Welsh.

—  
[No. 3998.]

*Governor Clinton to Henry Glen in Regard to Exchanges and the Protection of the Frontiers.*

Pokeepsie, 14th Sepr. 1781.

Dr Sir, I have recd. your Letter of 12th Inst. Some days since I wrote to Mr. Mitchel in answer to a Letter from him

respecting Mr. Kenny & his family & told him that I could not grant the Request unless Mr. Kenny applied to me in writing agreeable to the Law authorizing me to exchange Inhabitants of this State who claimed to owe allegiance to Great Britain for the Subjects of this State Prisoners with the Enemy. This Law was passed last Winter, and, however willing to relieve the distress of this Poor Family, I conceive myself altogether unauthorized to consent to their joining the enemy, however insignificant, in any other mode than that prescribed by it. I beg you will communicate this to Mrs. Kenney that if she chooses her application may be made accordingly.

I am obliged to you for your Intelligence—the news from the Southw'd respect'g the arrival of the French fleet is truly interesting & we have Reason to hope soon to receive very important Intelligence from that Quarter. I wrote to Genl. Heath a few Days ago informing him of the State of the Frontiers & recommended to him the send'g. an additional Force (if the Safety of the Posts below would admit of his sparing any) for their Protection & I am not without Hopes that we shall be able with Common Exertions to frustrate any Attempts the Enemy have in Contemplation agt. your Quarter. Be pleased to inform Mr. Mitchel (to whom I have not by the present Time to write) that I have transmitted the List of Tory Women he sent me to the Com'rs. in Albany with my Consent to their Departure for Canada as Security that an equal Number of our Friends in Captivity be liberated & permitted to return Home.

[No. 3999.]

*Inhabitants of Ballston Prisoners with the Enemy.*

Pokeepsie, 14th Septr. 1781.

Sir, I enclose you a List\* of sundry Inhabitants of BallsTown in this State Prisoners with the Enemy & it is my Desire that you pay due Attention to their Exchange whenever an Opportunity offers. I am &c.

G. C.

Capt. Dodge, State Comy. of Prisoners.

[No. 4000.]

*Governor Trumbull of Connecticut Requests Governor Clinton's Assistance in Apprehending Joel Beach.*

Hartford, Sept. 15th, 1781.

Sir, Joel Beach a Subject of this State was in the Year 1780 largely concerned in the importation, and passing of Counterfeit Money, in which practice he was detected and a prosecution instituted against him, as you will see by the inclosed Complaint & Warrant—of which sd. Beach getting information made his escape out of this State, and it never has since been in the power of the officer to apprehend him and we are informed that Beach Secretts himself in the State of New York to escape the punishment due to his Crimes. . And as I am confident you would willingly afford your Aid to bring such atrocious offenders to punishment, I have taken the liberty to send the papers to you and wish you would back them with sufficient authority to apprehend Beach in the State of New York, if he can be there found.

I am Dear Sir, with Sentiments of the highest esteem Your Excelencies obt. Huml. Servt.

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\*List not found.

[No. 4001.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton in Regard to the Disposition of Weissenfels Regiment.*

Headquarters, Continental village, Sept. 15, 1781.

Sir, I have been honored with yours of the 7th and thank you for the particular detail of posts and troops on the frontiers. Colonel Willet, of whom I have the highest opinion, shall not be interrupted in his command—considering the importance of the northern frontiers, how much they have been harrassed, and that they are still menaced. After I wrote to general Stark in the letter which passed through your hands, I ordered Major Logan with two companies of Weissenfels regiment to proceed immediately to Albany for the security of that place. I have since been informed that a place called Balltown is a pass through which the enemy will probably come should they attempt Albany—if so, perhaps it would be best to send one of the two companies there—the remainder of colonel Weissenfels regiment, except the company in Orange county, are on the lines with colonel Putnam. They are an exceeding fine corps—and if you think the northern frontier is not sufficiently covered, and that Weissenfels regiment will be more serviceable there than below, he shall be ordered to the northward; or if you think the two companies are sufficient, and it will be best to station one of them at Balltown, it shall be done. I request your opinion freely in these matters, being the best judge. My wish is to afford the frontiers the best protection in my power, compatible with the primary object of my command, the effectual security of the posts of the Highlands.

I send to be disposed of as your Excellency may think proper, one Ezekiel Youmans an inhabitant of the city of New York,



M. P. Johnson





lately taken near Hobuck ferry by one of our parties. He was trading when taken, says he has been appointed a captain in Ward's corps, but resigned—is now one of his soldiers. He was not taken in arms.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4002.]

*Major Popham Sends Intelligence to the Governor Concerning Washington's Army and the French Fleet.*

Baltimore, Sept. 15th, 1781.

Sir, Two motives have induced me to address your Excellency in this as well as in a former Letter; the first is a desire to contribute to your Satisfaction, by communicating any interesting Intelligence which may come to my knowledge, respecting the movements of our Army in this Quarter—the second, and which I fear you will conceive to be the most powerful, is a Desire to profit by your Excellency's Consequence in the Conveyance of my Letters to the Northward.

However, as your Excellency must be more intimately acquainted with the secret Springs which actuate the great machine, than I can possibly be supposed to be, I shall only take the liberty to inform you that accts. just received in town tho' not officially say that "the Count de Grass has been joined by the fleet from Rhode Island, and that he has captured & sent in one 64 Gun ship and four Frigates"—that previous to the Arrival of General Washington in Virginia Lord Cornwallis sent out all the useless Men, Women & Children and has made every Disposition which indicates a Determination to stand out to the last

Extremity—But obstinacy against such a decided superiority, will savor of Madness, rather than true Courage. Please to direct your Aid to forward the enclosed to its address.

I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's humble Servt.

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[No. 4003.]

*Levies Received at Fishkill.*

Return of the Levies Received at Fishkill from the Different Regts. In General Swartwout's Brigade, Fishkill Sepr. ye 15th, 1781.

|                      |              |            |                |              |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Colo. Brinckerhoff's | Do. Frears   | Do. Fellds | Do. Ludinton's | Do. Graham's |
| 35                   | 41           | 40         | 31             | 44           |
| Do. V. DerBurgh's    | Do. Hopkin's | Total      |                |              |
| 26                   | 54           | 271        |                |              |

Christopher Codwise, Capt. & M. Mastr.

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[No. 4004.]

*Petition of Francis West in Behalf of Pardon for Reynolds, Baker and Eldred.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 4005.]

*Governor Clinton to the Commissioners at Albany as to Exchange of Persons and Especially of Women.*

Pokeepsie, 12th Sepr, 1781.

Gentlemen, Since writing the above (see my Letter of yesterday) Your Letter of the 8th Instant is received. By the enclosed papers to the State Com'y. of Prisoners you will observe I have signified my Consent to the Exchange of several Inhabitants whose Requests I found Witnessed by two of your Board. I have now added to the List the names of those transmitted to me in your last. You will perceive I had withheld my Consent to Bloore & Shepard for other Reasons than those you mention

& that as to the whole it is Conditional. It is difficult to determine what is best to do with the Women. Those who have Sons grown up ought not to be permitted on any Consideration to go into the Enemy until their Sons who will certainly follow their Parents are first exchanged, nor indeed is it my Opinion that one more ought to be suffered to go than will be sufficient with those who were sent off last Fall to exchange those of our Friends who are lately returned from Canada unless all our female friends are released and the present system of Warfare discontinued in future. I have written on this subject & to this effect to Gov. Haldeman & it would [be] absurd & improper to depart from my Determination before I have his Answer. I am &c.

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[No. 4006.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—Weissenfels Ordered to Albany  
—Fears of a Dash of the Enemy on the Northern Frontier.*

Headquarters, Continental Village, Sept. 17, 1781.

Sir, Since writing on the 15, I have received the inclosed from Lieut. Shaylor, the officer who took Yeoman. If your Excellency should not view him in any other light than a prisoner of war, I shall have no objection to gratifying Mr. Shaylor. If you should think Yeoman deserves a different treatment, I have nothing to say.

Yesterday I received information by a person from Montreal, that the enemy have for some time been building canoes and small batteaux at St. Johns, baking hard bread at Montreal and forwarding it to St. Johns. This morning I received information from Gen. Schuyler that a number of troops had arrived at St. Johns from Quebec, and it was supposed a descent on the frontiers is meditating. The person who informs of the building of

the canoes and small batteaux, supposes them from their size, rather calculated for a descent on the settlements on the head of Connecticut river, than to cross the lakes.

General Schuyler writes me that he has given your Excellency the intelligence. I have ordered Weissenfel's rgiment to Albany immediately; one company to be stationed in the city, the others in such manner as may be most conducive to the public service and security of the frontiers. Shall write general Fellows to have the militia of Berkshire in readiness, should they be wanted. Your's are always in readiness. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient servant.

[No. 4007.]

*G. Howell Asks the Governor's Assistance in Restoration to Freedom.*

Southampton, Long Island, September 17th, 1781.

Sir: Altho' I have not the happiness of being personally known to your Excellency—I hope your goodness will excuse my addressing you—on a subject, the disagreeable part of which, has undoubtedly reached you before this. I do design by a proper representation, through the mediation of this Letter, and Major Davice; to obviate the bad tendency of reports, that have been propagated to my prejudice, while in the Country in order to which, it is necessary strictly to adhere to truth, and to avoid sophistry in the relation; as it must undergo an examination and inspection—and if after a thorough explication, it should prove to your Excellency Satisfaction—I have no doubt—you'll then be disposed to render me any assistance to facilitate my return to the Continent—from whence I was drove, by the violent prosecution, of his Excellency Governor Trumbull—the most so: perhaps that ever was known to a person circumstanced as I was: provided with the amplest Pasport, and Protection, that the Supreme Legislative Authority, could invest me with—for my peassible residence. However, I am far from thinking that the Prosecution was levied from any other motive than genuine affection—and a zeal to serve his Country, tho' I am conscious that it was unjust—and that the Governor was under the influence of a wrong guidance—and a desire to serve ones Country well—has a tendency frequently to lead the most wise and cautious, too far. I was apprehended on suspicion and imprisoned, and what little property that I had not secured, was taken from me—and all this without any other proof, than a bare asertion, that a future day would enable my Prosecutor, to convict me. A procedure contrary to the established laws of every free Country—and to every Idea of freedom and reason—I rested a long time under this exemption from Justice, satisfied; in this principle, that when a Country was threatened with danger, it was allowable to brake over or to stretch the wholesome laws, to avert a probable danger—however, this violence once done, ought immediately to be looked into, and rectified, as soon as possible—but as I found after repeted remonstrances against the legality of the procedure, and applications for a tryal bouth before and after I had departed from Prisson had proved ineffectual, I did not know to what length their zeal might lead to. I, therefore, left them; indeed I could not long have abided in Prison, as my health was sensibly effected by it. After four weeks spent in fruitless attempts, I returned to this place, where I have remained ever since—in constant expectation that some of my

friends would be able by their assistance, to place me on the footing of a subject—which is all that I do, or ever did claim—and what I am justly entitled to. I impute it entirely to a want of method, that they have not been able to accomplish my wishes. Major Davice being frequently on the spot, I thought proper to advise with him on my case, and to solicit his assistance—which he is good enough to grant me; and has undertaken accordingly and I doubt not but that he will be able to clear up the matter, to the entire satisfaction of your Excellency, and also to the neighbouring Authority as I could wish, and that there might be no farther difficulty or uneasiness in the affair. Indeed I should prefer remaining here, to undergoing another such campaign (if I may be allowed the term). My Passport authorizes me to go to any of the United States. I, therefore, chose N. York as I am best acquainted with its laws and Government and have lived within its territories—and hope, and shall expect to meet with effectual support and Protection under your Excellency's wise and salutary administration. I am willing to give every testimony of my allegiance which the laws of my Country require—and to deposit One thousand Pounds in the Bank as a further proof that my intentions are as upright and sincere, as my professions are explicit. I can also bring anything that may be wanted for the Army's uniform, &c &c.

Hoping that your Excellency will think proper to adopt such measures—as will tend to the completion of my wishes—'till a future opportunity offers to assure you, of the esteem I bear towards you permit me to subscribe myself Your Excellency's most humble Servant

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4008.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—Disturbed Over the Prospects of Obtaining Forage for the Army.*

Headquarters, Continental Village, September 18, 1781.

Sir, The difficulties, not to say impossibilities of obtaining forage for this army in its present encampment, are become so many and great, that I am constrained to lay our situation before your Excellency. The county of West Chester, although fertile in forage, yet from the length of time which the American and French armies encamped there, the quantities of forage consumed by them, with what has since been brought to this army, and what perished in the fields by not being seasonably secured, have rendered this part of the country unwilling and nearly unable longer to supply the army—at the same time the public service requires that it should in some way be done. The other counties of the State have for this year hitherto, fortunately, not been called upon, and I am told, are full of forage. I have represented our situation to Congress; but your Excellency well knows, that in the variety of business, with which that august

body are surrounded, answers are not immediately obtained. There is yet some forage in this county, but the forage masters have nothing at command but certificates and cannot allure the inhabitants to part with their forage for them, while large sums for former supplies are due. I sincerely feel for the inhabitants. But what is the army to do? We must have forage, or quit the ground. Thus circumstanced, I am compelled to request your Excellency's aid in such way as you may think most conducive to the public service, and least injurious to the inhabitants. The same reluctance is discovered respecting pastures as furnishing dry forage.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient servant

P. S. I am this moment informed that the neighborhood of Fredericksburgh is full of forage both long and short, but the inhabitants will not spare it. The officer of the day reports to me that the few saddle horses kept in camp will very soon be totally unfit for service. I must repeat my request for immediate relief.

W. H.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4009.]

*Hobart Latham's Petition Asking to Remove His Family.*

To His Excellency the Governor & the Secret Committee for the State of New York: The Petition & Prayer of your Humble Servt. Hobart Latham on Long Island humbly sheweth Your Excellency & Committee, that I have a Wife & Family with a sum of Property which is to me considerable at Sagg Harbour which has been for some Years exposed to be plundered & Destroyed by the British Troops. And I have actually suffered not only by them but by the American Boats. Had it been practicable for Me to Remove my Property I should long since have brought my Family on to Connecticut or New York. I now have a considerable supply of English Goods & other Property which can be easily Changed into such property & effects as can be removed if they can be protected from Seisure. Your Humble Serv't. therefore, is willing to give any security Your Excellency shall think fit to Require for Good behaviour & fair upright conduct in the matter? Whereupon your Petitioner Prays Your Excellency & the Committe to grant Liberty for to Remove my family & Effects from Long Island into the State of Connecticut Under such Restrictions & In such way & manner as to your Excellency & Committee shall seem best for the Publick Good. Hobart Latham.  
Dated at Sagg Harbour ye 18th of Sept. 1781.

[No. 4010.]

*Albany Commissioners Expose to the Governor the True Character of Several Persons who Desire to be Exchanged—Threatened Destruction of Albany Reported.*

Albany 19 Sept. 1781.

Sir, We inclose your Excellency applications for exchange. Abraham Volwyder one of the persons applying, we are of Opinion ought to be detained, as his Father and all his Connections are residing among us which will be an inducement for him to come into the Country; and from the Character of his Friends we have great Reason to think they will harbour him. He is an old offender; it was him who, when General Burgoyne came down, conducted Capt. Campbell of the British Army to this Place in disguise. We inclose Your Excellency an Examination of five persons from Montreal, three of whom on their Way homeward to Caretuck we have directed to wait on Your Excellency. James Dugan who remains here is a son of Colo. Dugan who entered our service when General Montgomery was in Canada, and who has since gone to France; he appears to be an intelligent young Man, and from the Oppertunities he has had while in Canada with his Friends, and being acquainted with the French Language, he is more particular in his Account than the others; but the Principal Parts they all agree in, which are summed up in the Examination. We are Your Excellencies Most Obedt. & humble Servants

|                   |   |               |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Saml, Stringer,   | } | Commissrs.    |
| John M. Beeckman, |   | for           |
| Isaac D. Fonda,   |   | Conspiracies. |

His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

THREATENED INVASION BY THE WAY OF CANADA REPORTED WITH  
A MENACE ON ALBANY.

Campbell Lefever, Joseph Willson, John Angell and John Duncan, Inhabitants of Kanetucky County, in the State of Virginia, and James Dugan, (Son of Colo. Dugan) being examined say that they left Montreal the 26th of August; that the Saturday before they came away between 250 or 300 of Sir John Johnson's men crossed the River St. Lawrence on their way to St. Johns where they were to be joined by some white men and Savages who are to come over the lake and to make an Attack either on the Mohawk river or the North River; that previous to their leaving Montreal a large quantity of hard Bread was baked; that it is conjectured that they intend to fall upon some place and draw the whole of the Militia that Way and that a party is then to fall upon that Part of the Country which is left destitute of Men; that it was reported that the fleet had arrived in Canada but that they do not believe it, as they have often before heard it reported without foundation; that they have frequently heard Sir John's men say that they intended to destroy Albany this Fall and that they have understood a Party is to come from Niagara who are to join with the party that is to come over the Lake from St. Johns.

Albany 19 Sept. 1781.

[No. 4011.]

*Noah Webb's Family Left Destitute by His Desertion.*

To his Excellency Gorge Clinton Esqr. Governor of the State of New York Genl. and Commander in Chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same:  
May it please your Excellency:

Whereas Noah Webb, of Fredericksburgh Precinct, in Dutchess County a few Months past absconded and hath gone Within the Enemies Lines Leaving behind a Wife and three Small Children who are unable to Support them Selves.

We the subscribers, therefore, Beg Leave to Acquaint Your Excellency that Considering the Poverty and inability of the Wife of the said Webb of Soportin herself and Children, it is our opinion that She cannot Subsist very long in this Precinct without being a Publick Expence to said Precinct. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency In



Wisdom would see fit to grant a Permit to Phebe Webb Wife to the said Noah to Pass With her three Children Within the Enemy's Lines, not to return again.

Reuben Ferris, Supervisor.

Henry Ludinton

|                  |                |       |
|------------------|----------------|-------|
| Theodore Crosby, | } Overseers of |       |
| Danl. Ketchum,   |                | Poor, |
| Edmund Baker,    |                | Capt. |

[No. 4012.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton with Rumors of Reported Engagements in Chesapeake Bay.*

Headquarters, Continental Village, Sept. 20, 1781.

Sir, I have the honor enclosed to forward to your Excellency, a Letter from Congress this Day received by Express.

The Transports with the late embarkation of Troops at New York, fell down to the Hook last Saturday, it is said they took all the heavy cannon from the Grand Battery on Board, and that the Troops have taken their Baggage. In a New York paper of the 15th Mr. Rivington gives an account of a Naval Engagement off the Cheasepeake, between the French and English Fleets, in favor of the latter, altho joined by Admiral de Barras, but his account is so lame that I believe when the truth is known it will be in favor of our allies. A Packet arrived at New York on the 17th. It is said as many as three thousand people waited on the wharf to hear the news, but nothing transpired; countenances were gloomy. Nothing from the southward.

I have the honor to be with great regard your Excellencys most obedient servant,

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4013.]

*Captain Henry Dodge to Governor Clinton in Relation to the Exchange of Prisoners.*

Sir, Agreeable to your orders I have made proposals for an exchange to Canada, but they have so many more prisoners

than me that I cannot at present Carry it on, I can only exchange seventeen of the Inhabitants and they have near Sixty of ours. Capt. D. Bevier has gone. I have sent the proposals with him. Inclosed I send four certificates for the Governers Aprobation for their exchange—the Inhabitants of Balls Town I cannot at present exchange, as I have not persons to return for them as I Cannot get a list; as for Prisoners of War I can hear of but four that they have of ours; them I shall try to exchange; they have several of Colo. Cortlandt's men who I think I have no right to exchange.

With the Greatest Esteem & Respect I remain your Excellly.  
 Most Obt. Humble Servt.  
 Alby. Sept. 21st 1781.

[No. 4014.]

*Governor Clinton to Colonel Ludinton—The Webb Case—Levies—  
 Petition of Two Deserters.*

Poughkeepsie, Septr, 21st 1781.

Sir, I have recd your letter of this Date with the Petition of the Deserters from Capt. Williams' Company & the request of the Overseers of Poor relative to Mrs. Webb.

The levies you may remember are by the Law put under the Command of the Commander in Chief & made subject to the Continental Articles of War. Genl. Heath has now the command of the Department & the application in behalf of the Petitioners should be to him. I cannot with Propriety interfere in the matter. But at any Rate they ought first to deliver themselves up & offer to return to their duty before they can expect a remission of the Punishment they have incurred.

With respect to Mrs. Webb—the law makes it the duty of the Justices to warn her out of the State and she is to depart

within twenty Days after Notice given her accordingly, or be out of the protection of the law, I am,  
 Colo. Luddinton Fredericksburgh.

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COLONEL LUDINTON TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

Fredericksburgh, September 21d, 1781.

Honored Sir: Being acquainted with the contents of the petition sent you enclosing from Semr Arnold and Cowin should asteam it as a favour Dun unto them and my Self if it should have its Deseard efect. But be that as it may an answer from His Excelenz Conserning the Sam will Mutch oblige your very Humble Servant To his Excellency George Clinton, Esqr. Governor.

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PETITION OF DANIEL COWING AND SEYMOUR ARNOLD.

To his Excellency George Clinton Esquire Governor of the State of New York:  
 The Humble Petition of Daniel Cowing & Seymour Arnold

Humbly Sheweth—That your Petitioners were by undue influence and evil Example unhappily led to desert their Station in the levies under Captain Williams on the Lines in the county of Westchester and though your Petitioners upon the first reflection were sensible of the enormity of their Crime & inclined to return to their Duty, the dread of Corporal punishment prevented them till their pardon could be procured from their officers; that many applications for that purpose have been made by persons employed by your Petitr. without Effect, that your Petitr. are heartily sorry for, and ashamed of their conduct, are fully determined and solemnly promise never to be guilty of the same Crime again under any Circumstances or treatment whatsoever, that your Petrs. hope some indulgence from their known attachment to the Public cause as your petrs. have been in the service a great part of the time since the war Commenced and are now willing to make every amend in their power to the state by serving longer than the time limited or Otherways as your Excellency or their officers may appoint, if by your Excellency's interposing in their favour your petrs. may be exempted from Corporal punishment for this offence and at Liberty to return to their duty immediately this your Petitrs. implore & hope from your Excellencys known Clemency.

And your Petrs. as in duty bound will ever Pray.

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[No. 4015.]

*Memorial from Inhabitants of Southold and Shelter Island to Governor Clinton Depicting the Outrages Committed Under Cover of Commissions Issued by Governor Trumbull.*

Southold, Sepr. 21st, 1781.

To his Excellency George Clinton Esquire  
 Governor of the State of New York, &c. &c.

The Representation of a Number of the Inhabitants of Shelter Island and the town of Southold in Suffolk County on Long Island and State of New York;

Sheweth that the Subscribers, have with the rest of their Brethern on this Island been a long time past exposed both in their persons and property to the Insults and ravages which Malice or Avarice could suggest, and Subjected to many other inconveniences by the People said to be Commissioned by the State of Connecticut for certain purposes, all which we have heretofore submitted to with a degree of patience, which nothing but our attachment to the Interest of the United States could have enabled us to do, in full hope that after a fair representation of our situation a Stop would be put to such depredations—and we have to lament that the Justice we owe to ourselves, and family has reduced us to the necessity of spilling the Blood of those we wish to call our fellow Subjects and to hold in Captivity Men whom we had much rather meet with the hand of friendship. As the only means left in our hands of Securing ourselves from a continuation of such shameful unjust and ungenerous practices; And we beg your Excellency's patience whilst we relate the particulars of the recent transactions of some of the commanders and Crews said to have Commissions from His Excellency Governor Trumbull, which has drawn forth the resentment of the People of Southold so far, as to Attack, wound and take prisoners some of the perpetrators, a list of whose names with remarks is inclosed for your inspection. On Friday the 14th Instant two whale boats with Twenty armed men from Connecticut landed on Southampton and took four sheep from Mr. Joseph Havens which they killed and dressed, without his knowledge or consent; the Evening of the 15th they went to the House of Nicolls Havens, Esqr. on Shelter Island, which they ransacked, and took away two fowling pieces, a Wrought Silver Hilted Sword, a Silver Mounted Hanger, some

tea and others Articles designed for the use of His family, and by no Means as Merchandize for sale; from there proceeded to Capn. James Havens House & Rumaged the Same with the Out Houses, & took from Him a Watch, Coat, a fowling piece and some other Articles for the use of His family, from whence they went to the Widow Payne's; and after insulting her and threatening to Set the House on fire, compell'd the family to produce a Silver Tankard, some linen, a Watch Coat, a fowling piece & some other articles Necessary for their use, all which they took away. On Sunday the 16th, they landed early in the morning at the East End of Southhold and disarmed a Number of the Inhabitants at their Houses in their way up to the Settlement, and fired at Sundry of them on the road that were unarmed, and on coming to the House of Mr. David Gardiner's, they forced open the door and entered the same in a hostile Manner with fixed Bayonets, when they took from him a quantity of goods, and many Articles designed for his family's use. Notwithstanding His producing permission from your Excellency and His Excellency Governor Trumbull for the removal of His Family and Effects into the State of New York and that a part of those goods were for the use of the said State, and that he expected to remove in a few Days; after which they knocked down Mr. Joseph Peck and bruised his Arm very much by repeated striking him with the breech of their Guns without any provocation on His part, except asking to speak with Mr. Gardener, before they took him away a prisoner which they threaten'd to do; in their way down to the shore, they insulted and beat with their Guns, Mr. L'Hommedieu & His wife, aged persons, and threaten'd to set fire to the House of the Widow Moore, supposed to be in consequence of an appearance of resist-

ance that a Number of the people were preparing to Make, after seeing the cruel and unprovoked treatment their fellow Citizens were exposed to, from the brutality of these Men and on remonstrating with them and telling them that such conduct towards the Inhabitants of this Island was not tolerated by Congress, or by Governor Clinton & Trumbull, the said Crew exclaimed they had some of Dulincys Cow Boys with them, and Damned Congress, Genl. Washington and both the before mentioned Governors, and said that if any opposition was made they would put to death Men Women & Children and burn the whole town, All which can be proved by the Testimony of many respectable inhabitants.

The Subscribers beg your Excellency will take such measures as you shall Judge most Expedient to prevent any further proceedings of the like kind; that they may be prevented in future from being under the dire necessity of taking Arms against any of the Subjects of the United States by a Speedy removal of the Grievance herein complained of & by putting a Stop to the Avaritious proceedings of a set of freebooters, who by their conduct have no regard to Justice, Law or Characters, only as they may serve their Nefarious purposes. We are with the Highest Respect and Esteem Your Excellencys Most Obt. Humble Servants

William Hoston, Jr., William Albertson, Saml. Landon, Jared Landon, Thos. Youngs, Nicoll Havens, James Havens, Joseph Peck.

Stephen Martin, Samuel Hawley, Commanders with a copy of David Hawleys Commission.

Francis Gibbs, Prisoner, Gideon Hawley, Do, Maltiah Clark, Do, Peter Nostran, Do, soldier under Genl. Waterbury; Daniel

Knap, John Leonard, ——— Munson, Stephen Sellick, John Strom, Jared Waid, prisoner, Joshua Knap, Saml. Rummels, ——— Marvin, Peter Waterbury, Fredr. Weed, Gabriel Smith, Caleb Farris.

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[No. 4016.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath—Disturbed Over the Frontier and Forage Questions.*

Poughkeepsie, Sepr. 22d, 1781.

Sir, I have the honor of receiving your Letter of the 20th instant enclosing one from Congress, for which you will please to accept my thanks. My absence, to Kingston, for two or three days past prevented my receiving your several favors of the 15th, 17th & 18th before last evening. The disposition of the troops depends so much upon our own strength & the strength & designs of the Enemy in diff't. Quarters that it is impossible without a complete knowledge of these matters to form any Judgment what Distribution of them will be most serviceable. I am not without apprehensions that the Enemy will attempt to repeat their Ravages on the frontier Settlements this fall as the Destruction of the Grain & forage with which that part of the Country abounds will of itself be a great inducement and any force, therefore, that you can spare for their protection consistent with the safety of the Posts in the Highlands & the Country below, will be well employed in that Service. But whether Weissenfels Corps, which I think well adapted for the Service on the Lines, will be the most proper to Detach for this Purpose, you are best able to determine. At any rate I conceive the Companies raised in the lower part of Orange & Westchester ought not to be removed, as they are intimately acquainted with the

Country below & the Inhabitants place great confidence in them. Yeomans the person you sent up stands committed to the Gaol of this Place by the civil Authority. I have not yet had an opportunity of making the necessary enquiry into his Character & Conduct to enable me to determine whether he is a proper object for exchange—Tho' if he is & a partial one should take place, I had it in contemplation to offer him for a Mr. Brush an Inhabitant of this State, who is prisoner with the Enemy & has been confined in Dungeon with the most rigorous Treatment for near Two years & this I am the more inclined to do as I have reason to believe this severe treatment is in consequence of his strenuous Exertions in our Cause & particularly his being the principal in apprehending Claudius Smith the noted Robber.

I am extremely unhappy by the Distresses you labor under for the Want of Forage & the more so as I do not conceive myself authorized to take any Measures for your Immediate relief, as your present want is not in consequence of any Emergency which alone could justify an impress. The presumption is, for the Reasons explained in my former Letter, that this Article was to be procured in the ordinary Mode.

The Legislature are to meet at this Place on the first of Next Month when I shall take the earliest opportunity of laying your application before them & pointing out the necessity of enabling the public Officer to procure you a supply.

I am much obliged to you for the intelligence communicated by your last Letter & shall esteem it a singular Favour to be made acquainted with any Thing interesting you may receive from the southward or elsewhere. I am &c. &c,  
Major Genl. Heath.



[No. 4017.]

*Guards on the Lower Orange County Frontier.*

Peapaght 22 Sep'r 1781

A report of the Guards on the frontiers from Bashes land to the Dilaway Rivcar

|                     | Major | Cap'n | Lieut'n | Serjants | Corps's | Privats | Sentinals by Day | Sentinals by night | Distant from Each Post                   |
|---------------------|-------|-------|---------|----------|---------|---------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bashes land four    | 1     |       | 1       | 2        |         | 11      | 1                | 1                  | To Dewits 5 miles                        |
| Dewits four         |       |       |         |          | 1       | 15      | 1                | 2                  | To Esqr Dupuis 1 Do                      |
| Dupuis four         |       |       |         |          | 1       | 7       | 1                | 1                  | To Mr Gromores 1 Do                      |
| Gromores four       |       |       |         |          | 1       | 9       | 1                | 1                  | To Capt W. sfawis 1 1/2 Do               |
| Capt W. sfawis four | 1     |       |         | 1        | 1       | 11      | 1                | 2                  | To Westbrooks 2 Do                       |
| Westbrooks four     |       |       |         | 1        |         | 10      | 1                | 1                  | To Chambers 2 Do                         |
| Chambers four       |       |       |         | 1        | 1       | 4       | 1                | 1                  | To Kirkundals 1 Do                       |
| Kirkundals do       |       |       | 1       | 1        | 1       | 12      | 1                | 2                  | from Thens to Dilaway Revear half a mild |
| Total               | 1     | 1     | 2       | 6        | 6       | 70      |                  |                    |  |

The Guards are Electrical The Arms in good order and plenty of ammunition — Visiting The Guard has been Delayed on account of sickness.

Moses Phillips, Maj'r

N. B. Scouts. Dely out but no Discoverys made of Enemy.

[No. 4018.]

*Receipts from Various Prisoners, Petition, etc.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 4019.]

*Colonel Willett to Governor Clinton—Difficulties of Enlisting Three-Year Men—Apologizes for Trespassing Upon the Governor's Time.*

Fort Renslaer, 22d Sepr. 1781.

Dear Sir, Your favour of the 11th instant was delivered to me two days ago at Johnstown where I have been at the request of the Whigs of the Lower part of the County to enquire who were the proper subjets to be remov'd from those parts agreeable to the Law, for removing the dangerous and disaffected from the frontiers.

I believe there is more arms than is sufficient at Albany to furnish all the three years men with and which are subject to Genl. Starks order. I furnished arms for some of those men when I was last at Albany by Order of Genl. Clinton, and I think there can be little difficulty in procuring Arms for as many Men as are at present engag'd in that service. But Clothing is a very Capital Article, and in my Opinion the most likely means that can be fallen upon to procure Recruits at present—for the Levies grow bare of Cloth's indeed, and will in general soon be fit for little more than Garrison duty and many of 'em not for that merely for want of Cloths. If, therefore, it is possible to procure a speedy supply of Cloathing I conceive it will enduce much to encourage men from the Leives to engage in this service.

My Ideas of what in futer will be most effectual in procuring

men for the Three Year Service I would gladly give your Excellency if I had any that I thought likely to ensure success. But I frankly acknowledge I have no flattering Ideas on this subject. Money and Clothing are in my Opinion the best means of procuring Soldiers. Hence I conclude something that will make a Show as a Bounty and a Suit of good Cloaths redy to Deliver each Recruit upon his entring into the service, will be as likely means as any to become effectual in this business. Land with speculations in Land may do something but I do not understand that business. All, therefore, that I can say upon the Subject is, that I should be happy in Contributing in this Business if it was in my power, And should men for permanent service be rais'd for the defence of our frontiers and a plan adopted for their Defence that looks to me as if it would answer the Expectation of the publick no man living would be readier to Exert himself in this Business then I will, But to serve a nother Campaign with the embarasments that has hitherto and is like to Continue to attend this—I hope will never fall to my lott again.

Prospects from the Souther'd are truly pleasing. May they be Crowned with a Success eaqual to our reasonable expectations. We have receiv'd some formidable threatning in this Quarter. Should the Enemy pay us a serious visit, and we be so fortunate as to procure timely notice We propose to endeavour to speak to them on their way.

I wrot to your Excellency some time ago respecting the Mode of Mustring and paying the Levies. It is high Time some person should be Appointed to muster them—as I cant see how they are ever to receive their pay until they are Mustered, I wish to have your Excellency's direCTIONS in this matter as soon as possible.

Thus farr during my Command in this Quarter I have been no small trouble to you, but your Excellency may rely upon it that when I do tresspass upon your time it is with reluctance. My situation has sometimes pointed it out as necessary to be particular and perhaps tedious. I have and still do find obstacles in my way that I did not expect, And am not without apprehension from circumstances that have come within my Observation that I shall have difficultys from other Quarters—that will equal all the moderation I can muster if not more to bear with; for the Strange disposition I have found in professed whigs to Assist Tories and the support they may find from Laws which it is not possible to frame for every contingency that may arrive in a County Situate as this is, gives me reason from the present face of Affairs to suppose events not of the moste pleasing nature.

I have just hinted those matters to your Excellency, where I wish to have it lay for the present.

I am with the Greatest respect Your Most Obdt. & Humb. Sert.  
Yr. Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4020.]

*General Heath Sends Encouraging News to Governor Clinton—  
Reported Disaster to the British Fleet.*

Headquarters Continental Village, Sept. 23 1781.

Sir, I am honored with yours of the 22d. As Captain William's and Sacket's companies are on the lines, and not knowing your wish respecting captain Hunt's, and at the same time desirous that colonel Weissenfels should proceed with his regiment to Albany as respectable as possible, I ordered captain Hunt's company to proceed with the others—Captain Thompson's company remains in Orange county where I apprehend it would be

most serviceable. If it should be your wish to have Captain Hunt's company return from Albany, it shall be remanded.

I shall be perfectly satisfied with such measures as you may think proper to adopt respecting Yeomans.

I have received from Congress an act of the 7th instant, of which the inclosed is a copy. I shall be very happy in being instrumental in doing justice to the State and any individuals who are interested; but it is a matter so complicated that I scarcely know where to begin. I have written to his Excellency the commander in chief for his order on the Quarter masters of the allied army to furnish me with returns of the number of horses and cattle supplied with forage in West Chester county which has not been accounted for, as one step towards an investigation.

We have various reports from below, several of them I believe are true. One that the British have had a severe drubbing from the French—that the admiral's ship has returned in a shattered condition to the Hook—that six sail of the line were drove on shore and one sunk—this through a good channel. And another—that four sail of the line, one of which is the admiral's ship, have come up to the city under jury masts, having been dismasted in the engagement. Another account from Long Island says a 74 gun ship was taken, and three dismasted. They all agree, the inhabitants are in the greatest consternation, packing up their effects &c. The greatest part of the troops with general Clinton are embarked and remain near the Narrows. All the heavy cannon both on the grand battery and Governor's island were taken on board the ships. Arnold's loss is said to be about 500 killed and wounded—302 of the latter were landed at Harlem and conveyed to the Hospital in waggons, carts, sleds,

&c. This was done to prevent their being seen by the troops in the city. This I have from a person who saw them.

The enclosed is a copy of a letter from major Platt to colonel Lawrence, Judge Advocate general of the army.

I hope the Commander in chief will make an easy conquest of the enemy in the South; and that the campaign will close with giving you the possession of your metropolis. I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Sept. 23rd 8 o'clock P. M.

Have this moment received the following account from N. York, said to be from good authority, that in the last naval engagement, the British had two 74 Gun ships Sunk, three ships run on shore, four or five taken or six yet missing; the rest of the fleet have arrived at the Hook. The admiral's ship so much damaged that he would not venture to return in her—and it was reported Cornwallis was certainly Captured; the Inhabitants packing up their effects and the cry America is lost.

W. Heath, M. General.

I shall order the Horses of the army to be shod tomorrow and the army to be held in readiness to move at a moments notice.

W. H.

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[No. 4022.]

*Governor Clinton to Captain Dodge—Exchange and Prisoners.*

Pokeepsie, 24th Sept. 1781.

Sir, I am favoured with your Letter of the 21st Instant & now return you enclosed a list\* of the Names of several Inhabitants

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\*List not found.

who have made Applications to be exchanged & to which I have signified my Consent. But it is my desire that none of them be suffered to go within the Enemies lines without first entering into Bonds with good Sureties for sending out such Persons as shall be agreed upon in Exchange for them.

The prisoners belonging to Cortlandt's Regt. are not within the Line of your Duty to Exchange & indeed if they were we have not suitable Objects to offer for them. The Bearer Capt. Moody will give you the good news of the Day. I am &c,

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[No. 4023.]

*Governor Clinton Notifies the Albany Commissioners that Weissenfels' Regiment Has Been Ordered to Albany.*

Poukeepsie, 25th Sepr. 1781.

Gentlemen, I have been favoured with your Letter of the 19th Instant with its Inclosures & have since examined Hawes and the other Persons aluded to. The rem'r of Weissenfels' Regt. of Levies consisting in the whole of upwards 400 fine Fellows are on their way, if not already arrived at Albany, & I have confidence that whatever may be the Design of the Enemy agt. your Part of the Country with proper exertion we may be able to frustrate them. I send by the present Conveyance to the Com'y of Prisoners a List of Names of Inhabitants who have lately made Applications to be exchanged & to which I have consented among those returned by you, Wolvyder excepted.

I have the Pleasure of enclosing you an Extract of a Letter of 23rd Inst. from Majr Genl. Heath containing the very interesting & agreeable Intelligence of the Successful Issue of a late naval Engagement off the Cheasapeake between our allies & the British. There are such a variety of Accounts from different Quarters confirming the Victory of the Former as to render

the Fact almost indoubitable but whether the action has been as decisive as represented in the enclosed is as yet uncertain. You have also enclosed an Extract of a Letter from an Officer of Distinction in the Army with the Comr. in Chief from which you will learn their situation & Hopes.

I am &c &c

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[No. 4024.]

*Albany Commissioners Furnish Governor Clinton with a List of Disaffected Persons Residing East of Hudson River and Applications for Exchange.*

Albany, 25 Sept. 1781.

Sir, The inclosed is a list of Villains residing on the east side of Hudson's river, from Kingsbury down to near the New City, who have been very active against us in harbouring and supplying Parties of the Enemy from time to time, & forwarding their Dispatches; the most of them, if apprehended could be convicted; but as the Vermonters give protection to all that Part of, and oppose the authority of this State, we are at a loss how to proceed. We should have applied to General Stark for assistance, but fear he is rather in the Interest of Vermont, and would not chuse to interfere upon our Application. *Inter Nous this.*

We inclose your Excellency Applications of Two Persons who are desirous of being exchanged. We have the Honour to be Your Excellency's Most Obedient & huml. Servants.

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saml. Stringer,   | } Commissrs.<br>for<br>Conspiracies. |
| Stewart Dean,     |                                      |
| Isaac D. Fonda,   |                                      |
| John M. Beeckman. |                                      |

His Excellency George Clinton, Esq.

P. S. The List above referred to is on the other side.



List of the Names of Persons referred to:

Kingsbury: Caps. Stephen Caswell, Amos Lucas, Philip Bessey, Elias Bessey, Andrew Stevenson, Old Nalibacker, Moses Lawyer, son in Law to Nalibacker.

William Griffen, Northward of Fort Edward; Old Bell, Duncan Bell, Son of Old Bell; — Swain at Fort Edward, Solly Carley, — Lehy, — Brunson, Elijah Dunham, Ephraim Crocker.

James Nickson, Fort Miller.

Caleb Crandell, McNeal's Ferry; William Fuller, Do; John Partelow.

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[No. 4025.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath Relative to the Rumors from the Chesapeake—Difficulties in Raising Forage in Westchester.*

Poughkeepsie, Sepr. 25th, 1781.

Dr. Sir, I am honourd with the rect. of your Letter of the 23rd Inst. with its enclosures & beg you will be pleased to accept my warmest acknowledgments for this obliging Mark of your attention in communicating the very agreeable intelligence it contains. I hardly dare venture to credit the Success of our Allies in the full extent they are represented, But I think we may reasonably conclude (on a comparison of all the Accts.) that the Issue of the late Naval Engagmt. has been favorable to them & that they have obtained at least a Brilliant if not a decisive Victory. It is difficult to conjecture on the Designs of the Enemy at N. York from their pres't. Movements. Cornwallis situation undoubtedly calls for exertions; but it appears to me to be utterly out of Sr. Harry's [Clinton] power, while we command the water, to succour him or even make a serious Diver-

sion in his favor with the least probability of success. On the other hand I cannot suppose his intentions are to evacuate N. York. If, however contrary to my expectations he should make any movements which would, justify your operating agt. the Posts he leaves behind him I shall be happy in rendering you every aid in my Power & on such occasion I flatter myself I shall be able to afford you a very respectable augmentation to your present force.

The reason I had to wish that Hunt's Company of Weissenfels regt. might remain on the lines was that from their knowledge of the Country they might be more useful than an equal Number of other Troops and because it might be disagreeable to the inhabitants who with all the Assistance we can Give them are still much exposed to have a Company raised by themselves sent to a different Quarter of the State but as they have already marched, I do not think it would be necessary to recall them, especially if their removal has not excited the Discontent I apprehended it might.

I am very sensible of the Difficulties you will meet with in executing the Intentions of Congress by their Resolution respecting the forage consumed by the allied Army in Westchester County. It is to be regretted that the public Officers, whose Duty it was, had not in the first instance so conducted this Business as to have done Justice to the State & Individuals Interested & saved you of a trouble which cannot fail to perplex & interfere with your more important Duties. I have the fullest Confidence, however, that as far as it may now be in your Power the strictest Justice will be rendered.

As We wait with anxious expectations for the most Important Events from the Cheasepeake you will greatly add to the obliga-

tions you have already laid me under by continuing to communicate the earliest Intelligence you may receive from that or any other Quarter.

I am Dr. Sir Yours, &c, &c.

The Honble Major Genl. Heath.

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[No. 4026.]

*Messrs. Duane and VHommedieu to Governor Clinton on Western Boundaries—The Rumors of a Naval Fight.*

Philadelphia 26th Septmr. 1781.

Dear Sir, In our former letters we gave your Excellency room to expect that we should obtain—at least we promised to urge for—the establishment of our western boundary under the guarantee of the United States. Congress have remained so thin that a single Dissentient would have frustrated any proposition which we might have offered: we, therefore, concluded to wait for a more favorable opportunity. To hazard; under the present circumstances, a point which so essentially concerns the prosperity and tranquillity of our State would have been a proof of our Zeal but not of our prudence: and we hope we shall stand justified for the delay in the opinion of your Excellency and the Legislature. The equity of our territorial rights can be so fully established that we persuade ourselves that a full Congress will conceive the Limits which we propose to establish to be moderate and the Cession to the United States liberal. As the time fixed for our return approaches we shall depute the Evidences of our Jurisdictions in a safe hand with directions to deliver them to our successors in the Delegation.

We enclose your excellency the news papers which communicate almost all Intelligence which is publick, and too often what

ought to be concealed. The general is arrived safe at Williamsburgh. Count de Grass has severely crippled the British fleet: Lesly & every soul on board of a ship of war from Virginia to Charlestown are said to have perished. General Green has driven the British into Charlestown. They are represented to be sickly and in want of every Necessary. Government is re-established in Georgia and Doctor Brannon appointed Governor. Col. Tew, Mr. Telfare and Dr. Noble Wembleton Jones—a gentl. it is said of distinguished merit—Delegates for the ensuing year.

We have no intelligence from Virginia of the late Naval Engagement: for once we are indebted to Rivington. By this time our army are approaching Lord Cornwallis: we are to suppose he will make an obstinate defence if he has sufficient Magazines of provisions. His strength is computed at 5000 regular troops, 900 sailors, and 2000 Negroes.

We have the honor to be—with the utmost respect Dear Sir,  
Your Excellency's most obt. & most humble servants

Jas. Duane,

Ezra L'Hommedieu.

His Excellency Governour Clinton.

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[No. 4027.]

*Ezra l'Hommedieu to Governor Clinton with Journals of Congress as Far as Printed and Information that the British Lost Two Ships and that Cornwallis' Case is Hopeless.*

Philadelphia, Sepr. 26, 1781.

I send you the Journals of Congress by Capt. Johnston as compleat as they can at present be procured: there being none left for the year 1775, and none as yet printed for the present year. This delay of printing has been owing to the same cause that has delayed the publishing the Votes & Laws of our Legis-

lature. The papers herewith enclosed contain all the news we have at present. Every day we expect to hear from General Washington when 'tis probable we shall be particularly informed of the situation of Lord Cornwallis. Some officers late from New York say that he is given up there as lost; and that tis common to hear the British officers say one to another "Well, poor Corne is gone at last."

There is no doubt but the British admiral, Graves, received a severe Drubbing from Count de Grasse; he lost at sea a 74 gun ship the "Terrible" and the "London;" another ship, of near equal force, was so disabled that 'tis doubted whether she will be fit for service this season. Some other ships were much damaged. Sr. Harry Clinton intended to have reinforced Cornwallis with the Troops he had embarked, and was wating for the Determination of the naval superiority in the Cheasapeake; and was sanguine in Expectations that the French could not stand before the haughty British. The return of the fleet altered his opinion. The troops disimbarked with the Tories, who had their Effects on Board the Transports in order to return to their respective Homes in Virginia.

This state and New Jersey have been under great Apprehensions, that Sr. Harry would endeavor to make a stroke at this city, or fire some towns in New Jersey, as tis unlikely he would remain inactive under the present situation of his affairs. Three thousand Militia of this State are now in Arms near this Place for the Defence of the City, and to oppose Sir Harry in any operations he may design against this State or New Jersey.

The small Representation for sometime past, of seven states, has occasioned a considerable delay in Business of Consequence

as nothing could be done without unanimous consent. Had we left Congress the 10th of September, all business for sometime would have ceased: which Circumstance may apologize for our staying longer with those who think the resolutions by which we were appointed admit of a doubtful Construction as to the Expiration of the Time of our Delegation.

Tis probable our Finances will not admit of our remaining longer in this Place, than two weeks from this time; on my return I shall continue with the Assembly which I hear is to meet the first of next month. I have been happy in finding that the Publications against Mr. Duane have made no Impression on the minds of the Members of Congress, to his Disadvantage, and I am confident that it will be much for the Interest of the State to continue him in the Delegation.

I have the Honor to be with the utmost Respect Your Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4028.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—British Sources Admit British Naval Defeat.*

Headquarters, Continental village, Sept. 27, 1781.

Sir, I was the last evening honored with yours of the 25th. Inclosed is a New York paper of the 22d containing Mr. Rivington's account of the naval engagement off the Chesepeak on the 5th instant.

My last intelligence from New York was of the 23d; the fleet were then at the Hook taking every measure to refit, being very much damaged. My informant supposes they have lost three sail of the line. Cornwallis is given over as lost, and Sir Henry

appears to be much in the horrors that he cannot relieve him. I request you will please send the newspaper to Mr. Loudon, after you have perused it, to whom I have promised it for the benefit of the public.

I most heartily thank your Excellency for your offer of personal aid, and that of the respectable militia of the State of New York. Should any occurrence invite us to visit New York. I feel very happy in the prospect of such aid, if it should be necessary, and shall do myself the honor of early requesting it.

I will thank you for a hint of your opinion what mode will be best to investigate the quantity of forage consumed by the allied army in West Chester county, conformable to the resolution of Congress, and whether colonel Hay is considered as the person who is to act in behalf of the State.

No news from the southward, except what is contained in the public papers.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4029.]

*Captain Marshall to Governor Clinton with Incomplete Returns of Colonel Willett's Regiment.*

Albany, Sepr. 27th 1781.

Sir, Enclosed you have a partial return of the Regt. which the Colo. has been above a month in collecting—four weeks ago I communicated the Colo's. orders for the purpose to Major McKinstry at Saratoga—and have repeatedly applied since for the returns of the three companies under his command, and once since the original of this came to me, but have not been so

successful as to procure them. I rec'd a rough draft of this return from the Colo. a few days ago with orders to copy, Sign his name & forward it to your Excellency as it now stands if I could not obtain McKinstry's. The three vacant companies in the return are those with him. Genl. Renselaer sent me his return agreeably to your order. Genl. Gansevoort has not furnished me yet.

I wish to know from your Excellency (as your orders for raising the last levies are differently construed by Colos. Henry K. V. Renselaer & me) if 'tis my Duty to collect detached Men from their places of Residence, or if 'tis the Commandg. Officer's of Regts. or heads of Classes to deliver them to me.

Col. H. K. V. Renselaers Regt. is yet 12 Men behind—which he says he has detached & insists 'tis my duty to apprehend them. I have told him I thought otherwise, but was willing to do if I had Men, but I have sent on the men by 2s or 3s as fast as they arrived so that it has been and still is out of my power, but if 'tis my duty I must detain some for that purpose, I am with due respect, Sir, your Excellency's Most obt. Servt.

Govr. Clinton.



# MANUSCRIPT VOL. XIV.

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[No. 4030.]

*John Moylan, United States Clothier General, to Governor Clinton,  
in Regard to the Transfer of State Clothing to the Clothier  
General.*

Newburgh, 1st Octr. 1781.

Sir, By a Resolve of Congress dated June 18th for the regulation of the Clothing Department, it was ordered that all State appointments shou'd cease on the 1st September last & that all clothing then in the hands of the State Clothiers shou'd be delivered over to the Clothier General or his order.

I now have the honor to enclose a Copy of the said Resolve for your Excellency's Inspection, least the same Motives which have hitherto delayed my carrying it into Execution may have prevented congress from giving you earlier Advice thereof.

Yr. Excellency will, therefore, be pleased to issue such orders to all those actually Employed under yr. direction either in the purchase or Distribution of Public Clothing as will best answer the Intention of this new Arrangement, which if my Endeavours are seconded I have no Doubt but the Army at large will soon feel the good Effects of. A good deal Depends on the timely Transportation of the Clothing lately Arrived at Boston. I am now on my way thither for the purpose of sending it forward, & not doubting of yr. Excellency's Exertions, if found necessary to that End. I have the honor to remain with Every Sentiment of Respect & Esteem, Yr. Excellency's most Obedt. Hble. Servt.

John Moylan, Clor. Genl.

His Excellcy. The Governor of the State of New York.

[No. 4031.]

*A Financial Exhibit of New York—Taxes, Notes and Certificates.*

A State of the Taxes paid into the Treasury of the State of New York, since the Declaration of Independence.

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| By the County of Albany | £875,720. 2..2   |
| Dutchess                | 1116,141. 2..1   |
| Ulster                  | 620,008. 8..10   |
| Orange                  | 280,741.17..2    |
| West Chester            | 79,598. ..8      |
| Tryon                   | 32,450.12..8     |
| Charlotte               | 3,821. ..6       |
|                         | <hr/>            |
|                         | £3,008,481. 4..1 |
|                         | <hr/>            |

Which payments have been made as follows viz:

In Notes Authorized by a Law passed the 12th Feby. 1780, entitled "An Act to facilitate supplies for the Army of the United States."

|                        | Dollars               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Issued by Jacob Cuyler | 781,800               |
| by Col. Hay            | 216,260               |
| by Col. Bostwick       | 1110,440              |
| by Col. Lewis          | 389,700               |
|                        | <hr/>                 |
|                        | \$2498,200.. £999,280 |

In State Agents Certificates issued for specie value, paid in at 40 for 1:

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Amount in Continental Money to | £663,272.15..1   |
| In Continental & State Money   | 1,345,928. 9..   |
|                                | <hr/>            |
|                                | £3,008,481. 4..1 |

Of which Sum the United States will stand charged as follows:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| The Amount of the abovement'd Notes   | £999,280.       |
| The Amount of State Agent Certifs.  | 663,272.15..1   |
| The amount of Sundry Warrants drawn by His<br>Excellency the Presidt. of Congress | 1062,840. 3..8  |
|   | <hr/>           |
|   | £2725,392.18..9 |

Albany October 1st, 1781.

Gerard Bancker, Treasurer.

[No. 4032.]

*Major Popham Reflects to the Governor the Popular Sentiment that  
Cornwallis is Doomed.*

Baltimore, Octobr. 1st, 1781.

Sir, I took the liberty of enclosing a Packet to the Care of your Excely. a few days Since for the Northward in which I had the honor of enclosing a few lines to yourself, informing you that the Army was on its rout to Yorktown in Virginia. Unfortunately an Attack of a bilious Fever has confined me ever since to my room, and prevented my Attendance on the Gen'l. However by the Assistance of a good Constitution and an Attentive Physician, I have so far recovered that I hope in a few days to sett out for Head Quarters.

The Distance from hence to the Army, renders it almost impossible to collect any Intelligence which can be depended on, especially as there are no public Officers in this place to whom Packets of consequence are directed. The latest Accounts say, that the Genl. has not yet commenced his Operations against the Enemy—that from the Position of his Lordship, it is probable a greater length of time will be required to compel him to

surrender than was at first imagined, tho' all agree that this month will see us in possession of him.

Please to direct your Aid to forward the enclosed & believe me to be Your Excy. most obt. Hble. Servt.

His Excy. Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 4033.]

*Captain Dodge Asks the Governor for Information Concerning Eight Prisoners Exchanged.*

Albany Octr. 2d, 1781.

Sir, I am favored with yours of the 25th wherein permission is granted to Eight persons to go to Canada. Should be glad to know wether those fellows has permission to take their Wives and Children with them, I expect they will go off Next week. Capt. Bevier has not yet returned. I am with the greatest Respect your Excellencys Most Obt. Humble Servt.

N. B. Some Prisnr. of War has their Wives at this place.  
Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4034.]

*The Governor Furnishes Colonel Ann Hawkes Hay With a Letter of Commendation.*

[?] October 2d, 1781.

Dear Sir, I expect to go to Connecticut and perhaps to Boston in two or three weeks Time to endeavour to get into some way of Business to support my Family, as I have been long enough serving my ungrateful Country, which will do nothing to relieve my distresses, altho' I have suffered in it's cause; I will, therefore, be obliged to you for such a recommendation and Pass as you think I merit.

I would not have troubled your Excellency but I think it highly necessary to have a Recommendation in a strange Country considering my Connection with Jos. H. Smith & Co. Mrs. Hay joins me in Compliments to Mrs. Clinton. I am with respect Your Excellency's most Ob' Serv't

A. Hawkes Hay.

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THE GOVERNOR TO COLONEL HAY.

The bearer Colo. Hawkes Hay of known attachment to the Cause of his Country & an Inhabitant of this State (having lost most of his property by the incursions & ravages of the Enemy) intending to go to Connecticut or Boston & endeavor to engage into some Business for the Support of his family, he is hereby recommended to the Attention of the friends to the American Cause, & it is requested that he be permitted to pass unmolested.

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[No. 4035.]

*Jacob Cuyler to Robert Benson—As to Certificate Issued.*

Albany, October 2nd, 1781.

Sir, Your letter of the 27th ult. by the direction of His Excellency, the Governor, I have this day received by Colonel Udny Hay. In Answer to which I can inform you, that the amount of Nine hundred & Ninety four thousand & two hundred Dollars in Certificates have been Issued from my office while D. C. G. Purchases by Virtue of a law of this State, intituled "An Act to facilitate Supplies for the army of the United States, within this State" Passed the 12th of Feby. 1780.

I am Sir, with respect Your most Obdt. Servt.

Jacob Cuyler.

994,200 dollars in Certificates.

Robt. Benson, Esqr. Secy.

[No. 4036.]

*Colonel Willett to Governor Clinton Regarding News from the Fleet and Deserters.*

Fort Renselaer, 2d October 1781.

Dear Sir, Please to accept of my hearty thanks for your favour of the 26th ultimo. by Captain Moody. The Victory obtained by the French over the British Fleet, brightens our Prospects. May it pave the way for our speedy entrance into the long lost Metropolis of this State.

To prevent the affluence of the dissaffected from placing them into Offices of Power, I humbly conceive an object worthy the Attention of our Legislature. For events of this nature to take place after we have fought our way into the harbor of peace, Must be truly Mortifying to honest Whigs. May our Legislative Body have wisdom to provide means of security for honest Patriots, and Weapons to punish Villians & Rascals of every denomination.

I feel myself under particular obligations to your Excellency for the attention you have paid to the uninterrupted of my present command. Nothing new presents itself in this Quarter at present.

I am endeavouring to prepar Materials to furnish your excellency with the State of my regt. for October. I wish to hear of means being provided to apprehend & punish deserters from the levies after the expiration of their time. Since we have executed the two men for Desertion and transferred one to the regular service, we have had no desertions from this Quarter and that is more than six weeks.

I shall be much obliged to you for directions respecting the Mustering of the levies to enable us to prepar our pay abstracts.

I am your Excellencies most obedient & very humble servt.  
His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

[No. 4037.]

*Colonel Weissenfels Reports to Governor Clinton How He Avoided a Clash With Vermonters.*

Saratoga, Octobr. 3d, 1781.

Sir, On the march from Albany to this place I met with a Singular instance, of a Public insult offered to your Excellency's authority, as the Chief Majistrate, Comitted by one Mr. Fairbank and his assistant Mr. Lansing, Both Commissiond by Governor Chitterton, (the 1st a Lient. Colo. and the 2nd a Major) in Collecting the People, at the New City, under the Comand of Captain Tillman, in order to Chuse a Captain and subaltern, in opposition to those Commissioned by the Lawfull authority of the State. I endeavoured to dissuade him from the attempt, but he insisted upon the Execution of his Duty, (as he called it) Except I should oppose him by Force of arms—in that case, he must submit, but hostielietys begun on our side was what they wished for, I did not think it Proper and prudent, in the present Situation of affairs, to be rash, supposeing it might involve the State into greater disturbance on that subject, but treated them with *Disdain* and Proceeded on my Duty. The Sense of my Duty and the alliegiance I owe to this State will always induce me to be watchfull to oppose any annovation of this kind, had I power to act. I am with sentiments of Respect, Your Excellency's Most obident and most humble servant

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 [No. 4038.]
*General Heath Forwards to Governor Clinton the Substance of a Letter He Received from Washington at Williamsburg.*

Headquarters Continental Village, Oct. 3d 1781.

Sir, I have this moment received a letter from His Excellency Genl. Washington dated at Williamsburgh the 23d ult. in which

he mentions everything was ripening for the commencement of their operations against Lord Cornwallis—that his Lordship was incessantly at work on his fortifications, and probably preparing to defend himself to the last extremity—that a little time would probably decide his fate. His Excellency concludes with observing—“With the blessing of heaven, I trust it will prove favorable to the interest of America.”

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedt. Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4039.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton in Relation to Mr. Duggan.*

Headquarters Continental Village, October 3, 1781.

Sir, I have the honor to forward you a letter from the president of Congress.

I have been honored with yours of the 25th ultimo, by Mr. Duggan. It is a long time since we have been totally destitute of money in the military chest—it is, therefore, out of my power to afford him any relief of money. I have been trying to find him a berth—it is yet uncertain. But there is some probability of his being provided for in the line of the army, which he would prefer.

No news of consequence from any quarter. I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient servant,

W. Heath.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.



[No. 4040.]

*Extract from a Letter from Colonel Hughes That Gives Details of the  
Battle of Eutaw Springs.*

Phila. Oct. 3, 1781.

“This has been an important day for News, both foreign and domestick. What I can inform you of is that a Member from N. Carolina arrived here last Night, and informed that he has seen a Doctor Brown, who was on furlough from the Army, and to whom an express came from General Greene, urging his speedy return, informing that he had had a general action in which he lost upwards of 300 killed & wounded. He had detached Genl. Marion and Col. Lee, on some particular business, when he was attacked by the Enemy. The attempt was first made on the Militia who received them with spirit. Col. Washington was sent into the Enemy’s rear. The British were forced, and fell back; this making a front to Colonel Washington, by which means he suffered greatly, loosing every officer but one, killed or wounded, himself taken prisoner several hours, but afterwards released. On the whole the Enemy were totally routed, with the loss of 700 killed & taken. Col. Washington is wounded through the side, and several valuable officers killed. General Marion & Col. Lee with their fresh Troops came up just after the conclusion and immediately went in pursuit of the enemy.

We have also *official* information of a battle having been fought between nine Dutch ships, and twelve English ships under Admiral Parker in the north Seas. The battle was severe and the English compleatly routed. The Dutch lost two of their ships in returning to the Texel, not being able to keep them above water.”

[Hugh Hughes].

[No. 4041.]

*New Marlborough Petitions for Two Civil Magistrates.*

To his Excellency George Clinton Esquire &c &c. and to the  
Rest of the Honourable the Council of Appointment.

The Petition of a Number of Respectable Inhabitants of the  
Precinct of New Marlborough being Convened in Consequence  
of Advertisements giving previous Notice to the Inhabitants for  
the purpose hereinafter mentioned

Humbly Sheweth That by the Removal of Benjamin Carpenter, Esqr. the said Precinct has become Intirely Destitute of a Civil Majestrate; That the Precinct for Obvious Reasons, are Labouring under many Disadvantages for want, of at least, Two in the said Precinct as in the Vicinity to the North, there is none Nearer than Esqr. Donaldson.

That on Mature Deliberation Your Petitioners are of Opinion, That Mr. Garrat Van Bumbler on the west Side of the Mountain, and Capt. Stephen Case on the East side, are as Capable, and would be as Agreeable to the Precinct as any that Could be named.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that the said Gentlemen be Commissionated for That Purpose, and Your Petitioners will ever pray By order of the Meeting

Benjamin Ely, Clerk pro tem.

New Marlborough, in Ulster County, 6th Octr. 1781.

[No. 4042.]

*General Heath Reports to the Governor the Capture of Fort Slongo on Long Island.*

Headquarters, Continental village, Oct. 6, 1781.

Sir, I forward to be disposed of as your Excellency may think proper, Joseph Wright of Fish-kill. It appears he has been into

New York without permission, to See his father, and has now returned. He may be honest—he may be otherwise. At any rate his conduct is unjustifiable, & pregnant with ill consequences.

I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that a detachment from this army on the morning of the 3d instant, surprised and took fort Slongo on Long Island. Two captains, one lieutenant, & eighteen rank and file were made prisoners—two killed & two mortally wounded. Two iron double fortified 4 pounders were destroyed in the fort—one brass 3 pounder, a number of small arms, ammunition, English goods, clothing, &c &c. were brought off. What adds to the pleasure of this success, is that we had not a man killed, and but one wounded. Fort Slongo was a square figure, with a parapet about 7 feet high, a picket at the top and another row horizontal at the bottom of the parapet over the ditch, and an abbattis. The enterprize was planned by Major Tallmadge and executed by Major Trescott, with an address and gallantry that does them and all concerned much honor.

Nothing new from the Southward. I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4043.]

## FIRST PARALLEL BEGUN AT YORKTOWN.

*Colonel John Lamb Forwards Interesting News from Yorktown to the Governor With a Lugubrious Prediction.*

Camp, before York Town, 6th Octobr. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have the pleasure to congratulate you, on the defeat of the British Troops, in South Carolina, on the 8th ultimo after an obstinate and bloody conflict. I have inclosed you the Return, of the Killed, Wounded and missing of General Greene's Army. The loss of the Enemy, is said to amount to 1100 Killed, wounded, and Prisoners.

On the approach of our Army, Cornwallis abandoned some detached Works in Front of the Town, and retired within his principal Works.

This Night the Troops (who are now Paraded for that purpose) will begin the first Parallel, which will be within five or 600 yards, of the Enemy's Works. So you may depend upon its being a Night of Business.

As the greatest part of our Ordnance, and Stores, are now here, we shall be ready to open our Batteries in a day or two; when I flatter myself, we shall soon be able to silence those of the Enemy who have been firing, every day, at the Works they evacuated (and which we now possess) but with little effect. As they have not killed more than 20 Men, since the Army took its present position.

I am sorry to inform you, that, the worthy Colonel Scammell, was wounded, and taken Prisoner on Monday last, by three of Tarlton's Horse, as he was reconnoitring the Enemy's Works; he is Paroled, and is in a fair way to recover.

On Tuesday last, Tarleton crossed the River, with his Regiment and a Body of Infantry with a design to Forage. They were attacked by the Duke de Lauzun's Legion, and a few Militia Who defeated, and pursued them to the Town of Gloucester. The Enemy had Fifty Men Killed, and Wounded. The Duke's Legion three killed, and Eleven Wounded. As it is more than probable (from circumstances) that, I shall end my Career in the course of this Siege, should such an unlucky Event take place, I must request the favor of you to interest yourself in behalf of my little Family, that they may have Justice done them by the Public, with respect to what they are indebted to me.

Please to present my Compliments to Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Tappen, Colo. Benson, & the rest of my Friends, at Poughkeepsie. I am, With every Sentiment of Respect, Dear Sir, Your Obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4044.]

*George Clinton to Colonel Willett—In Regard to Clothing—Arrival in New York of Prince William, Afterward King William IV.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 6th 1781.

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 22nd ultimo is now before me. I wish you to believe that I am always happy in the Receipt of your Letters that I may be minutely informed of your situation and thereby enabled to give you every assistance in my Power to facilitate your Command & render it beneficial to the Public. With respect to arms and Clothing for the three years men I presume these matters come more immediately under the direction of Genl. Starke or other Continental officer commandg the

Department. I enclose you a copy of the Resolution of Congress engaging to Clothe & Pay them &c. to warrant any application you may conceive necessary to make on this subject and if any Difficulties should arise I will, as far as my Influence will extend, cheerfully interpose to remove them. I would just observe that by a late arrangement of the Clothing Department all State Clothiers & Agents for purchasing are done away, & the whole Business is left to be executed by the Continental Clothier Genl., his Deputies or Assistants. I am much at a loss with respect to the mode of mustering & paying the levies; formerly when a Regt. was detached they were mustered by one of it's field officers, who in that respect performed the duty of a muster master. Whether there were abuses committed in this way I do not know. But last Spring I recd. a Resolution of Congress pointing out a Diff't mode, a Copy of which I enclose you—and altho' I conceive it was intended for the Levies of last Year, yet I would advise you to pursue it. With respect the pres't levies Congress, last year as well as this, engaged to pay the Levies, but you will observe that by this Resolve they have recommended it to the diff't States in the first Instance to advance the Pay on the credit of the United States. This I presume they were driven to do from the low State of their finances. I laid this Resolution before the Legislature at their last Meeting but they rose without making any Provision for this service. I shall, therefore, renew my application to them on this subject by again laying before them the Resolution. I mean to recommend to the Legislature the expediency of prolonging the time for completing the Corps to be raised on Bounties of Lands & the granting a pecuniary Encouragement; but I confess to you that I am fearful they will not be induced properly to engage in

it and that we shall be still left to the precarious expedient of temporary levies.

No late Intelligence from the Southw'd. On the 23d Ulto. our Troops were arrived in the Neighborhood of the Enemy under Cornwallis & preparations for serious operations ag't them were ripening & we have Reason to believe the Issue will be favorable. We have also Reason to believe that the success of our Allies in the late naval Engagem't was not so great as the Acc't I last transmitted you, but the British most certainly recd. a severe Drubbing, as by Rivington's Acc't they were obliged to set fire to the "Terrible" of 74 Guns to prevent her falling into the hands of the French, & several others were greatly injured; add to this by our latest Acct's the "Ruby," a 64, & several frigates were captured. Admiral Digby on whom the Enemy made great Dependence is arrived at New York with three line of Battle Ships only & some frigates so that our naval superiority remains as great as before. Prince Will'm Henry, the British Tyrant's 3d Son is come over with Digby, & Rivington's Gazette is stuffed with fulsome addresses to the Boy & his answers.

I am &c &c.

Col. Willet.

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[No. 4045.]

*Bethuel Washburn Furnishes Evidence of Flour Supplied and Demands Consideration from Colonel Udny Hay.*

Albany, 7th Octor. 1781.

Sir: My present Circumstances rendering it Absolutely Necessary that Every Just Debt due me should be paid, in a particular manner those due from the State, for flour furnished at a Time when they were in the utmost distress for that Article, and which was the only inducement to my parting with the principal part of what I was possessed, expecting as I had a right from the Inclos'd Obligation from one of your Assistants that I should not be long out of my property, but as one year is Elaps'd and still no prospect of payment in such a manner as to make me whole, to receive the same Quantity of flour you are Sinsible would be greatly to my damage—at the time I lent it the lowest price was three Dollars per Hundred and it is now sold at Two. From these circumstances and your Knowledge of my having served the public several

years, and dismissed without one farthing of pay, let me Entreat you to lay the matter before the Legislature at their present meeting, & represent the affair in Such Terms to that Honorable body as may Induce them to Order that Justice may speedily be done me. Otherways I have no prospect but certain ruin; this may be softened perhaps by the Comfortable reflection that it is by serving my Country in Distress, which has reduced me to this situation. I hope you will make use of your best Endeavors to serve me, & am Sir, Your most Obt. Servt.  
 Colo. Hay State Agent

N. B. The Greatest part of the flour furnished was fine flour which would bear Inspection

Albany, 30th Novr. 1780.

I do hereby certify that Bethuel Washburn, Depy Commissary of Issues has furnished this Department with sixty Two Hundred one quarter and fourteen pounds of flour, which I as assistant State Agent for procuring Supplies of provisions for the use of the Army of the United States Engage to repay with flour of as Good Quality when it shall be Consistant with the public Safety and a Sufficient Quantity shall be in store to Enable me to do the same.

Issac Stoutenburgh, Assistant State Agent.

I do hereby further certify that the above named Bethuel Washburn has Delivered as above Twenty one Hundred and one Quarter of flour, upon the same conditions as above.

Issac Stoutenburgh, Asst. State Agent.

| C     | Qr. | lbs. |
|-------|-----|------|
| 62    | 1   | 14   |
| 21    | 1   |      |
| <hr/> |     |      |
| 83    | 2   | 14   |

(True Copy)



[No. 4046].

*Ulster and Orange County Frontier Levies.*

Return of the Levies Commanded by Lt Colo Albert Pawling, stationed at the Frontiers of Ulster & Orange counties.

| COMPANIES     | FIELD   |       | COMMISSIONED |             |         | STAFF    |           |         | NOW COMMISSIONED |               |          | RANK & FILE |                      |              |             |            |             | ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST RETURN |      |            |          |          | JOINED   |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |
|---------------|---------|-------|--------------|-------------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|--|--|
|               | Colonel | Major | Captains     | Lieutenants | Ensigns | Adjutant | Qr Master | Surgeon | Serjt Major      | Qr Mr Serjent | Serjents | Drum & fife | Present fit for duty | Sick present | Sick absent | On command | On furlough | Total                         | Dead | Discharged | Deserted | Confin'd | Promoted | Discharged | Drum & fife | Serjents | Drum & fife | Hank & file |  |  |
| Capt Pearson  | 1       | 1     | 1            | 2           |         | 1        | 1         | 1       |                  | 1             | 4        | 28          | 3                    | 3            | 3           | 3          | 56          |                               |      |            |          |          |          |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |
| Do Burnett    |         |       | 1            | 1           |         |          |           |         |                  | 4             | 47       | 3           | 3                    | 3            | 3           | 50         |             |                               |      |            |          |          |          |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |
| Do Pawling    |         |       | 1            | 2           |         |          |           |         |                  | 4             | 44       | 3           | 3                    | 3            | 3           | 44         |             |                               |      |            |          | 1        |          |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |
| Do Livingston |         |       | 1            | 2           |         |          |           |         |                  | 4             | 68       | 3           | 3                    | 3            | 3           | 78         |             |                               |      |            |          |          |          |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |
| Do Westfall   |         |       | 1            | 2           |         |          |           |         |                  | 6             | 83       | 3           | 3                    | 3            | 3           | 83         |             |                               |      |            |          |          |          |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |
| Total         | 1       | 1     | 6            | 9           |         | 1        | 1         | 1       |                  | 1             | 23       | 390         | 3                    | 5            | 6           | 2          | 306         | 1                             |      |            |          | 1        |          |            |             |          |             |             |  |  |

at their respective homes 8  
at the Paliz 1  
Platte Kill 1  
Fought keepale Goal 1

1 with Commissary Patterson  
2 after deserters  
1 Fought keepale Goal

A. Pawling, Lt. Colo.

Major Bunschofen, Command Westchester.  
Lieut Conner acting Qr Master.  
Lieut Du Bois, acting Adjutant.  
1 serjt sick absent at Esopus.

[No. 4047.]

*Governor Clinton Unable to Grant Joseph Sackett's Application for a Pass to New York But Holds Out Encouragement.*

Coldenham, Oct. 7, 1781.

Sir, At the Assembly Sitting at Albany Sum time last winter or Spring, Mr. Wisener wrote me that he had Requested a permit for me to Remove to New York or Long Island, & it Did not sute to Grant it at that time; but that your Exelency had nothing Against my Going & thought I mite be in the Right to go, as I have a prospect of spending the Short time I have to live, more Comfortable there then I can in my Present Situation, and if your Exelency will be kind enof to Grant me a permit to go in a flag with Mrs. Colding if she should Obtain one; or that I may go with Any flag that may be going; or grant it in Aney form, that your Exelency in your wisdom and Goodness thinks most proper, which will lay me Under Lasting Obligations, and I am with all Due Regards Your Exelencys most Humble Servt.

Joseph Sackett.

Pokeepsie, 31st October 1781.

Sir, I have received your Letter of the 7th Instant applying for Permission to remove with your Family to New York or Long Island. Be assured it would give me great Pleasure to oblige you but I do not conceive myself authorized to comply with your Request except by way of Exchange which from your Attachment to the Cause of your Country I am persuaded would not be agreeable to you. Patience a little longer & I trust you may go in a much more agreeable manner.

I am &amp;c.

[No. 4048.]

*Monsieur T. P. Penet Brings to Governor Clinton's Notice the Invention of a Material as a Substitute for Copper for Sheathing the Bottom of Sailing Vessels.*

To the Honble the Govr. &amp; Council of the Province of New York

Gentlemen, I beg leave to take this opportunity to give you early Intelligence of the new discoveries that have just been made in France. A Metal to sheath the Bottom of ships, also a Mastic to nourish Iron keep it from rust and preserve it sound for many years are Just invented.

The Utility of Copper was known long ago, chiefly in Navigation, it being scarce and too dear for a General use, most part of the merchant Vessels were deprived of that advantage. The new Metal resembles Copper, has all its Perfection and sells as well as the Mastic for half its price.

An Experiment was lately made in Paris by able Chymists & learned Philosophers: they soak'd Iron nails varnished with the said Mastic in the most Corrosive matters: after they had laid in them during some days; they were extracted fresh and ungnaw'd so that they may be used instead of Copper ones being esteem'd preferable to them.

These new Inventions were scrupulously & minutely examin'd before they could obtain the approbation of the King with the authority of Government to have their Fabrics established. Orders are Issued for the Royal Navy to make use of those articles. Considerable demands are made by several opulent Houses of Holland & France.

Nobody can deny that ships sheath'd with Copper will make double the Voyages of others; because, they sail faster and are not detain'd in Ports for cleaning, Careening & paying them with Coats. The Metal remains fix'd as long as the ships last; whereas, before others that have no Copper are unfit for service, they cost twice or three times as much as they did when they were built. I beg you would consider how important these new Discoveries are to Trade and Navigation in General. Manufacturers are established; the Company that direct them have appointed and constituted me their sole Agent to export their Metal & Mastic to America in general; they have granted me an exclusive Privilege to that Effect.

The Reputation of my late Partner, Mr. Pliame, has I make no doubt reach'd you. I am known in America since the year 1775 when first I carried to Cambridge Gun Powder, arms and other Military Stores to defend your Liberty. I have from that time supply'd several States with the like articles besides cloathing & accoutrements for your Troops. Being concern'd in your welfare & Independence, I make bold to offer you my humble services. I propose at the same time to furnish you the Metal & varnish on the following Terms Viz: to ship them on your account and Risques; the Stock of the concerned for the establishment of the new Fabrics and purchase of their materials being very considerable, they demand ready money or Bills at short dates when I dispatch their merchandize: consequently Payment is to be made by the Purchasers either in ready money or with Bills on France, Spain or Holland drawn at short time. A Commission will be allowed for my troubles in shipping them. Should you prefer to send your vessels to France in order to have them sheathed with the new Metal, please to send them to my address. If my Proposals are agreeable to you & your Honble Navy Board, as soon as I receive your orders, I will comply with them and I shall make my study to turn every thing with economy to your advantage. My attention to your Business will, I hope give you unquestionable proofs of my true attachment to your service. That I may be entitled to the continuance of your favors is the sincere wish of Gentlemen, Your most obedient & devoted humble Servt.  
Nantes Octr. the 7th 1781.

[No. 4049.]

*Governor Clinton to Governor Trumbull in Regard to Woolsey and  
Howell Who Desire Passports.*

Pokeepsie, 8th October 1781.

Dr Sir, The Bearer Major Woolsey whose Mother and Family at present resides in Connecticut informs me that they left the principal Part of their Property on Long Island on their removal from thence when the enemy arrived before New York, that it remains in such Situation as to afford them Prospects of securing it could they obtain passports for bringing it across the Sound into your State and that on an Application lately made to your Excellency for that Purpose, you was pleased to encourage them to hope for this Indulgence should it meet with my Approbation. I am, therefore, at the particular Instance

of the Major in whose Patriotism I place Confidence induced to take the liberty of signifying my Consent to the granting of his Request in such Manner as your Excellency shall deem proper & consistent with the public Interest and safety.

I have lately received a letter from a certain Mr. Howel of Long Island, requesting my Permission to remove with his Property into this Part of the State. He is so candid as to mention that he labors under your Excellency's Displeasure, but at the same time Expresses a Confidence that on a full & impartial investigation of his conduct to which he adds he stands ready to submit he will be able to acquit himself in the most satisfactory Manner. I am ignorant of his political character & the particular circumstances of his case, and I have therefore declined giving him an Answer until I shall be favoured with information from your Excellency respecting his Conduct, being determined on every Occasion to discountenance those who wish to maintain an undue Intercourse with the Common Enemy & consequently to reject his application should he appear to be of this class.

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[No. 4050.]

*Thomas Fred. Jackson Applies in Behalf of His Brother to Governor Clinton for a Letter to Governor Trumbull for a Passport.*

Peekskill, October 8th 1781.

Sir, I am informed in consequence of your Excellencies permission, Governor Trumbull will grant the necessary passport into & through the State of Connecticut, to those who wish to Emigrate from Long Island. If your Excellency will please to grant the permission I applied for in behalf of my Brother, it will lay me under a great obligation. I have the honor to be Your Excellencies Most Obt. Servant.

Excelly. Governor Clinton.

[No. 4051.]

*Governor Clinton Compliments General Heath on the Capture of Fort  
Slongo—The Forage Question.*

Poughkeepsie, Oct. 8th, 1781.

Dr. Sir, I have been prevented by Indisposition from making an earlier acknowledgment of your oblig'g favors of the 27th ulto. & 3d Instant. I am afflicted with a fever prevalent in the neighborhood & now only enjoy an intermission without any great hopes of escaping its Return. I should be happy in giving you my Opinion as to the best Mode of ascertaining the Quantity of forage consumed by the allied Army while in Westchester County but without fuller information than I am at present possessed of respecting the State & Circumstances of the County & the manner in which the public Officers employed to collect supplies for the Troops within in that Quarter conducted that Business. I do not find myself able to form any Judgment that would be of the least service to you. Col. Hay the State Agent is now at Albany—on his Return I will direct him to lay a State of the Business before me as far as it comes under his notice which perhaps may enable me to give you some Hints that may be useful.

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of the 6th Inst. last Night. I beg you to believe me, Sir, that it adds to the Pleasure I have in the success of the Enterprize ag't Fort *Slongo* that it was executed by a Detachmt. of the Army under your immediate Command. Wright will be duly attended to by the Commissrs. of Conspiracies to whose care he is committed. I am &c &c.  
Major Genl. Heath.

[No. 4052.]

*Governor Clinton to General Stark—As to the Arrest of Soldiers for Tavern Debts.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 8th, 1781.

Sir, By some unaccountable Delay your letter of the 4th Ulto. (which appears by a mark on the back to have been in the Post office) did not come to my hand until this Even'g. I have had frequent representations of the abuse you complain of in the arresting & confin'g soldiers for tavern Debts & thereby depriving the public of their service & I am so fully impressed with its destructive Consequences that it is my intention to apply to the Legislature who are now convened at this Place to make Provision as far as possible to prevent such abuses in future.

I am &amp;c &amp;c.

Brig'r Genl. Stark.

[No. 4053.]

*Dr. Nathaniel Foster Applies for Permission to Remove His Son from Hospital.*

May it Please your Excellency I have now in the hospittle at New Windsor, a son who is engag'd in the four months service, under your Direction, Is Labouring with a slow fever, able to walk a few Rods abroad—being desirous to Contribute Everything in my power, toward the recovery of my son, I have made application to Doct'r Adams (who has the care of the Hospittle) for permission to Endeavour to Git my son home, where I think he might have such Attendance &c—As to render his recovery more hopeful. The Doct'r in reply says, that Alth'o there is no prospect in his opinion that his Recovery to a Capacity of Rendering Service to the public for the Term of his Engagement, he is not Authoris'd to permit his removal, that a permit for that purpose is only to be obtained thro. your Excellency's favour; am, therefore, from a consideration of my sons Exposedness to other Diseases which prevail in the Hospittle, as well as from other Tender Motives, Induc'd Humbly to petition your Excellency for permission by (the Bearer) for the Removal of my son, for whose return to his duty I beg leave to pledge myself as soon as health will permit & Humbly to subscribe my self your Excellency's Most Ob't. Humble Serv't.

Dutchess County So. East Prec't. 8th Octr. 1781.

His Excellency Governor George Clinton, Poughkeepsie.

ROBERT BENSON REPLIES.

Poughkeepsie Octr. 10th, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency is too indisposed to attend to the Business himself: But directs me to inform you that, however willing he would be to serve you, as the Levies are under the immediate command of the Commander in chief of the Department, he cannot give any order respecting your son. He does not doubt however but that on an application to Genl. Heath to whom you are at liberty to show this letter, he will grant the Indulgence you Request. I am &c R. Benson.

Mr. Nath'l Foster.

[No. 4054.]

*John Field to George Clinton Asking for Passports for His Wife and the Wife of Dr. J. Crane to Go to Long Island.*

Sir, I have taken the Liberty to Address your Excellency by Mr. Crane, to request your Excele'y will be pleas'd to grant your permission and recommendation for My Wife and the Wife of Doct'r Joseph Crane to go under the sanction of a Flag from Stamford in Connecticut to Oyster Bay or Musquito Cove on Long Island; they have both aged Parents on the Island whom they have not seen since the Commencem't of the War and have lately had accounts of their being in a bad state of health, and of their great anxiety to see them. Exclusive of the above reasons there is another motive which I beg leave to lay before your Excele'y. They are people of some considerable property, and if they should drop off before they see their child'n it may be detrimental to their interest. My Wife has an inclination to take her son, a lad about 12 years old with her; should be much oblig'd if your Excele'y will please to include him in the recommendation. I hope yo'r Excele'y will not look upon the above request improper. I beg leave to pledge myself there is nothing meant but what is specified above.

I have the Hon. to be yo'r Excell'ys Most Hmble. & most Obt. Servt.

So. East Prect. Octr. 8, 1781.

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 [No. 4055.]

*The Governor Denies Mrs. Townsend's Request to Visit New York on a Pass.*

Goshen, Octr. ye 8, 1781.

Dear Sir, Your Excellency has been kind enough to inform me by Mr. Wisner, that I shall be Indulged in being permitted

to go to New York in order to settle my accounts and shall ever esteem it as a mark of your kindness and Benevolence—and beg leave to express my most gratefull sentiments for the same—and as the Inclement season approach is fast—and I in a poor state of health—beg to be permitted as soon as possible and be pleased to deliver it to Mr. Wisner who will forward itt to me immediately—and am, Sir, with my Ardent wishes for your happiness your much obliged Humble Servt.

Eliza Town'd.

THE GOVERNOR'S ANSWER.

Poughkeepsie, 31st October, 1781.

Dr. Madam, I have received your Letter of the 8th Instant; it will give me great Pleasure to oblidge you, but at present it is not consistant with my duty to permit any Person to go within the Enemys Lines & to Return. The objections against it may probably be soon removed & when this is the case you may rest assured of being the first that will receive the Indulgence. This is the Idea I meant to communicate to Mr. Wisner when he conversed with me on the subject.

I am with great Esteem, your Most Obed. Servt.

[No. 4056.]

*James Bloodgood Forwards a Phaeton to Governor Clinton.*

Albany 10 October 1781.

Sir, at Last—I have sent your Pheaitton by Capt. Tillman which has promised me to take all the Care of it that lays in his Power. I wish it may please you as I have Dun all in my Power to have it finished as well as I cold Git it Dun. The work is all well Dun Except the Painting which is not so good as I wish.

Mrs. Bloodgood Desires to Joyn me with our best Respects to your Lady and self. I am Sir, Your very Humble Servt.

James Bloodgood.

Received Albany 10 October 1781 of Nicholas Quackenbush A D. Q. M one Phaeton which I Promise to deliver to Governor Clinton at Poughkeepsie having Signed Duplicates. Oliver Glean.



[No. 4057.]

*Robert Benson to General Heath in Regard to the Protection of the Frontiers.*

Poughkeepsie, Oct. 11, 1781.

Sir, I am directed by his Excellency the Govr. who is still indisposed with a fever, to transmit you the enclosed Copies of Letters from Genl. Stark & Genl. Gansevoort, together with a letter from Genl. Schuyler which he supposes to be on the same Subject, & to inform you that the confidence he has that every aid will be given by you to oppose the Common Enemy in that Quarter which can be done consistent with the Genl. Interest & Safety of the Department under your command, makes it unnecessary to add any Thing farther on this occasion. I have the honor to be &c &c Rob. Benson A.D.C.

The honble. Major Genl Heath.

[No. 4058.]

*Affidavit of Colonel John Van Rensselaer, Who Has Been Threatened by Vermonters for His Loyalty to New York.*

Albany ss: Coll. John Van Rensselaer, of Hosick district in the County of Albany, being duly sworn deposesh and saith that the farm he occupes and Lives upon Lays abt. thirty two miles north Easterly from Albany to the westward of the Massachusetts Line, Continued Northward, that since some time in May Last the people of Vermont have used every Method to Exercise the Authority of that State in the District in which he Resides, that on the raising the nine months men this Spring the Class had furnished the Bounty for a Recruit to the Head of the Class a Man was Hired but the head of the Class would not Deliver the man to the State of New York when this deponent Ordered the Head of the Class Detatched and he was taken and Rescued by the people of Vermont and threatened that if this deponent Contin'd to Exercise the Authority of the State of New York they would pull his house down, that the people of the State of Vermont have from time to time Exercised the Authority of that State in the District and have frequently during the Summer and Still Continue under the authority of that State to Seize the Effects of the friends of this State and sell them at Vendue to Satisfie for their Delinquencys to the Orders of that State; that he lately Received a Letter from the Governor of that State dated the thirteenth day of September Last which he now Delivers to Rich. Morris, Esqr. to be delivered to the Governor and further saith not.

Jno. Van Rensselaer

Sworn to this 13th day of October 1781 Before me  
Rich. Morris

Arlington Vt. 13th of Sept. 1781.

Sir, I am Surprised to find the impediament you make of the orders I sent to Colo. Abbot by you as you assured me that you had no disposition or Desire to impeade

or prevent the Raising the men but would incourage it only wanted to have it done Equitably.

I found that what you had don in that way was to rais only one man for the Class and if you have paid more than your part, others are obliged to refus it. . . . . The Exercise of the athority of this State, which assistants you may Depend on it will be supplyd. If you do not approve of such exercise it is enough for you to be quent. If you persist in your opposition you may depend on it you will be taken care of, and that on the next acct I have of your continuing your notorious, insulting and obscene conduct, however I hope and trust on cool reflection you will consider the importance of the most strong exertions in the defence of our frontiers, especially as we are under apprehension of an immediate an attack from the enemy, you will act up to your profetion and not only act upon but give your Assistance in every matter that leads to our mutual Defence. I am yours, &c.

Colo. Rensselaer.

Thos. Chittenden.

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[No. 4059.]

*James Hamilton Calls Upon the Governor to Save Him from Ruin.*

Little Brittain, Oct. 11th, 1781.

Hond. Sir. The Attorney Genl. Informs me that Execution will be Granted immediately against me for them 4 Cattle of Mr. Laws, which every person I talk to on that subject thinks very extraordinary—after your Order on the C. G. or assist; and his being offered the money by Mr. Elmendorph—and his applying to Col. Cuyler who asserts that He offered him pay for said Cattle in Novr. 1777—after your Excellency's providing a law for the payment of all provisions Taken at that Time—and Your Last proclamation, I expected paid him or Settled the Matter for payment.

The Ato. Genl. directed me to go and Settle with Mr. Law by knowing how much he must have pr lb. and to promise him payment in 5 or 6 Weeks, which I think if I do it will be involving myself contrary to the C G of P orders, as he would not allow me to give him any more than 6d. P. lb. N. Emmission—I have Wrote to the C. Genl. this day on the Subject. If Execution is Levved on my little place it must go, for the Continent has got all my substance and Services, and I can get nothing

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\* Mss. destroyed.

therefor. Relying on your Execy. as you had the command at that Time, that you will order Matters so that I may not be ruined, I am, with due Deference Hond. Sir, your Excys mt. Ob. and M. Hble Serv.

His Excy. George Clinton, Esqr. Governor &c &c &c.

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[No. 4060.]

*John Stark Sends an Alarming Message to General Gansevoort—The Enemy Reported South of Lake George.*

(Copy)

Head Quarters half past 6 O'clk, Saratoga 11 Octbr. 1781.

Dear Sir, By information this moment received, I am Informed that the Enemy are now in reality on this side of Lake George. For God's sake hurry on with all the Force you can collect as perhaps this may be the Last Information I can Give you untill they are in reality here. I can Give no Information of their Force but we must be prepared for the Worst.

I am Dear Sir Your very Huml Servt.

B. Genl. Gansevort.

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[No. 4061.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—The Second New Hampshire Ordered to Albany—New Yorker's Captured at Fort Slongo.*

Headquarters, Continental village, October 11, 1781.

Sir, I was yesterday honored with yours of the 8th—am unhappy to hear of your indisposition, but hope you will soon get the better of it.

Among the prisoners taken at fort Slongo, are those whose names are on the inclosed list belonging to the State of New York. If your Excellency should think proper to view any of them in a different light than that of prisoners of war, they shall be delivered over to the civil authority.

The last evening I received letters from general Stark, of the 7th and 8th instant, in which he expresses an apprehension of a visit from the enemy in some force. Since I sent colonel Weisensfels regiment to Albany, I have written to colonel Reynolds, of New Hampshire who is rendezvousing a regiment of militia at Charlestown, No. 4, [New Hampshire] to detach 200 men from his regiment to Albany, and with the remainder to be ready to act as occasion may require, either towards Albany or the Settlements on the upper parts of Connecticut river. General Stark informs me that he has received assurances of aid from the people on the Grants, if it should be wanted. The last evening I ordered the Second New Hampshire regiment of regular troops to embark with a detachment of artillery and field-piece, and proceed with all possible dispatch to Albany. They embarked about 11 O'clock the last night, and are now on the river. The regiment is small, but are very good troops. This is all the force I can spare at present, and which I hope is sufficient, with the militia, who will naturally collect.

I am keeping a jealous eye over Sir Harry Clinton, for it is possible he may have a design by a movement at the northward to divert our attention and draw our force that way, while he suddenly makes an attempt on the important posts in the Highlands. I hope your militia will be ready to act either at the northward or in this Quarter, as may be necessary.

I am exceedingly sorry to find by General Stark's letter, that he has tried at a court martial and executed Loveless, who came with very particular written instructions to seize a prisoner from the neighborhood of Saratoga, in which attempt he and his party were taken; which was sometime since mentioned. His having written instructions, the tenor of them, and the party

being armed, I think clearly barred the idea of his being considered as a spy, and upon what principle he was executed, I am at a loss to determine—and am apprehensive it will make us some difficulty. It may be best to say as little about it, at present, as possible. I have the honor to be With the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

P. S. I am apprehensive we shall be in want of flour and that very soon. We obtain from colonel Hay but a small proportion of what was expected. If any measures can be adopted to quicken the supplies, I request they may be taken.

W. H.

List of those prisoners taken at fort Slongo, who belong to the State of New York.

Capt. Philip Lake, Commissioned by Governor Robinson, Capt. Barret Dyer, Do, Lieut. Matthias Pendergrass, Do.

Privates: Thomas Pendergrass, William Huyk, Aaron Van Dyck, Michael FitsGerald, Thomas Darling.

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[No. 4062.]

*General Van Rensselaer Ordered to be Ready to Move at a Moment's Notice to Reinforce General Stark.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 11th, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency the Govr. has just received a Letter from Genl. Gansevoort enclosing a Copy of one from Genl. Stark informing of his being apprized that the Enemy have a considerable force at Point Fair under marching orders & requesting Aid from the Militia. His Excellency is indisposed with a fever &, therefore, directs me to inform you of this & to request that

you will hold your Brigade in readiness at a Moments Warning to march the whole or such Part of it as may be necessary to sustain Genl. Stark or Colo. Willet without waiting further orders as Emergencies may require. I am &c.

R. Benson A D C.

Genl. Rensselaer.

[No. 4063.]

*General Heath and the Alarm from the North—The Flour Situation in Westchester County Serious.*

Headquarters, Continental village, October 12, 1781.

Sir, I was last evening honored with a letter from Mr. Benson, enclosing copies of letters from general Stark and Gansevoort and a letter from general Schuyler. General Schuyler's letter was of the 4th and has been long on the road. He also refers to another letter of his which has not come to hand. In that of the 4th he advises me, that on the 12th of September, seventy batteaux were completed at St. Johns, and the carpenters employed in repairing others—that all the troops at Montreal, except the necessary guards, were sent to St. Johns, where there were about 1000 men regulars and irregulars and seventy Indians—and every indication of an excursion over the lakes. That about 800 men had gone up St. Lawrence said to relieve the western posts, and that by "the baggage and stores they have carried, *that* seems their destination".

In mine of yesterday I had the honor to inform your Excellency what steps I had taken. I hope the force I have sent to Albany, with the militia which are collecting will be sufficient—more I can scarcely spare from these posts.

It seems the enemy, by general Schuyler's account, were at Point O'Fer, and their destination not known. A Mr. Metcalf,

a noted person in Canada, and I am persuaded is known to your Excellency, not long ago came from Montreal and gave me an account of the preparations which were making. It was his opinion from the size of the batteaux, that the attempt would be made on the upper Settlements on Connecticut river,—which I immediately communicated to the eastern States. While the enemy are at Point O'Fer, their destination remains uncertain. I have ordered a chain of expresses established between this and Albany, that the earliest intelligence may be communicated. I am very apprehensive if the enemy make a serious move at the northward, Sir Harry will make one on this side.

My greatest apprehensions are on the account of the want of flour—and I most earnestly request that some measures may be immediately adopted to ensure us instant relief. Of 3,000 barrels expected from Colonel Hay by this time, on the 30th of September, 300 barrels had not been received. The day before yesterday, we had not more than one day's allowance of flour on hand—and from colonel Hay's letters, we are not to expect large supplies from him.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4064.]

*General Schuyler Urges the Governor to Proceed to Saratoga.*

Albany, 8 o'clock A. M. October 12, 1781.

Dear Sir, This moment I received an express from Gen. Stark advising me that the Enemy had landed and were on their march between lake George and Saratoga, and intreating assistance. I have written to General Rosseter of the Massachusetts agreeable

to General Stark's request to March up with his Militia. I hope General Gansevoort will exert himself to draw out his Brigade, but I believe it will be indispensably necessary for your Excellency to hasten up or much evil may arise. Cannot General Heath send a reinforcement, we have not any regular troops in this quarter. I am Dear Sir, with great respect, Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency Gov. Clinton &c.

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[No. 4065.]

*Governor Clinton Requests General Van Rensselaer to March to Albany.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 13th, 1781.

Sir, By accounts this moment recd by Express from Genl. Gansevoort. It appears the Enemy are in force on this side Lake George—I have therefore, to repeat my request that you will forthwith march your Brigade to Albany and from thence to such Parts of the Frontiers as the position of the Enemy on your arrival at that Place shall render necessary. I am &c,  
Brigr. Genl. Rensselaer.

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[No. 4066.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath—Embarrassed by the Delicacy of His Position—Promises Cooperation and Flour.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 13, 1781.

Dr Sir, This morning by Express I recd a Letter from B. Genl. Gansevoort con'g. a Copy of one from Genl. Stark to him—copies of which are enclosed. In addition to the measures taken by Genl. Gansevoort for reinforcing Genl. Stark, I have ordered



Genl. Rensselaer immediately to march his Brigade for Albany & from thence to detach to the assistance of Genl. Stark or Colo. Willet, according to the Accounts of the Enemy's Position he may receive; for I am not without apprehension that the Enemy's real Object is west of Saratoga. These letters I presume were written before they had any information at Albany of the reinforcements you had lately ordered to that Quarter. The continued applications through me to you for further aid, place me in a disagreeable situation; as I cannot possibly form a proper Judgment of the aid you can safely spare and I should be exceedingly unhappy in advising any step that might in its consequences endanger the principal Objects of your command. I shall, therefore, confine myself barely to the transmission of the Intelligence I may from time to time receive, assuring you at the same Time of every assistance in my Power, should an attempt be made by the Enemy below, which from your Accounts do not appear altogether improbable.

Colo. Hay is not yet returned from Albany; but unless the alarm to the northward should detain him, he may be hourly expected and the Moment he arrives he shall have my positive Orders to hurry on a supply of Flour & to compleat this State's Quota of that article with as little delay as possible.

I do not know of any particular Charge agt. the Prisoners named in the List enclosed in your favor of the 11th & therefore suppose they may with propriety be exchanged as Prisoners of War.

I am &c &c &c,

The honble Major Genl. Heath.

[No. 4067.]

*The Governor to General Gansevoort—Preparations for the Defence of the State.*

Poughkeepsie, 8 o'clock A. M., Octr. 13, 1781.

Sir, I am this moment favored with your Letter of the 12th con'g. a Copy of Genl. Stark's. Since my last to you I have recd. a Letter from Genl. Heath informing me that he had detached the New Hampshire Continental Regt. with a Detachment of Artillery together with part of a Reg't. collecting at Charles-Town No. 4 to your Assistance. I am not sufficiently informed of Genl. Heath's force below, to determine whether it is probable he can spare any more, but from his last letter to me it would rather appear he conceives he cannot. I shall however immediately forward him Copies of your & Genl. Stark's Letter. The Enemy's Force is so formidable at New York & in such perfect Readiness for some capital Movement as to justify an Apprehension of an Attempt agt the Posts in the southern Parts of the State and to make it necessary to be prepared agt. it. I have by the Bearer repeated my order to Brigr. Genl. Rensselaer to march his Brigade for Albany with the least possible Delay. I am &c.

Brigr. Genl. Gansevoort.

[No. 4068.]

*Governor Clinton Conveys to General Schuyler the Substance of the Orders Issued in Consequence of the Approach of the Enemy.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 13, 1781.

Dr. Sir, I am this moment fav'd with y'r letter of the 12th inst. I should be happy if the state of my health was such as to enable me to repair to Albany: but I have been afflicted these 10 days past with an intermitting fever from which tho' I have

escaped it a Day or two I am by no means recovered so as to venture abroad. I wrote to Genl. Rensselaer by the last returning Express from Albany and ordered him to hold his Brigade in readiness & to march without further orders if the Acc't he should receive rendered it necessary. I have now repeated my Orders to him to march immediately to Albany & from thence to such Parts as the Position of the Enemy should render necessary.

Late on Thursday Eveng last, I recd. a Letter from Genl. Heath advising me that the N. Hampshire Contl. Regt. & a Detachment of Artillery were embarked & on their way to Albany & that he had ordered 200 of a Regt. collectg. at Charles Town No 4 to immediately march for the same place. The wind being since favorable the former must have arrived before this. I will instantly transmit Genl. Heath the information now recd. But from a Letter I recd. from him last Eveng. it appears doubtful whether he will be able to spare any greater force, as the Enemy in N. York are in very considerable strength & prepared for some Capital movement, & he is not without apprehensions that their Designs may be ag't the Posts under his immediate Command & that the prest. appearance of the Enemy at the Northw'd may be to favor such an Enterprize.

I am &c,

The Honble Philip Schuyler, Esqr.

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[No. 4069.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—Concerned Over the Question of Forage and Supplies for This Campaign.*

Headquarters, Continental village, October 14, 1781.

Sir, I was the last evening honored with yours of the 13th inclosing copies of intelligence from general Stark and general

Gansevoort. I have ordered two regiments more of regular troops with another fieldpiece to march immediately for Albany, to take vessels, if the wind should be favorable at Fishkill—if not, to proceed on by land. I am very sorry that your indisposition forbids your affording your presence at the Northward on this occasion where it would be productive of the best consequences.

On this emergency, and the present situation of things, I request your Excellency will be pleased to vest colonel Hughes with ample powers to procure such forage or waggons as may be necessary to effect the most speedy march of the troops, or transportation of provisions—and to colonel Hay or his Assistants, or if he be absent, to such person as you may think proper, to afford a supply of flour not only to the troops at the Northward, but for this army, who are now on the verge of want of bread. Let me entreat some extra measures may be taken for our relief in this respect. I have represented our situation to Mr. Morris. I find by his answers, that he depends much on colonel Hay to supply us. Although I have written to Mr. Phelps to forward beef cattle to Albany, yet the present emergency may require a more speedy aid, which I request may be granted.

I will thank your Excellency for a communication of any intelligence that may come to your knowledge and I pray you to be assured that no exertions of mine shall be wanting to afford protection to every part of the state as far as is within my power.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4070.]

*Mr. T. Van Wagenen to the Governor in Regard to a Flour Contract  
—Together With a Letter from George Clinton to Sears and Smith  
on the Same Subject.*

Kingston, Oct. 14th, 1781.

Sir, I recd. your Excellencys letter, together with the copy of Messrs Sears & Smith, relative the contract Between them gentlemen & myself. I am very sorry to find that there is so great a misunderstanding between us, which can be occasioned by nothing but the miscarriage of my Letters to them. The contract would have been punctually performed on my part long ago had I not had the misfortune of a severe fit of the fever & ague, which took me the same time that I had collected greatest part of the Waggons which was to transport the flour to Boston, and upon my recovery the people were so busily employed in Tilling their summer Fallows that I could hire none till after seed time. I have a short time past wrote them gentlemen a Letter informing them they could expect me in a very short time, and I am now making every exertion in my power for that purpose, as I have never had the least Intention other than doing them every Justice in my power, but as to my taking the goods without their consent is intirely a mistake. If they recollect themselves they must know they desired me to get some persons of my acquaintance in Boston to recommend me, upon which I applied to some, & call'd upon them to acquaint them of it, when they informed me I could have the articles I mentioned if I would call up in the morning, which I did and not finding either of them at home I apply'd to the store keeper then at Mr. Sears' who referr'd me to one of the Clerks then in the store who delivered the goods to me.

As they have desired a line from your Excellency on the subject I wish you would at the same inform them of my sentiments with respect to it, I am Sir with due Respect yr. Excellencys most obedt. & Hble Sert.

THE GOVERNOR TO MESSRS. SEARS, SMITH & Co.

Pokeepsie, 28th October 1781.

Gentlemen, From a Desire of oblidging you & out of Tender-  
ness to Mr. Van Wagenen who as a Military officer in the Levies  
of this State has always supported a fair Character, upon the  
receipt of your letter, I transmitted him a copy of it with my  
Sentiments respecting his Conduct towards your House.  
Inclosed, you have a Copy of his Answer from which I woud  
charitably hope that it was owing to the Misunderstanding in  
the first Instance, & afterwards to the unfortunate Circum-  
stances mentioned in his Letter that his contract was not punc-  
tually complied with, & not to any fraudulent intention and that  
these impediments being now removed, he will manifest a dispo-  
sition of doing you Justice without farther Delay or Troubles.  
Rest assured, Gentlemen, it will at all Times afford me great  
Pleasure to serve you, but in the present Instance you will readily

perceive I can only do it by a Friendly Interposition in my Private Character. I am with sincere Regard & Esteem, Gentlemen, Your Most Obed. Sert.

Messrs Sears, Smith & Co. Boston.

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[No. 4071.]

*Collision Between New York Troops and a Party of Vermonters—  
General Gansevoort Reports the Affair to Governor Clinton with  
Colonel Van Rensselaer's Report.*

Albany, Octr. 15, 1781.

Dr Sir, I yesterday went up to the New City for the purpose of hastening on to Sarghtoga that part of my Brigade ordered to reinforce Gen. Starks. I Returned in the Evening and this morning Received from Colo. Van Rensselaer a Letter of which the inclosed is a copy. The affray it Describes was occasioned by Colo. Van Rensselaer having made prisoner on the evening of the 13th inst. of a Certain Fairbanks, a private of his Regt, residing at the New City, who is Commisioned as a Colonel and appointed as a Select man under the new State (so called). This fellow by some means effected his Escape and Collected the men mentioned in Colo. Van Rensselaer's Letter.

As I Conceive this affair may be attended with some important Consequences, I have thought proper more Especially as the Legislature are now probably Convened, to write to your Excellency By Express and would wish to have if possible, particular Instructions for my conduct in this Business.

I last night Received your Excellency's Letter of the 13th inst, by the Return of my Express. Vrooman's Regt. have not been called from Schohary and I mean to forward to that place Colo. Henry Van Rensselaer with 300 men of the Claverack Militia as soon as they Come in.

I have Ordered Genl. Van Rensselaer's Brigade to Schenectady; this has now been the more necessary as Genl. Starks has drawn from Tryon County the Two Companies of Levies under Major Logan's Command. I shall proceed to Schenectady to morrow and give orders to the officer Commanding the Troops Collecting there to hold them in Readiness to march whenever the movements of the Enemy may Render it most necessary. I must again mention to your Excellency that our want of Ammunition & provision still Continues and that it is of the utmost moment we should be spediaily Supplied with Both but particularly with Ammunition.

I am Sir, your Humbl. Servant,  
His Excellency Governour Clinton.

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COLONEL VAN RENSSELAER TO GENERAL GANSEVOORT.

Half Moon Octr. 15, 1781.

Dr Sir, Yours of the 14th I Received together with William Sander, prisoner; after Receiving your Letter I gaind Intiligence by a prisoner that Mr. Tanckary with a party had weighlaid you at the Ferry in order to make you a prisoner, for which purpose and not knowing whether you intend to proceed, I with the advice of the field officers, Detached a party under the command of Major Schermerhorn, in order to apprehend him and his gangs. The Major proceeded to the house of Mr. Douglass where they were assembled; on his approaching and attempting to surround the house which he had Compleatly effected in front but not in the Bear of the house, they *fired*, and made their Escape out of the back door, excepting *one* who is a prisoner; two of our Militia men are wounded, but I hope not mortally. For further particulars I refer you to Major Schermerhorn.

I Could wish you would immediately send me a Surgeon. I am, Sir, your Huml. Servant

Signed  
a Coppy.

Henry Van Rensselaer

[No. 4072.]

*General Schuyler Reports to the Governor That the Enemy Is South of Crown Point—Albany Threatened—A British Courier Runs the Lines.*

Albany, Octo. 15th 1781.

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 12th inst. I was honored with yesterday afternoon; by the last accounts the enemy were between Crown Point and Gillilands. The Militia from all quarters move with so much spirit, that the arrival of Colo. Reid's continental regiment will afford so much confidence to them that it is to be wished the enemy would attempt to penetrate.

Colo. Willet advises me that all was quiet in Tryon on the 12th Inst.

By an intercepted letter we find the Enemy had a dark design on this place. A packet from New York to Canada Escaped us through the inattention of an officer or his party, who were sent to the Batteaux where the Enemy's messenger was to Embark, with one of the party who was taken and made the discovery, and who Escaped after they arrived at the boat.

Will you be so good as to convey my respects to the Lieut. Governor; the express waits and I cannot write. The moment I return from Saratoga, which will be as soon as we are advised of the Enemy's retreat I shall set out for Poughkeepsie.

I am sorry that you are so much indisposed, but hope the cool weather will prove favorable & restore you soon. I am, Dear Sir, with Great Respect and Esteem your Excellency's Obed. Servant,



[No. 4073.]

*John Tayler to Governor Clinton—Clever Device of Mr. Woodworth  
—His Capture of Several of the Enemy in Tryon County—A  
Plot to Seize General Gansevoort.*

Albany, 16th Octr. 1781.

Dear Sir, I was favoured by Coll. Hay, with a letter from You, flattered myself that it would have contained agreeable news from the Southward; we are in General so Exceedingly Sanguine in our Expectations as not to Reason, properly, and are, therefore, disappointed that events do not Immediately happen that we ought to look for Some time hence; such is our Conduct Respecting Cornwallis. General Washington had scarcely left Philadelphia when we began to look for his Surrender. News from this quarter you will have from those who are better Informed than I am; however, I would not wish to send you a very short letter, & for the want of having it in my power to tell you, how finely my Son Grows, what Great proficiency my daughter makes in her Education, & when I intend to Send George to College &c, I say for the Want of Having it in my power to spin out a letter with occurrences of this sort, & a barrenness of Invention too prevalent in me, obliges me to have Recourse to my old method, Relating such facts as have lately happened that have come to my knowledge.

A few days ago, a John Cook, an Inhabitant of Tryon County, come to the house of a Mr. Woodworth, brother to an officer of that name that was killed sometime ago in Tryon County. Woodworth suspecting Cook to be upon some bad Intent, after hearing from whence he came, began to Inveigh against the State of N York, spoke much in favor of Vermont, and by degrees declared himself to be a friend of the British Government, & so far gained the Confidence of Cook that he told Woodworth, that

some time ago his son came from Canada with twelve others of Sir John's Regiment, and was wounded by a Sentry at Johns Town in the Knee; that not having it in his power to procure a Surgeon obliged him to advise his Son to surrender himself, that the Remainder of the party were still in Tryon County & in a very disagreeable situation, they having been informed that the Oneida Indians had destr'yed their Canoes & the Woods full of Scouts; no provision but what they procured from their friends, and without some Singular Interposition they must certainly be taken; that he Cook, apprehensive for them, & the consequences that might Result to him if they should be taken determined to leave the Country and was on his way to Vermont; Woodworth living not far from Hoosick. Woodworth offered his services in assisting of the party to Canada; the other accepted it and Informed him by Calling at a Certain house near Johnstown he might see them & be informed of further particulars. He came to Albany & informed the Commissioners; they with some difficulty prevailed on him to undertake the managing of the affair & spoke to Capt. Fink to assist; he went up and took two of them with the person to whom he was directed. He Conducted himself with address on the Occasion & would have taken the whole party had not the others have sot off for Canada two days before; the prisoners are momentarily expected. Woodworth is now gone to General Stark, in order to obtain a party in order to follow those who went off and from the knowledge he has of the Rout they have taken it is Imagined he may overtake them. He informs that a large packet was in Tryon County for Canada, which he Expects will be taken. Genl. Stark's letter of Yesterday, I am informed Mentions that a small Scout of his was taken & that two hundred & fifty men were sent Into Scotch Patent

to drive down the Cattle, which otherwise will be sent to the Enemy *if any there be.*

Coll Willet writes that yesterday at one o'clock the alarm guns at the Flatts fired. The night before last Major Schermerhorn with one hundred of Coll Rensselaer's Regt went to a certain Douglas's house in order to apprehend Vermont Colo, Burbank, a schoolmaster of the New City & a party he had collected who Refused to march. The Colo's party fired on ours; it was Returned when they ran away. Two men are wounded of ours, one I believe Mortally the Ball having penetrated to the Brain. One prisoner was then taken a British deserter. A party laid in wait to take Colo. Gansevoort, one of which fell into our hands. I should begin a new sheet but am apprehensive it will Intrude to much on Your time to trouble you farther. I am with Every friendly wish, Dr Sir, Yours, &c,  
Gov. Clinton.

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[No. 4074.]

*Andrew Finck to Governor Clinton in Regard to Exchanging Tryon County Inhabitants—The Governor's Reply.*

Stone Arabia; Tryon County Octr. 16th, 1781.

Sir, Inclosed we send you an Application of Sundry of the Inhabitants of this County, whose Names you will find thereunto Annexed, and who are desirous of being exchanged together with their Families; as you will find by the Application, some of which are young Men of the Age of 12 and upwards. The whole Number of Men are Twenty three; wives Fifteen, young Women above the Age of Twelve Fourteen, Children Forty seven, Total Ninety nine; To which Application we beg you will give your Consent, and cause them to be Exchanged for the follow-

ing Persons, herewith Inclosed you in a List, the Generallity of which were taken Prisoners out of this County since early last spring. The friends of those prisoners have Exerted themselves and brought many of the above Mentioned to us who have Apply'd to be Exchanged in the room of those taken from this County.

The friends of those in Captivity are very desirous to have them relieved by Exchange and pray your Excellency will Consider them. There is daily Application made to us from Persons desirous to be Exchanged, which we will Labour from time to time to transmit to your Excellency; We are also endeavouring to Collect a List of all the Prisoners taken from every Quarter of this County whose Names we shall likewise transmitt to your Excellency for an Exchange.

Those of our prisoners who have returned from Captivity on Parole we make no doubt you have a proper return of their Names. If there are any other Methods or Channels through which this business can be properly conducted we would be glad of your Excellency's Instructions upon the Subject; any other Instructions that your Excellency should suggest to be Necessary we would very readily Accept, as we are young in the Business.

We have the honor to be your Excellency's Most Obedient and very Humble Servants.

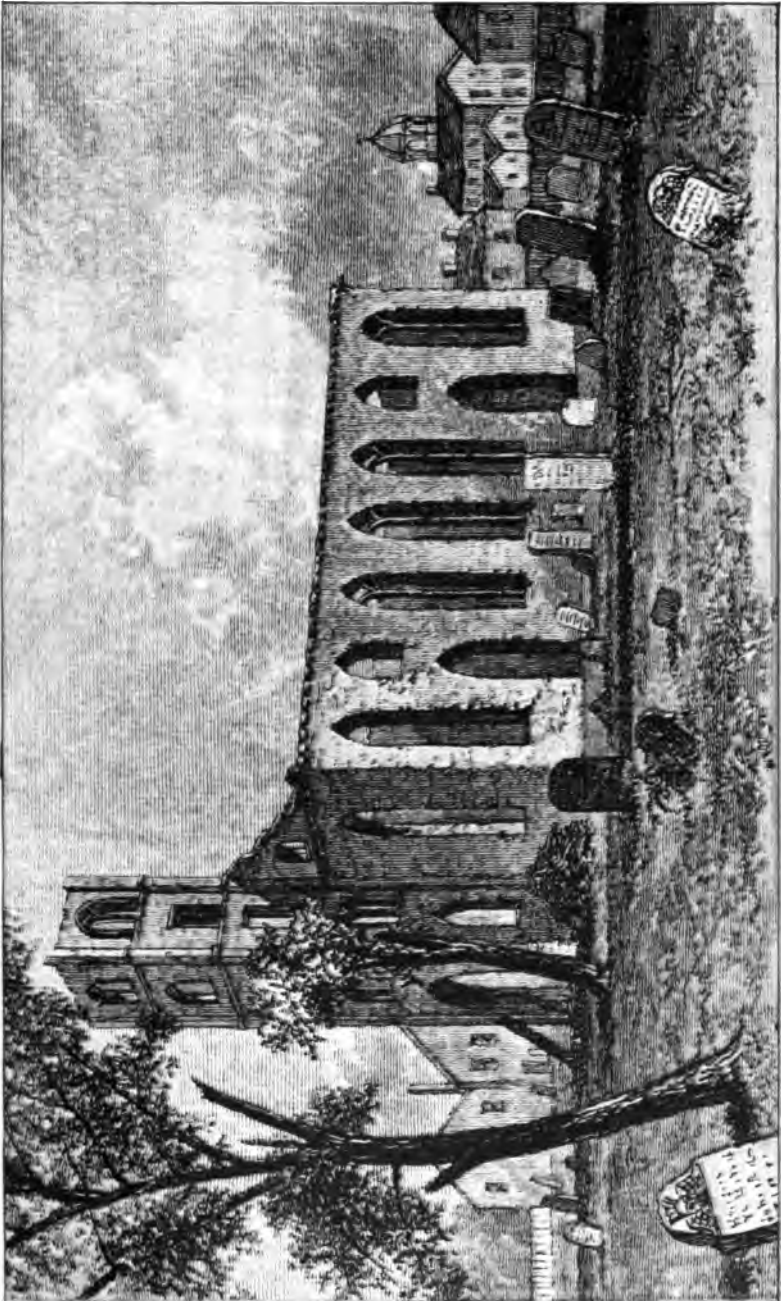
By Order of the Board.

Andrew Finck, junr.

.....  
Commissioners of Conspiracies.

To his Excellency George Clinton, Esqr Governor of the State of N York.

(Omitted. List of petitioners to be exchanged.)



RUINS OF TRINITY CHURCH



## GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokepsie 28th October 1781.

Gentlemen, I am this Day favoured with your Letter of the 16th Instant and its Inclosures. A Flagg was lately dispatched to Canada to negotiate the Exchange of Prisoners with Letters to the Govr. of Quebec on that Subject. The Gentleman who conducted it is not yet returned, and I am of Course Ignorant of the Success of his Embassy. If the Enemy should acquese to any Reasonable Terms I shall cheerfully agree to the Exchange of the Persons whose Application you have transmitted, but until the determination of the Enemy on the subject is known, it would be wrong in me to signify my consent, as this would be immediately putting those People on the easy and advantageous Footing of Prisoners of War without our deriving the least Benefit from the Measure.

I will be much obliged to you for a List of our Friends captured in Tryon County when you shall have completed it, as also of those who have returned home on Parole of whom I have never had any Return.

I am, Gentlemen, with great regard, Your most &c &c.

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[No. 4075.]

*Jacobus Wynkoop Remonstrates Against a Court Martial Finding.*

To your Excelency George Clinton, Esqr. Governor of the State of New York, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and admiral of the Navy of the same.

I do by these presents make my humble address To your Excellency for Relief of a Judgment Past by a Court Martial against me, held at Marbleton the Second and Third Days of October 1781; When and Where I did personally appeared, in order to answer the Charge Laid against me, which is as follows vizt.

(Whereas you stand charged with Crime of Disobedience of orders of the Late Incursion of the Enemy at Wawasink as well as similar offences Frequently heretofore Committed, you are, therefore, & hereby ordered to appear before the Court Martial which is to sit at the House of Johannis Saks the second day of October Next at Ten o'clock in the morning To shew Cause if any you have for such Conduct, Given under my Hand this 29th of September 1781. John Cantine, Coll'o.)

Whereas I have Shewed such Cause to the Court Martial, as foll'o Vizt. as to the first part of the charge above Recited (Comprehended in these words) the Crime of

Disobedience of orders on the Late Incursion of the Enemy at Wawasink; Which I answered with the foll'o words Viz. that I was not guilty of the first part of sd. Charge Because I had no orders of any kind; at the Time of the Incursion Last, as I was with all my family at my dwelling House and heard but the Craks of Two Guns after which I saw the smoke Rising at Several Places at Wawasink. I then suddenly moved my family all a foot to Mr. Jochem Schoonmakers fort, Before wee Entered the fort I received word that the Enemy was at Benjm Hoornbecks, then we entered the aforesd fort; Immediately after that I and Esqr. Jochem Schoonmaker, Junr., marched up to oppose the enemy (as I though it my Duty) So far untill we met Lt. John Depuy, who informed us, that the Enemy was on their Return; just after which wee was informed that Smoke was seen that morning on Jacob Smith Land, Where I and Esqr. Schoonmaker & his brother Capt. Petrus Schoonmaker with several others more Did Visited that place; found some body had been there and Returned to Collect provisions for the Men to go in Pursuit of Enemy; pursuant to a Request of Lt. John Depuy; after which I thought myself not able to go in pursuit of the Enemy; as to the second part of the Charge Laid aganst; is the similar offences frequently Heretofore Committed; as I answered not guilty; Because I have made my attendance at Every Envasion or alarm which happened here about heretofore, as to the Incursion at Peemp'k I marched up with Lt. Dirk Wesbrouk untill send back, which he confessed to the Court; as to the Incursion at Andries Shurger & Miller, I made my attendance then and there, and I assisted to bury the Corpse with Capt. Kortreght, Cornelius Oosterhout, Dirk Hoornbeck and several others more; as to the Incursion at Pontynkill, I marched on to the Dwelling of John Kittle and stayed untill Capt. Kortreght made his request to Collo. Cantine that I should go back, which the Colo. Granted; as to the Calling of the Militia Last Year, I made my attendance at the house of Johannis Vernoo, under the command of Lt. Dirck Westbrouk, untill Discharged; he Confessed to the Court, after I made my answers to the Court inform aforesd the Court has adjudged me to be punished by a fine of one pound hard money, and four pound New Emmission, which fine to be Inflicted on me against the above Truth of my Cause to them and with some of the members of them showed; I think it not right; therefore, I find my self obliged to address and Beseech Your Excellency in a most humble manner as one of your faithfull and True subjects in the Cause of America from the first Beginning of the Contest, to take this Metter in Your Excellency's Serious Consideration.

And as I Conclude to inform your Excellency that Every Case of my address to you Humbly Meant, I am able to Git it Testified by sufficient Evidences. No more as that I Remain your Excellency's most obedient and humble Servt.

Rochester, October the 17 anno 1781 To his Excellency George Clinton, Esqr. Governor.

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[No. 4076.]

*General Heath Asks Governor Clinton to Hold Fifteen Hundred Militia to be Ready to March at a Moment's Notice—The Federal Government Falls Back Upon the State for Supplies.*

Private. Headquarters, Continental village, October 17, 1781.

Sir, The army is almost totally destitute of flour—I have been repeatedly pressing Mr. Morris for a supply. In his last letter of the 9th instant, he finishes with observing—"I will endeavour to fall upon some ways and means of making eventual arrangements; but at present your reliance must be on



the specific supplies from the State of New York, which you will not omit to require by every proper opportunity."—As, therefore, we have at present no other means of relief, I earnestly request it from your Excellency.

From some late intelligence I am induced to request your Excellency to hold fifteen hundred of your nearest militia in readiness to march at a moment's notice with five or six days provision, should they be called for. I wish to have this done in a way that will cause as little suspicion as possible—It may be covered under a pretence of supporting the Northern frontier now invaded, although I have another view, which I dare not commit to paper. If the militia are now under orders to turn out properly equipped and provided on the shortest notice, it may be best not to issue further orders: But of this your Excellency can best determine. I pray this may be kept a most profound secret.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency, Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4077.]

*Du Simitiere Thanks Governor Clinton for Adding to His Collection of Curiosities and Modestly Suggests a Number of Rare and Valuable Articles Will Prove Acceptable.*

Philada. October 17th, 1781.

Sir, It is with great pleasure that I have to acknowledge the honour of your Excellency's letter of the 29th ult. It is a Sign that I am not quite forgotten and causes agreeable reflexions. The Curiosities delivered to me by Dr. Tappen were very acceptable and have found their respective place in my collec-

tion. I beg leave to return my grateful thanks for the same and for your Excellency's promise of more of this kind of curiosities, to which a belt of wampum would be a valuable addition. I suppose it was omission that I did not receive the Laws and votes of your legislature which you informed me formerly you had collected for me; however, your Excellency may have some other opportunities this fall to send them by. The books printed in the Indian languages will be extremely acceptable and useful. but those weapons, utensils &c of Stone and earthen ware, that have formerly been in use among the Indians before the arrival of the Europeans and are dayly found abroad in fields, in places where they had their abode, these are very much desired by me, as great and instructive curiosities, which time does not permit to explain here; therefore shall quit the subject for the present.

Your Excellency will see by the inclosed minutes of the last session of our Legislature that they have been pleased to take some notice of a memorial which I had the honour to present to them in April last, but the circulation of that kind of money which they have granted me being now Stagnated, it is of no present use. I propose to forward your Excellency a memorial to be presented to your hon. Legislature much to the same purpose as that mentioned above but I am advised to wait till the winter sessions, before which time I shall have the honour to explain myself more fully to your Excellency on the subject.

I have at last received information that the engravings done in Paris from my collection of portraits have reached this Continent, but the packet from Monsr. Gerard for me is in Col. Laurens's baggage which he has left at Providence and nothing is more uncertain than when I shall receive them. I have now by me the pictures of President Thos. McKean. Gen. Sullivan, Gen.

St. Clair, Robert Morris & James Duane ready to be sent to France by the first opportunity.

I have with great pleasure received into my homely hermitage your friend and brother in law Dr. Tappen & Mr. Barnes; they will give your Excellency some account of what they have seen, but I lament greatly that I did not know of Dr. Tappen's having his lady with him till yesterday afternoon, which has prevented me from entertaining that Lady with the Sight of such parts of my collections that is not in view, and is by far the most curious, but which is but on particular occasions shewn.

I have the honour to be with great respect, Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4078.]

*Captain E. Marshall to Governor Clinton—The Alarm at German Flats—Colonel Reid's Regiment Advances to Saratoga—Prepared to Meet the Enemy at Albany.*

Albany, Octr. 17th, 1781.

Sir, I yesterday morning Rec'd. a letter from Col. Willett dated Fort Plain Oct. 15 1 o'clock P. M. in which he said "I this moment hear the alarm Guns fire at Fort Herkimer"—desiring me "to forward this intelligence to the necessary quarters" & to "hurry on the Militia" which I did. Last night another letter was handed me from him in which is "Intirely contrary to my expectations this alarm has blown over; the Guns were fired at the German Flatts on account of two of the inhabitants being killed and another taken prisoner by a Small party who immediately disappeared" also desiring me "forward this intelligence as far as the other went". 400 Militia had arrived at Schenec-

tady yesterday—one of the other Regular Regt's from below. are at the overslaugh—the other men in the rear. Reid's Regt. (Regular) marched yesterday with the artillery for Saratoga. I fear the whole alarm will prove abortive, for now we are so well prepared I could almost wish them to come. I am with much respect, Sir, your Excellencys most ob. St.

E. Marshall, Capt. Con't's.

Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4079.]

*Governor Clinton Expresses to General Gansevoort His Views on the Aggressions of the Vermonters—Again the Question of Supplies.*

Poughkeepsie, Oct. 18, 1781.

Dear Sir, Your letter of the 15th Inst was delivered to me on the Eveng. of the 16th. I have delayed answering it, in hopes that the Legislature would ere this have formed a quorum & that I might have availed myself of their advice on the Subject to which it relates: but as this is not yet the case, & it is uncertain when I shall be enabled to lay the matter before them, I conceive it might be improper longer to defer expressing my own Sentiments to you on the Subject.

The different & unwarrantable attempts during the whole summer, of the People on the Grants to establish their usurped Jurisdiction even beyond their former Claim & the repetition of it, alluded to in your Letter, in direct opposition to a Resolution of Congress, injurious to this State & favorable to their project of Independence & at a Time when the common Enemy are advancing, can only be accounted for by what other parts of their Conduct has given us too much Reason to suspect: disaffection to the common Cause. On my part, I have hitherto

shewn a Disposition to evade entering into any Altercation with them that might in its most remote Consequences give encouragement to the Enemy & expose the frontier Settlements to their Ravages, and from these Considerations alone, I have submitted to insults which otherwise would not have been borne with and I could have wished to have continued this line of Conduct until the approaching Season would have secured us against the incursions of the common Enemy. But as from the Acct's contained in Colo. Rensselaer's Letter to you, it would appear that the Militia embodying under Mr. Chittenden's Orders are for the Service of the Enemy & that their first Object was to make you a Prisoner, it would be unjustifiable to suffer them to proceed. It is, therefore, my Desire that you maintain your Authority throughout every part of your Brigade, and for this Purpose that you carry the Laws of the State into execution ag't those who shall presume to disobey your lawful Orders. I would only observe that these Sentiments are founded on an Idea that the accounts given by Colo. Rensselaer in his Letter may be relied on. It being still my earnest Desire for the Reasons above explained not to do anything that may bring Matters to Extremities at least before the Close of the Campaign if it can conveniently be avoided.

In my last, I should have mentioned to you that it was not in my Power to send you a Supply of Ammunition, but as I had reason to believe you was gone to Saratoga, I conceived it improper to say anything on the Subject lest my Letter might miscarry. You may recollect that the whole of the supply ordered by Genl. Washington last spring, went to Albany for the use of the militia & 500 lb. is all that has been since received into the State Magazine which you will readily conceive to be

far short of what was necessary for the other exposed parts of the State. With respect to Provisions it is equally out of my Power to furnish you with any but what the State Agent who is now with you may be able to procure. I am &c.  
Brigr. Genl. Gansevoort.

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[No. 4080.]

*Governor Clinton Deploras to General Heath the Lack of Provisions  
—Impress Warrants Issued for Teams and Forage.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 18th, 1781.

Dr. Sir, I was last night honored with your favor of yesterday. It is a painful reflection to me that the Army under your Command should be in want of Provisions. Colo. Hay who has the sole management of collecting the supplies required of the State is not yet returned from Albany, and as I am not vested with legal Power to issue impress Warrants on this Occasion it is not possible for me to afford you any Relief. You may be assured, Sir the moment he arrives I will order him to use every exertion to procure a supply of Flour as well for the Troops at the Northward as those under your immediate Command. This all I can do unless the Legislature, who have not yet formed a Quorum to proceed to Business, make some further provision on the subject.

The Militia have been under Orders, all the Season and still are to hold themselves in readiness to march on the shortest Notice, & I have no doubt that in case of an alarm, the whole would turn out with spirit & dispatch: but it will be difficult to detach a specific number for a particular Service with that Secrecy & promptitude that might be necessary; especially if any

Thing should intended to be done by surprise & they to be employed in it.

In consequence of your letter of the 14th I have issued impress warr'ts. to Colo. Hughs, for Teams & forage to transport the Troops. By my last Accts. from the North'd. it appears the Enemy were still on Lake Champlain somewhere between Gillilands & Crown Pt. so that Genl. Stark's information of their being on this side of Lake George was premature.

I am, &c &c.

The hoble. Major Genl. Heath.

[No. 4081.]

## COMMISSARY HORTON SHOT BY A DRAGOON.

*General Heath Reports Disorders Below the Lines—A Thief Who Robbed an Old Woman Apprehended.*

Head quarters, Continental village, October 19, 1781.

Sir, I was the last evening honored with yours of the 18th. I thank your Excellency for the aid afforded to colonel Hughes. My last accounts from the Northward corroborate those mentioned by your Excellency. If the enemy should not soon advance, two of the three regiments of regular troops sent to Albany, will return—the third will remain at the northward for the present.

A most infamous practice has long been exercised by a set of people who steal below the lines, and plunder men, women and children, putting many to extreme torture to compel them to discover their money &c. This induced the Commander in chief on the first of August last, to issue an order forbidding any person or persons going below the army or on its flanks, with or without arms, unless they were formed into companies under command of an officer or officers, under the authority of their State or the election of their company; and if any were found otherwise, they were to be taken up and sent to the provost. This has still been considered as a standing order. But notwithstanding, at every opportunity when they could steal by the guards, these people continued their practices, and have in several instances of late, committed abuses, contrary to all laws, civil, military, human and divine. Besides these, they almost totally obstruct and break up those channels of intelligence which the good of the service require should be preserved. An instance of this happened a few days since; an old woman was



employed to go to a certain place, where she was to receive intelligence; her person and her age rendered her unsuspecting; on her return, near Dobb's ferry, she was met by three or four persons who stopped her, searched, and took from her nine dollars in money. Soon after a patrol of our troops came near a house where they were, when they ran into the woods as from an enemy. They were fired upon but not hit. The woman knowing one of the gang, Robert Campbell, induced Captain Pray to endeavor to apprehend him. He was taken up yesterday, crossing the ferry, and is now sent up to your Excellency, to be proceeded with as you may think proper. He owns he took the money and now has it. Two or three atrocious acts have been committed since. Campbell declares he had no hand in them. If Campbell should be brought to trial, captain Pray will attend and produce the necessary evidence against him.

The day before yesterday a dispute happened between an officer and the issuing commissary a Mr. Horton, and a dragoon on or near the lines. Horton and the dragoon drew their swords, when Horton wounded the dragoon on the shoulder, on which the dragoon discharged his pistol, shot Horton through the body—he expired in about fifteen minutes. The dragoon is confined in the provost. As this crime is a breach of the civil law, which it is my endeavor to support, I make this report to your Excellency, that the civil authority may take cognizance of it, if you think proper. The culprit will be delivered up when called for.

It is supposed the British fleet sailed yesterday or the day before. It is also reported that on Saturday a British 74 gun ship was struck by lightning, and rendered useless.

I have the honor to be, With the highest regard, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,

W. Heath

P. S. Some of the most notorious plunderers on the lines are said to be a Serjeant Payne and another Payne, his brother, formerly of Massachusetts, and after discharged from the Service, have fixed on the lines. They may, probably be taken up—but are generally skulking about as much out of sight as possible.

W. H.

Governor Clinton.

[No. 4082.]

## DISTRESSED CONDITION OF OUR FINANCES.

*Robert Morris' Circular Letter Exposes a Number of Financial Fallacies—Cost of the War \$20,000,000 Annually—No More Pecuniary Aid to be Afforded Us by France—The Questions of Revenue and Taxation.*

Circular.

Office of Finance, Oct. 19th, 1781.

Sir, I am now to address you, on a subject of very great Importance. I am to detail some Facts which will demand the most serious Attention, from every Legislature, and from every public Officer in the United States. It is my Determination to administer the Affairs intrusted to my Care, according to Plans which are founded in Sincerity and Truth. Convinced of the Folly of our Enemy in supposing that any considerable Body of men in the United States are opposed to the Revolution, I am persuaded that in Order to remove the greater Part of our Difficulties, the first proper step is to state them fully to the People, thro their Representatives. It shall, therefore, be a Part of my study to prepare every Transaction for the public Eye, so that the meanest Individual may be, in due Time informed of those Affairs in which, as a free Citizen, he is interested. The various Reports which have been circulated, the Publications in the several Gazettes, and even Letters from some who ought to have known better, all these Things have conspired to infuse an opinion that every Power in Europe is favourable to us, that great sums of money are already advanced to us, and that still greater may be obtained. Whatever may be the Fate of my Administration, I will never be subjected to the Reproach of Falsehood or Insincerity. I, therefore, take the earliest moment, in which I am permitted, to make those Communications which will give an Insight into our real Situation.

With respect to the Situation and Politics of Europe, it is not my Business to detail them, neither am I in Capacity to do it with Certainty. But this at least is certain, that the Disposition of the European Powers, however friendly, has been too much relied on. As a proof, I need only observe that not a single State has acknowledged our Independence, except France, altho our Alliance with that respectable Monarchy has now subsisted near four Year. Yet that Monarchy is certainly the first in the World. It is in the closest connection with Spain. Spain has long been engaged in the War, and still longer solicited to form an Union on the Basis of the Treaty with France. The armed Neutrality, which gave such splendid Hopes to many, has not yet produced the Benefits expected. I will not proceed on the Ground of Conjecture, nor is it necessary for me to dwell longer on our political State with Respect to foreign Powers. But as there is little reason to expect, so I hope there is no American who would wish, an Alliance with any Empire on Earth until they shall be so sensible of our Importance as to treat on Principles of Equality.

The public opinion as to the Conduct of other Princes and States has greatly injured us, by relaxing our Exertions. But the opinion as to pecuniary Aid has still been more pernicious.

People have flattered themselves with a visionary Idea that nothing more was necessary than for Congress to send a Minister abroad, and that immediately he would obtain as much money as he chose to ask for; that when he opened a Loan, hundreds would run to see who should have the Honor of subscribing to it and the like. But surely a moment's Reflection should have convinced every reasonable Man, that without the clear Prospect of Repayment, People will not part with their

property. Have the Efforts to borrow in this Country been so successful as to ground any Hope from abroad? Or is it to be supposed, that Foreigners will interest themselves more in our prosperity or Safety than our own Citizens? Or can it be believed that Credit shall be given abroad, before solid funds are provided at Home? Or could it be imagined, that the Disorder necessarily incident to a great Revolution, would be considered as a better source of Trust and Confidence, than the Regularity and Consistency of ancient Establishments?

The Congress, conformably to the public Wish, have appointed Ministers, requested grants, and opened Loans. In Holland they have got nothing. And in Spain but very little. Loans were expected from Individuals in Holland, but nothing of that sort has been or probably will be obtained. Loans were not expected in Spain, unless from the King, and from him they have been solicited with but little success.

The distressed Situation of public Affairs forced the Congress to draw Bills of Exchange on their Ministers. Some were drawn on France, some on Spain and some on Holland. The first were honored and paid, the others were accepted, but Recourse was finally had to the Court of France for the Payment of those also. They were drawn at long sight, the Sales were slow, they were remitted from Time to Time, and every Opportunity afforded the Ministers of the United States to obtain the monies for discharging them, but in vain. Of Consequence these Bills have been regularly referred to the Court of France for payment. And this has done us Injury, by anticipating the Aid which France has been disposed to afford us, and at the same Time has justly alarmed and greatly embarrassed the French Ministry.

These Things it appears necessary that you should know, and

your Legislature will undoubtedly draw the proper Inferences. They will see how much has been suffered by delaying to call for the Resources of our own Country, and relying on the empty Bubbles of Hope, instead of the solid Foundations of Revenue. They will I trust clearly see, that all our Hopes and Expectations are narrowed down to what France may give or lend. But here as in other Cases, Delusion takes place of Reality; we flatter ourselves with ideal Prospects, and are only convinced of our Folly by the fatal Crisis of national Distress. In order that you may clearly understand the Succor afforded by France I inclose an Account, extracted from a State [Statement] lately furnished to Congress by the Minister plenipotentiary of his most Christian Majesty.

You will observe that his Majesty granted to the United States as a Subsidy, for the current Year, of six Million Livres. And on a representation of our Distresses, he was pleased to become Security for a Loan to be opened on our Account in Holland. And when it appeared that there was little probability of obtaining any Money there, in season, he further agreed that the Sum to be borrowed should be advanced for us, in the first Instance, from the Royal Treasury. Thus the Gift and the Loan together amount to sixteen million Livres, which would, if in this Country, be equal only to two Million, nine hundred and sixty two thousand nine hundred and sixty two Dollars; altho at the Rate of estimating Dollars in France, it is there equal to three Million and forty seven thousand six hundred and nineteen Dollars. But at the highest rate of Exchange which has hitherto taken Place, this sum, if drawn for, would have amounted to no more than two Million five hundred and sixty thousand Dollars.

I have been thus particular with respect to this Sum, because the difference of Currencies very often tends to deceive those to whom their real Value is not a familiar Subject of Attention.

The enclosed Account is in Livres, and the two first Articles contain the Total of the Grant and Loan amounting to sixteen Million Livres. The Remainder contains the Deduction to be made. The two first Articles whereof, amounting to two Million three hundred thousand Livres, is for the Payment of Bills drawn on France, Spain and Holland, which I have already mentioned; the produce of the Sales whereof has been applied to the public Service long before my appointment. The next Article, being two Million of Livres, is appropriated to the Payment of Interest Bills, wherefore no Part of it can be applied to other Purposes. The fourth Article I need say nothing of here, as it has long been in the mouths of every body. The fifth and sixth Articles, are for those Stores which were laden on board four Transports by order of Colo Laurence, [Laurens] three of which have safely arrived, and the other put back in Distress. The seventh Article is in Consequence of the Loss of that valuable Ship, the Marquis de la Fayette, which contained a great Number of public Stores, the replacing of which is necessary for the Army and its Operations, and which will amount to that Sum.

The last Article contains the amount of Monies deposited to answer my Drafts, which have been made from Time to Time, and the Produce appropriated to the Service of the current Year. On the whole there remains a Ballance of three Million and sixteen thousand four hundred and ninety nine Livres. This with the sum brought by Colo. Laurence, may be considered as of the Value of about one Million Dollars, which is the utmost,

for it would exceed that only by twentyone thousand five hundred and seventy four Dollars, if it were now in this Country.

Thus then you see the Extent of that pecuniary Succor, which has filled the Minds of all with such teeming Expectation, is narrowed down to one Million of Dollars. But by the best Accounts and Estimates I have been able to procure, this War had hitherto cost about twenty Millions annually. I do indeed expect that the future Expenditures will be greatly curtailed, but it must be remembered that the most rigid Oeconomy has its bounds, and that it cannot exist without the punctual Performance of those Engagements on which the first step toward it must depend. As soon as the proper Estimates for the next year can be made out, the Demands founded on them will be stated, and I shall shortly advertise for Contracts as the most effectual Mode of husbanding our Resources. I feel it my Duty, however, to observe, that a Note this Day sent to Congress of some of my principle Engagements, for money, amounts to upwards of two hundred thousand Dollars. Yet the Calls for it from every quarter are incessant.

I would gladly quit the subject of foreign Supplies and Expectations here, but it is necessary that the States should know all, and I should not answer the views of Congress if I did not add, that the Court of France place the aid now afforded us, among the number of those Extraordinary Efforts which cannot be repeated. The Declaration that no more pecuniary Assistance can be afforded to us, is as plain as Language will admit of; and altho Applications may and probably will be made by our Ministers to the Court of Versailles, yet surely no prudent Man would form any Reliance on such application, in the Face of such a pointed and express Assurance to the contrary: and especially,



when to every Request a short Answer can be made by asking what we have done for ourselves. Sir I must speak to you most plainly. While we do nothing for ourselves, we cannot expect the Assistance of others.

This is a very painfull Subject to dwell upon, but a Consideration of very great Magnitude remains behind, and sooner or later it must come forward. Prudence therefore bids us to examine it now, and provide for it in Season. The Neglect in funding the public Debt has introduced a Practise of issuing Loan Office Certificates, for the Interest due on other Loan Office Certificates. This I have absolutely forbidden, nor will I ever consent to it. Such Accumulation of Debt, while it distresses the Public, and destroys its Credit, by no Means relieves the unfortunate Individual who is a public Creditor; for if Revenue is not provided, increasing the Certificates would only lessen their value. This would be such a fraud as would stamp our National Character with indelible Marks of Infamy, and render us the Reproach and Contempt of all mankind. It is High time to relieve ourselves from the Ignominy we have already sustained and to rescue and restore the national Credit. This can only be done by solid Revenue. Disdaining therefore those little timid Artifices which while they postpone the moment of Difficulty, only increase the Danger and confirm Ruins I prefer the open Declaration to all of what is to be expected, and whence it is to be drawn. To the public Creditors therefore I say, that untill the States provide Revenue for liquidating the Principal and Interest of the public Debt, they cannot be paid. And to the States I say, that they are bound by every Principle which is held sacred among Men, to make that Provision.

I have gone thro the task which I proposed to myself in writing

your Excellency this Letter, which I pray you to communicate to the Legislature of your State. I hope the Congress will soon be enabled to transmit their Requisitions, and I shall endeavour that they be as moderate as possible. But I must pray that every Man, whether in public or private Life, will seriously consider the Importance of complying with those Requisitions. It is not by the brilliant successes of War, the Splendor of Conquest, or the Shouts of Victory, that a wise Ministry are to be affected, The superiority of national Resources is the sure Ground on which to hope for success, and that superior Resource steadily and perseveringly applied, must eventually attain its Objects. It is for these Reasons that the Enemy have hoped every Thing from the Derangement of our Finances, and on the other Hand, as I am well informed, it is from the Establishment of a national Bank, and the forming of Contracts to supply our Armies, that they have the greatest Apprehensions. By the Bounty of the Almighty we are placed in a Situation where our future Fate depends on our present Conduct. We may be happy or miserable as we please. If we do our Duty now, this War will soon be brought to a Close. If not it may last for many years, and what will then be its Termination, it is not in human Wisdom to foresee. Thoroughly convinced that the Enemy must ask Peace, whenever we are in a condition vigorously to prosecute the War; and that we shall be in that Condition whenever our Affairs are reduced to Order, and our Credit restored; and that for these Purposes, nothing more is necessary than a proper System of Taxation; I cannot avoid expressing my Sentiments on the Subject in all the Warmth with which they flow from my Heart. I hope and pray that the Facts I have stated may meet with that calm Attention which is due to their Importance, and that such

Measures may be taken, as shall redound to the Honor and Interest of our Country. With all possible respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Excellency's most Obt. and humble Sert.

Robt. Morris.

His Excellency The Governor of New York.

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Subsidy granted by the King to the<br>United States  | 6000,000  |           |
| Loan opened in Holland to be advanced<br>from the Royal Treasury   | 10000,000 |           |
|  | <hr/>     | 16000,000 |
| To Doctor Franklin for Answering Bills<br>drawn by Congress  | 800,000   |           |
| To Colo. Lawrence [Laurens] to be sent<br>out to America by the Way of Holland<br>but stopped by Doctor Franklin to<br>answer Bills drawn by Congress & pre-<br>sented to him for paymt. | 1500,000  |           |
| To so much appropriated for payment of<br>the Bills to be drawn by the Congress<br>during the year 1781 note this is for<br>the Interest Bills which are now Ne-<br>gotiating            | 2000,000  |           |
| To Colo. Lawrence [Laurens]<br>which he brought out with<br>him in Specie  | 2500,000  |           |
| To same by sundry Articles of<br>Cloathing, Arms and Am-<br>munition furnished by the<br>departments of War and<br>Marine which he brought<br>and sent out                               | 2289,109  |           |

|   |         |           |
|---|---------|-----------|
| To amount of Articles remaining to be supplied on his Requisition   | 397,000 |           |
|   | —————   | 5186,109  |
| To so much reserved for furnishing Articles equivalent to those taken on board the Ship Marquis de la Fayette   |         | 2297,392  |
| To so much deposited at the Request of the Chevalier de la-Luzerne to Answer the drafts of the American Minister of Finances. Note this Sum has been already Applied for the Current service of the Campaign. |         | 1200,000  |
|   |         | —————     |
|   |         | 12983,501 |
|   |         | —————     |
|   |         | 3016,499  |

[No. 4083.]

*Officers Delegate Captain Dodge to Represent Them on the Clothing Proposition.*

Saratoga, October 19th 1781.

Sir, We the subscribers being officers who formerly belonged to the several Contineptal Battalions of this State, but now Deranged by reason of the late resolve of the Honorable Continental Congress, being informed that a supply of Cloathing is arived for the use of the Officers of the line of this State. And as we conceive ourselves Justly Intitled to our proportion for our past Services, we have Appointed Capt. Dodge to wait on Your Excellency and if we should be thought Intitled to them to request an order from your Excellency to draw the Clothing for us. as we cannot personally Attend ourselves. When your

Excellency considers the Distruction that those Northern countries are to Cloathing, the Exhorbitant Sum that it Costs to purchase new Cloath and the small appearance of receiving our pay soon to purchase them with, you will easily Excuse our Troubleing you at present.

We have the Honor to be your Excellencies most obedient Humble Servents.

Fred. Weissenfels Lt. Colo. Comdt., Saml. Logan, Major, Henry Godwin, Capt., Thos Hunt, Lt. 4th N. Y., Alexr. McArthur, Lieut., A. Tuthill, Lieut 4th N. Y., F. Gildersleeve, Lieut Late of Colo. Spencers Regt., E. Mott, Lieut late 5th N. York Regt.

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[No. 4084.]

*Memorandum of Tax Notes.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 4085.]

*General Heath Complains to the Governor Concerning the Want of Bread.*

[Private.]

Headquarters, Continental Village, October 21, 1781.

Sir, The wish expressed in mine of the 17th, that a certain number of your militia might be held in readiness, was with a view of striking the enemy in some part, should they make such reinforcements to aid Cornwallis as would rationally invite us to such an attempt. To hint any thing of the kind to the militia, would certainly tend to discover the design, as your Excellency observes. I was in hopes it could be done without. I shall endeavor to strike the enemy if they give me a fair opportunity;

but at present, should one ever so favorable offer, a fatal bar is in the way—For four or five days past, the army have received but a part of their allowance of bread. For any movement that can be made, four or five days bread at least should be on hand. The want of this does and will prevent our making any movement, should the opportunity be ever so favorable. If Colonel Hay has returned, I most earnestly wish that four or five hundred barrels of flour, if possible, may be immediately forwarded; but, at the same time, not the most distant hint be given that any intended movement requires it.

As the present season of the year requires the militia being at home to secure their harvest, and as the enemy, by the last accounts do not appear to be advancing, I have advised General Stark to dismiss those who were turned out on the late occasion and for the present have ordered the brigade of regular troops sent to the Northward, to remain in that quarter; which, with the other troops and militia that can be called out in a short time, will, I think be fully sufficient. If your Excellency should think otherwise, please write to general Stark by the express, to detain such of the militia, and for such time as you may think necessary.

I wish to be informed for what time colonel Willet's, Weisenfel's and McKinstery's corps are engaged, that measures may be thought of for a winter arrangement?

I have the honor to be, With the greatest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency Governor, Clinton.

[No. 4086.]

*Lieutenant Ephraim Snow Asks the Governor for Money for Recruits.*

Albany 22nd, October 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to your Instructions I have delivered the enlistments of the Recruits I had enlisted out of the Levies to Capt. Moody, but finding a difficulty arises respecting the remainder of their Bounty, Capt. Moody desired me to procure Money for this purpose, as I have paid them only a Trifle when I engaged them. I cannot learn that the Classes, who are still Delinquent are endeavouring to make up Money to raise During War Men, and understand that there are several of them, instead of furnishing a Recruit, have delivered in the Treasury the Sum of Money prescribed in the Law. As the New Emission Money (I presume) will answer for discharging this Business I would be exceedingly glad, if your Excellency would be pleased to transmitt me an Order, to draw out of the Treasury here, such sum of New Emission Money as will be necessary to enable me of executing the above business.

I am, Sir, Your Excellencies Most Obt. & Vr. Humble Servt.  
George Clinton, Esqr.

[No. 4087.]

## CAPTURE OF CORNWALLIS ANNOUNCED

*In an Extract from a Letter to Colonel Hughes from Colonel Miles.*

Philadelphia, Octr. 22nd, 1781.

“Sir, Before I say anything on Business I must indulge myself in congratulating you on the Capture of Cornwallis and all his army on the 17th Inst. The particulars are not yet arrived, but the President of Congress has just received a Copy of Count de Grasse’s Letter to the Governour of Maryland, forwarded by Water to Annapolis.

“The Count has taken all his troops on Board, and gone out to meet Mr. Digby. Tho the particulars are not come, the fact is not to be doubted.” (Extract from Col. Miles’s Letter to Colonel Hughes.)

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[No. 4088.]

*Colonel Willett Suggests to Governor Clinton the Necessity of Appointing a Major to Muster in the New Levies.*

Fort Rensselaer, 22nd, October 1781.

Dear Sir, I am favoured with your letter of the 6th Instant Inclosing two Resolutions of Congress, one Respecting the paying and subsisting the two Regiments of Militia to be raised in this state this Campaign and for Subsisting, Cloathing and paying the two Regiments of Infantry to be raised for three Years. The other directing the Commander in Chief to Transmit to the Executives of the Several states the names of the new Levies Recommending it to the said states to make them Payment. But as neither of these Resolutions say any thing about who is to Muster the Levies, I am still in the Dark about that Matter.



By the Present regulations of the Army of these states Every Brigade is to have a sub-Inspector, which Sub-Inspector is Commissary of Muster for that Brigade. But as our Levies are not Brigaded and have no Inspector, I know not who to call upon to Muster them. This is the Particular Point to which I formerly Requested your Excellencies Directions. But as the matter still Remains Undetermined, I beg leave to Suggest that it Appears to me Absolutely necessary to have some Person Immediately Appointed to this Business. A major from the Brigade is the proper person for this Purpose. The appointment I should suppose in this case would come Properly from your Excellency unless the Council of Appointment should be sitting when Perhaps it might be best for them to do it. But most surely no time is to be lost in it as the levies are much Scattered and it will Require great Activity in any one man to Compleat the business before the men's time Expire. Hence it will be necessary to appoint some person whom it will be known will Immediately set about it, least a Non Acceptance of the appointment might impede the Business. If it could be done and he will undertake it, I think Major Hitchcock would do for this Purpose.

Nothing New in this Quarter. I shall be happy in having an answer from your Excellency upon this Subject as soon as possible and the very best Answer will be the Arrival of a Muster Master.

I have the Honor to be your Excellencies Most Obedient & Very Hum. Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4089.]

*Colonel Hay to Governor Clinton—Account of All Tax Certificates.*  
(Omitted.)

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[No. 4090.]

*Mr. Duane Balances a Loan With Mr. L'Hommedieu Through Governor Clinton.*

Mr. Duane presents his most respectful Compliments to his Excellency Governor Clinton and requests the favour of him to give Mr. L'Hommedieu the seven half Johs of which Dr. Livingston has taken Charge. If that Gent. should be gone home, Col. Floyd will receive it. If both, his Excellency will be so good as to keep it till one of them returns to the Legislature. It is money I borrowd from Mr. L'Hommedieu at Philadelphia.

Manour Liv'n 23d Octb. 1781.

[Nos. 4091-4092.]

## ENEMY REPORTED MOVING ON SARATOGA.

*Two Letters from Lord Stirling—Disturbed Over Forage—Colonel Tupper Moving Northward from Albany.*

Albany, October 23, 1781.

Sir, I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the enclos'd Intelligence received last Evening from General Stark—I have written to Brigadiers General Ranselaer and Gansevoort desiring them to have their Brigades in readiness to march as soon as the advance of the Enemy shall render it necessary. I am with the greatest Esteem, Your Excellencys most Obdt. humb. Servt.

Stirling.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

—  
JOHN STARK TO COLONEL TUPPER.

Headquarters Saratoga 22d Octr. 1781.

Dear Sir, By intelligence this moment received, I am led to believe that the Enemy are making this way—you will therefore March to this Post without a Moment's delay—I hope this will meet you on the road, but if not, loose not a moment in putting your Troops in Motion. 36 or 48 hours from this time is the longest that I expect to prepare in, but if you can Arrive by that time I shall be under no great Apprehensions—I inclose a copy of the intelligence received.

I am dear Sir your Most Obt. &amp; Very Huml. Serv.

John Stark, B. G.

Copy.

Colonel Tupper.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FLETCHER ALARMED CONCERNING FORT  
WARNER.

Dear General, Last evening I received Intelligence from Crown Point by Captain Stark, that Friday last at 3 o'clock P. M. a Large Body of the Enemy was landed, and a Landing at that place and private intelligence which I received within the last twenty four hours satisfy me that this Garrison together with Adjacent frontier Towns is the Enemies Object or at least one of their Objects.

The Above is Copy of a letter received from Lt. Colo. Fletcher Commanding at Fort Warner.

Copy.

Colonel Tupper.

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Albany, October 24, 1781.

Dear Sir, I wrote your Excellency yesterday by Express. The State of our Intelligence is not altered Since, except that a report is Come thro. Bennington that the Enemy are advanced to Ticonderoga; this is yet too Vague to induce me to Call out your Militia again; however, I have informed the General officers of it, that they may hold them in readiness to march on the Shortest notice.

On enquiry of Major Quackenbush I find that the warrant of empress he is possessed of from your Excellency to Col. Hughes, extends only to a Certain Number of Waggon & horses and forrage for them, so that the horses of the train of Artillery and of the General field and staff Officers are left to Starve; in this Seituation it is impossible for us to do our duty; I must, therefore, intreat your Excellency will as soon as possible furnish Quackenbush with an additional Warrant that will Comprehend forrage for those other Services.

Colonel Tupper marched this morning with the whole of the Brigade he Commands for Saratoga, so that I am in hopes General Stark will be able to resist any light body that can come against him with rapidity, and that we shall have time enough to move the Militia in Case the Enemy advance with a more Serious force. With great regard & Esteem, I have the honor to be your Excellency's Most Humble Servt.

Stirling.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4093.]

*Abram Skinner Commissary General of Prisoners from Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Reports the English in New York Despondent—All the Officers of Militia of New York Exchanged.*

Elizth Town, 24th Octr. 1781.

Sir, In Obedience to your Excellency's Commands I have at last effected the Release of Mr. Townsend who will be here tomorrow. I have met Mr. Loring and Exchanged all the officers of Militia belonging to the State of New York, except Lt. Colo. Hammond who I have got out on Parole and engaged for him that he shall return, unless he is Accounted for as an officer, but I am not at Liberty to do this unless I receive your Excellency's Orders, or the Commander in Chief's for the purpose.

The people at New York begin already to feel the effects of Lord Cornwallis's fall and are anxiously waiting the Event of the Meeting of the Two Fleets. Digby Sailed on Saturday last and their spirits were never lower in New York than they are now. Their Fleet of Victuallers (40 sail) have arrived. They cannot bear to be told of General Green's Battle on the 8th Sept. but the[y] begin to fear the Consequence. I think Mr. John H. Cruger goes next. In Short, Sir, I am very much pleased to find

from Mr. Loring that they are very uneasy at New York; inclosed are 2 of the latest Papers which I enclose for your Perusal and am with the highest respect Your Excellency's mo. Ob. Hum. Servt.

The Enemy have neither an officer or Private in the Military Service now a Prisoner at New York. This has never been the case before during the War.

[No. 4094.]

*Colonel Van Schaick Forwards to Governor Clinton a Memorial to the Legislature for Promotion.*

Albany, October 25th, 1781.

Sir, The memorial which Accompanies this\* I wish your Excellency will be pleased to Lay before the Legislature; as you know my Situation, that of being Superceded so often as I have been, is most Disagreeable and unless the Legislature Interposes and gets me promoted to a Brigadier, I shall be verry Illy Rewarded for a Six year's Service after spending my Substance in the glorious cause in which we are Engaged, as an Attention to my Circumstances forbids me from Resigning my Commission without a Compensation. I am Confident your Excellency will favour my Case as farr as you Consistently can.

I am with great Regard & Esteem Your Excellency's obedient & very Humble Sert.

His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

[No. 4095.]

*The Governor Appoints Four Commissioners.*

By his Excellency George Clinton Esqr., Governor &c.

By Virtue of the Authority in me vested by a certain Act of the Legislature entitled an Act relative to the Office of State

\*Not found.

Agent passed the first Day of July last I do hereby approve of John Hathorn, John Lansing, Thomas Storm & John Bruyn, Esquires, together with the State Agent to ascertain & determine from Time to Time the Pay & Allowances to be granted to the Assistants of the said Agent.

Given under my Hand at Poughkeepsie the 25th day of October, 1781.

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[No. 4096.]

*Governor Clinton Declines for the Present Thomas Barclay's Proposition.*

Pokepsie, 26 Octr. 1781.

Sir, I have lately received your letter of the 25th Augt. and have to thank you for your polite attention to me and the State over which I have the Honor to preside. Deprived as we are of our Sea Ports we can at present have no commands to France of a Commercial Nature. If in future during your stay in Europe this Obstacle should be removed, I shall take the liberty of availing myself of your obliging Offer, and am &c.

(G. C.)

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[No. 4097.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton Over the Conflicting Reports from the North—Troops Suffering for Want of Flour.*

Head quarters, Continental village, October 26, 1781.

Sir, I am this morning honored with yours of the 25th. It is really surprising that accounts from the Northward are so vague and uncertain. At one time the enemy are beyond the lakes, at another this side the lakes, at another, between them—and sometimes it is not known where they are. The inclosed I received

last evening. I have written to general Stark not to call out the militia, unless he is certain of the advance of the enemy.

We are still in great distress on account of the want of flour. The troops have been nearly without bread five or six days. There is much murmuring, and this morning the quartermaster informs me the artificers had refused to work. I find colonel Hay is returned. I earnestly request that instant relief may be sent us. By all Mr. Morris's replies to my letters, I find he depends on your State for flour, as he does on the Eastern States for meat. I am, therefore, constrained to urge the speedy sending in the specific supplies without which I cannot answer for consequences.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.



[No. 4098.]

## A SKIRMISH NEAR JOHNSON HALL.

*Major Ross Overtaken by Colonel Willett Who Drives Him From the Field With Serious Loss.*

Schenectady, 26th October 1781. 6 O'Clock P. M.

My Lord, Last night about 10 O'clock I sent of Mr. Van Ingen, a young Gentlemen who is my Clerk, to Colo. Willet in order to bring me the particulars, who this moment returned. The Colo. had no time to write. He has made a State of what has happened as near as he can recolet, he has been on the place where the Action was, which I herewith inclosed Colo. Wemp with the greatest part of his Regiment and the Albany Militia and about 30 Warriors of the Oneidaians left this in the Morning for Colo. Willet. Colonel Schuyler's Regiment went on this afternoon. I look out for the amunition which will be forwarded the moment it arrives; please to excuse my writing in great hurry.

I am your Lordships Most Ob. Hum. Servant

H. Glen.

Major Genl. Sterling.

Major Ross commanding officer at Bucks Island with about 450 men left that place in Batteaux and proceeded to Oneida lake where they left their Boats, some provisions & about 20 lame men to take care of them, and proceeded from thence by the way of Cherry Valley to the Mohawk river, and made their first Appearance at the place opposite to Anthony's Nose from whence they proceeded to Warrens Bush and its Vacinity and destroyed upwards of 20 farm houses with out houses, great quantity of grain and killed two persons; after that they crossed the Mohawk River at a fording place about 20 miles Above this place and proceeded in Order to Sir William's [Johnson] Hall,

where they arrived about one Quarter of an hour before Colo. Willet with his body, who had crossed the river about 6 miles higher and Marched also for the same place. Colo. Willet commenced an Action with the British which was much in his favor, had not some of his troops which covered a field piece gave way, which was the loss of the piece and Ammunition Cart which in a little while after he bravely recovered, the Enemy had, however, striped the Cart of all its Ammunition. The Evening coming on put an end to the Action; part of Colo. Willets Men, however, passed the hall all night. The Enemy retreated about 6 miles back into the woods; when the last Account just now comes leaves them; about thirty British have been taken during the Action and in the Morning before the Action commenced yesterday in the Afternoon. Colo Willet went in pursuit of them this morning with a force about equal to theirs—an Account is also come to hand (altho not official) that a party is sent from Fort Herkimer to destroy their boats & provisions—there are 7 of the enemy found dead on the field of action this Morning and 3 of ours between thirty & 40 wounded on both sides.

26 October 6 O'clock P. M.

For Major Genl. Lord Sterling.

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[No. 4099.]

*Elisha Payne at Charlestown, Vermont, to Governor Clinton Communicating the Proceedings of the Legislature of Vermont Appointing Commissioners With Full Power to Settle the Dispute Between the Two States.*

Charlestown, Octr. 27th 1781.

Sir, The Commissioners appointed by the State of Vermont to negotiate and complet the settlement between that state and

the States of New Hampshire and New York respectively, agreeable to the Resolutions of the Legislature of Vermont beg leave herewith to transmit those Resolutions, together with a Duplicate of their Commission for the Consideration of the Legislature of New York.

The Commissioners are ready to attend the Business of their Appointment, whenever they shall receive an Answer in the Premises.

In Behalf of the Commissioners, I am, Sir, Your Excellency's Most Obedt Humble Servt. Elisha Payne.

His Excellency George Clinton Esqr.

Proceedings of Grand Committee of the Legislature of the State of Vermont at Charlestown, from the 16th to the 19th of Octr. 1781. (Transcribed & attested.)

STATE OF VERMONT, Charlestown, 16th October 1781.

The Governor and Council having joined the General Assembly in a Committee of the whole, to take into Consideration the Report of the Honorable Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, and Bezabeel Woodward, Esquires; who were appointed by the Legislature of this State in the Month of June last, to repair to the American Congress, with Powers to propose to, and receive from them, Terms for an Union of this, with the United States, &c. His Excellency Thomas Chittenden, Esqr. in the Chair. The said Agents laid before the Committee the following Papers, which were read by the Secretary in their order, viz:

- 1st & 2nd. A copy of their Letter to the President of Congress of the 14th of August last, inclosing a Duplicate of their Commission.
- 3rd The Resolutions of Congress, of the 7th and 8th of Augt. last.
- 4th Brigadier General Bellows and Associates Petition to New Hampshire, 25th May 1781.
- 5th Petition of the Selectmen of Swanzey to New Hampshire, June 9th, 1781.
- 6th Honorable Mesheck Weare, Esqr's Letter, to be laid before Congress, dated 20th June 1781.
- 7th Messr's Duane and Ezra L. Hommedieu's Memorial and Prayer to Congress of the 3rd Day of August 1781; together with Ira Allen, and Stephen R. Bradley Esqr's Remonstrance to Congress, dated Sepr. 22nd 1780.
- 8th Resolve of Congress, dated 17th August 1781.
- 9th Written Proposals to Committee of Congress, dated August 18th 1781.
- 10th Questions proposed to the Agents of Vermont, by the Committee of Congress, August 18th, 1781.
- 11th The foregoing questions with the Answers annexed.
- 12th Resolutions of Congress, of the 20th August 1781.

The further Consideration of the Report being referred, Adjourned 'till Tomorrow Morning 9 o'clock.

OCTOBER 17th, Met according to Adjournment.

The Committee proceeded to the Consideration of the Resolutions of Congress, of the 20th Day of August aforesaid, and other Papers mentioned in the Report of said Agents, and after some Time spent thereon,

RESOLVED that, in the Opinion of this Committee the Legislature cannot comply with the Resolutions last referred to, without destroying the Foundation of the present universal Harmony and Agreement that subsists in this State, and a Violation of

solemn Compact, entered into by Articles of Union and Confederation. The further Consideration of the Report being postponed, Adjourned to 9 O'clock Tomorrow Morning.

October 18th.

The Committee having resumed the further Consideration of the said Report,

RESOLVED, that inasmuch as the Resolutions of Congress, of the 7th and 30th of August last did by no Means comport with, but entirely preclude, any Propositions made by our Agents; it is therefore the Opinion of this Committee that the Propositions made by our Agents to the Committee of Congress, on the 18th of August last, ought not in future to be considered as binding on the Part of Vermont.

RESOLVED, that it be, and is hereby recommended to the Legislature of this State, that their Thanks be returned to their honorable Agents, for their good Services in Behalf of this State, on the Business of their late Mission to the Congress of the United States of America.

And this Committee recommend to the Legislature of this State, to remain firm in the Principles on which the State of Vermont first assumed Government, and to hold the Articles of Union, which connect each part of the State with the other, inviolate.

And for the further Information and Satisfaction of the Honorable the Congress, and the World, do recommend to the Legislature, to publish the following Articles, which respect the Admission of Vermont into the federal Union Viz;

Art. 1st. "That the Independence of the State of Vermont be held sacred, and that no Member of the Legislature shall give his Vote, or otherwise use his Endeavours to obtain any Act or Resolution of Assembly that shall endanger the Existence, Independence and Well-being of said State; by referring to its Independency to the Arbitrement of any Power."

Art. 2nd. "That whenever this State becomes united with the American States, and there shall then be any Disputes between this, and any of the United States, respecting Boundary Lines, the Legislature of the State of Vermont will then (as they have ever proposed) submit to Congress, or such other Tribunal as may be mutually agreed on, for the settlement of any such Disputes."

And that the impartial World may be fully convinced of the good and laudable Disposition of Vermont and of her Readiness to comply with any reasonable Proposal for the Adjustment of the Disputes respecting Boundary Lines, between this and the Neighbouring States of New Hampshire and New York; This Committee further recommend to the Legislature, to make the following Proposals to the said States of New Hampshire and New York respectively.

THAT WHEREAS Disputes have arisen between the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, relative to Jurisdictional Boundary Lines, &c. The Legislature of Vermont, being willing and desirous, as much as in them lies, to promote Unity and good Accord between the two States; do propose to the State of New Hampshire, that all Matters relating to the aforesaid Dispute shall be submitted to five or more judicious unprejudiced Persons, who shall be mutually agreed on, elected and chosen by a Committee of Legislature, on the Part of each State respectively.

And that the states of New Hampshire & Vermont, do pledge their Faith, each to the other, that the Decision had by the Persons so elected, being made up in writing, signed by the President of such Commissioners, and delivered to the Secretary of each State respectively, shall be held sacredly binding on each of the said States of New Hampshire and Vermont forever.

And that Proposals of the same Tenor be also made to the Legislature of New York.—

And this Committee do further recommend, that nine Persons be elected Commissioners by the Legislature on the Part of Vermont, to treat with Commissioners to be elected on the Part of New Hampshire and New York respectively, for the adjusting the aforesaid Jurisdictional Boundary Lines; And that they be Commissioned by His Excellency the Governor, and the Faith of this State be by him pledged, in Behalf of the state, that the Decision thus had;— shall in future be held as sacredly binding on the Part of Vermont.—

This Committee further recommend to the Legislature, that the Proceedings of this Committee be officially transmitted to the Congress of the United States, and that they be inclosed in a Letter, under the signature of His Excellency the Governor, and directed to the President of Congress.—

And this Committee do further advise the Legislature, to recommend to the Authority in every Part of the State, to remain firm in the support of Government, and the

punctual Execution of the Laws; Notwithstanding the various Measures taken to create Divisions & Discords.

The Commissioners chosen for the above Purpose; The Honorable Elisha Payne, Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, and Peter Olcott, Esq's. Daniel Jones, Esqr; Colonel Gideon Warren, Phinehas Whiteside, Esqr; Colonel Joseph Caldwell, and Ezra Stiles, Esqr.—

Resolved, that it be an Instruction to the said Commissioners, that they prepare and make the necessary Defence in the Premises; and that they introduce the said Matters to New Hampshire and New York, in such way as to them shall appear best.

October 19th, 1781.

Voted that this Committee be dissolved. (signed) Beza. Woodward, Clerk of Committee. State of Vermont. In General Assembly, Charlestown, Octr. 19th, 1781. The aforesaid Report being read, and the Question being put, it was unanimously approved and accepted. (sign'd) Roswell Hopkins, Clerk.

In Council, 19th Octr., 1781. Read and concurred. (sign'd) Joseph Fay, Secry.

October 30th, 1781. The preceeding is a true Copy of an Act of the Legislature of the State of Vermont, lodged in the Secretary's Office of the said State. (sign'd Micah Townsend, Secry.

Novem'r. 14th, 1781. The foregoing, transcribed, and carefully examined, by the Command of His Excellency the Governor.

Thomas Tolman, P. Sec'ry.

His Excellency, Thomas Chittenden, Esq., captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Vermont.

To the Honble. Elisha Payne, Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, and Peter Olcott, Esqrs; Daniel Jones, Esqr; Colonel Gideon Warren, Phinehas Whiteside, Esqr. Colonel Joseph Caldwell, and Ezra Stiles, Esqr.

GREETING.

Agreeable to a Resolution of the Governor, Council and House of Assembly at their Session held at Charlestown, this Instant October, appointing you Commissioners for, and in Behalf of the State of Vermont, to enter upon a Negotiation for the Settlement and Adjustment of the Boundary Lines, as well between the State of New Hampshire and Vermont, as between the State of New York and Vermont, agreeable to your Directions contained in the Resolution aforesaid.

These are therefore, in the name and by the authority of the freemen of the State of Vermont, to authorize and amply empower you the said Elisha Payne, Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, Peter Olcott, Daniel Jones, Gideon Warren, Phinehas Whiteside, Joseph Caldwell, and Ezra Stiles, or any five of you the said Commissioners, to compleat and carry into Execution, the Negotiation and Settlement of the said Boundary Lines of Jurisdiction between the said States of New Hampshire and New York, with the said State of Vermont respectively, agreeable to said Resolutions

And I do hereby pledge the Faith of the said State of Vermont, that the Determinations had in the Premises, shall be held sacredly binding on the Part of Vermont.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this State to be affixed, In Council, this 26th Day of October Anno Domini, 1781, And in the 5th Year of the Independence of this State.

By His Excellency's Command

Tho. Tolman Dep. Sec'ry.

(Duplicate)

Thos. Chittenden.

[No. 4100.]

*Lord Stirling Informs the Governor of Colonel Willett's Victory Near Johnson Hall—Conditions Along the Frontier.*

Albany, October 27th, 1781.

Sir, I wrote your Excellency the 24th that Coll. Tupper had march'd with the New Hampshire Brigade to join General Stark

at Saratoga; before he reach'd that place I found it expedient to give him a variety of Orders, which were founded upon the different Events which took place, or rather upon the different kinds of Intelligence which I receiv'd.

The 25th at 1 o'clock P. M. accounts came to General Gansevoort that the Enemy were advancing in considerable force within Eight miles of Schenectady burning and destroying all before them.—That part of General Gansevoort's Brigade which is on the East side of the River had orders from him the day before to march immediately to Albany, but as they had not arriv'd, I found there was no other means of reinforcing Schenectady with that degree of rapidity which the case seem'd to require, but by ordering Coll. Tupper (then on his march to Saratoga) to that place, I dispatch'd one of my Aides with Orders to him accordingly. At the same time I requested General Gansevoort to turn out the Militia of Albany which he accordingly did and sent off about fifty mounted on horseback. I likewise sent an Express to General Ranselaer desiring him to call out his Brigade and march to this place.—About 8 o'clock in the Evening I receiv'd Intelligence from Schenectady, that the Enemy after burning Warrens Bush had retir'd by the way of Schoharie, which Intelligence came so direct, and conceiving it useless for Coll. Tupper to pursue his march at such a distance in the Enemy's rear I thought best to send him orders by Express to turn to the right, and march towards Saratoga.—General Stark's apprehension of an attack from the Northward, and confident the party near Schenectady could be but small, countermanded my first Orders and directed Coll. Tupper to tarry with him.

His expected attack from the Northward is founded upon the

following intelligence which he receiv'd from General Enos commanding the Vermontereers at or near Castle Town.

“By a Scout from the Northward of Dead Creek near Tie [Ticonderoga] I am inform'd that several Tents were standing at old Tie—he also heard the beating of the Long Roll to the South of the Mount (supposed to be at the old Scotchman's) but in the situation he was in, it might be heard from the mills, and since we make no further discovery, it is my opinion the Enemy have proceeded to Lake George.”

This he observes is all the intelligence he has received since their being at Ticonderoga. Yesterday morning General Gansevoort received accounts that the Enemy had attack'd Coll Willet, had gain'd the ground of him and had taken a Field Piece from him and obliged him to take post in a little Fort at Johnstown, with very little provision; in this situation I could not think it probable he would be relieved by the Militia so soon as might be necessary. I, therefore, wrote to General Stark desiring him to send a reinforcement to Coll Willet if he judg'd it could be done without too much weakening his force at Saratoga, but I conclude the same arguments will operate with him in this case as against Coll. Tupper's going to Schenectady, that upon the whole he will judge no troops can be spar'd from that Post—however, by an Express which arriv'd at 3 oclock P. M. the 26th I am much easier on the subject—the Letter which came to hand from Coll. Willett was dated Johnstown Octr. 25th 8 oclock P. M. and was directed to Capt. Martial (Commanding at this City previous to my arrival) desiring a quantity of ammunition might be immediately sent him, as he had unfortunately lost four Boxes crossing the River, and does not give a particular account of the action, but by a Letter which came

enclos'd from Willett's Doctor, it appears the Action was severe; he mentions 40 or 50 wounded men; that in the beginning of the action Coll. Willett lost his Field piece, but recover'd it again; that it was hard to say which gain'd the victory, but that Willett remain'd master of the Field; the Express rider who brings this account says he stood Sentry over twenty two Prisoners, chiefly British, which Coll. Willett had taken and sent to Fort Hunter; taking all the accounts together I think Willett must have had the advantage.

I immediately sent on a quantity of ammunition to him and am every moment in expectation of farther intelligence.

I must entreat your Excellency to send the Warrant for Forage to Major Quackenbush, as mention'd in my Letter as soon as possible or the inconveniencies which will be suffer'd for want of that Article will be exceedingly great.

Since writing this Letter an Express has arriv'd from Schenectady the intelligence you have enclos'd.

I am with great Esteem and Respect Your Excellencys most Obdt. humb'l servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

I sincerely thank your Excellency for your Letter of the 25th and give me leave to congratulate you upon the important intelligence—important to the Liberties of America, and may I not add to those of mankind at large.

I am &c

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[No. 4101.]

*Governor Clinton to a Correspondent, Unknown, for Forwarding Confirmation of the Reports of Cornwallis' Surrender—Colonel Willett's Victory.*

Poughkeepsie, 27th October, 1781.

Dr. Sir, Be pleased to accept my warmest Acknowledgs. for your Favour of yesterday with the Confirmation of the Accounts



of the surrender of Cornwallis & his Army & of my Congratulations on this interesting Event. It would add to my happiness if upon this Occasion we could spend the day Together but this is a Pleasure I cannot promise myself under Present Circumstances.

Since writing you Yesterday a Report is brought by a gentleman immediately from Albany that on Wednesday or Thursday last Colo. Willet had an Action with the Enemy at or near Johnstown. The Enemy consisted of about 500 & Willet had about an equal Number of Levies & Militia. The Particulars had not arrived at Albany when the Gentlemen left it, but from the General Tenor of the Information it would appear that Willet kept the ground tho without gaining any Capital Advantage. He had forty killed & Wounded, took some British Prisoners but the other Loss of the Enemy is not mentioned. If proper Measures are taken at Saraghtoga it will be almost impossible for the enemy to Return to Crown Point and I am informed that the Troops there were in Motion, I am

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[No. 4102]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath—Colonel Hay to Take Up the Food Question—News From the North.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 28, 1781.

Dr Sir, I am favoured with your Letter of the 26th cong. the Extract of Genl. Stark's. The moment Colo. Hay arrived from Albany I informed him of your Distress Situation for want of Bread & of the Dependance placed on the specific supplies required of this State for your Relief and urged in the most pressing Terms, his immediate and strenuous exertions for collecting & delivering the full Quota at the Place assigned.

He has promised a faithful Compliance as far as it may be in his Power & to give you a particular Account as well of the Wheat & Flour he has now on Hand as of his future Prospects. I have also requested him as soon as he can put the Business of agency in this Quarter in proper Trim, to wait upon you at your Quarters, to suggest such matters as may have come to his knowledge respecting the Forage consumed by the allied army in Westchester county which may be useful in the investigation & settlement of that intricate Business.

The uncertainty of our Northern Intelligence is most perplexing. My last letter from Lord Stirling mentions a Report by the Way of Benington of the Enemy's having landed in considerable Force at Ticonderoga. If this is true then they have undoubtedly divided & those mentioned in a former Account to have landed at Crown Point are destined for Tryon County by a Route from there leading West of the Schroon Lake to Sacandaga river or Johnstown. This was Sir John's Route last June.

Yesterday I received a letter from Colo. Willet on the subject of having the levies under his Command mustered. As these Troops are much dispersed it will take considerable Time to perform that Service. I have therefore to request that you will be pleased to give the necessary Directions respecting this matter; as these Regts. are not Brigaded they have of course no Inspector & therefore cannot be mustered by the ordinary Officer. Heretofore, the levies have been mustered by one of the field Officers of the Regt. & Colo. Willet mentioned Major Hitchcock as a proper person to muster his & Major Van Bunschotten can conveniently muster Pawlings.

I am &c &c

[No. 4103]

*Loyalty of Morris Hazzard Suspected—Correspondence from General Heath to Governor Clinton—From Governor Clinton to General Heath and From Captain Thompson to General Heath.*

Headquarters, Continental village, October 28, 1781.

Sir, The inclosed is a copy of a letter this moment received from captain Thompson.

Hazzard frequently in passing my quarters, has called upon me, from an old acquaintance contracted in 1776, when he was A. D. Q. M., to my division, which your Excellency will recollect. I have of late had some suspicions of him, but never mentioned them. He lately passed into Jersey and called at my quarters for a pass which was given by one of the gentlemen of my family. Lieutenant Myers, the bearer of this, informs me, that he thinks Hazzard has some effects left near Kings-ferry, and that in coming for them he may be seized (which I will direct it to be done). It is possible he may have obtained permission from governor Livingston to go into New York. I submit the matter to your Excellency.

I have the honor to be With the greatest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Pokeepsie, 30th October 1781.

Sir, I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your letter of the 28th. Hazard to whom it relates has lived in this Neighborhood from about the beginning of 1778; great part of which Time he has acted as an Asst. to Mr. Schenck his Brother in law in the Commissary's Department. Altho he has always sustained the

character of a Whig, I have never had sufficient reason to suspect his Attachment. I never could entertain the least Opinion of himself or his connections. His political Virtue always appeared to me to be of an easy sort & interest to be the Governing Principle of his Family. This appeared to me to be his reason for moving to Jersey, for which Purpose he obtained my Pass. I entertained a suspicion at the time that his object in settling near Newark was trade, but this could not justify my refusing him a pass to go there, especially as I had not the most distant idea of his joining the enemy, or that he would be disposed to communicate intelligence to them if in his power. The evidence however of his having been in New York appears to be so direct that it will hardly admit of a doubt & it is therefore my opinion it would be proper to secure him should he be found in the vicinity of any of our Posts. If he has obtained Governor Livingston's permission to go into New York, which I do not believe, he will be able to produce it or at least evidence of the fact in his justification. If he has left any effects in the neighborhood of Kings Ferry it is also my opinion he ought not to be suffered to remove them till his conduct in respect to his having been with the enemy is properly inquired into, & I have ordered the bearer Mr. Barclay to discover where they are deposited and take measures to prevent their removal. He has also my directions to proceed as far as Newark to investigate this business if it shall be necessary. I have also desired him to call on Captain Thompson and obtain the affidavits of the woman who saw Hazard in New York.

Mrs. Colden, wife of Cadwalledar Colden, who was about two years since sent within the enemy's lines for Toryism, has applied to me for leave to pass with her family and effects to New

York, which will be granted if you have no objection to her passing down the river. If a Flagg should be granted for this purpose I beg you will be pleased to give the conduct of it to a careful officer, and to forbid the least traffic that way on board on the return of the Sloop except for which my special permission can be produced. I beg your early answer on this subject.

This morning I received a letter from Lord Sterling, a copy of which with the information referred I enclose, least you have not received later or more particular Accts from that Quarter. I am &c. &c.

P. S. Since writing the above I have been favored with yours of equal date. You will find enclosed the latest Intelligence I have received from the Northward. If any further Accounts should arrive before Tomorrow Morning when my Messenger will set out with this, they shall be transmitted. It would give me great Pleasure to wait upon you Tomorrow but the present state of my Business will not permit me to do myself that Honor.

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Sir, There is one Morris Hazzard that has passed thro this Town frequently with a pass from his Excellency Governor Clinton and lately moved to Newark by a person from New York. I am inform'd that the said Morris Hazzard was at the Mayor's Office in New York\* endeavouring to get protection—and in the hearing of the above person was told he should go & get a recommendation before he could receive protection. I inform you this on account of my hearing the said Morris Hazzard say that he frequented General Heath's Quarters.

With respect I remain your Humble. Servt.

Andrew Thompson, Capt. York Levies.

Orangetown, Oct. 27th, 81.  
Major General Heath.  
(Copp)

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State of New York }  
Orange County }

Evangel the Wife of William Pool, Upon her oath before me saith that she in New York, ye 23, 24 & 25th day of October last, that about the 24, as near as this Deponent can Recollect, she was than at the City Hall in New York, and there see a Morris Hazard, a person that she before had seen and knew him to be the same person,

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\*The affidavit of Evangelina Pool herewith subjoined is numbered document 4130 in the Clinton MSS and for obvious reasons is transferred to document 4103 to which no doubt it originally belonged.—STATE HISTORIAN.

who was called by that name and had before seen him at Clarkstown in Orange County, and that his business there was with the Mayor, Mr. Mathews, of New York and others Commdts. to deliver himself up, and had a spokesman with him, to this Deponent Unknown, and that he was but cooly recd by the Mayor and the Mayor said that he must procure another recommendation.

Cevangelah Pool.

Sworn before me the 6th Novr. 1781. David Pye, Justice.

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[No. 4104.]

*Governor Clinton to Mr. Holkar, Enclosing His Esequatur as Consul.*

(Omitted.)

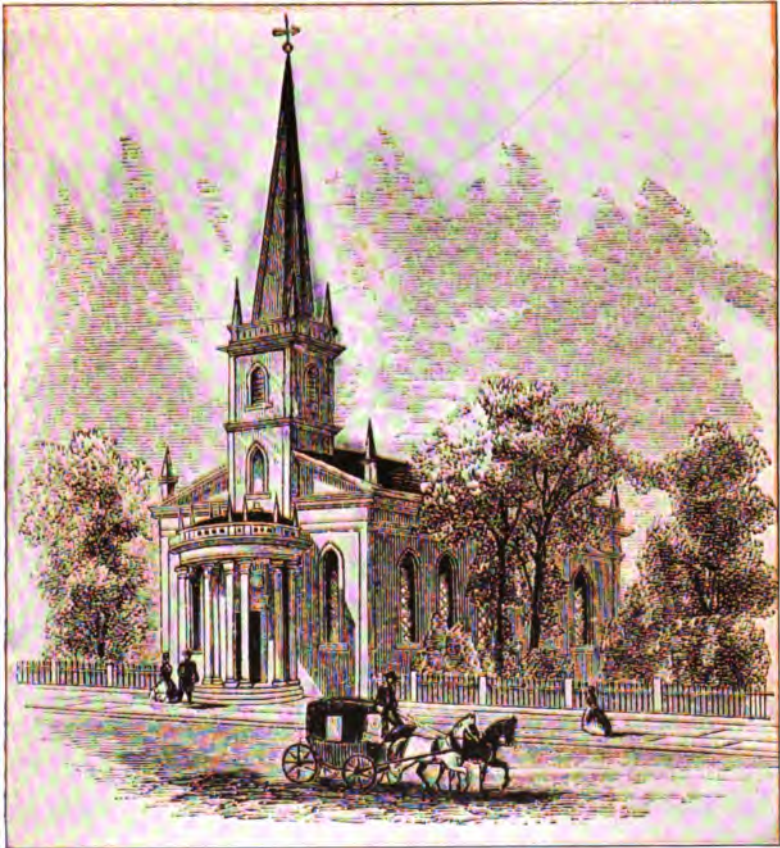
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[No. 4105.]

*Governor Clinton to Lord Stirling Regarding Warrants for Forage and the Alarms from the Frontiers.*

Octr. 29th, 1781.

Sir, I have had the honor of receiving your Lordship's Letters of the 23rd & 24th Inst. I am extremely unhappy to find the Troops under your Command distressed for want of Forage especially when it is out of my Power to afford them Relief. The emergency & sudden movement of the Troops to the northward alone, could have justified my issuing the impress Warrants granted to Colo. Hughs, as I am altogether unauthorized by Law to make impresses for the ordinary Supplies of the Army. I should, however, imagine that as the Troops were transported to Albany by Water (that the extraordinary Number of Teams applied for under an idea that they were to march by land) cannot now be wanted & that the Forage impressed for that Service may now be applied to the uses mentioned by your Lordship & that this will afford a competent Supply at least, until the Qr. Mr. can procure more by purchase. By the Returns of the State Agent it appears that the full quota of Forage demanded



TRINITY CHURCH, NEW YORK, 1791.





of this State has already been delivered. Your Lordship will believe me when I assure that motives of personal Consideration as well as a Desire to promote the Public service would induce me to do every thing in My Power to facilitate your Command. If the former Acct. of the Enemy's landing at Crown Point & the latter of their having since landg at Ticonderoga are both true, I should imagine they have divided their forces & that those who landed at Crown Point will take the route Sir John did last year on the West side of Scharoon Lake & stricke the Settlements on the Mohawk River tho, the season appears to me so far advanced as to render such an Enterprise extremely precarious.

The Intelligence of the Capture of Cornwallis which I had the honor of transmitting your Lordship, is not yet confirmed, nor is it contradicted.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c.

The Rt. honble. Major Genl. Lord Stirling.

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[No. 4106.]

*Governor Clinton to Colonel Willett in Regard to Mustering Levies.*

Poughkeepsie, Oct. 29th, 1781.

Sir, I have received your favour of the 22d instant. If you attend to my letter of the 6th you will find I have pointed out the Mode in which the former Levies have been mustered and unless the Resolution of Congress a Copy of which I transmitted you can be considered as establishing a new Rule for conducting this Business, I would advise that it be performed (as heretofore) by such of your Field Officers as you shall judge best Qualified for the Service. I am certainly not authorized by any Law of the State or Act of Congress, either alone or with the

Council of Appointment to appoint a Muster Master. For altho I am directed to form the Levies into Regiments & with the Advice of the Council to appoint the necessary Officers, yet you will readily perceive this does not authorize the Appointment of a Muster Master whose Duty is by no means confined to a Regt. nor can he in any sence be considered as a Regimental Officer. Besides, Congress have invariably & I am informed for good Reasons, reserved to themselves those Appointments.

It appears to me most proper that the Commanding Officer of the Department under whose order the Levies are should give the necessary directions for Mustering them and I shall accordingly write to General Heath & press his immediate attention to this Subject.

The intelligence of the surrender of Cornwallis & his army on the 17th instant transmitted you by my last letter, tho not as yet confirmed, I flatter myself will not be contradicted.

I am &c.

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[No. 4107.]

*Patrick Barber to Governor Clinton as to Property of Benjamin Smith and as to His Own Sons Who Were Wounded at Yorktown—Governor Clinton's Reply.*

October 29th, 1781.

Dear Sir, The Widdow of Samuel Fawles has applyed to me on account of a famby of negros five in number, that we the Commitionars of sequestration sold at Vandue to Saml. Fawls, in the year 77 that had been the property of Benjiman Smith in New-Burgh. We also sold all the other Effects that was under our notice the same time, the Widdow tells me, that Smith has seased one of the wenches and deteanes her, and also insists to have the Rest, as he says the Legislature has Restored him to his Estate Both real and Personal. I Could not think that Smith should be so much indulged, nor that the Legislature would Lay us open to the troubles of Consequence must follow; I promised the Widdow that I Would inform myself if what Smith said was true, and let her know what she was to Do as soon as I Could have a Letter from you.

I hope Sir, you'l oblige me With you answr on the above, I am Sorry to give you the trouble as I do not know that it is your Business, nor Neither Do I know Whos Business it is Which Led me to Trouble you.

I have not had any account from my sons for three months Past that is With the forcesses, if you know any thing of the Army's returning I should be glad you Would mention it.

I am With Esteem your Huml. Sert. Whilst I live,  
Gouvernor Clinton

## GOVERNOR CLINTON TO PATRICK BARBER.

Pokeepsie 9th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, It is some days since I was favoured with yours of the 29th of last month and you should have had an immediate answer if it had been in my power to have given you a satisfactory one. I never missed an Opportunity of inquiring for your sons among my other Friends at Camp but untill yesterday Evening I could obtain no certain Account of them. I was told indeed they were slightly wounded but that was all I could learn. Yesterday evening Colo. Hamilton who was immediately from Yorktown called upon me, who assured me that tho the Accounts of their being wounded was true, they had nothing to apprehend from the wounds they received. The Colo's was a slight touch of a Bayonet in his Lips, the Major's was by a Cannon Ball that grazed his side & took out some flesh & tho' a very narrow escape it does not prove a dangerous Wound. With respect to Benjm. Smith, I believe the Legislature has never done any thing to restore him his Estate. The question then will be whether he has ever forfeited it & this I am by no means able to Answer as depends upon Facts concerning which I am uninformed. Pray present my best respects to your Family & believe me &c &c.

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[No. 4108]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton With a Note for Colonel A. Pawling as to Mustering and Inspecting his Regiment—Governor Clinton's Directions to Colonel Pawling.*

Head quarters Continental village, Oct. 30, 1781.

Sir, Not knowing where colonel Pawling is at present, I request your Excellency will have the goodness to direct the enclosed letter and cause it to be forwarded by the first opportu-

nity. The letter is on the subject of mustering and inspecting the regiment.

I have the honor to be With Great respect, Your Excellency's  
Most obedient servant,

W. Heath.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY TO COLONEL ALBERT PAWLING.

Sir, I am directed by his Excellency the Govr. to forward to you the inclosed Letter from Genl. Heath on the subject of mustering the Levies under your Command and to inform you that additional Levies furnished by the Militia Regts. of Ulster & Orange in pursuance of his Excellency's orders of 2d May last commanded by Yeoman's &c as well as those of the late Levies as are employed on the Frontiers of Ulster & Orange are to be mustered as belonging to your Regt. Guard at the Alarm Gun at this Place consisting of a Sergt. & Corporeal & twelve Privates must not be omitted. I know not to what Company they belong, but Major Van Buntshotten can inform you. I return you your commissions with the proper certificates endorsed.

I am &c &c.

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[No. 4109.]

*Keziah Townsend's Letter Relative to Obtaining Her Effects from  
New York.*

Goshen, October ye 30th, 81.

Dear Sir, After congratulating you on the Late Victory gain'd over the British: and wishing your Excellency Every Felicity that attends a Person in this Life—I [beg] Leave onc more to Address you—

Mr. Wisner Informed me that you was kind enough to Promise that I should be Indulged with a Permit and Protection to Bring out my Property from New York, and as I have this moment been Informed that Mrs. Colden is Indulg'd with a Water Flag to go down to New York, I hope your Excellency will be so good as to Send my permit by the Bearer, that I may go Down and return with my Property in the Flag that Goes from New Windsor: as I am Very anxious to go, as I am Sensible that some off those Persons that is Indebted to me will Leave New York, if its Likely to be Beselged: which I hope itt may and itt will be Extremely Hard that my Children

should lose what's there Lawfull [theirs]; as an Inclement season off the year is advancing fast, and I find my Constitution much impaired: I shall Ever Esteem itt as a mark off your Excellencys favour if you will Immediately Indulge me with the above request. I shall Expect to hear by the Bearer, or Mr. Wisner, whether I am indulged to go with the Flag or not—and am In the Interim with Due respect Your Most Obedt. Humbl.

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[No. 4110.]

*Governor Clinton to Colonel Van Schaick Announcing That the Latter's Memorial Has Been Laid Before the Legislature.*

Poughkeepsie, 31st October, 1781.

Sir, I have received your Letter of the 25th Instant inclosing your Memorial\* which agreeable to your Request was immediately laid before the Legislature. From the Disposition I have Invariably discovered in your Behalf, you have the best Assurance of my Concurrence in any proper Measures for obtaining you the Justice you claim.

I am, Sir, With &c.

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[No. 4111.]

*General Gansevoort Forwards to the Governor a Letter from Lord Stirling Announcing That the Enemy Are Moving Southward from Lake George.*

Albany, 31st October, 1781. One O'Clock A. M.

Sir, The Inclosed is a Copy of a Letter this moment received by express from Saratoga. No time shall be lost in complying with My Lord's requisition.

Your Excellency has doubtless been informed of an Action Colonel Willett having had with the enemy at John's town in Tryon County, the particulars of which have not yet come to hand; the last Accounts from that Quarter is that the Colonel

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\* See document 4094, page 440.



[No. 4112.]

## TROUBLES OF A QUARTERMASTER.

*Colonel Udny Hay Outlines to the Governor the Points of Differences Between His Department, the Quartermaster General and the World at Large.*

Poughkeepsie, Octr. 31st, 1781.

Sir, Enclosed I do myself the honour to transmit for your Excellency's perusal, my Returns up to the first of this Month, with an account Current in Cash betwixt the United States & this State on Account of Specific Supplies, and shall attend at such Time and place as you are pleased to order, for explaining any part thereof your Excellency may think proper to require.

In the course of my Business since the last Meeting of the Legislature, I have made several Observations which I now take the Liberty of mentioning in as brief a Manner as I possible can; and if it is thought proper I should have the Honour of a personal hearing either by Your Excellency, or a Committee of the Legislature, shall then point out more fully the reasons which have induced me to make them.

1st By the present Tax in paper Currencys those who granted Supplies to the State on the Agents Certificates, and pay them for the Tax, give at least twice as much Value for the same nominal Sum as others do, who granted no Supplies in that way.

2dly Previous to the repeal of the Tender Law, the Agent obtained considerable quantities of Flour and other Articles, partly by Impress, partly by voluntary Purchase, yet unpaid for, and there is no provision by Law which enables him to allow at present for such Flour or other Articles more than the then stipulated Prices, though the Money in which he must pay is not nearly of the same Value as at the Time such Impress or Purchase was made.

3dly As People in general have been led to believe that the Agent's Certificates are not design'd to be redeemed in any other way but by Taxes, a Law explaining the real Design of them woud probably be very beneficial.

4thly As I have not yet got Returns from all the Supervisors of the Tax Lists, upon which the last Tax for Wheat is founded, and as the expence of warning the People of the Quantity each Person is assessed, in the way the Law at present directs, is very expensive, perhaps the Legislature may think proper to adopt some other Mode, attended with much less Cost, and equally efficacious.

5thly There is a considerable part of Albany and Tryon Counties in which the Wheat Tax cannot at present be regularly collected, though in the last of these Counties, I believe more has been obtained by purchase and Impress than their Tax would amount to.

6thly As many Persons who have been assessed Wheat or Flour, and have delivered it either to the Public Commissaries or Millers, whose Receipts they are possessed of, have not brot. in these Receipts, wou'd not a Law excluding them from Payment after a certain Period be both just & beneficial as I cannot possibly close my Accounts till all those Receipts are first got in.

7thly As I cannot make a final settlement with all my Assistants till I am possess'd of all the Certificates they have countersign'd, is it not necessary to pass a Law, desiring the Treasurer to give me up all the Agents' Certificates, which have come into his hands by Taxes, taking my Rect. for the Amount specified therein, (the Interest excluded.)

8thly Though I have wrote frequently and pressingly to the



Deputy Qr. Master & Commissaries within this State, requesting they would Appoint a Time and Place where I should Attend for delivering to them the many Vouchers I had from their Assistants &c., and take their General Receipt for the same, that I might bring the Accounts of the State under my direction into a narrower Compass, as well as into a plain and easy System, I have been able to accomplish my wish on that Subject but in a very small degree, nor do I think I shall, till Congress give their Officers positive Instructions to comply with my request, declaring the Nature of the Vouchers they are to esteem valid.

9thly The present situation of the dispute betwixt the Quarter Mr. Genl. of the United States and the Agent of this State on the Subject of the Forage used by the Army this Campaign in West Chester County, with the resolve of Congress thereon, will, I humbly conceive, render it necessary for the Legislature to take that whole matter under their consideration.

10thly Wou'd it be proper to grant a farther Day for the payment of the residue of the Lands purchased by John Williams, Esqr. and sundry other Persons, which was to have been paid for by Agent's certificates, provided they did at a short Period, make the whole of that payment in, Beef only?

11th By an Act of 1st July, I was authoris'd to purchase for Money at the Current prices; as the Act did not appear to me to imply a positive Order to purchase all I could and as by the depreciation of the Money it was plain the State was a great loser by such Purchases. I have made none in that way but what I thought absolutely necessary & should therefore wish to know whether the Legislature approved of my Conduct in that respect, or if it is their pleasure I purchase whatever I can, at the Current prices of the Country.

12th As all the flour which can now be expected to be obtained by any Assessment, or Tax hitherto laid, will be but trifling in comparison of what will soon be wanted, shou'd it be proposed to procure any more either of that Article or Forage in the same way, permit me to hint the advantage that wou'd arise from laying that Tax this present Session of the Legislature, because, if deferred till another, the Roads will begin to break up before the People can have proper notice of what each is to deliver, and soon after the Roads get passable the Farmer will be busily employ'd in sowing his Seed, and before that necessary part of his Business is compleated, there will be found many, especially of the poorer sort, who will have disposed of Whatever of these Articles they had to spare, and will not be able without the greatest distress, to pay either in them or in Money. In addition to the above observations, which in a great Measure came officially under my Notice, permit me to mention to your Excellency the extreme Misery to which many valuable Subjects of this State are reduced, not only by a Non-payment, but even from a non settlement of the Debts due them from the Quarter Master's and Commissary's Department while the State itself is so far from reaping any advantage from this Credit given the Public, that every Person of common Observation must see, it is not only an almost unsurmountable Obstacle in the collection of the necessary Taxes, but by a continuation of these Accounts in their present unsettled State, an effectual opening is given for the most enormous frauds and Villainies by forged or false Vouchers, which it will be very difficult to contradict or even discover, when the persons whose Vouchers are thus presented cannot be brought on the spot, or the Transactions upon which they are founded, must have escaped their memory:

besides which, the delaying the settlement of these Accounts is an Act of the severest Cruelty upon every Officer who has faithfully served his Country in either of these Departments, and stands in the Gap betwixt the United States and their much injured Creditors, my long acquaintance with one of these Departments occasions my writing with a Degree of assurance, as to facts which I hope your Excellency will forgive.

I shall only beg leave, Sir, to be indulged with one Observation more, which is, that if the State wou'd take upon itself, the Settlement of these Accounts (provided Congress will not do it within a certain Day) and order at same time State Certificates upon a good Fund, to be issued in lieu of the present Specie Certificates given by the Public Officers, to all such Subjects of the State as chuse to receive the same, it would not only give the State an opportunity of proving in an incontestible way, the proportion of the Expences they have borne in the general Cause, but by laying Taxes payable in Certificates only or hard Cash, oblige the disaffected, in whose hands scarce any of these Certificates now lay, to buy them from the well affected at a price nearly perhaps altogether equal to their nominal Value.

I have the honour to be with much Respect, Your Excellency's Most Obedt. humble Servt.

P. S. By sundry Accounts very lately recd. I am led to believe, unless some Specie can be got to purchase Flour Casks, it would be an advantage to permit a part of the Wheat to be sold for that purpose.

Governor Clinton.

[No. 4113.]

*James Hamilton Narrates His Grievances to Governor Clinton.*

May it please your Excellency, I was at your House Yesterday in order to acquaint you of my Grievances in respect of them Cattle Taken from Mr. Law. The Atto. Genl. recommended it to me to go and Settle with him, which wou'd be entirely Contrary to the Commissary Genls. orders, and if I did it very like it must be all at my own suit. He tells me an Execution must be Granted against me, which I think is very hard. I have but a little small place and if its Taken from me, for my faithful Services to the Public instead of pay I am ill rewarded.

I then acted under your Direction, therefore I hope you wont let me be the sufferer. Relying on you to Direct the Atto. Genl. how he shall Act so as that I may not be Distressed. In hopes that you are better, I am May it please your Exc. your mt. obt. and Mt. Hble. Servt.  
George Clinton Esqr. Governor &c. &c. &c.

[No. 4114.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton as to a Flag to Convey Mrs. Cadwalader Colden to New York.*

Head quarters, Continental village, Nov. 1, 1781.

Sir, Yesterday I was honored with yours of the 30th ultimo, respecting Mr. Hazzard. The gentleman you have entrusted with the business, will, I am confident, conduct it properly.

I thank your Excellency for the intelligence from the Northward. Pray a continuance of the favor.

I have not the least objection to Mrs. Colden's going to New York by water, if it be your Excellency's wish. I would recommend that the master of the vessel be a trusty person. He must obtain permission from general McDougall to pass West point. If I remain here until the vessel comes down, she will come to at Pemart's landing, where the master will apply to me, when a flag under the conduct of a careful officer, and with the restriction you are pleased to mention, shall be granted, and prescribed.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4115.]

*Petition of Arnold Reynolds for Pardon.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 4116.]

*Petition of Gideon Baker for Pardon.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 4117.]

*Petition of Casey Eldridge for Pardon.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 4118.]

*Cash Quotas of the States for the Year 1782—New York's Share*  
**\$373,598.**

By the United States in Congress Assembled: October 30th, 1781.

RESOLVED, That the respective States be called upon to furnish the Treasury of the United States with their quotas of Eight Millions of Dollars for the War Department and Civil List the ensuing Year, to be paid quarterly in equal proportions, the first payment to be made on the first day of April next.

RESOLVED, That a Committee consisting of a Member from each State be appointed to apportion to the Several States the quotas of the above Sum.

November 2d, 1781.

RESOLVED, That the sum of Eight Millions of Dollars required to be raised by the Resolution of the thirtieth day of October last, be paid by the States in the following proportion:

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| New Hampshire  | 373,598   |
| Massachusetts  | 1,307,596 |
| Rhode Island   | 216,684   |
| Connecticut    | 747,196   |
| New York       | 373,598   |
| New Jersey     | 485,679   |
| Pennsylvania   | 1,120,794 |
| Delaware       | 112,085   |
| Maryland       | 933,996   |
| Virginia       | 1,307,594 |
| North Carolina | 622,677   |
| South Carolina | 373,598   |
| Georgia        | 24,905    |

Dollars 8,000,000

That the said sums when paid shall be credited to the Accounts of the Several States on interest, to be hereafter adjusted agreeably to the Resolutions of the 6th of October 1779.

That certificates which may be given by the Quarter Master General or other Officers properly authorised to give them, for supplies that shall hereafter be furnished shall be accepted in payment of the aforesaid sums.

That such certificates for Supplies heretofore furnished, shall be accepted from the States producing them, in payment of what may be due on former requisitions.

RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the Several States to lay taxes for raising their Quota of money for the United States, separate from those laid for their own particular use, and to pass Acts directing the Collectors to pay the same to the Commissioner of the Loan Office, or such other Person as shall be appointed by the Superintendent of finance to receive the same within the State, and to authorise such receiver to recover the monies of the Collectors for the use of the United States, in the same manner, and under the same penalties as State taxes are recovered by the Treasurers of the respective States, to be subject only to the order of Congress, or the Superintendant of Finance.

Extract from the Minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

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[No. 4119]

*John Moylan, Clothier General, Reports to Governor Clinton That He Has Succeeded in Putting the Clothing in Motion for the Troops.*

Boston, Novr. 1781.

Sir, I had the honor to address your Excellency from Newburg on the subject of my Errand to this place. I have now the Pleasure to inform you that, after a good deal of Trouble & Difficulty, I have at last been enabled to put the clothing in Motion. This State has generously provided for the Expense of transporting it as far as Fishkill, where it will arrive on the 18th, 20th & 25th Inst. from thence, Sir, I chiefly rely on your Exertions for the means of pushing it forward to Philadelphia the place of its Destination. The Winter is approaching fast, & this parcel of Clothing is our only resource for Covering under the Inclemency of that rigorous Season those brave fellows who have lately Entitled themselves in so particular a manner, to Every mark of Attention we can shew them motives, I dare say fully sufficient to Interest your Excellency warmly in their Behalf. I have, therefore, requested Colonel Hughes to apply for your Assistance, confident that every help that you can

afford him, will be given to the dispatch of this necessary piece of business.

Give me leave, Sir, to Congratulate you most heartily on the late glorious Events to the Southward w'ch. have added so much Lustre to the American Arms, & which shoud for Ever bedear the Name of a Frenchman to this Country.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect & Esteam, Yr. Excellency's most obedt. Hble. Servt.

His Excellency The Governor of the State of New York.

[No. 4120.]

## DEFEAT OF MAJOR ROSS AT JOHNSON HALL.

*Colonel Willett Forwards His Report—Death of the Brutal Walter Butler.*

Fort Rensselaer, 2nd, November 1781.

Dear Sir, I am just returned from a most fatiguing pursuit of the Enemy and tho it has not been in my power to take or kill the whole of the Detachment that lately made their Appearance in this Quarter, yet I flatter myself they are very little better off As those that are not among the killed and taken, are in a famishing situation scattered throughout the Wilderness on the rout to Buck Island where any of them that may arrive will have tales of Horror only to Relate. After the Affair at Johnstown, which happened on the 25th ultimo, and which would at once have proved fatal to them had the Right Wing of the small number of Troops I had engaged, behaved half as well as the left, the enemy took to the wilderness and finding it out of their Power to pass us so as to get to the Oneida creek where they had left their Boats, they Directed their Rout towards Buck Island keeping far back in the Wilderness; This Determined me to cut across from the German Flatts in order to Intercept them on that Rout. Accordingly on the evening of the 28th, having furnished near 400 men and sixty Indians who had just joined me with four days and a half Provisions, which was all I could procure, I Crossed the Mohawk from Fort Herkimer and Incamped in the Woods.

The 29th we marched North upwards of Twenty miles in a snow storm, and at Eight oclock A. M. of the 30th we fell in with the enemy, who without making any Resistance worth mentioning fled from that time, untill night; we pursued them



as Closely and warmly as Possible. Nor did they ever attempt to Check us in our Advance Except at one Difficult ford in Canada Creek, where they lost several of their men. Amongst those killed at that Place was Walter Butler, the Person who commanded the Massacre at Cherry Valley in November 1778. He was called Major, but by the Commission found in his Pocket appears to be no more than a Captain.

A Number of Prisoners have been taken and many were killed in our Intercourse with those Gentry.

To Pursue them any farther was thought Improper; many of the Troops as Well as the Indians had laid aside their Blankets and Provisions in order to pursue with Greater ease. And in the evening we found ourselves at least Twenty miles from those packs. The woods was strewed with the packs of the Enemy; Provision they had none. The few horses they had amongst them when first we fell in with them, they were obliged to leave; except five, which were sent a Considerable way in front, with some of their Wounded and a few Prisoners. Their flight was performed in an Indian file upon a Constant trot, and one man's being Knocked in the head or falling off into the woods never stoped the Progress of his Neighbour, not even the fall of their favourite Butler, could attract their attention so much as to Induce them to take even the Money or anything Else out of his Pocket, altho he was not Dead when found by one of our Indians, who finished his business for him and got a Considerable Booty.

Strange as it may appear, yet it is true, that notwithstanding the Enemy had been four days with only half a pound of horse flesh for each man per day, yet they did not halt from the time we began to Pursue them until they had Proceeded more than

thirty miles: (and they Continued their Rout a Considerable part of the night)—In this Situation to the Compassion of a starving Wilderness, we left them in a fair way of Receiving a Punishment better suited to their Merit than a musquet ball, a Tomahawk or Captivity.

The enemy were Commanded by a Major Ross, formerly Captain of the granadiers of the Thirty-fourth Regt. and were composed of the following Detachments:

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Eighth Regt.             | 25 Men |
| Thirty-fourth do         | 100 do |
| Eighty-fourth do         | 30 do  |
| Sir Jno. Johnson's Corps | 120 do |
| Butler's Corps           | 150 do |
| Lake's Corps             | 40 do  |
| Yawger's Corps           | 12 do  |
| Indians                  | 130 do |
|                          | <hr/>  |
| Total.....               | 607    |

I am sure the loss of the Enemy must be great. It is, however, out of my power to ascertain it. The man who sent such a fine Detachment of Troops upon such a Paltry Business when they Return, will be best able to say how great their loss has been and to him I leave it. Upwards of Fifty Prisoners are Returned to me to be taken. Their Killed is by no means Trifling and many, very many, must be scattered about the Wilderness almost sure of Perishing there.

I have not yet been able to procure an Exact Return of our Killed and Wounded but from my Present Accounts we must have had in the whole about Ten Killed and Thirty Wounded. Captain \* \* \* of my Regt. of Levies is Missing. Upon the

whole tho. I think the affair might have turned out better, yet it is a most Capital stroke in favour of the County of Tryon. A full Conviction that I have omitted nothing in my Power to make it as Capital as it could Possible be follows me. Was I disposed to find fault I think I have cause to do it the calling away Major Logan with those two Companies under his Command from Johnstown by General Stark, has undoubtedly been an Essential Injury to us; such an Addition to our strength at Johnstown must have assured us a most Compleat victory at that Place and the Calling of those Troops from this Quarter to a part w(h)ere they have the whole Eastern world at hand to Reinforce them, appeared to me as unaccountable at that time as it has Proved Injurious since.

I have the Honour to be Your Excellencies most obedient and very Humble Servt.

Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4121.]

*General Ten Broeck to Governor Clinton Touching Complications That Followed Courts Martial.*

Albany, 2d November, 1781.

Sir, Last November I appointed Lt. Colo. Wendell, President of a General Court Martial to try all Delinquents in Collos. Schuyler's and Cuyler's Regiments—On the Twenty third December I adjourned the Court untill the Sixth February; this I was induced to do at the Solicitations of several of the Field officers, who were in hopes of obtaining a Genl. Pardon, either from your Excellency or the Legislature; you will recollect, Sir, that while you was here last Winter during the setting of the Legislature, I several times mentioned this Matter to you. By

two or three subsequent Orders, the Courts were further adjourned until the Third Day of April; before the first Adjournment, nearly all the Delinquents in Colonel Cuyler's Regiment were tried and reported to me on the Fourth January. I approved of all but a few Sentences, but did not issue the Orders until I was satisfied that no Genl. Pardon would be had; Colonel Cuyler insists that he did not receive the Sentences confirmed by me and the Orders to put the same into immediate Execution until after my Resignation and therefore, thinks himself not obliged to observe Them and has not put a single Sentence into Execution and still declines doing it; Genl. Gansevoort also declines doing any thing in it.

Colonel Wendell informes me that he has Two or Three Writs on him already and expects more from the officers forming the Court and from others, for Expences incurred by the Court; I, therefore, request your Excellency's Interposition and that you will be pleased to issue such orders as the Case requires.

With great Esteem I remain Yours Excellency's most Obedient Servt.

His Excellency George Clinton.

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[No. 4122.]

*The Governor Orders Provisions to Fort Schuyler Before Winter Sets In.*

Pokeepsie, Novr. 2d, 1781.

Sir, As the Water communication to Fort Schuyler will very soon be interrupted by ice, and Weissenfel's Regt. is wait'g at Schenectady to escort up a Supply of Provisions for that Garrison, I have to entreat that no Means in your Power may be left unessayed that a suff't. Quantity may be collected & forwarded

before the Frost sets in. The consequence of a failure will certainly be the abandonment of the Garrison in the course of the Winter. Let, therefore, no possible Exertions be wanting for immediate execution of this necessary Business.

I am &c

Udny Hay, Esqr.

In his absence Isaac Stoutenburgh & Richd. Lush, Esqr.

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[No. 4123.]

*Orders From Governor Clinton to General Robert Van Rensselaer to March His Brigade to Saratoga Without Delay.*

Poughkeepsie Novr. 2nd, 1781.

Sir, I have this moment recd a Letter from Lord Stirling informing me that the Enemy were crossing Lake George in force & that he had ordered your Brigade to reinforce the Troops to the northward. I have, therefore, to request that you will not suffer the least Delay but collect & march your Brigade to join his Lordship with all possible dispatch.

I am &c &c &c

Brig. Genl. Rensselaer

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[No. 4124.]

*John Younglove of Cambridge to Governor Clinton—Suggesting an Association to Resist the Plans of the Vermonters.*

Cambridge, 2d Novemr. 1781.

Sir, At the Request of several Inhabitants of the District of Cambridge, I have been Urged to Suggest the Propriety of Obtaining from your Excellency a Proclamation Ordering under such Modes, as will be most Eligible an Association of the Inhabitants in our Revolted Parts of the State.

A Schemes of this kind, I flatter myself would be Productive of Good Effects; several of those who have taken Part with Vermont, I am Persuaded will Joyn together with those whom we can Depend on. Maye in all Likelehood form a Connection so formidable as will set Aside the Plans of those Secret Designing Men of Involving our Contry in the farther Callamities of War.

I am with Respect your Excellency Most Obt. Humble Servt.  
His Excellency Geo. Clinton.

[No. 4125.]

*General Stirling Dismisses the Militia With a Congratulatory Order  
—No Trouble Expected from the North—The Condition of the  
Frontier.*

Saratoga, November 3rd, 1781.

Dear Sir, I had the Honor to receive your Excellencie's Letter of the 29th on the first instant; & a confirmation of the Glorious News of the Surrender of the Earl of Cornwallis with all the Force under his Command, to our Illustrious Commander in Chief on the 19th, an event that has few parrallels in History; and of the highest importance in the scale of this War; one of its probable consequences will be the Establishment of this Independant Empire acknowledged by Great Britain and all the Maritime powers in Europe; and I do, most sincerely congratulate you on it. We had it announced here by fourteen Cannon, the last in Compliment to our Friends in Vermont, who have with great alertness joined us to repel the attempts of our common Enemy.

Considering the advanced season of the year; the late heavy Rains, which have swolen the Rivers, so as to render every Ford impassable, the probability of the Lakes soon being rendered un-navigable by the Ice, together with the last intelligence from the Lakes—which was, that on Thursday last, there was not the least appearance of an Enemy on this side the narrows of Lake George, & but a few at Ticonderoga, I am clearly of opinion that there is no longer any danger of the Enemies invadeing this Country in Force & consequently there is not any necessity of keeping the Militia longer in the Field. This opinion induced me this morning to take the Sentiments of Gen. Schuyler, General Stark, and all the other General Officers & Officers com-

manding Brigades, on the subject, and finding they all agreed with me in opinion, I issued the orders of which the enclosed is a Copy.

I have no intelligence from Colonel Willet since the 28th when he was preparing to pursue the Enemy. I am exceeding Anxious to hear the result of it.

I have advised General Stark to erect two enclosed Redoubts on certain Heights at this place in order to cover the Barracks from a surprise—this is become the more necessary from the apprehension of the Enemies establishing a post at Ticonderoga in which case I think it will be prudent that the two New Hampshire Regiments remain at this place, and Tupper's at Albany—they can all be commodiously covered. Some troops will be necessary on the Mohawks River when the term of Enlistment of Col. Willet's Corps is expired.

Albany, November 6, 1781.

I have received a Letter from Colonel Willet since his return from pursuing the enemy—he pushed them seven or eight miles beyond Canada Creek; before his arrival at that place he fell in with about 40 of the party who were in the rear, in order to procure provisions which he instantly dispersed—at the Creek he came up with their rear and instantly attacked them. Major Walter Butler and a number of others fell—he mentions in his letter that he had sent an exact return of the Enemy's strength &c &c which by some mistake never came to hand, that I am at present unable to give you further particulars. The situation in which Colonel Willet left the Enemy in the Wilderness without any kind of provisions seven or Eight Days March from any post or Country where they could be supplied, will amount to the same in my opinion as a total defeat. Colonel Willett through

this whole affair seems to have acted the part of a Vigilant, prudent, experienc'd Officer, & altho the Enemy finally evaded his pursuit, his Conduct was such as must reflect the highest honor upon his Military Character.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencies Most Obedient & Humble Servant

Stirling.

His Excellcy. Govr. Clinton. —

GENERAL STIRLING'S ORDER OF COMMENDATION.

Headquarters Saratoga November 3rd, 1781.

The advanced season of the year, the late heavy Rains, together with the last Intelligence received from the Frontiers, renders it very improbable that the Enemy will attempt any further incursions into this Country dureing this Campaign;— Major General Lord Stirling, therefore, takes the earliest opportunity to relieve the Malitia from the severe service they have necessarily been engaged in; he requests them to accept his warmest thanks for the readiness and spirit which Brigadier General Starks assures him they have repeatedly shewn in leaving their peaceful homes to partake in the hardships & dangers of War, in repelling the attempts of an invading Enemy, a behaviour which will ever prove the highest security to their Liberty & property. He desires the Commanding Officers of Regiments may March them into their respective districts & dismiss them with the fullest approbation of their Conduct.

The General with great satisfaction takes this opportunity to thank General Stark for his attention to the motions of the Enemy, and the prudent and spirited measures he has taken to render their designs abortive, he also with pleasure returns his thanks to all the Officers and Soldiers of the Army for their Steady and proper behaviour on this occasion.



[No. 4126.]

*Colonel Allison to Governor Clinton in Regard to Money Advanced for the Relief of Prisoners.*

Goshen, 3d Novr. 1781.

Sir, In order to be able to present you with a fair ac't. of the advances of Cash and orders your Excellency was kind Enough to afford for the Releaf of the Prisoners of this State with the Enemy, I called on Colo. McClaghry on My Way from Poughkeepsle as some of the Receipts for Money with which we were jointly Interested, lay with him, but as he could not Conveniently find them, I have Endeavoured to Lay before you, a fair State of Such as I am possessed of, With the Vouchers indors'd, one of which was taken on bord the Prison Ships, and although the Money Came Very timeously to us, yet our Situation Did Not admit of the Receipt being taken as far as I could wish. Those, with Colo. McClaghry, I Expect, will be handed you with this; the whole I hope will be found Elligible, and the Differant Distributions we Made of the Money Meet with your Excellencys Approbation.

I have the honor to be with Due Respect your Excellencys Most Obedt. and Very Humble Servt.

Wm. Allison.

His Excellency  
George Clinton, Esqr.

P. S. I have Inclosed for your amusement a Representation and Petition\* of the Inhabitants of Kings County as will appear from the Thing itself, but to Do Justice to the Inhabitants, I must Observe that I firmly beleive they Never had any Meeting, or by any other Means authorized or Impowered Any person in the Different Towns to sign such an Instrument in behalf of the Whole, as set forth at botom. But that it was Fabricated by Colo. Axtill and push'd a Considerable Length Until it came to New Utrecht where it Meet with opposition and fell through, which Occasioned some warm words between Mr. Axtell and Nicholas [paper destroyed] a Number of the signers were freinds to government & hartly concur'd in the Measure.

W. A.

the Date was omitted but it was in 1778 the petition was propogated.

[No. 4127.]

*Colonel Willett Files With the Governor the List of Casualties at Johnson Hall, Together With His Order of Congratulation to His Troops.*

Fort Renselaer, 4th Novr. 81.

Dear Sir, I inclose you a list of our killed, wounded and Missing in the late Encounters we have had with the enemy. I likewise send a Copy of Orders I have distributed in Consequence of those successes Intended as a Stimalis for an hereafter. These orders will help to exhibit to your excellency the Conduct of the different Classes of men we had upon this Occasion.

I have Just recd Your Excellencies favor of the 29th ult. And am really fearfull, that for want of having our men Mustered, we shall never have it in our power to draw pay.

\*Not found.

I have the honor to be your Excellencies most obedient & Very humb. Servt.

His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

A Return of the killed, wounded and missing in the Action of the 25th Ultimo at Johnstown. York Levies killed, one Lieutenant, Six Rank and File; Wounded, four; Missing, One Captain, three Rank and File; Massachusits Levies, wounded One Major, One Captain, One Lieutenant, Five Rank and file; Militia killed, five rank and File; Wounded one Lieutenant Eleven R. [rank] & file; Missing One Lieutenant.

Killed in the pursuit the 30th Ultimo, one Man belonging to the Artillery.

Total Killed, one lieutenant, twelve Rank and File; Wounded, One Major, One Captain, One Lieutenant, twenty Rank and File; —Missing, One Captain, One Lieutenant, three Rank and File. Besides the above their were about a Dozen of the Inhabitants made Prisoners at their Places of Residence in the Night before the Day of the Action at Johnstown, some of whom afterwards made their Escape.

N. B. We have taken about 60 Prisoners; the number of the enemies Killed and lost in the Wilderness we leave for them to Count; we are very sure they are Considerable.

COLONEL WILLETT COMPLIMENTS THE TROOPS IN HIS COMMAND  
IN GENERAL ORDERS.

Fort Rensselaer, 2nd November 1781.

Tryon County Orders:

Colonel Willett presents his thanks to Major Rowly and the Officers and Soldiers under his command for their Services since they have been upon this frontier, and Especially to those few troops of this Corps who were with Major Rowley in the Action

of the 25th Ultimo at Johnstown, whose Bravery Demands Particular Acknowledgments.

The Companies of Captains Marsh, Clark and Hecoeks are discharged, as the time for which they were engaged is Expired.

The Officers Commanding those Companies will see that the men deliver their Ammunition to the Commissary of Ordnance at Fort Rensselaer.

Particular thanks are given to the Militia of this County for their Alertness in Turning out to Oppose the Enemy in their late Incursion upon these frontiers, Colonel Willett feels happy, whilst he is Compelled in the strongest terms to testify his Approbation of the behaviour of those few brave men amongst them which Composed a part of the left wing that so Nobly fought and Repulsed the Enemy in the Action of the 25th Ultimo at Johnstown, it gives him Particular Pleasure to Acknowledge his Obligations to those few Choice Souls who went out with him into the Wilderness in pursuit of the Enemy. To the men of Colonel Bellinger's Regt. Commanded by the Colonel himself, to the men of Colonel Clyde's Regt. Commanded by Major Copeman, to the men of Colonel Clock's Regt. Commanded by Captain Backbread, to the men of Colonel Visscher's Regt. Commanded by Lt. Col. Veder, and to those few Militia from Schenectady Commanded by Captain Fonda.

The success that has Attended this march must be a sufficient Compensation for their Great Toil, and the Consequences very Beneficial to these frontiers. The Spirit that has been Exhibited upon this Occasion must Convince the Enemy that these are People not to be Trifled with, and will Undoubtedly damp that Dirty spirit of Enterprize that can have nothing but the Destruction of Individuals for its Object.

The Particular attention great Diligence and manly Deportment of Andrew Finck, Esquire through the whole of this Affair (who performed the service of Brigade Major) merits everything that can be said in his praise. He is Requested to Accept of this Sincere Acknowledgment of his Services.

The Patience and Fortitude that has Discovered itself in the officers and Soldiers of the Levies throughout the whole of this fatigue does them great Honor. And the few Artillery men, under the Command of Capt. Moody with the Best of his Officers, who Voluntarily became Musqueteers that they might participate in these Toils, merits Particular Applause.

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[No. 4128.]

*Dominie J. Daniel Gros Congratulates Governor Clinton on the Surrender of Cornwallis and for Colonel Willett's Victory.*

Albany, this 6th of Nov. 1781.

Sir, Please to permit me heartily to congratulate you on the happy Success where-with it has pleased almighty God to bless the American Cause by delivering into our Hands the famous Lord Cornwallis with his whole Army; and to accept my Sincere Wishes for Such additional Blessings of the Lord upon the further Operations of our Armies and those of our Allies by Sea and Land, as will make our haughty Enemies think of a speedy closing of the horrible Scene of Slaughter and Rapine, and of accepting terms of Peace, which may be both honorable to the United States of North America and a lasting Inheritance to the Posterity of the brave Inhabitants thereof. While I Joyfully reflect on the Several Victories of Col. Willet, the downfall of the bloody Butler, I must lament, that having been indisposed for two Months past I was prevented from sharing in the honor of them. That the Lord may bless your Excellencys Person, dear Family and arduous Administration, with every Blessing is the constant Prayer of Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant, To his Excellency George Clinton Esqr.

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[No. 4129.]

*Letter from Seth Smith and Others of Brattleboro to Governor Clinton in Regard to Affairs in New Hampshire Grants.*

May it Pleas your Excelency, we the Committee of those Towns that have subscribed our names to your Excelency think it fit to make Known to you the great Deficulty we Leighbour under of Publicly Manifesting our Disapprobation of the foreas'd Bases

of Government by Reason of some persons in Authority Threatning that if any should subscribe such a Paper as we have sent to your Excelency they shall be committed to Goal. There is vast numbers that hold to your State and Likewise to Congress that dare not Act through fear. We have Directed Leut. Smith to Act for us under the Direction of your Excelency as you in your Wisdom shall Direct, We Refer you for a more Particular Account to the Bearer hereof Leut't. Israel Smith; we subscribe ourselves your Excelency's most Obedient and Humble Servants  
Brattleborough Novem'r. 5th, 1781.

Seth Smith  
Elijah Prouty  
Daniel Shepardson  
Hezekiah Stowel.

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[No. 4130.]

(See Document 4103, page 455.)

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[No. 4131.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath—As to Impress of Hogs, Cattle, Forage in Westchester County by a Regular Force.*

Pokeepsie, 6th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, The difficulty of procuring a competent Supply of Meat for the Troops stationed on the Frontiers in the ordinary Mode as well as a Desire of preventing the supplies to the Enemy, having induced the Legislature to direct an immediate Impress of all the Fatt Swine &c below the American Lines in West Chester County over and above what may be barely sufficient to subsist the Inhabitants, I have to request that you will be pleased to countenance the Business by ordering such regular force as you shall deem necessary as a covering Party on this Occasion. The Propriety of the Measure & the Knowledge I

have of your Disposition render it unnecessary for me to add any Thing to induce a Compliance. The Troops stationed on the Frontiers are under the Direction of the Commander in Chief and Congress have engaged to subsist them, they are interested in this business. I have taken the Liberty to inclose an Order for the Militia of the County to assist in this Business & if you shall deem their aid necessary & for this Purpose have put them under your Direction. Colo. Hay, the State Agt. is also directed to impress the Surplus Forage in that Quarter for the use of your Army.

Chief Justice Morris from Claverack which Place he left the day before yesterday, informs me that the Militia of that Neighbourhood are ret'd from the Northward & report that the Enemy who were at Ticonderoga did not exceed 400, and no appearances to Justify the idea of their taking a permanent Post at that Place, that Colo Willet had returned from his pursuit of the British under Major Ross, had taken in the whole about 70 prisoners & killed & Scalpt Young Butler. These are my last tho' not official Accts. from that Quarter. I am &c.

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[No. 4132.]

*Robert Livingston to Governor Clinton—Losses at Yorktown—The Governor Transmits News of Colonel Willett's Victory at Johnson Hall.*

6th Novr. 1781.

Dr Sir, I enclose you a List of Prisoners, Stores &c taken at York\*. Coll: Hamilton leaves me no time to add anything, but my desire to hear from you what passes in our State.

I am Dear Sir, With great regard & esteem Your Most Obt. Humble Servt

Rob. R. Livingston.

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\*Not found.

Dr. Sir, I am favored with your Letters of 22 ult & 6th Inst and tho a late Hour sincerely congratulate you on the Capture of L'd Cornwallis & the army he commanded.

The Enemys Attempts to the Northward have not, contrary to my Expectations, ended in a mere Matter of Amusements. I do not believe that there has been more than 400 of them if any, at Ticonderoga, and no design of fortifying them there, tho repeated Accounts to that Purpose from the Grants. On the Western Frontier, a Major Ross with upwards of 600 of the Enemy made his first appearance at Warrens Bush where he destroyed 20 or 25 Houses. On his Return he was attacked at Johnstown, by Colo. Willett with an inferior Force who remained in Possession of the Field with 40 Prisoners, chiefly British. Major Ross then retreated with Rapidity but was overtaken at Canada Creek by Colo. Willett, who cut off a Part of his Rear, among whom Major Walter Butler fell a sacrifice to the Oneidas. There is the highest Probability that the Remainder of the Party, extremely fatigued and almost destitute of Provision and having before them a great extent of Wilderness will never be able to reach their Boats.

Nothing has passed the Legislature which wo'd. at present engage Your attention. As usual tho' some of the most important Business is still incomplete; they Daily talk of Adjourning and I suppose will rise early in the ensuing week.

Pokeepsie Novr. 11, 1781.

[No. 4133.]

*Colonel Willett Informs Governor Clinton He Would Have Done Better Had His Scouts Been More Vigilant.*

Fort Rensselaer 7th Novb. 1781.

Dear Sir, Last evening I had the Pleasure of a letter from General Heath Covering one for Major Hitchcock requesting

him to Undertake the Mustering of our Troops. This letter I shall immediately send down to Major Hitchcock and hope I shall give your Excellency no farther trouble upon that Subject.

By the best Accounts I can Collect the Enemy did not Destroy quite three Thousand bushels of Wheat on their late visit at Warrens Bush. And what they did destroy was much the Greatest part of it the Property of Disaffected persons.

Wretched Indeed has been the Exploit of Major Ross with his fine Detachment.

The trouble I have had since I have been in this Quarter in keeping out Proper Scouts, is Inconceivable and had the scouts have done their Duty that I had out while the Enemy were on their way to these frontiers, we should have had advice of their Approach before there arrival, in which case I am well convinced they would not been able to have struck any of our Settlements.

As it is, However, the Injury they have done is by no means Great.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencies Most Obedient & very Hum: Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4134.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton as to Forage in Westchester.*

Head quarters, Continental village, Nov. 7, 1781.

Sir, I was this day honored with yours of the 6th inclosing copy of an order to the colonels of militia in West Chester county.

I will with pleasure order a detachment of regular troops to cover the people who may be sent to drive the hogs, and collect the forage from West Chester county. I do not, however, im-



agine the number to be so considerable as many seem to apprehend. It will, I am apprehensive, be a piece of business a little critical. It is going through so many hands that the enemy will undoubtedly get knowledge of it. Sir Henry Clinton having returned, and his troops being at present on board the transports, may possibly attempt to counteract the plan. It will be inadvisable to go so low, or continue so long as we might have done had he not returned. And it will be necessary that whatever is done be done with great dispatch. Colonel Hay's plan should be well digested, and perfectly understood by those who he intends shall execute it. Nothing is to be expected of the regular troops, but that they will cover the people who are to collect and drive off the hogs, &c.

I am happy to hear of the good fortune of colonel Willet—thank your Excellency for a communication of it.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4135.]

*General Heath Writes Sceptically of the Quakers to Governor Clinton.*

Headquarters, Continental Village, Nov. 7, 1781.

Sir, Several of the people called Quakers some time since, as they say, came from Long Island, have been into the country, and yesterday were returning, were stopped by the officer on the lines and sent up to me. Colonel Hughes, who was at my quarters when they came, knew one of them, a Mr. Rickman, who, he says, was always reputed a disaffected person in New York. These people always express much inoffensiveness, and that they do not meddle with politics; but I have known some of them to

collect very good intelligence—if they will do it on one side, they will on the other. However, not knowing what has been the mode with this sort of people, I have sent them to your Excellency. They own that they sometime since applied to General Washington for leave to come over from Long Island to the main, and that he refused them.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect, Your Excellencies Most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4136.]

*James Duane is Hopeful that Sir Henry Clinton May Be Forced to Surrender to Washington.*

Manour Livingston, 7th Novemb. 1781.

Dear Sir, I troubled your Exceclency with a Line & some Money which I borrowed from Mr. L'Hommedieu to support me at Philadelphia—by Dr. Livingston—Mr. L'Hommedieu since desires me to remit it to our friend Mr. Tayler at Albany. If Mr. L'Hommedieu, as he expected, returned home before the Doctor reached Poghkeepsie, may I request your Exceclency to give it to one of the Albany Members with directions to pay it to Mr. Tayler.

Be pleased to accept my warmest Congratulations on the surrender of Lord Cornwallis & his army. The hands of General Greene will now be especially strengthened to give compleat freedom to the south, and Sir Henry Clinton will command our attention. I hope he will soon be roused from his broken slumbers & be compeled to lay the royal standard at the feet of our General. Be so obliging as to give me early notice of his Exceclency's return to our State and any Inteligence which may



Fac simile of Gen. KNOX'S inscription. (with lead pencil) on the original drawing.

*a view of West point on Tuckers River.*  
*by Major S Engant Engineer*

1780

WEST POINT



be interesting, & present my most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Clinton, and to believe me to be With the utmost regard and most inviolable attachment Dear Sir, Your Excelency's Affectionate & most Obedient servant.

His Excelency Governour Clinton.

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[Nos. 4137-4138.]

*General Heath Apprehensive That the Enemy Meditates an Attack Upon the Highlands.*

Head quarters, Continental village, November 8, 1781.

Sir, In consequence of some intelligence this moment received, it will be inadvisable to attempt the forage, driving off the hogs, &c. as was proposed, at present. I have grounds to conclude that the enemy are meditating a blow on the posts of the Highlands, and suppose the troops are kept on board the transports for that purpose. This will oblige me to call in my detachments, instead of increasing them. And I wish the militia may be ready at a moments notice, if called for. I must also entreat that a quantity of flour may be immediately sent to West Point. We still remain destitute of that article, except from hand to mouth.

A few days will determine the enemy's designs.

I have the honor to be With great regard, Dear Sir, Your most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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THE GOVERNOR TO GENERAL HEATH.

Pokeepsie 8th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir: I am this moment favoured with yours of equal Date. The State Agent shall have Orders to forward immedi-

ately whatever Flour is on Hand or can be procured to West Point & the Militia held in Readiness to move to your Assistance on the shortest Notice.

I am with great Esteem Your &c.

G. C.

Majr. Genl. Heath.

[No. 4139.]

*Cornelius Hasbrouck to Governor Clinton—Expressing Penitence for His Offences, with a Memorandum of Persons in the Secret Services of the Enemy.*

Novembr. 8th, 1781.

Sr, Conscious of Guilt for Past Offences leaves me Heart sick. But if a Confession of my Crimes Or the Sorrow I Conceive at the Sence Thereof, Could Raise Any Compassion in Your Breast for One Who Ever was his Countrys and Has Acted his Addressors Friend, But His own Greatest Enemy, is Buoyed up with Hopes he may be Forgiven & Admitted to Return to his Once Peasfull Home. Not But Shame Forbids there Being A Stain left which will Remain and Cannot be Removed. But be Assured Sr. my last offence that of Going to New York was without Any Ill Intention, to the American Arms, But was Fully Actuated from Sinister Motives which I have communicated to Maj'r. Brush and shall leave the Relation to Him. Not but what they was Or may be Consider'd Devilish, Although in future shall not stick at Any Pennance which if Possible might be the Means of Reestablishing me. I therefore beg A Pardon may be given which I am Imboldined to Ask and Please my self, it will be Granted, will Your Honor Only Consider the Nature of Heaven which is to forgive Humble Penetants when they Pray for Mercy. I therefore Pray, that You who the Helm' of state here will not be more Severe, whose Compassion Grace & Pardon for Offences Past will Leave me to Convince the world of my True Penetants & Once more to Enjoy and live in those Freedoms which ever did wish to defend & support if this may not be Grantid I Humbly beg that I may be Indulged to Continue On the main uninterrupted and I remain with Every Sentiment of Sincerity Your most Obedient & Humble Serv't.

Corn's. Hasbrouck.

To His Excellency G. Clinton Gov'r. Comman'r. &c.

MEMORANDUM OF NAMES OF PERSONS SAID TO BE IN THE SECRET SERVICE OF THE ENEMY.

Capt. Dugthy of Colon'll Lambs Reg't. of Artillery Now in the Family of Gen'll Knox. I was Told by Maj'r Brown did act in Behalf of Government & Rec'd British Pay for the same.

Governor Clinton is to be Taken And Deliver'd\* into N. York by George Harden, James Riley & Two others from Dutchess County whose Names I Have Forgot, for which they are to Receive 200 Guineas.

Philip Coke of Hillbergh, 16 Miles Above Albany, Conveys Intelajince from the No'th'd to S'r Hen'y Clinton.

Joseph Clerk of Warwick is Employ'd to Convey Letters to Niagara by the way of Seskehannah & other ways.

Stephin Clerk, to David Rummls Rendevius at Patrick McDona's, from which Place he is a Pilate Threw the Mountain Below Suverigns and is Allow'd by the Refugees Bord of Directors one Dole'r per Head for Each Person Ariving in N. Y.

Mathew Devingport, of Shalughting Borough Iron Works, N. Jersey, is A Rendevius to A Certain Moody when on his Rout to Sussex and Other ways in Jersey.

Sam'll Odden of Boon Town Do

\* See Clinton Papers, Vol. II, page 634; also Vol. VII, page 192.—STATE HISTORIAN.

Isaac Ogden, An Attorney at Lay in Elizabethtown, is Employ'd to Collect & Convey to G'll Skinner, on Staten Island, Intilligence of Every Nature which may be Hurtfull to American Arms.

Antony Gerlang & One Timsharp, at or Near Eliz'th Town, did Take a cross S'r Henr'y Clintons Propposles To the N. Jersey Revolted Trops in their Incam't and was still Performing their servises &C &C

A Mr. Galloway, Son by Law to Asten Smith in the Clove, is A Rendevies for Rich'd Smith, George Warden & Others &c.

The Above is A minute of Some Vilins which I think may be Detected with Ease Let Proper Measures be Taken.

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[No. 4140.]

*Governor Clinton Asks for Colonel Willett's Sentiments in Regard to Continuing in Command on the Tryon Frontier.*

Pokeepsie, 8th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, I am this moment favoured with yours of the second Instant and most sincerely congratulate you on your safe Return to Fort Rensselaer & your different successes over the Enemy in Tryon County. I am sensible of the Dangers & Difficulties you had to encounter on this Occasion & I am persuaded much is due to your Personal Exertions & that nothing was wanting on your part to have Conceived a complete Victory & I trust the vigor with which the Enemy was attacked, routed & pursued will be attended with the most salutary Consequences to the Frontier Settlements. From the commencement of the Alarm to the Northward it was my Opinion that the real object of the Enemy was to the Westward of Saraghtoga & this was the Idea I invariably endeavoured to inculcate in my letters to Genl. Heath, Gansevoort & to every other Person to whom I had occasion to write on the subject. This being the case I leave you to judge of my sentiments respecting the Removal of Major Logan & his detachment.

Before this you will have recd Genl. Heath's Instructions for mustering your Levies which I hope will be satisfactory. The Legislature is now sitting. I have recommended to them to

adopt seasonable & proper Measures for the future Defence of the Frontiers; what they will be I am not yet able to determine but I fear not such as could be wished. I wish to know your Sentiments respecting your Continuance in the command and to be furnished with a list of the Officers willing to accept & whom you would recommend to be reappointed as early as possible. Since the capture of Cornwallis nothing material has transpired in this Quarter. The two Fleets are at sea and various accounts circulate of a Naval Engagement in which it is said our Allies have been victorious, but they want authentication. I refer you to Major Throop for further particulars.

I am &c.

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[No. 4141.]

*Governor Clinton Notifies Governor Trumbull As to the Arrest of Joel Beach.*

Poughkeepsie Novr. 8th 1781.

Sir, I was honored with your Excellency's Letters of the 15th Sept. last yesterday. Agreeable to your request a Warrant is issued by the Chief Justice for apprehending & securing Joel Beach; Whenever he is taken your Excellency will be informed of it & the Officer who may have the Prisoner in custody will be directed to deliver him to the order of your Govt. His Excellency Govr. Trumbull.

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[No. 4142.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—As to Henry Defendorff, Who Had Been a Prisoner with the Enemy.*

Head quarters Continental Village, Nov 8, 1781.

Sir, I forward, one Henry Defendorff, who left New York the night before last with three others, and arrived here the



last evening. Defendorff is a very intelligent man, says he was a Lieutenant in the Third New York Regiment, retired as Supernumery, was taken at Newark and with his wife and Child carried to New York, where he enlisted into Arnold's Corps with a view to get his Liberty the first opportunity that offered,—his wife and child are down at Niack with the water Guard. Your Excellency who probably knows his Character will best know how he is to be treated. Defendorff has been employed in a way, that has given him an opportunity of knowing the situation of the Enemy as well as any man I have seen, and can give you many particulars.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect your Excellency's most obedient Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4143.]

*Governor Clinton Suspicious of Quakers and So Informs General Heath.*

Pokeepsie 10th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, Since writing you yesterday evening I am favoured with your three Letters of the 7th & 8th Instant. The Quakers & Mr. Defendorff are consigned to the Com'y. of Conspiracies. The latter I presume will receive their Permit to take his Family to Schenectady where his Relations reside & his political Character can be better ascertained than at this Place. The Quakers have already given us so much trouble & have it in their Power to do us so much Mischief under the a specious Cloak of Religion that some means must be fallen upon to prevent the Intercourse with the Enemy which their Attendance at their Quarterly & Monthly Meetings occasion, & perhaps a confinement of the

present Gentry or a prevention of their Return to Long Island may have the desired effect.

I have directed Colo. Hay to hasten down all the Flour he can possibly procure. He informs me the want of cash in a great Measure prevents a Compliance. Is there not empty casks at the Posts by which he could be supplied.

Nothing more is expected from your troops than to cover the Persons employed under Colo. Hay in Westchester County. I am &c

[No. 4144.]

*Governor Clinton Directs Captain Honeywell to Impress Hogs and Forage in a Certain Westchester District.*

Pokeepsie, 10th Novr. 1781.

Sir, To prevent the fatt Hogs & Forage in a certain District of West Chester County over and above what shall be sufficient for the Consumption of the Inhabitants & their Stock, from falling into the Hands of the Enemy, the Legislature have directed the State Agent or his Assistants to impress & bring off the same to Places of Safety within the American Lines, and it being represented to me by the State Agent, that the Refugees embodied under your Direction might be particularly serviceable as a covering Party to the Persons employed in the Execution of this Business, I have, therefore, to request you to call them out on this Occasion, not doubting a ready & cheerful Compliance & every assistance in your Power to make. A detachment of Regular troops & of the militia of the County will also be employed in this Service. The Agent will inform you of the Day on which the Business is to commence. I am with great regd.

G. C.

To Capt. Israel Honeywell.

[No. 4145.]

*General Heath Complains to the Governor of the Practice of Driving  
Beef Cattle into Jersey via Kings Ferry.*

Head quarters, Continental village, November 11, 1781.

Sir, I have been honored with yours of the 10th

The great and still encreasing practice of driving beef-cattle from the eastward by the way of Kings ferry into the Jersies, and the grounds there are to apprehend those cattle are designed for, or do find their way to the enemy, require consideration, and some measures to be adopted for the prevention of it. The lines on the East side of the Hudson are now so well guarded as renders it extremely difficult for those who drive to get by the guards. The case is different in the Jersies—and this infamous business is all turning into that channel. A person lately from New York informs me that it is surprising to see the large quantities of beef in the markets—they never were fuller in time of peace. Nor can we be at loss how it is obtained. I have forbid the public boats at Kings ferry passing any beef cattle, hogs or sheep, coming from the eastward, unless designed for the American or French armies—or unless the drivers can produce a passport from me. But this will not remedy the evil—it will only render their journey a little longer—they will pass at Fishkill, or other ferries above. I therefore beg leave to submit the matter to your Excellency to write governor Livingston on the subject, that some mode may be jointly devised for putting a stop to practices which tend to encourage and feed the enemy, and consequently protract the war.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant

W. Heath

M General

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[No. 4146.]

*P. Bard Forwards Congratulations to Governor Clinton.*

Sir, In the midst of a most Sequestered retirement I have few Opportunities of hearing from my friends or even of indulging myself in the enjoyment of those pleasures, which the real well Wishers to our Country have had so many & frequent Occasions to exult at in the Course of the last Campaign.

As it is Again Utterly out of my power to leave my business here unless the service of my Country (which I shall always prefer to any private Concerns) Calls upon me, permit me Sir, after beging my most respectfull Compliments & hearty Congratulations to Mrs. Clinton— to remind you that there is in the world such a person as

Your Most huml. Servt.

B. Vale Novr. 12, 1781.

[No. 4147.]

*Solomon Pendleton Lays His Grievances before Governor Clinton.*

Sir, As it is my oppinion, that I can convey my Ideas to your Exclency, better in this way, then in perssonal conversation, by reason of the many interruptions which naturally happen, therefore, I beg your Exclencys attention to the following Circumstances, although some of them have been already mention'd; viz: As the case is at present circumstanc'd, it appears to me repugnant to reason, for me to enter into any kind of publick buisness, until I can have the benefit of a Court of enquiry; whereby, I can defend myself against the Censures of the melitious part of mankind. For almost every day gives me fresh proof, that my Character daily suffers with impunity, in every part of the State where I am known; which was first set

on foot by melitious, and desineing men; and now continued by the ignorent, for want of proof to the Contrary. Your Exelencys generosety, politness, and I believe I may say friendship, Justly demands my utmost gratitude; and be assured Sir, I entertain a due sence of it. I presume your Exelency will readily concur with me in sentiment, that it would not be so much in my power, to obtain that entire Confidence in any man, or set of men, of tollerable good abillities, while in my present predicament, as it would be, if I were entirely clear of those Censures; and able to buoy myself upon the strength of truth, and Justece, above the reflections of the melitious, and ignorant. The propositions your Exelency made me the 9th Instant, I have weighed with the coolest reflection. It is my most antious wish to serve the States in general, as well as this State, and your Exelency in peticular. Had the proposition been to resque my life, or my interest, I should not have hisetated a moment; but should have given a direct answer in the affirmative; But when I conceiv'd my reputation at stake, I at first shuddered at the thought; however, this matter may be confirmed, in a manner Consistant both with external and internal honour. If your Exelency should think of some Office in the pretended State of Vermont, that will answer the purpose propos'd good; if not, I am of oppinion that a Command in Albany would answer as good a purpose. There is such a variety of Charrectors in Albany, that are immediately connected with Vermont, that I shall be able to find such an introduction into the New State, as will most probably answer my design: And if I have a Milletary Command in Albany, I shall be better able to transmit the earliest intelligence to your Exelency, than if I were altogether burr'd in Vermont. Were I to attempt to introduce myself amongst

these people, on a pretence of buying lands, without first falling upon some regular method of supporting myself there, in that Charrector and without a sufficiency of money to pay for those Lands, in such case, I should most probably fall short of the purpose which was thereby intended. My interest at present, being mostly in the hands of the publick, or Milletary men, nither of which, can make me any return: and I find myself daily sinking in my present state of suspence. As to my appointment although there is no vacancy at present, in the Line of this State, to my knowledge, in which I can take Command agreeable to my Rank; yet, though the appointment should be supernumerary, there is nothing to be apprehended from the president: and I am of oppinnion that Your Exelencys representation of this matter to Congress, or the Board of War, would readily prevent any disputes that might otherwise arise. As to the dispute in Rank, between some of the officers of the Line, and myself, I am ready to submit that point to the decition of Congress, from whence those resolves respecting our several Circumstances originated; who, will undoubtedly be the best interpreters of their own Resolutions.

If I am wrong in any one point here, I hope it will be pardonable: For I beg leave to assure your Exelency it was not intended. I remain, with due respect

Your Exelencys most obedient And very humble Servt.

Poughkeepsie Nov. 12th 1781.

His Exclency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4148]

*Governor Clinton's Account against the State for Specie Advanced  
by Him for Prisoners on Long Island.*

The State of New York

To his Excellency Governor Clinton: Dr.

|                 |   |          |           |
|-----------------|---|----------|-----------|
| 21st Nov. 1777. | To Cash in specie advanced<br>to the Officers & Privates belong<br>to the State of New York Prison-<br>ers with the Enemy at New York<br>& Long Island as pr. Vouchers<br>No. 1 & 2 | £164.5.3 |           |
| 11th Feb. 1778  | To Do for Do as pr. Lieut<br>Jno. McClaghry's Rect. in my Day<br>Book ready to be produced, the<br>Rects. of the particular Distribu-<br>tion of it not being as yet recd           | 108.0.0  | £272.5.3  |
| October 1778    | To do for Do. by an Order on<br>my own Private Credit on Long<br>Island, as pr. voucher A   | £300.0.0 |           |
| Octobr. 1779    | To Do for Do by Do, as pr.<br>voucher B & Colo. McClaghry's<br>Letter   | 200.0.0  |           |
| Augt. 1780      | To Do for Do. By four Orders<br>on Long Island for £500 each as<br>pr. Voucher No. 4  | 2000.0.0 |           |
|                 |   |          | £2500.0.0 |
|                 |   |          | £2772.5.3 |

N. B. The above Acct. is exclusive of some small sums advanced  
by Brigr. Genl. James Clinton by my order & for which I stand

charged with the Am't. whereof I am not yet furnished & of others advanced by myself & for which Vouchers could not be obtained.

Errors Excepted:

Geo. Clinton.

Pokeepsie 13th Novr. 1781

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[No. 4149]

*General Heath Represents the Desperate Condition of the Troops for Bread to Governor Clinton—The Governor's Reply.*

Head quarters, Continental village, Nov. 13, 1781.

Sir, I was in hopes not to have troubled your Excellency again on the subject of our wants of bread, but necessity compels me. This army, in addition to their want of pay and almost nakedness through want of clothes, have scarcely received two days full allowance of bread in the course of this week past. The detachment now gone to drive off the stock from West Chester county, were obliged to borrow flour before they could go on that duty. Such is our situation when placed in the most important posts in America—may I not say, the principal pillars on which the independence of the United States at present rests? How extremely, then, are they put to the hazard? When I apply to the hon'ble Mr. Morris, he informs me, that I must depend on the State of New York for the specific supplies which they are to furnish and which are yet due. I have applied again and again, until I fear I have wearied your patience with repetitions. I have been honored with your Excellency's answers, that the most pointed orders have issued to the State Agent to hasten the supplies; but the army do not obtain them. At some times the wheat is not collected—the mills cannot grind for want of



water—or there are not cash or bags to forward the flour. While these are the excuses, the army are perishing with hunger as well as the posts put to the hazard. For God's sake relieve us from this situation. Nothing, except marching to meet the enemy, will give the army greater pleasure than to march where they can find bread. They will bring it in their blankets if no other means can be devised. Let me know where it shall be found. I will myself march at the head of the troops to fetch it, with pleasure. But it is a trial too hard for me to sit here and see them pinching with hunger. Nor can I hold myself accountable for consequences.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Pokeepsie Novr. 15, 1781.

Sir, I am favored with your Letter of the 13th Inst. and am sorry for the Distresses to which the Troops under your Command are reduced for want of bread. I have laid your Letter before the Legislature and recommended that Measures be immediately adopted to relieve your Necessities but whether the Provision which they may make will prove equal to the present Exegency I dare not venture to determine; of this, however, I am persuaded that every thing in their power will be done.

I am informed there is at present confined in the Provost at Fish Kill a certain Amos Marrch one of the Citizens of this State—from the Representation of several reputable Inhabitants of West Chester County in his Favor I am induced to desire

that he may be released, unless you may have some particular Reasons with which I am unacquainted that may render it improper. I have the Honor to be &c &c

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[No. 4151.]

*Colonel Marinus Willett Forwards to the Governor a Return of the Damage Done by the Enemy in Tryon County and Suggests Snow Shoes for the Troops.*

Fort Rensselaer, 16th November 1781.

Sir, I have been making enquiry among the persons who suffered by the enemy in their late Incursion in this County of the damage done by them and find it Trifling. I inclose your Excellency a Return of it.

Many of the Horses as well as the Horned Cattle &c were shot and left lying dead without the Enemies Receiving any Advantage from them.

I shall be glad to know from your Excellency what Troops are intended to Winter in this Quarter as a State of Security can never be Justified as long as the war lasts and this County Continues to be a Frontier. I wish some Attention may be given to its Protection during the Winter season: And I should think it proper wherever the troops Intended for its Protection are to make their Winter Quarters, there ought to be a number of Snow Shoes in store, as it is not Impossible but that the Enemies parties may make winter Visits, against which parties there can be nothing attempted without snow shoes.

We have nothing new here I am told there have been some Indians & Tories at Schohary. But as Captain Du Bois who commands at that Place has sent me no Account of it I can say nothing to your Excellency about it nor do I know whether it is

True or not. I am with the most Sincere Esteem Your Excellencies most Obedient and very Hum. Servt  
Governor Clinton.

A Return of Damages done by the Enemy at their late Incur-  
sion in Tryon County. Fort Rensselaer 16th Novh. 1781.

| Frame Houses | Log Houses | Frame Barns | Log Barns | BUSHEL OF |     |       |      |             | Tons of Hay | Horses | Horn Cattle | Sheep | Hogs | Grist Mill |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----|-------|------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|------|------------|
|              |            |             |           | Wheat     | Rye | Pease | Oats | Indian Corn |             |        |             |       |      |            |
| 5            | 17         | 18          | 10        | 1500      | 105 | 967   | 1875 | 964         | 109         | 83     | 77          | 81    | 64   | 1          |

N. B. A few Horses and Cows were Killed at Johnstown  
which are not mentioned in this Return.

[No. 4152.]

*John Russell Writes a Disquieting Letter to Governor Clinton Con-  
cerning the Latter's Land in Vermont.*

Sur, understanding you own a large track of Land In the Town of Cavendish, In the State of Vermont And as there is a tax on all Land of Ten Shillings pr 100 acres, I take this oportunity to Inform your Excellency It is said by some that you have Not the original Hampshire Title, & therefore, Say they you Cannot hold the land, and some intend to take it up and settle It for them selves, as they Say if you would inform about the title the tax, and whether you would sell the Land & what price you will take, you will perhaps oblige your self & your friend John Russell who now Belongs to Cavendish &c.

Sur, if you Give some Man the Care of your Land on account of the tax & to sell the land if you would sell the same, it May Prevent Trouble & Cost.

Sur Excuse My hurry, but you will understand What I would inform you of, you will please to send as Soon as possible you Can.

Dated November ys. 16 day 1781 this from your friend & humble Srvant

John Russell.

[No. 4153.]

*Captain James Black Appeals to Governor Clinton to Assist Him in  
Procuring Funds for the Final Settlement of His Department.*

Newburgh, Novembr. 17th, 1781.

Sir, By a Resolution of Congress lately passed, a copy of  
which I herewith enclose for your Excellency's perusal, all

clothing on hand purchased by the Several States on Continental Account, is immediately to be delivered to the Clothier General who has called upon me for what belongs to this State, and as all appointments in that Department on public Account will soon cease, to prepare for a Settlement.

I presented a Memorial to the Legislature informing them of the alteration in the Clothing Department, that I had expended my own money ever Since I had been in the present Office, sometimes for Transporting clothing as well as my necessary expences & a small supply of cash was wanted for present Services.

Public shoes, stockings &c are scattered in different parts of the State and ought to be collected, the season for Distribution being come, and I cannot depend on the Quarter Master for Transporting them. The Clothing lately purchased by the Commissioners for that purpose suitable for the common soldiers should likewise be delivered to the Continental Clothier and charged to the Public account.

I beg that your Excellency would be pleased to urge the matter that before the rising of the Legislature I may be enabled to collect and deliver in the articles already Purchased. There is on hand a few Articles of little service either to the Officers or Soldiers should the Legislature think Proper they might be sold to defray expences in the present case.

I am, Sir, with the greatest Respect Your Excellencys Most obedient Most Humble Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4154.]

*Col. Hugh Hughes to Governor Clinton Regarding the Taking of Governor Clinton's House at New Windsor for Washington's Headquarters.*

Fishkill, Nov. 17th, 1781.

Sir, If your Excellency will not pardon me for attempting to turn a Tenant out of your House without your Excellency's Permission, I am very confident you will when I do myself the Honour to acquaint you that it was to accomodate the Commander in Chief, and that your Excellency's Tenant goes out voluntarily, on being amply provided for in the Neighbourhood, probably where Headquarters were last Winter.

Permit me to assure your Excellency, that what has been done in this Affair, was at the Request of Colonel Humphreys, Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief and now here, on this and other Business.

The time of his Excellency's Arrival is not yet known, as he was in Virginia when the Colonel came away.

With the greatest Respect and Esteem, I have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedt  
His Excellency Governour Clinton.

[No. 4155.]

*Governor Clinton Informs John Taylor that Sentiment Has Changed Respecting Vermont—The British Fleet Reported to Have Sailed from Sandy Hook.*

Pokeepsie, 18th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir: At the request of Mr. Duane I now transmit you £21.4.0. which he borrowed of Mr. L'Hommedieu and was directed by him to pay to you. I will, confiding in the goodness of your Disposition, omit making any apology for the Trouble this

Part of my Letter will give you. There is no news in this quarter worth communicating. All is quiet below. It is reported that the British Fleet has sailed from the Hook, supposed for the West Indies which I think most probable. By a Letter from Colo. Hughes, D. Q. M. G., I am informed that he has taken my house at New Windsor for Hd. Quarters at the Request of Colo. Humphreys, one of the Gen'l's Aids, who was at Fishkill Yesterday. The Gen'l. is yet in Virginia; when he may be expected this way is uncertain. Colo. Lush will be able to inform you (more fully than I could write) of the Transactions of the present Session. A very different temper prevails respecting Vermont from that which discovered itself in Albany last Winter. In all my communications I have been perfectly silent on the Subject merely referring them to the Papers which were laid before the Legislature at the opening of the Session without any Comment.

Mrs. Clinton who with our two eldest Girls have been very unwell for some Time past, desires to join in affectionate Respects to Colo. & Mrs. Tayler with &c I am &c.

(G. C.)

John Tayler, Esqr.

[No. 4156.]

*Governor Clinton Assures Dominie Gros He Is Always Anxiously Concerned for the Safety of the Frontiers.*

Pokepsie 19th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your obliging Favour 5th Instant and to thank you for this additional mark of Attention; Be assured Sir, the Interest which you give me Reason to believe I have in your Friendship & Good Wishes afford me great Pleasure.

While the Brilliant Success which it has pleased God to Crown our Arms with, to the Southward, give us Reason to hope the

happiest Consequences to the American Empire, I feel my Happiness increased by a Hope that the exertions of Colo. Willett & the troops under his Command will be productive of the most salutary Effects to our distressed Frontiers, for whose safety I need not assure you I am at all Times anxiously concerned, and, altho your Indisposition prevented your being personally present at the late Reencounter with the Enemy near Johnstown, I am too well acquainted with your Zeal & Conduct to doubt of the Services you have rendered your Country in the Course of the present as well as former Campaigns. Mrs. Clinton desires to join in respectful Compliments to Mrs. Gross, with, Dr. Sir, Your Affectionate &c

P. S. Mrs. Clinton begs Mrs. Gross Acceptance of a Barrel of Winter Apples sent by the Bearer; as they came here in Barrels, she is ignorant of the Quality.

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[No. 4157.]

*Colonel Thaddeus Crane to Governor Clinton As to Vacancies in His Regiment of Officers.*

Salem, 20th Novr. 1781.

Sir, The Command with which I am Honoured under you Injoins upon me to Report to your Exelency a Deficiency of officers in my Regmt. Which at this time I think proper, as the Council of appointment is siting. I have Inserted a list of Such persons who I would Recommend to be Commissioned which are as follows:

In Capt. Benjamin Chapman Company, Salem  
 Isaac Winthrop, 1st Lt.  
 Abraham Fanshers 2d Do  
 Jesse Seymour, Ensign

In Capt. Daniel Bouton's Company, Pound Ridge.  
Ebenezer Avery, 1st Lt.  
Samuel Waterbury, Ensign

In Capt. Samll. Lewis's Company.  
Benajah Brown, 1st Lt.  
Jehiel Bouton 2 do  
Nathan Lockwood, Ensign

The Whole of Capt. Lewis's Company hath turned out as grenadiers, which if thought proper by the Council would have Commissions accordingly, as to the affairs of Capt. Trusdells Company your Excelency hath been informed by Capt. Trusdell as well as by a line from me. I have likewise Desired Major Delivan to wait on his Excelency on the affare Which if it can be done at this time it will much oblige your Excelency's most obident and very humble Servt.

Thaddeus Crane.

To his Exelency Govr. Clinton

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[No. 4158.]

*Circular to the Counties Requiring the Collection of the Taxes.*

Foughkeepsie, 20 November, 1781.

(Circular)

Sir: I have thought proper to apprise you that the time limited by Law for collecting the first Molety of the Specie-Tax in certain specific Articles, pursuant to the Act of the 27th March and collecting the whole of the Tax, Specie and Paper Currency pursuant to the Act of the 30th June last, is very probably expired. The Law has charged you with the immediate Superintendance of the Conduct of the Supervisors Assessors and Collectors with respect to these Taxes & has vested you with ample Powers to compel these Officers to their Duty. I must therefore require you forthwith to proceed to the Execution of these Powers should any part of either these Taxes be in arrear within Your County. A Delay on Your part will subject you to a Prosecution which in such Case I shall direct the Attorney General to institute against You. I have a Confidence however that your Attention and Assiduity will save Me from this disagreeable Alternative.

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[No. 4159.]

*A Carpenter's Bill, Etc.*

(Omitted.)



[No. 4160.]

*Governor Clinton Submits a Plan for the Protection of Certain Sections of Westchester County.*

Pokepsie, 21st Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favour of the 11th Instant. There is a Law of this State subjecting all fat Cattle purchased with intent to sell again to seizure which if duly attended to I presume will prove an adequate provision agt the Mischief mentioned in your Letter, & the State Agent is apprized of the abuses you apprehend & has pointed Directions to put the law into Execution agt. the Offenders in future.

The Inhabitants of Bedford & Poundridge in West Chester County, alarmed at their present exposed Situation, have applied to me to interest myself in their Behalf & to Request that the two Companies of Levies commanded by Capt. Williams & Sackett may be disposed of for their Protection. I am ignorant of the Position or Strength of the Troops Stationed on the Lines, and, therefore, would not venture to advise on the subject, but if it can consistently be done, I sincerely wish their request may be granted, otherwise I fear those settlements will be abandoned. Colo. Thomas & Major Delavan who are charged with this Letter, are of oppinion that if a couple of Block Houses were erected on certain commanding Heights in the Neighborhood of Bedford, great security woud be thereby afforded to that & the Neighbouring Settlements & that the Inhabitants woud chearfully contribute to this service as well as the Labour and teamage in making them and in defending them when compleated. Those Gentlemen will explain their Ideas to you on this subject more fully than I can. I confess I conceive their Plan an elligible one and coud wish it might be adopted. I have the Honor to be Dr Sir, Your most, &c.

[No. 4161.]

*Governor Chittenden Sends a Note of Warning to Henry Denker.*

Arlington, Novr. 22d, 1781.

Sir, I am informed that you have been warning the People in Vicinity of the New City to pay a Certain Provision Tax to the State of New York.

Proposals being made by this State to the Legislature of New York for the settlement of Boundary Lines it is the wish and desire of this State not to be necessitated to impose coercive Measures during the consideration of such proposals.

And is what they would ever be oblig'd to do with the greatest Reluctance.

At the same time, bound to equally protect her Citizens, your desisting in those Matters of Authority for the present, will prevent Consequences of which I think it well for you to be advised and which must attend you in pursuing a different Conduct.

I am sir your Hum'le. Servt.

Tho. Chittenden.\*

Henry Denker.

N. B. The interlines are not as I found them but was done through hast(e).

[No. 4162.]

*Lieutenant-Colonel Pauling to Robert Benson Concerning Commissions for Officers and Discharges for Men.*

Sagerties, November 22d, 1781.

Dr Sir, Inclosed you have Capt. Livingston's & Lieut. Oostranders Commissions which please to antidate; many of the Men in the Company were by them mustered & received the 5th of April their Commissions are dated the 27th.

\*See document 4198, page 556.

The orders those Gentlemen had to attend were verbal & from Major Van Bunschoten. As the Bearer belongs to Capt. Livingston's Company, I wish you to return the Commissions by him.

I am Sir, yours sincerely

P. S. I hope you have in Mind the Discharges I put in your Hands of a few of the Men who engaged with Lieut. Conolly to serve till the 15th December, for which they are entitled to 10 Bushel of wheat; & I should be glad you'd send them if in your Power, so fixed as to enable them to obtain the wheat to me soon. I am frequently asked for them.

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[No. 4163.]

*Captain D. Niven, an Engineer Officer, Propounds Certain Questions to Governor Clinton Concerning Pay and Clothing.*

Fort Clinton, Nov. 22, 1781.

Sir, Being assured by sundry examples of your Excellency's goodness to others as well as myself, made me use the freedom of troubling you on this ocation.

I am inform'd there was a Law passed sometime ago allowing Cloathing and other necessaries to all the officers and men Credited to this state, serving in the several Corps of the Army. I was included in this Law.

Another Law was passed granting Depreciation of pay &c to the afore said officers and soldiers, formerly Inhabitance of this State.

By this Law, as an Engineer I was neglected. Last winter have pray'd the Legislature to put me on equal footing with the other troops included in the above Law. In Consuqance state

notes for the Depreciation of pay, as an Engineer as well as for the time have serv'd in the additional troops was granted.

Last summer it was said that a Law was passed ordering all the Cloathing then on hand to be delivered to the officers of Colonel Lamb's artillery and the two Infantry Regts. Being not included in these Corps, have made no application.

As am unaquanted with the several Law respecting the troops of this State, I pray your Excellency to Let me know whiether or no am entitled by Law to Equal priviledge with the officers of Colonel [Lamb's] Artillery and the two Infandry Regts. on Continental establishment.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your Excellency very obedt. Servant.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4164.]

*Governor Clinton to R. R. Livingston in Regard to the Wanton Destruction of Property by the Enemy in this State.*

Pokeepsie, 24th Nov'r., 1781.

Sir, I have the Honor to inform you that the Legislature to whom I communicated your Letter of the 12th Instant have charged the Justices of the Supreme Court with the Business of collecting Returns of the damage done by the enemy within the State by the wanton Destruction of Property & the proper evidence for ascertaining the same. As soon as the Business is accomplished & the Returns come to my Hands I will with pleasure cause Duplicates, properly authenticated, to be transmitted to your Office agreeable to your Request.

I have the Honor to be Sir with great Regard & Esteem Sir,  
Your Most Obed. Servt.

The honble. Robt. R. Livingston, Esqr.

[No. 4165.]

*Robert Benson to Colonel Thaddeus Crane Regarding Vacancies in His Regiment.*

Novr. 24th, 1781.

Sir, Your letter of the 20th did not come to hand until long After the Legislature & Council of appointment were adjourned & all gone home so that nothing can be done in the Business at pres't. His Excellency directs me to inform you of this & to desire of you to send a New List of Vacancies & Persons to fill them in your Regt, specifying particularly whose Place the Person to be appointed is to fill & the Cause of the Vacancy whether removal out of the Regt., Resignation or Death—this will be necess'y to be laid before the Council at their next Meeting.

I am &amp;c

Colo. Crane.

[No. 4166.]

*Governor Clinton to New York Delegates in Congress with Resolutions of the State Legislature in Regard to the Vermont Question.*

Poughkeepsie, Novr. 24th, 1781.

Gentlemen, Agreeable to the Request of the Senate & Assembly I now do myself the honor to enclose you a certified Copy of their concurrent Resolutions of the 15th & 19th Inst. expressive of their Sense on the Acts of Congress relative to that part of this State called the New Hampshire Grants, for your Use & Guidance.

A Copy attested under the Great Seal of the State is also forwarded by this Conveyance to his Excellency the Presidt. of Congress.

My other Despatches to Congress are also enclosed under a

flying seal for your Information; which when you have perused you will please to close & deliver.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c

The Delegates of New York in Congress.

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[No. 4167.]

*Governor Clinton to the President of Congress with certified Copies of the Resolutions of the New York Legislature Concerning Congress and the Vermont Question.*

Poughkeepsie 24th Novr. 1781.

Sir, Agreeable to the Request of the Senate and Assembly of this State I have the honor to transmit Your Excellency enclosed a Copy of their concurrent Resolutions of the 15th & 19th Inst. respectively duly certified and attested and declarative of their Sense on the Acts of Congress relative to that Part of this State distinguished by the name of the New Hampshire Grants.\* I have the honor to be &c &c  
His Excellency The President of Congress.

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\* Thursday Morning, November 15th, 1781. The Senate met pursuant to Adjournment. The Report of the Committee of this Senate, from the joint Committee of both Houses, on the Papers relative the North-eastern Parts of this State, was read, and agreed to by all the Members present, except Mr. Yates and Mr. Whiting, who voted in the Negative: Thereupon

Resolved, That it appears from sufficient Evidence, that Congress did, by their Act of the 24th of September, 1779, inter alia, earnestly recommend to the States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, and New-York, to pass Laws expressly authorising Congress, to hear and determine all Differences between them, relative to their respective Boundaries, in the Mode prescribed by the Articles of Confederation; and also by express Laws for the Purpose, to refer to the Decision of Congress, all Differences or Disputes between them relative to Jurisdiction, which they might respectively have with the People of the District called the New-Hampshire Grants; and also to authorise Congress, to proceed to hear and determine all Disputes subsisting between the Grantees of the said States, respecting Titles to Lands lying within the said District; and also that Congress did thereby pledge their Faith, after a full and fair Hearing of all the said Differences and Disputes, to decide and determine the same according to Equity, and carry into Execution, and support their Determinations and Decisions in the Premises.

“Resolved, That it appears from the like Evidence, that at the Time of passing the said Act, and for above a Century and an half before, to wit; from the first Settlement of the Colony of New-York, now this State of New-York, the said Colony, and this State, included, by most indubitable Right and Title, both of Jurisdiction and Property, all the Lands among others, to the Westward thereof, lying North of the North Bounds of the Massachusetts-Bay, up to the Latitude of 45 North, and extending

between those Boundaries from Hudsons River to Connecticut River, including the Waters of the northern Lakes, and other Waters within those Boundaries—That the above Extent of Territory, which includes the District called the New-Hampshire Grants, was, by a Decree of the British King, to whom the Sovereignty thereof, as Parcel of the Colony of New-York belonged, made in his privy Council the twentieth Day of July, 1764, between the Colonies of New-York and New-Hampshire, declared to be Parcel of the said Colony of New-York; that in Consequence thereof, the Government of the Colony of New-Hampshire, expressly ceded and relinquished all Claim and Title of Jurisdiction to the above Territory. That thereupon the same were, by Acts of Legislation of the Colony of New-York, formed into Counties; and such Parts thereof as were settled, were represented in the Legislature of that Colony. That they were also represented in the Provincial Congress and Convention of this State of New-York, received Aids from them as Parcel of this State, both before and after the Declaration of the Independence of these United States; assisted by their Representatives in forming the Constitution of this State, and fully submitted to the Jurisdiction thereof, 'til in the Year 1777.

Resolved, That it appears of Record, that notwithstanding the above clear and conclusive Evidence of Right, on the Part of this State of New-York, to the Territory above described, including as aforesaid, the New-Hampshire Grants; and tho' the Legislature of this State, might therefore, consistently with the strictest Justice, have asserted their Dignity and Sovereignty over the District of the New-Hampshire Grants; yet they respectfully adopting the Sentiments of Congress, that it was essential to the Interest of the whole Confederacy, carefully to avoid all intestine Dissentions, and maintain domestic Peace and good Order, acquiesced in the Submission recommended by the said Act of Congress, and accordingly on the 21st Day of October, 1779, passed a Law of this State for that Purpose.

Resolved, That it satisfactorily appears, that in Consequence of the said Law, the Agents thereby appointed to manage the Controversy, on the Part of this State, at very great public Expence collected the necessary Evidence, to support the Facts asserted in the second above-mentioned Resolution; and that after many and repeated Delays, they were at length, on the 19th Day of September, 1780, in the Presence of all the Parties Interested, (except the State of Massachusetts-Bay, who had not passed the necessary Act of Submission) indulged with an Hearing before Congress; in the Course of which, such Evidence as above-mentioned, was produced on the Part of this State, as, in the Opinion of the Agents of this State, fully proved to Congress, the several Facts contained in the said second above-mentioned Resolution; and that on the 27th Day of the same Month, all Parties being present, (except the State of Massachusetts-Bay, and Messrs. Allen and Bradley, Agents for the People of the New Hampshire Grants, claiming to be a separate independent Jurisdiction, who tho' duly notified, then declined any further Attendance.) The State of New-Hampshire, who had also submitted by their legislative Act, had an Hearing in Congress, in Support of their Claim to the Jurisdiction over the District called the New-Hampshire Grants. That this State has on their Part, fully complied with every Requisite contained in the said Act of Congress of the 24th of September, 1780, and has accordingly from that Day to this, abstained from the Grant of any Lands within the said District; and also from the Exercise of Jurisdiction over any of the Inhabitants of the said District, who had not acknowledged the same; that on the Contrary, the revolted Inhabitants of the said District, having arbitrarily erected themselves into a separate and independent State, unrecognized as such until this Day by this State or the other United States; and having framed a Government, they have passed Laws, granted Lands, and exercised civil and military Authority over the Persons and Property of those Inhabitants, who profess themselves to be Subjects of this State, in manifest Subversion of the Right of Sovereignty and Property of this State, and in direct Contempt and Infringement of several Acts of Congress. That altho' they had contented themselves with the Exercise of Jurisdiction, principally, up to a Line running nearly parallel to Hudson's River, at twenty Miles distant therefrom, until the Month of June last; yet, that at that Time, notwithstanding the Censure and Prohibition of Congress, and in Contempt of their Recommendation and Authority, by an Act of their usurped Government, they extended a Jurisdictional Claim over all the Lands situate North of the north Line of the State of Massachusetts, and extending the same to Hudson's River; then East of the Centre of the deepest Channel of said River to the Head thereof; from thence, East of a North Line, being extended to Latitude 45, and South of the same Line, including all the Lands and Waters to the Place where the said pretended State then assumed to exer-

cise Jurisdiction, inserting at the same Time in their said Act, a Clause not to exercise Jurisdiction within their jurisdictional Claim, for the Time being.

That of these Matters, Congress have been fully apprised and have repeatedly solicited thereto by the Delegates of this State, have not hitherto made any Decision and Determination of the said Controversy, according to Equity, as by their said Act of the 24th of September, 1779, they pledged themselves, and by the Law of this State they were authorized to do. That to put an End to this Delay, so injurious to the Jurisdiction of this State, so subversive of its Interests, Peace and Polity, so promotive of a Repetition of those violent Acts of usurped, civil and military Authority, which in the Judgment of Congress, declared in their Resolution of the 2d of October, 1780, were highly unwarrantable and subversive of the Peace and Welfare of the United States; and from which they required the People inhabiting the said Grants, to desist until the Decision and Determination of Congress in the Premises, they have actually presumed to exercise sovereign Authority and Jurisdiction to the full Extent of their said jurisdictional Claim, by appointing civil and military Officers, making Levies of Men and Money, rescuing Delinquents from the Hands of Justice of this State, at the Expence of the Blood, and the Loss of the Life of one of the Subjects of this State in the Execution of his lawful Duty, and forbidding the Officers of Justice of this State to execute their Offices, as appears from the Papers attendant on his Excellency the Governor's Speech, and other due Information. That among these, to shew the actual Exercise of Jurisdiction by the usurped Government of the said Grants, by Stile and Title of the State of Vermont, over the Territory contained within the said jurisdictional Claim, is the Copy of a certain Proclamation, bearing Date the 18th Day of July, 1781, purporting, to be under the Seal of the said pretended State, signed by Thomas Chittenden who stiles himself their Governor; which after divers Falsities and Absurdities therein contained, asserts that Commissions both civil and military, had then been lately issued by the supreme Authority of the said pretended State, to Persons chosen agreeable to the Laws and Customs thereof, in the several Districts and Corporations within the Limits of the above-mentioned western or jurisdictional Claim, strictly requires, charges and commands all Persons, of whatsoever Quality or Denomination, residing within the said western claim of Jurisdiction, to take due Notice of the Laws and Orders of the said pretended State; and to govern themselves accordingly, on Pain of incurring the Penalties therein contained; and strictly requires, charges, and commands all Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Constables, and all other civil and all military Officers, to be active and vigilant in executing the Laws aforesaid, without Partiality.

Resolved, That the Legislature of this State is greatly alarmed at the evident Intention of Congress, and from political Expedience, as it is expressed in a Letter from his Excellency the President of Congress to his Excellency the Governor of this State, of the 8th of August last; and as is evinced in their Acts of the 7th and 21st of the same Month, enclosed therein, to establish an arbitrary Boundary whereby to exclude out of this State, the greatest Part of the Territory described in the second Resolution above-mentioned, belonging most unquestionably to this State, as Part, Parcel and Member thereof; and to erect such Dismemberment possessed by the revolted Subjects of this State, into an Independent State, and as such to admit them into the federal Union or these United States, especially as the said two last mentioned Acts seem to express the Sense of Congress, that the Territories of this State, by the Articles of Confederation are, and as in Fact and Truth, they are by the 2d and 3d Articles thereof, guarantied, and still more especially, as by a Proviso in the 9th Article it is provided that no State shall be deprived of Territory, for the Benefit of the United States.

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Legislature, that Congress have not any authority by the Articles of Confederation, in any Wise, to intermeddle with the former territorial Extent of Jurisdiction or Property of either of these United States, except in Cases of Dispute concerning the same, between two or more States in the Union; nor to admit into the Union even any British Colony, except Canada, without the Consent of nine States; nor any other State whatsoever; nor above all, to create a new State by dismembering one of the Thirteen United States, without their universal Consent.

Resolved, That in Case of any Attempt by Congress, to carry into Execution their said Acts of the 7th and 21st of August last, this Legislature, with all due Deference to Congress, are bound in Duty to their Constituents, to declare the same an Assumption of Power in the Face of the said Act of Submission of this State, and against the clear Letter and Spirit of the 2d, 3d, 9th, and 11th Articles of the Confederation, and a



manifest Infraction of the same; and do Therefore hereby solemnly protest against the same.

Resolved, That a Copy of these Resolutions be forthwith made, and certified by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly, in Presence of his Excellency the Governor, who is hereby requested to attest the same with the Great Seal of this State, and transmit it without Delay to Congress; to the End, that the same may be entered on their Journals, or filed in their Archives, in perpetuum rei memoriam: That his Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a Copy so certified as aforesaid, to each of the Executives of the other United States; and that another Copy, so certified as aforesaid, be delivered to the Delegates of this State, for their Use and Guidance; and that they be, and hereby are expressly directed and required, to enter their Dissent on every Step, which may be taken in and towards carrying the said two last mentioned Acts of Congress, into Execution.

Ordered, That Mr Wisner carry a Copy of the foregoing Resolutions, to the Honorable the House of Assembly, and request their Concurrence thereto.

Concurred in by Assembly November 19, 1781.

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His Excellency George Clinton Esq'r, Governor of the State of New York General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

To all to whom these Presents shall come.

Know ye that the honorable Pierre Van Cortlandt Esqr. President of the Senate of the said State and the honorable Evert Bancker Esqr. Speaker of the Assembly of the said State did in my Presence severally certify the Copy of the concurrent Resolutions of the said Senate and Assembly to these Presents annexed In Testimony whereof agreeable to the Request of the said Senate and Assembly in the said Resolutions contained and for the better and more perfect Attestation thereof I have caused the Great Seal of the said State to be hereunto affixed at Poughkeepsie this 24th Day of November in the sixth Year of the Independence of the said State 1781.

Geo: Clinton

By His Excellency's Command Rob. Benson Secry.

[No. 4168.]

## A STRONG DEFENCE OF THE STATE'S POSITION.

*Governor Clinton Assures President Hanson That the Spirit of Patriotism Has Not Waned Despite the Misfortunes and Injuries Suffered—He Deplores the Defects in the Powers of Congress.*

Poughkeepsie Novr. 24th, 1781.

Sir, During the Recess of the Legislature of this State I received several Letters from the Superintendent of Finance; which were laid before them in their late Session and the Result of their Deliberations were certain Resolutions, a Copy whereof agreeable to their Request I do myself the honor to transmit to your Excellency.

With the Legislature I may venture to pledge myself for the Truth of the Facts contained in the Resolutions & in the letter of the 15th of Feby. last. Indeed the essential Facts and from which the Inability of the State is necessarily to be inferred, namely the Deprivation of Commerce, the Loss and Devastation of Territory by the Enemy, the Usurpations of our revolted Subjects and the subsistence of the greater Part of the Army in the articles of Bread and Forage for a series of Campaigns on credit, and the Amount of the Debts thus contracted still due, either to the Inhabitants individually or to the State in consequence of receiving the Purchasing Officer's Certificates in payment for Taxes, are of such universal notoriety that I shall presume it unnecessary further to evince them; I shall, therefore, only observe in addition that there is more than a Hazard that we shall not be able without a Change in our Circumstances long to maintain our civil Government.

This State I flatter myself has for its Spirit & Exertions in the War stood equal in point of Reputation with any other in

the Union, and notwithstanding our Misfortunes & Injuries, and notwithstanding our Legislature is, with respect to the Individuals who compose it, fluctuating, I am confident the People at large and their Representatives in Gov't. still retain the same Spirit & are equally disposed to every possible Effort in the common Cause. I mention this, lest it be supposed that we were sinking under our Distresses or were attendg to our particular Interests without a due Regard to the Gen'l. Good. I trust there can be no higher Evidence of a sincere Disposition in the State to promote the common Interest, than the alacrity with which they passed the Law for grant'g to Congress a Duty on Imports, and their present Proffer to accede to any Propositions which may be made for rendering the Union among the States more intimate, and for enabling Congress to draw forth & employ the resources of the whole Empire with the utmost Vigor; for altho' we are unable in our present condition to contribute an immediate pecuniary Aid, we have Prospects of future Wealth & Ability, when by a Peace and the Determination of the Controversy relative to our Boundaries, we shall be restored to the entire Possession of the State. These Prospects we are willing to anticipate & I do not hesitate to give assurances that this State will, on her Part, chearfully consent to vest the Sovereignty of the United States with every power requisite to an effectual Defence against foreign Invasion & for the Preservation of internal Peace & Harmony; and as an Individual, I cannot forbear declaring my Sentiments that the Defects in the Powers of Congress are the chief Source of present Embarrassm'ts, and as a Friend to the Independence & True Interests & Happiness of America, I could wish to be indulged in expressing an earnest Desire that Measures might be taken to remedy these Defects. While Congress in their Requisitions are subject to

the Controul of the several Legislatures, we can have no Reason to expect that the aggregate Strength of the Country, including in the Idea, Men Money & Supplies of every kind, can be properly applied to the great Purposes of the Union.

With respect to the Application for a loan of Powder, I would observe that our State Magazine is now entirely exhausted, and we have no means to supply it; the Stock which we have hitherto had, has been wholly expended in the common Defence and should the Militia be called out, we could not avail ourselves of their Services for want of this essential Article.

The case of the Artificers in the several Departments within this State is truly deplorable. Many of them are Refugees from the Parts of the State in the Possession, or open to Incursions, of the Enemy, with Families and no Means of Subsistence other than their Wages. There are Arrears due to many of them since 1778 and they are reduced to the utmost Distress; unless, therefore, they can be relieved, they must inevitably leave the Service, which will be attended with the most injurious Consequences, as it will be impossible to procure substitutes. As I am informed by the State Agent, that he has lately addressed a Letter to the Superintendent of Finance explaining fully the necessity of a Speedy settlement of his Accounts, I will only beg leave to add on that Subject that there is a Reason to apprehend, should this Business be delayed, that the greatest Care & Attention of the public Officers concerned will not be sufficient to prevent Abuses; as from the nature of the Service, the Delivery of the Supplies must frequently be made to Boatmen & others of low Character and whose Receipts are the only Vouchers the Agent can in these Circumstances, Procure.

I have the honor to be, &c &c &c

His Excellency John Hanson, Esqr.,

Presidt of Congress.

[No. 4169.]

*The Governor Informs Robert Morris That the Embarrassed Situation of the State Has Prevented the Printing of the State Laws for a Year.*

Poughsie Novr. 24th, 1781.

Sir, I have had the honor of laying before the Legislature of this State your several Dispatches from the 6th of July to the 19th of October last inclusive, and I now Inclose for your information, a Copy of the concurrent Resolutions of the Senate & Assembly, the result of their Deliberations on the Subjects of your Letters.

I am unhappy that I have not been able to transmit the Information requested by your Letter of the 26th of July last. The embarrassed Situation of the State has prevented, for more than a year past, the printing of our Laws; and the Returns from the different Counties into the Treasury, owing to the frequent incursions of the Enemy into several of them, are at present too imperfect to be relied on. The Legislature, however, at their late Meeting have adopted Measures which when executed will enable me to accomplish this Business and you may rely, Sir that it shall not on my Part meet with the least unnecessary Delay.

I have the honor to be &c &c

The honble. Robt. Morris, Esqr., Superdt of Finance.

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 [No. 4170.]

*Lewis R. Morris Informs the Governor He Will Accept an Appointment As Ensign in the New York Line.*

Philadelphia, 24th Novr. 1781.

My dear Sir, I take the liberty to inform you from the advice of some of my friends, I have determined to accept my Appoint-

ment as an Ensign in the New York Line, and endeavour to obtain from Congress a furlough to remain with Mr. Livingston till the active duties of the ensuing Campaign may call me to the field, till then I flatter myself your Excellency will coincide in Sentiment with me, that from the number of Officers, the service cannot suffer, by my absence.

This will be handed you by my freind Major Popham, who remaining a day longer in this town, than he intended, has afforded me the pleasure of addressing your Excellency, as business in the Office entirely deprived me of doing it Yesterday. To him I must beg leave to refer you for every particular respecting Myself. News we have none. Unless the Report of Minorca being taken,—it is generally beleived the Enemy only retain possession of Fort St. Phillips.

Tender my most Respectfull Compliments to Mrs. Clinton and the Children and believe me with much Respect and Esteem, Your Excellency's much Obliged and most Obedt. Hum Servant.  
His Excellency Govenor Clinton.

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[No. 4171.]

*Colonel Hugh Hughes to Governor Clinton—Concerning Clothing for the Army.*

Camp, Nov. 24th 1781.

Sir, Since the receipt of the Inclosure, General Heath has received advice from the Board of War that the greater part of the Clothing referr'd to by Mr. Moylan, is to be detained at Newburgh till the Commander in Chief's Pleasure is known.

This, the General has advised Mr. Moylan of by a Person who bro't your Excellency's Letter & his own.

When the Clothing is all arrived and it is known what Part

must be forwarded, I will do myself the Honour of waiting on your Excellency, if it should be requisite.

With the greatest Respect & Esteem, I have the Honour to be,  
Your Excellency's most obdt. and very Humble Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4172.]

*General Heath Informs Governor Clinton That He and Washington Prefer Light Parties Moving Along the Lines to Block Houses—Disposal of Prisoners of War.*

Headquarters, Highlands, Nov. 26, 1781.

Sir, I was not honored with yours of the 1st [21st] instant by colonel Thomas and major Delavan, until the day before yesterday.

Upon an application from the inhabitants of the town of Bedford, I had ordered captain Pritchard with a company of Continental soldiers, and captain Sacket with his company of levies, to that quarter. It is my intention to continue about the same force during the winter; which I hope will be sufficient.

I rather doubt the general utility of block-houses on the lines. They tend to make their garrisons Secure; they cover but a small space, and the enemy will either form enterprises to surprise them, or they will pass between them with impunity. I have always thought, that light parties, constantly moving on the lines, from the uncertainty where they are, prove the best check to the enemy, as well as protection to the inhabitants. And this seems to be the opinion of the commander in chief, who in a letter of the 29th ultimo, one of the last I have had the honor to receive from him on the subject of affording protection to the country, observes this, "I think may be much better effected

by keeping light parties upon the lines than by establishing permanent posts."

If the militia wish, notwithstanding, to erect block-houses, I have no objection. They shall have the aid of captain Sacket's company to assist them, and the advice of an engineer. More I cannot promise them.

Among the prisoners taken by colonel Willett, are some who formerly belonged to the State. I do not know their characters. If your Excellency thinks proper to treat any of them in a light, different from that of prisoners of war, they shall be delivered over to the civil authority; if not, as our number of prisoners is now become too unwieldy, they shall be sent with others which I intend soon to remove to Lancaster.

I desired judge Lawrence some days since, to examine and discharge Amos Morrill.

I have the honor to be, With the highest respect and esteem,  
Your Excellency's most obedient Servant  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4173.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath As to the Disposal of the Army  
During the Winter.*

Pokeepsie, 27th Novr. 1781.

Dear Sir, As the time for which the Levies Stationed on the Frontiers of this State are engaged to serve, will expire in the Course of next Month, I should be happy, if consistent, that I might be informed of the Winter Arrangements of the army in this Department as early as they are settled, as from them alone I shall be able to determine whether it shall be necessary for me to supply the Place of the present Levies by new Detach-



ments. If it is intended that the two regular Regiments now at Saraghtoga are to continue at that Place, & it is not in contemplation to send a detachment into Tryon County, it will in that case be absolutely necessary to provide by draft from the Militia Garrisons for the different small posts on the Mohawk River, especially for Fort Herkimer, to which Place the Ordnance & Stores were removed from Fort Schuyler & I have Reason to believe great Part of them still remain there. For altho we have not to apprehend any formidable Body of the Enemy on our Frontiers in the Course of the Winter, yet they have seldom failed visiting us with small Parties, sufficient to annoy these posts, should they find them abandoned or possessed only by the neighboring Inhabitants & to desolate the Country. The raising of Levies at this Season will be attended with a great Expence & Difficulty and an additional Consumption of our Provisions & Stores. I, therefore, sincerely wish it might be avoided & I would fain hope that such a Disposition may be made of the Army as to render it unnecessary.

I am Dr Sir, with great Regard, Your Most Obedt Servt.  
The honble. Major Genl. Heath.

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[No. 4174.]

*Robert Yates Reports the Apprehension of Two Notorious Characters at Schodack—The Governor's Reply.*

Albany Novr. 29th, 1781.

Sir, The noted Tom Wood and one Robert Wheeler were last Saturday night apprehended at Shodac by Cornelius Schermerhorn, after having robbed him in his House of a Considerable sum of money (as is said), indulging themselves into the too free use of Liquor which they found in the House, it afforded an opperty to Mr. Schermerhorn to apprehend them. It is the wish of the Inhabitants, they should be tryed as soon as possible. As the last comission of Oyer & Terminer expired last October—no special session can be held unless your Excellency will give directions for issuing a new Commission. I am with the greatest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient & Huml. Servt.

Robert Yates.

## THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Nov'r [Dec.] 3d, 1781.

Dr Sir, I am happy in hearing of the apprehending of the two Villains mentioned in yr Letter of the 29 ulto. Previous to the rec't of it New Commissions of Oyer &c had issued for the several Counties in the State. The Atty Genl. has them & I expect will forwd the one for Albany with the Precept by this Conveyance as I apprized him of the Contents of yr. Letter.

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 [No. 4175.]

*Governor Clinton to Isaac Roosevelt—Two Officers Captured and Conveyed to New York Who Went to Long Island to Procure Clothing for the State.*

Novr. 29th, 1781.

Dr Sir, The bearers Mr. McFarren & Mr. Thos. Greenell waited on me last night to inform me that Major Davis & Capt. Greenell who went over to Long Island for the purpose of procuring & bringing off Clothing on Acct. of this State, were on Friday last made Prisoners by the Enemy & taken to New York. They had, Mr. Greenell informs he has reason to believe, collected to a considerable Amount, which with some belonging to Mr. McFarren lay ready to be brought off; but as the Permits were in Major Davis' Hands, the business could not be effected. These Gentlemen now want further Directions on the subject, and as I have had no particular Agency in the Business since yourself & Colo. Floyd have had the management of it, & as Colo. Floyd is gone to Phila. I thought it most advisable to direct them to wait on you for the Purpose. I enclose you two blank Permits which (if you conceive it expedient) you will fill up with the names of such persons as you may think proper.

Mr. McFarren & Mr. Greenell are acquainted with the Traine of the Business & will I presume be able to recommend proper Persons to have this part of it executed. I would only observe that McFarrens Effects were to be brought off under such conditions & Restrictions as should be directed by the Comr's. &c. & I was led to believe Major Davis had so conducted as that the public service was to be advanced by this indulgence which I still believe to be the case.

I am &c &c

Isaac Roosevelt, Esqr.

By His Excellency Geo: Clinton, Esqr. Govr. &c &c

Permission is hereby granted to \_\_\_\_\_ to proceed to Suffolk County on Long Island and bring off from thence to such other place in this State as shall be directed by the Commission for procuring Monies on Loan, &c for the use of this State, such Articles of Cloathing and Necessaries for the Troops of this State as were procured by Major John Davis including those agreed to be delivered by Mr. Thomas McFarren.

Given &c this 29th Novr. 1781.

[No. 4176.]

*General Heath Informs Governor Clinton As to the Disposition of the Troops for the Winter.*

Headquarters, Highlands, November 30, 1781.

Sir, I am this morning honored with your's of the 27th. It was my intention that the two New Hampshire regiments, now at the Northward, should winter in that quarter, and apprehended they would be sufficient for the posts on the Mowhawk river also, after the time of service for which the levies are en-

gaged, expire. I have seasonably been ordering provisions to Albany (except flour) and cautioning General Stark to avail himself of the best opportunities to have them sent to those posts which will require them during the winter. I have written to the commander in chief and informed him of my intention; if he approves it, the two regiments above mentioned will garrison the northern district. Their strength will probably be between three and four hundred each; which, I think, will be sufficient during the winter. If you think otherwise, I will thank you for a hint on the subject.

I cannot spare any regular troops for other of the western frontiers, and the state must provide for them if necessary. The moment I receive the approbation of the commander in chief, I will direct General Stark to send a detachment seasonably to relieve the levies on the Mowhawk river.

The distribution of the army to winter quarters, is as follows: The Jersey line near Morristown, the New York line between that and the North river, perhaps near Pompton, the Connecticut line at the huts built by them the last year, the Rhode Island regiment brigaded with the Connecticut line, two Massachusetts brigades at West point, one near the south redoubt on the east side of the river, and one regiment in the huts built the last year by the New Hampshire troops, the second regiment light dragoons in Connecticut, the artillery at West point. Light parties will be kept on the lines below Crompond and at Bedford, for the protection of the country.

I think there will be no alteration at the Northward, unless brigadier-general Hazen's regiment should go to that quarter instead of the two New Hampshire regiments. This I shall know when I hear from the commander in chief.

I will thank you for information what places at the Northward will be most probably exposed to the incursions of the enemy during the winter, and when and in what numbers the troops will be most advantageously cantoned.

I have the honor to be, With very great respect and esteem,  
Your Excellency's Most obedient servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4177.]

*President Hanson to Governor Clinton—With the Act of Congress Requesting the Several States to Pass Laws to Punish Violations of the Rights of Ambassadors, Etc.*

(Circular.)

Sir, Your Excellency will receive enclosed herewith a copy of an Act of Congress of the 23d instant, respecting violations of the laws of Nations, and the erection of proper tribunals for punishing them.

Such is the importance of the objects recommended in that act, and so obvious is the necessity for some regulations respecting them, that I feel satisfied they will engage the immediate attention of your Excellency and the Legislature of your State.

I have the honor to be, with great respect Sir, Your Excellency's Obedient & very humble Serv't.

Philadelphia, 31\* Nov., 1781.

His Excellency The Governor of New York.

ACT OF CONGRESS REQUESTING THE SEVERAL STATES TO PASS LAWS TO PUNISH ALL VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF AMBASSADORS AND ALL WHO ARE UNDER FLAGS OF TRUCE, ETC.

By the United States in Congress Assembled.

November 23d, 1781.

On a report of a Committee appointed to prepare a recommendation to the States to enact laws for punishing infractions of the laws of nations—

\*The following is inserted in pencil:

You mean 30 Nov.

My dear Sir,

"30 days hath September

"April, June and November."

Resolved That it be recommended to the Legislatures of the several States to provide expeditious, exemplary and adequate punishment.

First—for the violation of safe conducts or Passports, expressly granted under the Authority of Congress to the subjects of a foreign power in time of War.

Secondly—for the commission of Acts of hostility against such as are in Amity league or truce with the United States, or who are within the same under a general implied Safe conduct.

Thirdly—for the infractions of the immunities of Ambassadors and other public Ministers authorised & received as such by the United States in Congress assembled—by animadverting on violence offered to their persons, houses, carriages & property under the limitations allowed by the usages of nations, and on disturbance given to the free exercise of their religion by annulling all writs and processes at any time sued forth against an Ambassador, or other public Minister or against their goods and Chatties, or against their domestic servant, whereby his person may be arrested: And

Fourthly—for Infractions of treaties and conventions to which the United States are a party.

The preceding being only those Offences against the law of Nations which are most obvious, and public faith & safety requiring that punishment should be co-extensive with such crimes.

Resolved, That it be farther recommended to the several States, to erect a Tribunal in each state, or to vest one already existing, with power to decide on Offences against the law of Nations not Contained in the foregoing enumeration under convenient restrictions.

Resolved, That it be farther recommended, to authorize suits to be instituted for damages by the party injured, and for compensation to the United States for damage sustained by them from an injury done to a foreign power by a citizen.

Extract from the Minutes,

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

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[No. 4178.]

*General John Morin Scott Impresses Upon the Mind of the Governor the Necessity of Having Cash Before Proceeding to Congress.*

Fish Kill Saty. Evg. 1st Decr. 1781.

Dear Sir, Doctor McKnight will set off in the morning for Poghkepsie. I improve this opportunity to inform you that Colonel Nicolas will depart for Philadelphia on Monday, who will afford a safe means of Conveying any dispatches You may have for Congress, if you have not already sent the Matters committed to your Care by the concurrent Resolutions of the two Houses. Whether those are sent or not I should be obliged to your Excellency for directing Colonel Benson to inclose to Me all that the Legislature has charged on the Delegates, that I may transmit them to Colonel Floyd, to whom I shall write by Colonel Nicolas. As it is fixed that I go to Congress without Loss of Time, I am impatient to be gone; and as nothing but

some unforeseen Accident or the Want of Money will detain me a Moment, I shall be glad to hear when I may have the prospect of being supplied with cash; for I dare not put myself to any extraordinary Expence for the Journey till that be rendered certain. Mr. Harper, I request, may be ordered to make out the General Commissions to the Delegates immediately, that I may send it to Colonel Floyd. The Exemplifications may be made out as they are wanted. Colonel Varick is my sworn deputy and will assist—as Mrs. McKnight will go with the Doctor, and they will probably be out a Night or two, would it be amiss to send the above Matters by Berkley, lest Colonel Nicolas should be gone? I am, Sir, with great respect Your Excellency's most obt. Servt.

His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

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[No. 4179.]

*James Duane Notifies Governor Clinton That New York State Papers in Congress Were Deposited in a Box with Mr. Secretary Thomson.*

Manour Livingston, 2d Decemr. 1781.

Dear Sir, When we left Philadelphia we deposited the State papers in a Box with Mr. Secretary Thompson. The Key I neglected to deliver to your Excelency as I passed thro' Poghkepsie and it is now sent by Col. Troup for the use of such of the delegates as are appointed to attend Congress. In this retired Situation I can have nothing to communicate, but the sincere Respect of Mrs. Duane and myself to your Lady. My friends at Philadelphia write me nothing material.

I have the Honour to be with every sentiment of Esteem and Regard, Dear Sir,

Your Excellency's most affectionate & Obedient huml. Servant  
His Excelency Governour Clinton.

[No. 4180.]

*Captain Daniel Williams Reports to the Governor the Desertion of Thirty Men of His Company.*

Continantall Village December 2, 81.

Dear Governor: I now Address your Exlency on A Subject I trust as Disagreable to yourself as me; nigh tirty of my men Last Night Deserted, occasioned by inCurrigment given them by Milisha officers at home, that the Assembly had passed A law that they Should bee diseband at the end of Last Month, and if they would Dissert they would perfect them; Som of the Leading Men is likewise Concerd in the same by the Soldier's Accounts. I shall endeavour to Apprehend them if posible and should bee glad of your Directions in the Matter and Remn your Elceneys Most obdient mble Servt  
His Exey Gouvernor Clinton.

[No. 4181.]

*Colonel John Cantine to Governor Clinton As to Powder.*

Marbletown, Decembr. ye 3d, 1781.

Sir, Colo. Pauling (Who I spoke to on the Subject) informs me he had a Quantity of Ammunition on hand Drawn from the public stores for the use of the Levies under his command. This being an article my Regt Will greatly stand in Need of Next spring, I beg to have your opinion By the first Convenience, Whether or Not the Colo. would be justifiable to let me have it on my giving his Quarter Master a Receipt for what I take. He Wishes with me to have it remain on the frontier but at the same time Cannot Consent to Let me have it Without an order for the purpose or your advice favouring it. I am Sir, With Sentiments of Esteem,

Your most obedt. &amp; Humbl Servt.

Govr. Clinton.



[No. 4182.]

*Representative William Floyd Writes to the Governor for the Key of a Box to State Papers which James Duane Forgot to Deliver to the Governor.*

Philadelphia, December 3d 1781.

Sir, I have been here about ten days but am not able to give a Vote in Congress as my Colleague is not yet arrived. Several States being unrepresented as well as ours, which makes a very thin house and Difficult to do Business as every Question Requires seven states to agree to it before it can pass.

I have not got the key to the Box which contain all the papers which belong to our State here. Mr. L'hommedieu informed me that Mr. Duane Intended to leave it with your Excellency. I hope Mr. Scott will bring it on with him if he Comes; if he does not, I hope another of my Colegues will come on as soon as possible, for it is very Disagreeable for me to be attending here without being able to give a Vote on Interesting Questions. I would, therefore, beg that you would urge the Attendance of some one or other of them.

There is nothing material passed Congress since my Attendance here and for the News I must beg leave to refer you to the Inclosed papers, and am Sir with the greatest Respect your most Obedt. and humble Servt.

[No. 4183.]

*Governor Clinton Asks the Intercession of William Floyd in the Matter of a Financial Obligation which He Incurred in Behalf of the Government Five Years Previous.*

Pokeepsie, 3rd Decr. 1781.

Dear Sir, As I have for these several years past by an Attention to the public utterly neglected my own private Business,

I find I want the assistance of a Friend to procure the settlement of an Old Account contracted out of zeal for the public service, especially as I am apprehensive should it be longer neglected I may loose the Ballance which I can by no means afford & I know of no Person but yourself that I wou'd venture to Trouble on the Occasion. In the year 1776 when I lay with my Brigade at King's Bridge, Commissary Trumbull (the Army likely to fall short of Bread) requested me to send one of my officers up the river to purchase 5000 Bushells of Wheat or an equivalent in Flour for public Use. I accordingly complied; the Quantity was purchased, but the Military chest being exhausted he was either unable or neglected to furnish cash to make Payment & I was obliged to advance of my own and money I borrowed (which pay interest for to this day) for the Purpose. After some considerable Time, Wm. Paulding one of the Deputies paid me a part in a depreciated State, but there yet remains due £1003. .9.7 which I am informed is, as some Time since, audited & settled with Com'y Trumbull's or his Depy. Paulding's Accounts, & Paulding in my absence left at my house a Certificate or Note for the Ballance. I do not, however, find myself more likely to obtain the Cash or proper security for it than before the settlement & his certificate does not intitle me to Interest, & whenever I apply for Payment I am told Congress have not enabled him to make it. In this Situation I have, therefore, to request that you will be kind enough to inform yourself by making the necessary Enquiry at the proper Offices and advise me in What manner I am to proceed to recover or secure the Ballance due me with Interest. I am sensible the Estate of Mr. Trumbull & his Dep'y. Paulding are answerable for my debt, but a suit agt. them woud be hard & disagreeable to me.

If Colo. Trumbull the Gen'l. Secr'y. should be at Philadelphia, I wish you to speak to him on this subject, as he was appointed to settle his Brothers Acct's. & may perhaps conceive it proper to interest himself in the settlement of mine. I have not a Word of News. Judge Smith who will deliver this, will be able to inform you of everything relative to the State. You will oblige me by an Answer on his Return. I am &c G. Clinton.  
The honble. Wm. Floyd, Esqr.

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[No. 4184.]

*Governor Clinton to General Gansevoort as to Providing for the Defence of the Frontiers During the Winter.*

Pokepsie, 3d Dec'r. 1781.

Sir, The Legislature having at their late meeting provided for the further defence of the Frontiers, by authorizing the Person administering the Government, occasionally to draw out into actual service from all or any of the Districts of the Brigades or Regt's of the Militia as often as he shall deem it necessary for the defense of the State, and as in our present distressed situation, it is my earnest desire as much as may be consistent with my duty to the Frontier Settlements to avoid burthening the inhabitants with unnecessary expenses or trouble. I have, therefore, to request your opinion and the sentiments of such of the Field Officers & other principal Gentlemen within the district of your Brigade as you can with conveniency and Expedition consult on the occasion, whether it will be necessary to carry into execution the above provision before the opening of the Spring, if so, the number of Men wanted for the protection of the Frontiers of Albany, Charlotte and Tryon counties in the Winter Season, and that you

will transmit me the result with the least possible delay. To enable you to determine upon this subject, it is proper to inform you that I am advised by Gen'l Heath (to whom I applied for the winter arrangement of the Army, particularly as it related to the frontiers of this State) that it is his intention that the 2 New Hampshire Regts. now at the Northward, and which he mentions as being each between 3 & 400 strong, shall garrison the Northern Posts, & those on the Mohawk river.

I am, &c

Brigr. Gen'l Gansevoort \_\_\_\_\_

[No. 4185.]

*Governor Clinton Solicits the Views of General Van Rensselaer in the Matter of Providing Defence for the Frontiers During the Winter.*

Pokeepsie, 3d Dec'r. 1781.

Sir, The Legislature having at their late Meeting provided for the further Defence of the Frontiers by authorizing the Person administering the Government, occasionally to draw out into actual service from all or any of the Districts of the Brigades or Regt's. of the Militia as often as he shall deem it necessary, such Number of Men, not exceeding 1500, & for such term of Time not exceeding 1 year from the 1st Day of Jan'y. next, as he shall deem most conducive to the safety of the State, and as in our present distressed situation, it is my earnest Desire as much as may be consistent with my Duty to the Frontier Settlements to avoid burthening the inhabitants with the least unnecessary Expenses or Trouble, I have, therefore, to request your opinion and the sentiments of such of the Field Officers & principal Gentlemen of your County with whom can with conveniency & Expedition consult on the Occasion, whether it will be necessary to carry the above Provision as far as it respects

the Western Frontier of your County into execution before the opening of the Spring & if it should, what Number of Men will be necessary for its protection in the, Winter Season & that you will be pleased to transmit me the Result with least possible Delay. I am &c.

Eadem die—A similar letter to Colo. Allison & Snyder—leaving out in Snyder's the words *with whom you can with conveniency and expedition consult*, & insert'g instead thereof *who it is my desire may be consulted*.

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[No. 4186.]

*Governor Clinton to John Morin Scott in Relation to New York State Matters to be Considered by Congress.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 3d, 1781.

Dr Sir, About a week since a safe conveyance offered for Philadelphia by which (as your setting out depended on a Contingency which might detain you sometime) I transmitted to Congress & Colo. Floyd all the Papers respect'g Vermont agreeable to the Request of the Legislature. I also sent forward by the same opportunity, my letter to the Presd't. cover'g a Copy of the concurr't Resolutions of both Houses on the liability of the State under a Flying Seal to Colo. Floyd. There now remains no other Matters to be sent to Congress except the Cases of Colo. Van Schaick & Sir James Jay; on which I have not yet prepared my Letters neither do I conceive it very necessary until our State is represented.

Colo. Hay I am persuaded is using every means to procure money, but I really do not believe that he has yet effected any Thing, from which it can be determined when you may expect

to be furnished with a supply to enable you to proceed to Congress.

I have directed Mr. Harper to prepare the Commissn which will be forwarded to you immediately when finished. Colo. Benson informs me that Colo. Floyd took with him a certified copy of the Resolution of the Senate on the last election of Delegates, which he supposed w'd. enable him to take his Seat & answer every Purpose until the State is represented.

I enclose you the Copy of a Letter from the Presd't. of Congress for your Perusal from which you may see their want of more Assistance.

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[No. 4187.]

*An Ordinance Ascertaining What Captures on Water Shall Be Lawful.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 4188.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath in Relation to the Protection of the State and Its Frontiers—Disposal of Prisoners of War.*

Pokeepsie, 4th Decr. 1781.

Sir, I have been duly Honored with your favors of the 26th, 29th & 30th ultimo. I am much obliged to you for the particular Detail of the Distribution of the Army to Winter Quarters which you have given me, tho' it was not my intention to have troubled you for more than what immediately related to the Protection of the Frontiers of this State. The two New Hampshire regiments, if they exceed 300 each & the season should not prove milder than Common, so as to render the Country

more easy of access to Light Parties of the Enemy, I am of Oppinion may by judicious & proper Disposition Answer the Purposes for which they are intended, tho if Hazen's could conveniently be added to that Service, it woud not only ease those Regts. in Point of Duty which I fear will otherwise be severe but give greater Security & confidence to the exposed Settlements.

The Posts usually occupied in the Winter & I believe best calculated to cover the Country are Saraghtoga to the Northward (from whence Detachments can be made to White Creek & Balls Town) & Fort Herkimer, Fort Rensselaer & Johnstown on the Mohawk River (from which small detachments can also be occasionally made to other small Posts in their respective vicinities) and Schohary about 30 miles West of Albany. I am not so intimately acquainted with the Importance of these different Places relatively considered as to be able to determine what Proportion of the Troops each ought to have; but generally it appears to me that at least the largest (sic) Reg't of the two, ought to be distributed to the Western Posts above mentioned & this not Diminished by any Detachments which may be necessary to leave at Albany or Schenectady for the security of the public Stores &c. The Northern Frontier is not so extensive nor more exposed to the Enemy, and can derive more speedy & effectual Succor from the Militia. The Western Frontier of Ulster & Orange being more remote from the Enemy's Posts & of course less liable to their Incursions, especially in the Winter Season, may with greater ease be defended by the Militia of those Counties who are remarkably well affected & favorably situated for the Purpose. With respect to West Chester county it is so contiguous to & connected with the Army & under the Eye of the

Commanding Officer of the Department, that he can always best determine of the Measures & force for its defence & I would, therefore, wish to be governed by his Advice as to the embodying any Additional Force for that Quarter. It was the impotunity of some of the principal Inhabitants alone that could have induced me to have mentioned the erecting of Block Houses in the Vicinity of Bedford, & if they can be made contented without them, I shall be perfectly so; but I would gratify them with almost anything, rather than that they should abandon their settlements.

It is my opinion it will be best to treat all the Persons taken by Colo. Willet alike as Prisoners of War. If they should be delivered over to the Civil Authority of the State (if consistent with Policy), it would be difficult if not impracticable to bring them to trial, for the Offences they have committed & the result would be either an Escape from our Prisons or a liberation on Bail & we should in either loose the advantage of an Exchange. I am, Dr Sir, &c.

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[No. 4189.]

*David McCarty Intercedes for Miss Hamersley's Passage to New York to See Her Brother.*

Coeymans West manor, Rensselaerwyke Decr. 4th, 1781.

Sir, Miss Anne Hamersley, late a Resident of New York and Now of this place (having recently heard that her Brother Mr. Andrew Hamersley of New York, hath lately lost his wife, who hath left Six or Seven small children) Hath requested me to write to your Excellency to Solicit permishlon for her to go down to the Lines near Kings Bridge, to see whether she can procure an interview with her brother or Otherwise to go into New York to see him for two or three days. Miss Hamersley would go with Sleigh and horses, One Female Companion, And a Driver, and most earnestly Begg your Excellency to Consider her Situation as this is her only Brother liveing. And I myself if your Excellency conceives it admissable, Would beg the Indulgence for her, which if granted please to Order a Line to your Excellencys most Obedient and very humble Servant

His Excellency George Clinton.



[No. 4190.]

*Sir James Jay Illustrates to Governor Clinton a Shining Instance of the Disadvantage of Indulging in Financial Transactions with the Government.*

Poughkeepsie, Decemr 4. 1781.

Sir, Agreeably to your Excellency's desire, I shall give you an Account of the Debt due to me from the Continent:

In July 1778, soon after my landing in Boston from France, I was going to lay out 20,000 Continental dollars in purchasing Loan Office Certificates which bore interest payable in France; and which were then circulating at par without counting the interest due upon them. The Clothier General in Boston knew that I was going to Philadelphia to deliver certain papers I had received in France for Congress. He assured me that I could get such Certificates in Philadelphia and requested as his department was in great want of cash, that I would advance him the money and take his Bill on the Clothier General in Philadelphia. To serve the Public, I complied with his desire: advanced him 20,000 dollars, and took his bill for that sum on Mr. Mease, Clothier General in Philadelphia. The Bill was drawn payable 5 days after sight, which the Clothier General told me was done merely as a precaution in case of losing or being robbed of the Bill, but that nevertheless it would be paid at sight. On my arrival in Philadelphia, Mr. Mease was not in cash to pay the bill. It was necessary to apply to Congress on the subject. A misunderstanding subsisted between that Honble Body & him. It was not till about a fortnight after the money ought to have been paid, that a warrant issued for the payment of it? In the mean while I could not hear of any such certificates as I wanted, being to be had in Philadelphia. As the delay that happened respecting the payment of the Bill, extended to a Period when

other Engagements which I had made took place, it deprived me of both time and opportunity to dispose of the money as I otherwise would have done; and induced me to leave it in the Treasury, and to deposit the Warrant with the Loan Officer in Philadelphia, in case I should afterwards think it proper to take out Certificates at that office. The Warrant remained in that Gentleman's custody till October 1779. It was then taken up and the nominal sum soon afterwards received upon it at the Treasury. As I have not my papers by me, & do not recollect the precise times of these transactions, I cannot specify the dates; nor is it indeed material in regard to the Equity of my Claim.

It has been supposed by some gentlemen who were strangers to me, that in advancing my money to the public in the manner above mentioned, I was acuated not by a desire of promoting the public service, but by the view of transferring my property from Boston to Philadelphia with ease and safety. How ill founded such a supposition is, will be immediately evident to you, Sir, who know that as Fishkill was the residence of my family, and I should probably reside there myself; and as it is situated about half way between Boston & Philadelphia, it must have been the same thing to me whether I carried my money from Boston to Fishkill or from Philadelphia to Fishkill.

It has also been said that after I got the warrant it was owing to my own negligence that I did not receive the money; and that, therefore, I ought to lose by the depreciation. I can assure your Excellency upon my honour, that the delay respecting the payment of the Bill prevented me from receiving the money at the time, and induced me to leave it in the Treasury, & to deposit the Warrant with the Loan Officer, as I mentioned before. And in regard to what happened subsequent to that period, Your

Excellency will know that in the Autumn Session of the Legislature I was chosen into the Senate, that I regularly attended that Session; that in the Recess of the Legislature I was employed by Authority in making Enquiries into the introduction of goods & merchandize from the Enemy, Abuses in the Commissary & Quarter Master Departments, and Infractions of the Embargo Laws. You may likewise recollect, Sir, that I attended in the Legislature the Spring following. From these circumstances you will be able to judge whether my application to public business, to say nothing of family concerns admitted of my going to Philadelphia till the summer 1779. I need not remind you that I had been but a short time there, before the operations of the enemy at Stony & Verplanc's points hurried me back with the greatest expedition, when I had the honour to join you at the Militia Camp in the Highlands. I recall these circumstances to your mind, Sir, merely to show how ill founded the Assertion which I have mentioned is, not to derive any benefit from refuting it. I most candidly acknowledge that I never had an Idea that in a Case so clearly & favorably circumstanced as mine was, the Public would pay less than it had actually received.

I must further observe to your Excellency, that when I advanced the money in Boston, the Exchange there between Continental & specie was 3 for 1; and of course the 20,000 paper dollars were equal to 6666 $\frac{2}{3}$  silver ones. On the road from thence to Philadelphia I met with but a single instance where the exchange was higher. When I received the 20,000 dollars in Philadelphia in 1779, the Exchange there was from 25 to 30 for 1. Your Excellency will readily believe that I was not insensible at the time, that according to the lowest exchange at only 25 for 1, the 20,000 dollars I received were worth but 800 in

specie. I am persuaded that the uniform tenor of my conduct will induce you to believe me, when I assure you that confidence in the public faith, which had then been lately renewed in the most solemn terms, a hearty desire to cooperate in the intended appreciation, and a full conviction of the justice of Congress in case the appreciation should not succeed, hindered me from taking notice, at the time, of the difference in the real value.

To elucidate the subject, I shall state an Account in general terms, between the Public and myself. Considering that the Money's being left in the Public Treasury, was owing to the Public, not to me, that that circumstance operated to my disadvantage, not in my favour; and that the Public had the Benefit of it as much as if it had been received on Loan; it seems not unreasonable that I should be allowed interest from the time it was advanced to the Clothier in Boston. On this principle, the Plan of the Account will be as follows; the Dates being only ascertained, and the Calculations made accordingly. To take it in a gross way:

1778

|                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| July 16 To 20,000 dollars at 3 for 1 | 6666 $\frac{2}{3}$ specie |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| To interest on Do. at 6 pr ct. from |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 16 July 1778 to Octobr. 16, 1779 |  |
|----------------------------------|--|

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| being 15 months | 500 |
|-----------------|-----|

1779

7166  $\frac{2}{3}$ 

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Octbr. 16 By Cash received on the above | 800 |
|---|-----|

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|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Balance remaining | 6366 |
|-------------------|------|

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1781

Octr. 16 To interest on 6366 Dollars, the  
above balance, from Octr. 16,  
1779 to Octr. 16, 1781, being two  
years, at 6 pr ct.

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763

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7129

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I remain, Sir, with great respect, Your  
Excellency's Most Obt. & humble Servt.  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4191.]

*A Statement of Governor Clinton's Financial Transactions with the State.*

Dr. His Excellency, George Clinton, Esqr. in Account Current with State of New York Cr.

|              |    |   |        |               |  |        |    |   |
|--------------|----|---|--------|---------------|--|--------|----|---|
| 1777 August  | 16 | To cash on Accont. of Contingencies             | \$ 200 | 1779 April 19 | By Amount of your Accont. of Contingencies   | \$2404 | 10 | 6 |
| 1778 May     | 18 | To ditto ditto                                  | 1000   | 1781 May 31   | By cash you paid Nathaniel Norton on Account of Bounty for 40 Men N. Em. 453 Dollars or 2183 N. Emission |        |    |   |
| 1779 January | 1  | To ditto on Accont. of Salary                   | 2000   |               | By ditto you paid William Colbreath on Accont. of Bounty 3000 Dollars                                    | 1500   |    |   |
| March        | 28 | To ditto on Accont. of Contingencies            | 1304   |               |  |        |    |   |
| Septm.       | 5  | To ditto on Accont. of Contingency              | 1000   |               |  |        |    |   |
| 1780 July    | 10 | To ditto Balance of an Accont. of Contingencies | 2314   |               |  |        |    |   |
| September    | 23 | To ditto on Account of Salary                   | 2000   |               |  |        |    |   |

The following Sums pd. have not been entered for the want of proper Vouchers.

|           |    |   |  |        |    |       |   |
|-----------|----|---|--|--------|----|-------|---|
| 1779 July | 26 | To cash paid Conradt Elmendorp Amot. of an Order for so much Advanced by Jacob Cuyler Esqr. to Stephen Lush Esqr. for furnishing with provisions the distressed Inhabitants on our Western side |  | 153    | 15 | 10    | Granted by Act. & has no connection with the Govrs Acct.  |
| August    | 28 | To ditto pd. Levi Pauling for same purpose  |  | 37,300 |    |       | Charged in Act. to the Govr. for Conting Expenses Part of \$170 for repairing the Govr. House allowed by Act. |
| October   | 11 | To ditto pd. Abraham Yates postage  |  | 236    | 16 | N. E. | Charged to the Govr. Acct for salary  |
| November  | 1  | To ditto pd. Stephen Lush to purchase Bricks  |  | 294    |    |       | Contingencies the Govr. having advanced that sum. Contingency   |
| April     | 26 | To ditto pd. Philip V. Rensselaer   |  |        |    |       |   |
| May       | 31 | To ditto pd. ditto N. Emission 957 Dollars or Expenses, (a Receipt for this I have taken in your name to be filed with your Accounts, as it does not properly come in mine.)                    |  |        |    |       |   |
| June      | 21 | To ditto paid by Mr. Sands for a Chest with Drawers & Chairs.   |  |        |    |       |   |
| July      | 18 | To ditto sent by George Taylor N. Emis \$500.   |  |        |    |       |   |

Memo. Your Excellency will be pleased to observe that I have set right the Monies you paid to the recruiting Offices, as thus. The 453 Dollars New Emission you paid to Capt. Norton is Credited above The 2000 Old Continental Dollars pd Lt Colbreath is also Credited above. The 3000 Old Continental Dollars pd to Capt. Norton for his recruiting Expenses does not properly come in my Account, I therefore heretofore return the Receipt

Albany 5th December 1781.

Gerard Bancker, Treasurer.

[No. 4192.]

*A Request for an Indigent Family to Pass to Long Island.*

Sir, The Family of Ebenezer Ryder who went from this Precinct to the Enemy some years ago, yet Remains with us, a Report having prevailed for some time past that the said Ryder was not Living, and the peculiar Helpless state the family has occasioned a Reluctance in the minds of authority Touching the measures prescribed by a Late act of the State. Ryder it seems is yet Living, has been over in a flag boat to Standford and applied to General Waterbury for permission for his Wife and Family to Cross the Sound to Long Island from Standford: the Genl. Refuses to permit them, unless your Excellency's Consent is obtained, in which Case has no objection; has advised Ryder to apply therefor; we think it Duty to inform your Excellency that the Removal of the Family would be approv'd of by the Good people of the precinct as a measure tending to public good; the woman a Weekly person, has six Children, viz; 4 Sons & 2 Daughters; her Eldest Child is a Son between 15 and 16 years of age has for several years been Incapable of earning his Bread, by Reason of a fever Sore, which bids fair to Render him Incapable of supporting himself thro Life; his State is such at present that no person here would engage for his maintenance for his Labour, after this Representation of the Case your Excellency's Pleasure Touching the matter will be fully satisfying to your most obedient and very Humb'l Servt.

Wm. Mott, Just. peace,  
Joseph Crane

South East Precinct 5th Decr. 1781.  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4193.]

*Thomas Moffat Informs Governor Clinton That Mr. Wright Can Procure Supplies for the Army.*

Blooming Grove, 5 Decem., 1781.

Sir, The bearer Mr. Obadiah Wright, informs me that he has it in his power to procure a very considerable quantity of Woolling Cloths, Linnens &c suitable for our Army, and will dispose of them for that purpose, if he can obtain your Excellencies permission to bring them off Long Island.

Mr. Wright will inform your Excellency of the conditions upon which he will Supply the publick with those Articles which will enable you to Judge of the propriety of the measure.

I am with the most profound respect, Your Excellencies most Obedient & very Huml. Servant  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4194.]

*Governor Clinton Writes to Isaac Roosevelt Regarding Mr. Wright's Proposition to Secure Supplies and Specie.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 5th, 1781.

Sir, Since my last by Messrs Greenell & McFarren I am informed that the state of Connecticut have called in all their Permission for bringing any Thing from Long Island under any Pretence whatever so that this Business as far as it respects or depends on that State is at an end. The bearer, however, Mr. Obadiah Wright informs me he can bring off, without passing thro Connecticut, Merchandize & Specie to a considerable amount, for which no money is to be sent over in return & among which will be articles suitable for public use if he could obtain a Permission. He is willing to enter into a contract, which if effected I think it may be beneficial to the state; but as I am unauthorized, I have directed him to you for the Purpose. If you should come to any Agreem't. with him, whatever Passport from me you shall think necessary, will, on a line from you, be immediately made out. I am &c.

Isaac Roosevelt Esqr.

P. S. Should not the Goods or Money be at Mr. Wright's Risque until delivered to some Person appointed by you to receive them?

[No. 4195.]

*Governor Clinton to Major McKinstry and the Proposition to Recruit Under the State Land Bounty Law.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 5th, 1781.

Sir, I am favored with your letters of the 30th ult. & 3d Instant by Lieut. Moore, and am extremely sorry that the success



attending the exertions of the gentlemen to recruit a Regt. appointed under you on Bounties of unappropriated Lands is not in season to intitle them to the Encouragement held out by the Law for that Purpose, which on referring to their Warrants they will find limited the time for compleating those Corps to the 1st Day of Augt, at which Period the Recruits that were engaged & mustered appeared to be less than two thirds of the Number necessary to compose the Regts; it became my Duty to arrange & form them into an Independent Corps without the least authority in me to continue the Recruiting Service. At the meeting of the Legislature, which was not till sometime in October, tho' it appeared by the Muster Master's return that not more than 60 Men were inlisted for both Regts, I nevertheless, principally moved by the Encouragement given me by yourself and Major Throop, recommended a Revision of the Law that the Time for compleating the Corps might be prolonged & additional Encouragement of a small pecuniary Bounty granted. The Legislature, however, did not it seems think proper to adopt the Measure & as they have provided in a different way for the Defence of the State I have but little hopes that they will reasume this Business at a future Meeting. From your Character of Mr. Moore, I wish to serve him; and he may rest assured if he has recruited such Proportion of the Men engaged before the first of August as to intitle him to a Preference (as from the Returns transmitted by you I believe to be the case), I will chearfully consent to his Appointment to a Lieutenancy, tho this cannot be done until the next Meeting of the Council. The State is not possessed of an Article of Cloathing which I have the right to dispose of. Congress engaged to pay, Cloath & subsist these Corps and tho

it is uncertain whether it is at present in their Power to supply them, yet a Proper Return & Application ought to be made to the commanding officer of the Department for that Purpose.

I am &c

Major McKinstry.

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[No. 4196.]

*Mutiny in General Gansevoort's Brigade—Colonel Van Rensselaer Taken Prisoner by Some of His Own Men in Sympathy with Vermont—Prompt Measures Applied by the Brigade Commander.*

Albany, 6th Decem'r., 1781.

Sir, On the 5th Instant I received a Letter from Lt. Col. John Van Rensselaer of which the inclosed is a copy, in consequence whereof I instantly dispatched orders to Colonels Yates & Henry Van Rensselaer to march their Regts. to the relief of Lt. Colonel Van Rensselaer and for quelling the Insurrection mentioned in his Letter. Copies of the orders I also do myself the Honor of inclosing.

This morning two oclock, Mr. Rouse called upon me; he left Lt. Col. John Van Rensselaer at 7 yesterday evening and is sent by him expressly for the purpose of requesting farther assistance, as it is impossible to say what consequences may result from the present disturbances and as I have not received from your Excellency any directions on this subject since the rising of the Legislature at their last Meeting, who I am informed have passed some resolution respecting the Controversey, I have thought proper to defer calling out any other part of my Brigade, untill I shall hear from your Excellency farther on this business. Mr. Rouse who goes express will deliver your Excel-

lency this Letter. To him I beg leave to refer you for particulars of his capture & proceedings of the Insurgents.

I am Sir, Your Excellency's very Hum Servt

Peter Gansevoort.

To His Excellency Governour Clinton.

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 LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN VAN RENSSELAER REPORTS THE  
 AFFAIR TO GENERAL GANSEVOORT.

St. Coick [Saint Croix]\* Decem. 4th 1781.

Dear General, These are a Short narative to inform you of the Deplorable Situation we are in & reduced to, caused by the operation & usurpation of Tirannical Ruffians who have disavowed alegiance to the State of New York, and say they are subjects to the State of Vermont; a few days ago I was taken prisoner by them with Col. Bratt, Mr. Fonda and other Gentlemen, who were carried to Bennington, treated in a most scandalous manner and abused when we ware carried to Bennington, where they expected aid & assistance; they were treated with contempt by the Authority of Vermont; we were treated by them like Gentlemen, were discharged and told we could go home about our Business. Yesterday Mr. Rouse of Tomhanick was taken by an armed force, was rescued on his way to this place by a number of faithfull true subjects to the State of New York. I have collected an armed force, but very inconsiderable, and mean to support our persons and property under the Authority of New York at the expence of my Life against all assalts and userpation—therefore, I beg leave to intreat you,

\*Mr. A. J. Weise, of Troy, N. Y., author of the "History of Rensselaer County" and "Troy's One Hundred Years," states: "the name Saint Croix was given by the invading French in their descents into the Hudson Valley and parts adjacent, to the tract of land at the confluence of the 'Walloomsac' and Hoosick rivers. The first named stream was often denominated the 'St. Colc' or 'Walloomscolc' river, and is found otherwise written 'Sancock,' 'St. Coych,' 'Sancoelck,' 'St. Holck,' 'Sancoix,' and 'Saintcoix.' Baum begins one of his letters: 'Sancoik, 14th August, 1777.'"—STATE HISTORIAN.

Sir, as a Dear friend Engaged in the same cause, to give me all the Assistance with the greatest dispatch possible, least I shall be reduced to the necessity of subjecting myself to a Superior force. I am, Dr Sir, with respect your very sincere friend, and very Hum Servt.

Jno. Van Rensselaer Lt. Colo.

Gen. Gansevoort.

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GENERAL GANSEVOORT'S ORDERS TO COLONEL HENRY VAN RENSSELAER AND TO COLONEL PETER YATES.

Albany, 5 Decr. 1781.

Sir, Upon Receipt hereof you will with all Dispatch march your Regiment to St. Coyck\* to the House of Lt. Colo. John Van Rensselaer and co-operate with Colo. Yates in quelling an Insurrection which has taken Place in his Regiment, the late Colo Van Woerts, and your own, dangerous to the Honor and authority of this State. You will be exceedingly cautious how you conduct yourself in this matter—the utmost circumspection is to be observed and should any of the Insurgents fall into your Hands before you reach that place, you will send them down to this Place, together with the Evidence you will be able to collect against them and from Time to Time report your Proceedings to me.

Colo. H. Van Rensselaer.

Sir, I am informed by Letter from Lt. Colo. John Van Rensselaer of your Regiment, that an Insurrection exists in Part of your Regiment, and the Regiment of Lt. Colo. Henry Van Rensselaer; you will, therefore, without Delay march as many of Your Regiment as you can collect at St. Coyck\* to the House of Lt. Colo. John Van Rensselaer, where you will be joined by Lt. Colo. Henry K. Van Rensselaer with his Regiment, and take

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\*See page 553.

such measures for quelling the Insurrection as shall appear necessary and expedient. I must recommend to you the greatest Precaution and Circumspection in the Matter and from Time to Time report your Proceedings to me.

Albany 5 Dec. 1781.

Colo. P. Yates.

[No. 4197.]

*Representative William Floyd to Governor Clinton Concerning the Action of Congress on New York's Resolutions in Regard to the Vermont Dispute.*

Philadelphia, December 6th, 1781.

Sir, Since writing to your Excellency two days ago I have been honoured with your Letter of the 24th of Nov'b'r. with Several others therewith enclosed, all which are Delivered.

The Concurrent Resolves of the Senate and Assembly Respecting the New Hampshire Grants has been Read, and I did my Endeavour to have them Entered on the Journals, but Could not Succeed in that; Gentlemen who were opposed to it urged, that it was unprecedented and very Improper to Enter on their Journals, Concurrent Resolves of any State, which had a direct tendency to Criminate Certain Resolutions of Congress. It Stands Entered on the Journal that they were Read and ordered to be Filed in the Secretarie's office.

The other Resolves with your Excellency's Letter Shewing the Distressed Circumstances of our State; I have got Committed to a Special Committee and as soon as the Determination of Congress is had thereon, I will do myself the pleasure to advise you thereof.

From Sir your Most Obedt. and very humble Servt.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4198.]

*Solomon Pendleton Depicts to Governor Clinton the Situation in Vermont and Submits a Scheme to Utilize British Prisoners.*

Albany, 7th Decr. 1781.

Sir, I returned last evening from the Frontiers of Vermont, where, every thing seems to be in the greatest confusion; every thing is said, and done, but what tends toward peace, and regularity. Your Exelency is undoubtedly acquainted, that all those Inhabitants that lives west of the twenty mile Line, and others without the bounds of their former Claim, are called by the Common people, Cattermounters; & those within, Vermounters. These two sets of people, are now at variance; and their enmity daily increases toward each other. The Cattermounters Compose a sort of an outrageous mob; and are supported only [by] the Gouvernor, Council, and a few hot-headed people in Vermont; but their supporters daily decrease in number and strength. I likewise find, that many of the people in, and about Bennington, and other parts of Vermont, are daily falling off from their new State; and would desert yet faster, if they were sure they should meet with pardon for their former conduct, from the State of New York. This change, is owing to the three following reasons: first, the inconsistant and troblesome conduct of the Cattermounters; who, so far overrun the bounds of political reason, that it makes them sick of their power. Secondly, the late secret negotiations with the Enemy by the Governor, Council, and a few more desining men, has disgusted those who have ever had a sincear regard for the freedom of the United States in General. And thirdly, their paper Currency, which they emited as a State, has answer'd them no better purpose, than to drain all the hard money out of their Treasury;

and in the roome of it, they have their paper Currency of no Credit. The hard money thus set on float, has gone to different States for Merchandise: so that they have now, as little hard Cash, in proportion to their wants, as the State of New York. To remedy this false step, they have laid a heavy Tax in specie; not only upon all the Inhabitants of Vermont, but likewise upon the Cattermounters, which three fourths of the people of Vermont reject, as belonging to their State. I have already observed to your Excegency, that the Cattermounters are supported only by the Governor, Council and a few others, who seem to be actuated by madness, or dispare. Circumstances thus considered, I am of oppinnion, that these people will, of themselves do the business for the State of New York. It only remains, for the State to act with spirit upon the one hand; and humanity and good policy upon the other. I understand there is an application gone to your Exeency, for a Military force, to quell some disturbances that are now existing, between those people that are true to the State of New York, and the Cattermounters, which are mixed one among another; but, I am of oppinnion that this method may better be postponed to a futer day. I hope your Exeency will pardon me, for giving my oppinnion so freely; while I beg leave to asure you, that it is not my design to ineroach upon your better Judgment. Inclosed I send your Exeency the Cobby of a Letter from Governor Chittenden to Mr. Henry Denker,\* in the Manner of Renslear Wyck I have been very exact in taking this Cobby: I have even placed the Lines as I found them.

I am informed by good authority, that there is several British Soldiers, latly Captur'd by Col. Willet, who are prejudiced in

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\*See document 4161, page 512.

favor of the freedom of this Country; and wish to be free from the British Army. I was likewise inform'd that there were several of these Prisoners, who wish'd to ingage as Servants to American Officers, or private Gentlemen. On my way from Poughkeepsie to Albany, I came to a resolution to take out one of these Prisoners from the City-goal, where they were confined; and keep him for a personal attendant, until I had prov'd his sincerity and fidelity: and when I had sufficiently attach'd him to my Interest, and bent his mind to my purpose, I intended to give him orders to desert me, in the night, and repair to such place as I should direct: there to remain in the service of such people as would best answer the purpose intended: when he had sufficiently gain'd their confidence, to receive their dispatches for the Enemy at New York, and bring them to me: When I had taken proper methods to open, and Copsy their Contents, I would Seal, and send them on to New York; with proper directions to return with the Enemies dispatches to me. I beg leave to propose to your Exelency, whether these people might not be made usefull Tools of, to the advantage, not only of this State, but of the United States in general.

Before my arrival at Albany, all the British Prisoners that were confin'd in this City, were sent down to West Point; and of course my design was frustrated. However, I further beg leave to propose whether the Plan would not still be good. Your Exelency will please to consider, that the man propos'd is a British Soldier, taken Prisoner by Col. Willet, belonging to the State of New York; that he is still a Prisoner; will desert from the said State; and from an Officer, that is well known to be an Enemy to their whole proceedings. These circumstances consider'd if the Soldier was true to his trust, it would be next



to impossible for these people to discover the fraud. As to the Soldier; suppose him to be national, and so far attach'd to his native Country, that he would not willingly act against it, yet, he would probably consider this as an internal dispute among ourselves; and that it did not Immediately affect him, or his nation: and that it would be his interest to make the most he could of it, to his own advantage. If your Exelency thinks these propositions worthy of notice, I beg you will write to Genl. Heath, to forward one of these Prisoners to me, or to Albany gaol; from whence I can receive him. There are among these Prisoners several Mechanics of different kinds. If one that is most attached to this country, should happen to be a Tayler, or a Shoe Maker, all the better; as he could introduce himself from house to house, among the first class of People, without the least mistrust. If your Exelency has anything to communicate to me, please to write by the Post, which will be both safe and Direct. I presume my Title, and pretentions to Rank in the Line, will screen me from Postege.

Upon the 4th Instant, in the Night, one James Yates, living upon the western boundaries of Pittstown, Murdered his Wife and four Children with an Ax; the eldest 6 years of age, and the youngest a sucking child. He likewise killed his two horses, his Cow, and his Dog, which was all the living creatures he had about his house. The murderer was the first that made the discovery; nor did he attempt to make his escape. He was brought into this City, this afternoon.

I remain, Sir, with all due respect, Your Excelencys most obedient, And very humble Servant,  
His Exelency Governor Clinton.

[No. 4199.]

*William Wills Explains to the Governor His Reasons for Leaving the State—The Governor's Reply.*

Philadelphia, Decemr. 7th, 1781.

Sir, The many singular instances of your Excellency's favours lays me under more Obligations than I fear I ever shall be able to requite. And tho, at present I may be deprived of Power, I am not of Will, nor I trust never shall, and I hope if Providence restores me again to my former situation in life that a great fulnesse of past favours may be deeply imprest on my mind. And on that account and on the Unanimity of the People in their choice for me, both Executive & Representative, wou'd be a great objection to me to leave the State. And I esteem our Form of Government better than any I have yet been Acquainted with, And I think the Council of Revision a good check at sometimes upon the precipitate Act of Both Houses. I'll Instance that of the Confiscation Bill. And I was straniously [strenuously] for selling, but when you gave your reason to the contrary, you fully convinc't me I was wrong, and from that time I made use of your objections for suspending the sale of the Principal Estates which had the desired affect: and I strove to convince the People as much as possible that your views was for their good; For as your Family Connections ware but few, there was the more Safety to be expected, for I allways was (& I hope ever shall be) opposed to 'Vest Men with much power, whose Influence might be dangerous, on Account of their numerous Relations, for I think that a designing Governor, with a Number of his Friends to answer his purpose might sap our Constitution and establish an Aristocracy in its place; but these little hints I shall submit to your Excellency's superior Wisdome.

I should have qualified and settled the Dispute in Tryon County agreeable to your desire, But the great confusion the People was in, prevented, and when I left that Octr. 1780, I expected to return in a Month, but hearing of the Conflagration of the remainder of the Settlements, I concluded my return would be of no advantage to the Inhabitants nor myself, as the Enemy destroyed my place and all the Crops. I purpose soon to Return, and if the Vacancy still remains I will Except it, if it is agreeable to you; I congratulate your Excellency on the late happy event, in the Capture of Earl Cornwallis and his Army, which I hope will be productive of Establishing the Independence of America and an Honourable and permanent Peace. I went to Virginia last Winter, and I was offered a Deputation to Survey at Kane Tucke [Kentucky] or any other of their Settlements at Ohio, and a Number of Gentlemen offered to purchase Warrants (as the Land Office was then open) and give me the 1-6 part of them and pay me for surveying; But I met with great opposition from Mrs. Wills, fearing I should fall into the hands of the Enemy (as I had often narrowly escaped) which prevented me from going; But I hope in a little time something in that way offer in our State.

There is nothing new here at present, But this City is crowded with People from Georgia, the Carolina's particularly Charles Town, and many from the State of New York and from all the Frontiers; which has occasioned Rent to rise to double to what they use to be, which I think is very ungenerous In the Freeholders of the City to Take the Advantage of the distressed Inhabitants of the other States. I should Esteem it as a great favour if your would Honour me with a few lines (as soon as Convenient,) Directed to the Care of the Honble Robert Morris,

Esqr., Philadelphia) Which will Much oblige Your Most Obedt.  
Humble Servant

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie 21st January 1782.

Sir, I have been duely favoured with your Letter of the 7th Ultimo and thank you for this Mark of Attention. I trust it is unnecessary to assure you how much I regret the Calamities & Wanton destruction of Property which occasioned your leaving the State, or that I receive particular satisfaction in the Attachment you express & the assurances you give of your intention to return.

No change has taken place in the different Offices to which you was appointed & it will give me great pleasure to see you in the Execution of them when the Ravages of War shall so far cease as that you may be able with safety to return to your former Residence.

I am Sir, with great Regard & Esteem, Your Most Obedt. Servt.  
William Wills, Esq.

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[No. 4200.]

*Governor Clinton Notifies Governor Livingston He Has Granted a Passport to Sir James Jay to Assist Him in Repairing His Impaired Fortune.*

Pokeepsie, 7th Decr: 1781.

Dear Sir, The heavy losses which the Bearer, Sir James Jay, has sustained in the Course of the War by his Attachment to the Cause of his Country and an implicit Confidence in public Credit, have reduced him to the disagreeable necessity of endeavoring to raise a sum to supply his present wants on the Credit of his Lands, & he intends to repair to your State where

he has better Prospects of effecting it than in this. Should he be unsuccessful, his next Resource is to attempt drawing a Sum of specie from within the Enemy's Lines and from a Desire of serving him and because I have always considered the acquiring of specie from that Source when it can be done unconnected with Traffic as a real Advantage to the Country, I have granted him my Passport for any Sum which may be forwarded to him from New York or Long Island, trusting that should it be necessary, it will receive your Excellency's Sanction.

I take this Opportunity (tho a late one) to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Favours of the 23d July, 31st Augt. last and to thank you for the Transmission of the Counterfeit Bill of the Massachusetts New Emission & for the marks by which the Deception is discoverable.

I beg your Excellency to believe that I was influenced to interest myself in Mrs. Bancker's Favor by a Representation of her Character directly opposite to that which by your Excellency's Letter I am informed is her true one, and as it was not my intention to solicit an Indulgence for a Tory, I do not in the least regret the Fate of her Application.

I am with the highest Esteem & Respect &c.

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[No. 4201.]

*General Heath Asks the Governor's Assistance in Despatching Clothing to the Naked Troops.*

Head quarters, Highlands, December 7th, 1781.

Sir, A large quantity of clothing is on its way from Boston to Newburgh for the use of the army, in which the troops of all the States from New Hampshire to Pennsylvania are equally interested. For the ease of transportation, a large proportion

is sent to Claverack—unfortunately the river has frozen sooner than was expected. The naked situation of the troops forbids that a moment should be lost, and the clothing must be brought down by land. I pray your Excellency will give orders for such assistance of teams to be immediately furnished to the Deputy quarter master as will ensure the certain and speedy transportation of the goods to Newburgh.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect Your Excellency's Most Obedient Servant,  
Excellency Governor Clinton.

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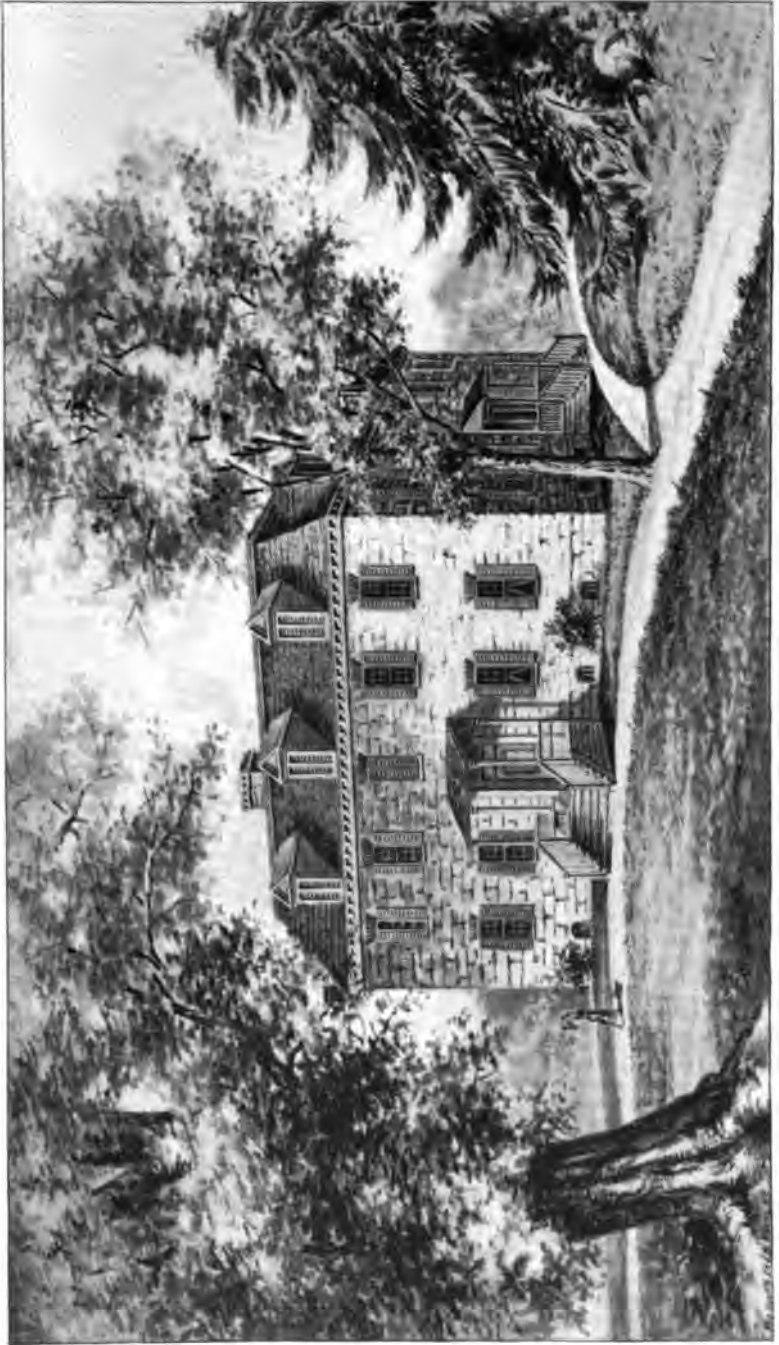
[No. 4202.]

*General Heath Reports to Governor Clinton a Scrimmage with De Lancey's Men—The Protection of Westchester County.*

Headquarters, Highlands, December 7, 1781.

Sir, I am this evening honor'd with yours of the 4th instant; and thank you for your opinion where it may be most eligible to station the troops destined for the Northern district; which I shall hint to General Stark. I had mentioned to the commander in chief the sending Hazen's regiment to the Northward; but he thinks that regiment has already had a large share of fatigue, and that the two New Hampshire regiments will be fully sufficient for the Northern frontiers during the winter. General Stark writes me he is informed by Colonel Willett that he has between eighty and one hundred men in his regiment engaged for three years. Are these designed to remain where they are, or, what are your intentions respecting this corps?

You may depend the protection of the inhabitants of Westchester county shall claim my attention, as far as is compatible with the other objects of my command. It is my intention to



THE VAN CORTLANDT HOUSE, NEAR KINGSBRIDGE.





keep a body of about 250 light troops on the lines, 150 on the upper side of Croton, patrolling from Hudson's river to Pine's bridge and downwards occasionally, and 100 near Bedford. These I think will be sufficient to render the lines tolerably Secure.

I am much in Sentiment with your Excellency respecting the prisoners taken in arms, and will treat them accordingly.

Captain Sackett was unfortunately taken prisoner the morning of the 2d near Harrison's purchase, being at a little distance from his men. The enemy, soon after, about 45 horse, attacked Lieutenant Mosher with about 26 men, who made a most gallant defence, and defeated the enemy. Lieutenant colonel Holmes of Delancy's corps and captain Kipp had their horses shot under them—Kipp wounded [it is] said, mortally—one man killed and six or seven wounded, without having a man killed or wounded on our part.

Captain Williams of the levies has lately lost near twenty of his men by desertion home. He has apprehended seven of them. One of the principal offenders he has sent up here, and wishes he may be tried by a general court martial. But by the regulations of the army, although the levies and militia in Service are to be tried by the same rules and articles as the Continental troops, the court that tries them is to be composed of officers of the same denomination; and our levies and militia having gone home, it will not be possible to constitute a proper court to try him. He must, therefore, be tried by a garrison or detachment court-martial, composed of the officers of the two companies, unless the laws of your State point out a remedy.

I have this evening received a letter from a lieutenant Solomon Pendleton, a gentlemen unknown to me. He represents

that he was eldest lieutenant in the 5th New York regiment commanded by colonel Dubois, that he was taken at fort Montgomery the 6th of October, 1777, and remained a prisoner until the 25th of last January, when he was duly exchanged, that during his captivity his character was injured by some groundless reports, in consequence of which he was deranged in the summer of 1778, but supposes himself restored by a resolution of Congress of the 24th of November, following—but that he declines doing any military duty until he convinces the public of the falsity of the reports which have been thrown out against him during his absence; and therefore requests a court of enquiry to investigate his conduct. Had he applied immediately upon his being exchanged, I should have thought his request ought to be granted. The length of time which has elapsed, raises some doubts in my mind. I wish to be informed, whether upon his being exchanged, he expressed his desire to return to the service, within the time mentioned in the resolve; and whether he is considered as standing eligible for a vacancy in the line of the State. I will thank you for an answer, and your opinion, as the whole is altogether novel to me.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect,  
Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4203.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath—A Proposition to Adjudicate the Westchester Forage Cases.*

His Excellency, the Govr. will approve of the Proposition made by Major Genl. Heath for appointing three Persons (one to be elected by Genl. Heath, one by the State agent & the third

to be chosen by the two so elected) for ascertaining the quantity of Forage consumed by the allied Army in Westchester County last Campaign on the following conditions, viz: first. It shall appear that the ordinary Certificates were withheld from the Proprietors of forage by the public officer, either because he did not conceive himself justifiable in granting them or for any other cause; that in such case the expence attend'g this Business shall be borne by the Public & the returns from the diff't. departm'ts of horses & cattle belonging to or for the use of the said Army, shall not be considered as conclusive evidence for ascertain'g the quantity of Forage consumed as afores'd, but such other circumstantial or presumptive evidence as the Parties may be able to offer shall also be rec'd. & have its due weight.

2dly. That in estimating the quantity of Pasturage, it shall be reduced to Hay accord'g to the ordinary Proportion having a due regard to its quality.

3dly. That as nearly as Circumstances will in the pres't case permit, the rules which have been ordinarily pursued by the public officers within this State for adjust'g Forage Accounts, where the quantity could not be ascertained with Precision, shall be adhered to in the pres't Instance.

Dec'r 8th, 1781.

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[No. 4204.]

*Governor Clinton Requests the Delegates in Congress to Secure Justice for Colonel Van Schaick Unless He Was Superseded for Misconduct.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 8th, 1781.

Gents. Agreeable to the concurrent Resolution of the Senate & Assembly of the 30th Oct. & 1st of Novr. last, a Copy whereof

I do myself the honor to enclose, I have to instruct you to inquire into the Reasons why Coll. Van Schaick was superceded in office and that should it appear on such enquiry to have been for misconduct, you inform me thereof, but if otherwise that you earnestly request Congress to do justice to his military Rank & Character.

I am &c &c

The honble. the Delegates of the State of New York in Congress.

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[No. 4205.]

*Captain Job Wright Asks the Governor for Information Concerning Future Service—The Matter of Lieutenant Grant.*

Ballston, 8th Decem'r, 1781.

To his Excellency Geo. Clinton Esqr. Govenor of the State of New York &c &c.

Dr. Sir, I am Informed that the late Session has done nothing with Respect to giving any further Encoragements to the officers that have Engaged in the three Years service, and as there is no probability of any further Encouragement in Recruiting, am very Solicitious that myself with Lieutenants More and Hubbell may be Considered and Receive some compensation for our time and trouble, and if we are to be continued that we may be commissioned, as we are the only officers that has been out with the three Years Troops. Agreeable to your Order I have the command of what men has been Raised in both Regiments. I suppose by the time that this reaches your hands, that Colo. Willet will be with your Excellency and should be very happy to know what will be the Result; if the Regiment is to go on, I should be very glad to know, or whether they are to be Incor-

porated into a Company as there is a Sufficient number already in service for a full Company.

I am Informed that there is a Petition gone to your Excellency for the Redemption of Lieut. Grant who was confined for holding a Correspondance with the Enemy; am very anxious to know the names of the Petitioners; if your Excellency will please to favour me with them, I will assign you the Reasons another day.

I am Your Excellencys most obedient Humble servant.

To Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4206.]

*General Stark Orders Colonel Yates to Stand on the Defensive and Not to Begin Hostilities with the Vermonters.*

(Copy)

Saratoga, 8th Decem'r, 1781.

Sir, Recd. yours of this day—The Insurrection you mention must be the result of folly & madness you will be very cautious not to begin hostilities with them but stand your Ground and Act defensively till reinforced. Gen'l's. Gansevoort and V. Rensselaer are raising their Brigades with the utmost dispatch for your Assistance. I am ready to march the whole Garrison when occasion may require of which you will please to give me the earliest intelligen(c)e.

I am with respect Your Hum. Servt.

To Col. Yates.

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[No. 4207.]

*Governor Clinton Commends Colonel Willett and Submits Directions Looking to the Protection of the Mohawk Frontier.*

Pokeepsie, 9th December, 1781.

Sir, The Legislature having at their late Meeting authorized the drawing out from the Militia into actual Service a Number

not to exceed 1500 Men for the further Defence of the State, I shall be happy in the continuation of your Services in the Command of one of the Corps to be formed from such Levies and the more especially as it will probably be stationed in the District of your present Command, where I have the pleasure to observe your past Conduct has afforded the most perfect satisfaction. The two New Hampshire Regiments now at the Northward are to garrison during the Winter season the Posts in that Quarter and those now occupied by your Regt. on the Mohawk River; it may, therefore, not be necessary to carry the above Provision into Execution before the Opening of the Spring, but it is essential in the Meantime that every Preparatory arrangement be made so that the Levies may be embodied & ready to take the Field the moment the Frontier settlements become accessible to the Enemy and the more especially as at that Period it is probable the Regular Regiments may be withdrawn. It is, therefore, my Desire as soon as you are disengaged from your Present Command, you prepare & report to me a list of such Officers as you can recommend & are willing to serve in the proposed Regt. having regard in the Command you would wish to have conferred on them to their former rank and services. And as in the course of the winter, Emergencies may exist which may call for the aid of the Militia to repel the Enemy, it is of importance that an Officer Acquainted with the frontier country of Military Experience should be ready to take charge of such detachments as may from time be called into actual service; for this purpose it is, therefore, my Desire that you perform this service as far as it respects Tryon County, and in the same time Desire that you call upon the Commanding officers of Regiments in that County for Returns of their respective Regiments & transmit the same to

me with such Information as you may (be) able to collect respecting them as may lead to Arrangements which will render them more serviceable. The Advantages of Snow Shoes in case of Incursions of the Enemy in the Winter season is so obvious that I have only to express my earnest Desire that a small supply of them be procured if possible without creating an Expence which we have not in our Power to discharge. By the returns made me by the Person appointed to muster the Recruits on Bounties of unappropriated lands, it appears that a number nearly sufficient to form a Company were engaged & mustered within the time limited by law for that Purpose, and put under the command of Capt. Job Wright. This Company you will Please to assign to such Post as you may conceive will conduce most to the public service; appointing such one (or two if necessary) of the Subalterns as shall appear to have enlisted the greatest number of men, to do duty as such therein. By the Representation of the officers of these Corps, I am informed that a number of men have been enlisted since the time limited by law, under an idea that the Legislature at their late meeting had prolonged the time. With Respect to these I am unauthorised to give any orders, but if they will voluntarily consent to continue under their pres't. engagem't. until the sense of the Legislature can be taken respecting them at their next meeting, there can be no objection ag't. it, otherwise they are discharged, of course, as the officer's authority for enlisting, had ceased.

I am Sir &c  
Colo. Willet.

[No. 4208.]

*The Several States Called Upon to Fill Their Quotas by the 1st of March, 1782.*

By the United States in Congress Assembled.

December 10th, 1781.

Resolved, That the legislature of each State raise, at the expence thereof in the first instance to be reimbursed by the United States, so many men as may be necessary to compleat the quota assigned to such State, out of the number of land forces agreed upon in the resolution of the third and twenty first days of October 1780 calculating the deficiency upon the number of men whose time of service will expire on or before the first day of March 1782.

Resolved, That the legislature of each State be called upon in the most pressing manner to cause the quota thereof of land forces to be compleated and in the field by the first day of March next and to provide for replacing those men whose time of service shall expire between the said first day of March 1782 and the last day of November in the said year.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislature of each State to fill up the quota thereof of land forces by enlistments for three years or during the War.

Resolved, That such States as now have any Non commissioned officers or privates in any of the regiments of Cavalry, legionary corps, Artillery or Hazen's regiment be credited in their quotas for such men according to the numbers from time to time; for which purpose the Commander in Chief is hereby directed to specify such Non commissioned Officers and privates to the States to which they formerly belonged in the returns which he shall make to the States and, in his annual return to Congress.

Resolved, That the Commander in Chief cause returns to be made as speedily as possible to the legislature of each State as well of the number of men whose time of service expire before the first day of March 1782 as of those whose time of service will expire on or before the last day of November in the year aforesaid.

Extract from the Minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Secy

[No. 4209-10.]

*Petitions for Pardon of Thomas Wood.*

Omitted.

[No. 4211.]

*Governor Clinton Turns the Matter of the Insurrection in Gansevoort's Brigade Over to the Civil Authorities.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 11th, 1781.

Sir, By a Letter from Brig'r. Gen'l. Gansevoort of the 6th Inst. transmitted by Express, I am informed that a dangerous Insurrection has taken place within his Brigade; and that conformable to the Law for regulating the Militia, he has detached part of his Brigade to quell the Insurgents; altho' I approve of his Conduct in this Instance, yet it is my earnest wish as far as



may be consistent with my Duty & the immediate Safety of the State, that Offences of this kind, should be referred to the cognizance of the civil Authority, I have, therefore, requested the bearer, Mr. Rous, one of the Persons who was captured by the Insurgents & who has a knowledge of their Proceedings, to wait on you, that you may take his Examination on the subject; I have only to add that should you conceive it proper to issue Warrants agt. them, that I will cheerfully afford the officers to whom they shall be directed, every Assistance in the execution of them which may be required and consistent with my Duty to grant.

I have the honor to be &c &c  
The honble Mr. Justice Yates.

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[No. 4212.]

*Act of Congress Requesting the States to Take a Census.*

By the United States in Congress Assembled

December 11th, 1781.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures of the several States to cause to be taken and transmitted to Congress as soon as practicable the number of the white Inhabitants thereof pursuant to the ninth article of the Confederation.

Extract from the minutes

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

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[No. 4213.]

*Governor Clinton Requests General Robert Van Rensselaer to Co-operate with General Gansevoort.*

Poughkeepsie Decr. 11th, 1781.

Sir, I enclose you the Copy of a Letter from Lieut. Colo. Rensselaer to Genl. Gansevoort & of one from him to me, by

which you will observe that a dangerous Insurrection has taken Place in his Brigade. I have, therefore, to request that you will on his application afford him such aid from your Brigade as shall be necessary for quelling the Insurrection & apprehending the Offenders. I am &c &c  
 Brigr. Genl. Rensselaer.

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[No. 4214.]

*Colonel Pawling Recommends the Levies be Discharged for Want of Provisions.*

Marbletown, December 11th, 1781.

Dr Sir, As the Want of Provision at the different Posts is very great, and the Season of the Year so far advanced as will in my Opinion remove all Danger from our Frontiers this Campaign, I take the freedom to signify my Wish and that of the Inhabitants also, to have your Excellency's immediate Orders to have this Part of the Regt. along those Frontiers mustered & discharged. Judge Wynkoop who has been called upon for Cattle, says he cannot furnish us with any. Mr. Wood, Asst. State Agent for Orange County, makes the same Answer, as will appear by the inclosed; and all we have on hand does not exceed two or three Head. Shoud your Excellency agree to grant my Requests I wish that Major Bunschoten who is appointed to muster the Regt. be immediately sent over to execute the Business. I am, Dr Sir, with Esteem Your most Obedt. Humbl. Sert.  
 Governor Clinton.

[No. 4215.]

*Captain Sackett's Plea for Permission for Silvanus Pine's Son to Cross to Long Island.*

Dear Sir, With this conveyance you will Receive Mr. Silvanus Pine's Son, I am Exceeding Sorrow, and it Gives me Pain to Trouble you, but from Principles of humanity am compeled to Remind you, that Mr. Pine has been a very great Sufferer for want of a permicion to go on to Long Island to Take proper care of an Estate that his uncle Left him, who died the fall after the Enemy took possession of Long Island; if you should fail in giving your Permicion it may be the means of his Loosing an Estate, which is worth as I am informed at Least Eight or Ten Thousand Pounds; he is Determined not to go over the Lines without your Permicion, tho' some designing persons have Taken pains to stain his Character as an Enemy to his country, I coud wish that one half of our whigs, was as serious in the defence of the Country as he is; your answer by the Barer will Greatly oblige, Dear Sir, your Sincear and Real friend & most Obediant humble. servt.

Nathl Sackett,

Camp Cont. Line Dec. 11th, 1781.

His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr.

[No. 4216.]

*Affidavit of Bezalial Phelps Showing Sundry Designs against Colonel Yates.*

Parsonally appeard Bezalial Phelps, who being sworne saith that he has Bin admitted into the Counsel from time to time, held one time by Ginral Safford, Collo Moses Robison & others from Bennington, in Company with and att other times held by John Abbit, Joel Abbit, one Fairbanks & others, which Result was as followeth: that they woold Disparce the party now under the Command of Collo Yates, By taking the Lives or making prisoners of Collo Yates, Collo Van Rensior, Daniel Bratt, Capt. Thomas Brown, if not d'spersed before they could git att them; also informs that he has seen writ Executed for the purpose of apprehending the gentlemen last mentioned, in order to secure them untill the Vermont Laws be in force, as also to Recover from

them all costs & Damages of the party Now under arms, & that they shew themselves forward to Come to Tairms with Collo Yates in order to gitt an advantage to take them; also that they had agreed Last Wensday to fall on Collo Yates & party and put them to the Sworde and further saith not Sworne in Cambridge this 11 Decr. 12 att Night 1781 before me John Younglove Justis.

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[No. 4217.]

*Governor Clinton Notifies General Gansevoort He Approves of His Conduct During the Recent Insurrection and Forwards Him Advisory Information.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 11th, 1781.

Sr, Your letter of the 6th Instant with its enclosures was handed to me by Mr. Rous on Sunday last. The Legislature at their late meeting entered into certain Resolutions respecting the conduct & usurpations of the Inhabitants of the Grants & declarative of their sense on the proceedings of Congress with respect to that part of this State, but no measures were adopted which can influence your Conduct relative to the Insurrection which has lately taken place within the limits of your Brigade.

Your duty on this Occasion is so clearly pointed out by the Militia Law as to supercede the necessity of any particular order from me. I perfectly approve of your Conduct and have only to add that, should the force already detached prove insufficient to quell the Insurrection, you will make such addition to it as to render it effectual. I have transmitted to Genl. Rensselaer the information contained in Lieut. Colo. Rensselaer's Letter and have directed him, in case it should be necessary, on your application to give assistance from his Brigade.

Altho' it would appear from Colo. Rensselaer's Letter that the Insurgents were not countenanced by the authority of the usurped Govt. of Vermont, yet, lest you should be deceived by a false confidence in their Conduct, I think it my duty to apprise you that the Legislature of that pretended State, did on the

19th of October last by an Act which appears to be unanimous, reject the Resolution of Congress of the 20th of Augt. last respectg. the extension of their assumed jurisdiction "as destructive of their universal harmony & agreem't & a violation of the solemn Compact entered into by Articles of *Union & Confederation* & recommended to the authority in every Part of the State to remain firm in the support of Govt. & the faithful execution of the laws notwithstanding the various measures taken to create divisions & Discord among them."

I am &c &c.

Brigr. Genl. Gansevoort.

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[No. 4218.]

*Governor Clinton to General Heath in Regard to New Levies, Clothing, Courts Martial and Lieutenant Pendleton.*

Pokeepsie, 12th Dec'r, 1781.

Sir, I was favoured with yours of the 7th yesterday. Colo. Willet some time ago informed me that there were a considerable number of Men recruited for three years; but as they were chiefly from the Nine Months Levies their Cloathing were worn out & they could be of little Service unless supplied. I directed him to appoint a suitable number of Officers to take charge of them & to make such Disposition of them as in their situation should appear most conducive to the public service & promised him at the same time to write to you on the subject. I have as yet received no regular Return of them. I am sensible, however, that the corps are not nearly compleated; but it would be a public loss to discharge the few that are engaged, which, unless they can speedily be supplied with Cloathing, must be the Case. I would only observe that these troops being subject

to the order of the Com'r in Chief, Congress engaged to pay, Cloathe and subsist them & the State has not made any Provision for the Purpose.

The Laws of the State subject its Levies to the Articles of War of the Army of The United States, & enact that Court Martial for their Trial shall consist of Officers belonging to the Army of the United States, to the Militia of this State or to the Corps to which they belong, as the Person Administring the Government for the Time being shall order & direct, & agreeable thereto I have now the Honor to inclose you an order to justify the Trial of the deserters from Capt. Williams' Company, by a Court to be composed of Officers of your Army, who I presume can (not only) be most easily & expeditiously convened for the purpose but will be most likely to adjudge Punishment according to the Measure of the Offence.

Mr. Pendleton's Representation to you of his having been a Lieutenant in the 5th New York Regt. captured at Fort Montgomery & while a prisoner in the year 1778 deranged, is perfectly true, but whether his Derangement was in Consequence of Reports injurious to his Character or not, I am unable to determine, as the Business was conducted by the Field Officers of the Regt. & not reported to me 'til compleated nor does it appear material. On his Return from Captivity & within the time limited by the Resolution of Congress alluded to in his letter, he duly signified to me his Intentions of continuing in service, and I accordingly laid his application before the Council of Appointment at their then next meeting, and he of course stands a Candidate for the next Vacancy to which his Rank would entitle him, if the above Resolution of Congress is yet in force, so that an enquiry into his conduct may not be

improper. The Officers who were captured at the same time are best acquainted with him. I know nothing to his Disadvantage.

I am sorry for Capt. Sacket's misfortune but it is in some Measure compensated by the gall't Defence made by his Lieut. & the repulse of the Enemy.

I have the honor to be &c &c  
The honble. Major Genl. Heath.

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[No. 4219.]

*Colonel Peter Yates Reports to General Gansevoort the Situation with the Insurrectionists.*

St. Coick, 12th December, 1781.

Dear General, In your last you left me at Liberty to enter into any Agreement I thought best subject to his Exelency's Will. As nothing of that is likely to be done, they being filled with deseipt, as you will sea by the inclosed affidavet, & as by my orders I was sent hear for the purpose of Quelling the Insurrection, I Beg to have the troops forwarded with all spead as I am weak, only about 80 men, & the Insorrectors about 146; as to the People of the Grants I cannot from every information I can git, Belive that they will do any more then make a grate shoe & incorage the others on; as the Rioters are secured in a block hous, I beg you wold send me a field peace with some artelarymen, for we cannot think of lieveing, the ground untill the matter can be brought to a Decesion, or we shall all be taken amediately by the other party & be ableged to comply to their will.

General Starks has declared If occation shold Require, he wold march his whole camp. I make no dout, Sir, you have ordired out the most of your Bregad that you will take the command.

If not, Sir, I beg that some Perticular gentlemen wold come up amediately and assist in councel on perticular Circumstances, as the season of the year is troublesome. The men is very uneasy wanting either to fight them or go home. I expected some answers as to Provesion mentioned in my last, as to farther perticulars I refer you to the barers Messures Brat & V Rensselaer.

I am Sir Your very humble sarvent

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[No. 4220.]

*Captain Andrew Moodie Appeals to the Governor—Exposed to a Financial Loss Unless the Governor Assists Him.*

West point, 12th Decem'r, 1781.

Honourd sir, I have Enlisted a number of men in the service of the state for during the war, providing they be payd a Bounty; from one of the Classes as directed by law to fill up the three Continential Rigements raised by this state. I have Enlisted nin on the above conditions, that if they do not receive thir bounty before the first of Jany. 1782, or satisfactory security given, they are to be discharged from service. Their names viz Thomas Katting, Stephen Thacher, Isaac TerBush, Joseph Hanley, Conrot Hity, John Welch, Jonathon Ruff, James White, Zekel Lummos. They are all able bodied men & I beleve good soldiers & rely such men as I could always wish to enlist or compose the army.

Lt. Coll. Vanalstain from Kinderhook was here a few days ago & informs me that the Rigement where he resides have all their Classes Delinquent & he believes if that your Excllanency was to writt to the Colln. on the subject, that the Rigement would hire all the above men. He says that thier is a great many disaffected amongst every Class & that the Colln. can do nothing with them,



without your Excellencys Emediate directions for that purpose it would be injuris to the service, that those men already enlisted should be discharged & it will emmediately injure me, as I have Clothed them as soon as enlisted, & the nature of the service has been so severe this Campaign on the Mohake that their Clothes are almost & some altogether wore out; which I fear will be my loss should they be dismissed the service.

Induced by these considerations to beg your Excellancy advice and assistance.

Convinced that your Excellancy has nothing more at heart than the good of the Country and the cause we are Embarkd in, the many proofs of your Excellancys disposition not only to your own but to assist as far as consistant, others in the execution of every public Duty Emboldens me to Creave your Excellencys attention a few moments, Whill I ashure you that nothing but business of this nature could induce me to truble at a time, when your attention are doubtless calld by more important objects, and beg you will plas to pardon the intrution and have the honor to be your Excellancys very huml. servant  
His Excellany Governor Clinton

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[No. 4221.]

*Delegate William Floyd to the Governor on Sundry Trifling Affairs.*

Philadelphia, Decmbr. 15th, 1781.

Sir, Your Excellencys Letter of the 3 Instant by Judge Smith is Come to hand, and I have attended to its Contents. Mr. Milligan, the Controler of Accounts informs me that the Financier has Directed that all accounts of that Nature (as there is not money to pay them) should be Registered in the Books of the

Controler's office, if they have been properly Settled, Bearing Interest from the time they became Due.

Therefore, if the Account you mentioned, has been settled by Colo. Trumbull, who was appointed to settle all his Brothers accounts, his Certificate Ascertaining the Balance, and the time it became Due, will be Entered in the manner above mentioned and tho' this will not soon procure the money, Yet I think it Effectually Secures the Debt with Interest.

Colo. Trumbull is gone to Connecticut, where I expect he will spend most of the winter; if the Certificate which you have got, is not a proper one and your Excellency can take the Necessary steps for procuring one that is so, and if you will send it to me, I will see that the Entry is properly made.

I am in hopes to procure the powder mentioned in your former letter, and get some mode adopted for the Settlement of our Agents Accounts.

With the Greatest Regard and Esteem I am Sir, your Most obedt. and humble Servt  
His Excelency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4222.]

*Robert Benson to Colonel Van Alstyne Regarding the Delinquents in His Regiment.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 15th, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency the Gov'r. is informed that there are great Delinquencies in your Regt. in raising the proportion of Men for completing the cont'l. Battalions of this State, that they have neither furnished the men nor the money. Capt. Moody has lately enlisted in his Company of Artillery, a number of very good soldiers on Condition that he pay them the Bounty

before the first of Jany. and as the public Service absolutely requires that money should be immediately procured for this Purpose, His Excellency directs me to write to you on the subject & to require that you will forthwith on rec't of this, proceed to the Business & cause the money from all the delinquent Classes in yr. Regt. to be collected & paid accord'g to the directions of the Law in that case made & provided. Capt. Moody is willing to assign to each of the Classes of your Regts. who shall furnish him with money to pay the Bounty of one of the above men by him enlisted. I am &c &c

Robt. Benson.

Colo. Van Alstyne, Kinderhook.

Decr. 19, 1781.

Sir, Since writing you on the 15th His Excellency recd the enclosed Letter from Capt. Moody\* by two of the men who are willing to engage for any of the delinqt. Classes of your Regt. & who he has sent up for the purpose of agreeing with them. His Excellency directs me to send the Letter to you & to inform you that such of the Classes, as shall engage with any of these Men and produce Capt. Moody's Certificate thereof will have credit therefor as having procured their man as the men are a more desirable object than the Money. I am &c

R. B.

Colo. Van Alstyne

[No. 4223.]

*Governor Chittenden Notifies General Stark He Proposes to Convene the Vermont Legislature and Requests Him Not to Interpose with His Troops.*

Arlington, Decbr. 15th, 1781.

Dear Sir, I have consulted my Council on the perplexed Situation of this State, and have resolved to call the Legislature

\*See document 4220, page 580.

thereof to meet at Benington as soon as may be at which Time they will doubtless consult such Measures as may tend for the Peace and Tranquility of this and the United States.

In the Mean Time I earnestly request that you write to the Officers of N York that are daily making Depredations to the West to suspend any further Operations of that kind until the Assembly meet and that if they do not comply you will not interpose with your Troops. And I do assure you that, if they comply with said request, and liberate the prisoners they have taken, I will suspend the Exercise of Jurisdiction or Law over any Person or Persons who profess themselves Subjects of New York during that Time.

I am Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem, Your Most Obedt. and Most Humble Servant.

Honble Brigr. General Stark.

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[No. 4224.]

*Anonymous Communication to Governor Clinton Relating to Major Davies and Captain Greenwell, Prisoners with the British on Long Island.*

Decembr. 16th, 1781.

Sir, The Subject of this letter is of a singular nature and it is, therefore, requisite that the author's name be concealed. The relation of the situation of Major Davis & Capt. Greenwell, as Viewed by this Government, I consider as a matter of consequence; as reasons may not occur to *your Excellency* to obviate the accusation of their Captors, which place them in a criminal light. It is the opinion of Genl. Clynton, that Major Davis's commission and instructions from your Excellency was not legal and that his situation will authorise the most summery measures against him. As an Officer, he could not be executing any business only in his military capacity in forceing of it by a number of Men which he was imprudent enough to plead exemption from and that the Armed Galley was only there accidentally and not to facilitate the execution of his business. Your Viewing this part of the Island in any other light than as Britttish territory, and the Subjects thereof, any otherwise than as Britttish Subjects, is utterly inadmissable—as they have all sworn allegiance to be faithful—and of course any connections with them must be treasonable—on the footing that Nation's Contend—they further say the presumption is that as an officer, he was obtaining Intelligence, and that the mercantile concern was only held up to expedite his intentions—by covering appearances.

A representation of his conduct in this Quarter has been made, informing that his conduct has been uniformly friendly towards the Inhabitants and that he has resqued property out of the hands of the Plunderers—the reply was, that it was necessary to

observe that line of conduct—to compleat the purpose of his mission—it may be thought presumption to suggest a train of arguments for *your Excellency's* information on this occasion, yet I hope you'll pardon it from the motive.

Notwithstanding that the Subjects of this Island may be deemed British, yet in that part where these gentlemen were taken, there was neither a military nor a Civil Power to enforce any matter, or concern of Government—therefore it can not legally be deemed a situation that would authorise rigorous treatment against the subjects of any other power—this I think may be plead. They are confined in the Provost and no Person is allowed to speak to them. I think it would be proper to propose an exchange—and then the reasons will be deduced in Vindication of the treatment they receive.

I hope the haste I am under will excuse any defects as I have only had about half an hour to pen this representation. The Adj. Genl. has said that they Vewed their situation more serious than they expected Captivity would reduce them to. I am &c your

G H

I have not as yet received an answer to my former Letter, from Your Excellency—should esteem it particular favour to be honored with one. I stated fully to your Excellency my situation—and hope a favourable reply.

And til another opportunity Offers, I remain with every mark of Esteem your Excellency's Most Humble Servant

G H

His Excellency Govr. Clynton

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[No. 4225.]

*Colonel Abbott Notifies Colonel Van Rensselaer That Negotiations Are Broken Off.*

Sir, I have this Minute received orders from my Superior which Debars me from holding any further Treaty with you, therefore I shall not meet you at time and place appointed.

I shall not admit of three or four of your men's coming into my Camp to bring one Letter as they have done heretofore.

I am Sir, your humble Servant,

John Abbot, Colo.

Decr. 16th 1781.

Lt. Colo. Henry V Rensselaer.

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[No. 4226.]

*John Moylan, Clothier-General, Requests the Governor's Compliance with the Act of Congress Requiring State Clothing to be Turned Over to the Clothier-General.*

Newburg, 16th Decr. 1781.

Sir, I had the honor of Writing your Excellency the 2d Ulto. from Boston, since which you have been Informed that the

Board of War had given Directions to have all the clothing I had gone there in quest of, Deposited in this Store. It's with pleasure I now Inform you, that the greater part of it is Arrived, & that a general Distribution will shortly take place By the resolve I had the honor of transmitting you from this in my Letter of the 1st Octr, you will be pleased to observe, that all clothing purchased by the States on continental Account & Actually in the hands of the State Agents is to be Delivered over to me. I request from your Excellency such Measures in this case as will best Answer the Intention of Congress, & I have the honor to be with the greatest respect & Esteem,

Y'r Excellencys most Obedient Servant.

His Excellency the governor of the State of N York.

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[No. 4227.]

*Captain Thomas Machin Praises the Governor's Nephew—The Governor's Reply.*

Philadelphia, 16th December 1781.

Sir, The York Regiment of Artillery will Quarter at Burlington this Winter. I shall be much obliged to you if you will please to send an appointment for Mr. Tappen Down by the first Safe opportunity; if I continue with the Regiment this Winter I shall be frequently at Philadelphia and can get his Commition. Mr. Tappen is Doing Duty with my Company. I can asure you that he is well liked in the Regiment, and I make no Doubt will make a good officer; he behaved with great steadness in the Trenches at York. I have put him in the Return for Cloathing at York and he Drew twenty pounds worth of goods. Youl please give my Compliments to Mr. Tappen and informe him that I shall advance any sum of money that his son may want

that is within my power. Please give my Complement to Mrs. Clinton and family, and permit me to Remain your Excellencys Most Obt. Humble Servt.

His Excellency Govr Clinton

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**THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.**

Pokeepsie 13th Jany 1782.

Dear Sir, I was favoured with your Letter of the 16th Ultimo a few days ago. I am happy in the good opinion entertained of Mr. Tappen & particularly obliged to you for your Friendly Offers respecting him, which shall be communicated to his Father. The Warrants for the several Gentlemen lately appointed to your Regiment will be forwarded by the present conveyance to the Colonel as also Certificates of their Appointments to the War office.

I have nothing worth communicating. Mrs. Clinton begs you to accept the Compliments of the Season & believe me, Dr Sir, With great Regard, Your Most Obedt Servt.

P. S. I enclose you a Letter which I presume from the superscription to be from our Friend, Mr. Barnes.

Capt. Machin.

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[No. 4228.]

*Colonel Willett Writes to the Governor of His Rank and the Injustice of Military Promotion.*

Albany, 16th Decmr. 1781.

Sir, I have received your excellencies letter of the 9th Instant, and shall be carfull not to omit paying proper attention to the several matters contained in it. To comply with your Excellencie's wish in continuing in service will be as agreeable to me as it can possibly be to your excellency. But whilst I

reflect on my former and present situation, I become the subject of sensations of a very displeasing nature. Having very early received an appointment in the Continental army and by proper and regular gradation arrived to the command of a regiment, I felt myself rather unhappy when the army became new modeled at the close of the Campaign in the year 1780 to find that it became my lot to retire. The cause, however, of that arrangement being urged by arguments of economical import, and the finances of my Country requiring particular attention to this article, to find fault or to repine at a measure calculated to promote the common cause would be inconsistent with those principals of patriotism which have always bore sway in my breast. However, therefore, contrary to my secret wishes of continuing in the line Military (as long as there was a Brittain or a British Ally to fight against in the American States) it might be, I determined chearfully to put on the habiliments of a private Citizen and was Industriously employed in arranging my affairs for doing business as such, when I was previous to the opening of the last Campaign called upon to receive the command which I at present possess, and which agreeable to your excellencie's desire I am quite willing to continue in, if it can be done without Injustice to my former appointments and rank in the Continental army.

Your Excellency is well acquainted with the manner in which the reformed officers were obliged to retire from Actual service, and must know that when they retired their former rank ceased. It is not my Intention to enter into arguments concerning the propriety, conveniency or illconveniency of this mode. I remember well that one argument which was made use of at the time of its taking place, was, that if reformed officers were to have



their rank retained, and be entitled to promotion agreeable to their rank, it might happen that an officer who had spent several Campaigns at home entirely devoted to his private concerns, would step into a vacancy over the head of an officer who had encountered a large portion of fatigue and danger during the whole time in the field. This had the appearance of bearing hard upon the officers who were continued in Service, but this objection can by no means lay against me. Your Excellency well knows that four months had not elapsed from the time of my being obliged to retire from service untill I was again called upon, and engaged to accept of military Command on the frontiers of our State; a service that has been accompanied with a proportion of Toil and Hazard equal perhaps to any in the United States, and that the short time in which I had a recess from service was when the army was in winter quarters so that the argument which I have before mentioned can no way operate against me.

In this situation I beg leave to call your excellencie's attention to my case. On the 28th of June 1775 I received an appointment of second Captain in the First New York Continental regiment. When the army was new formed in the fall of 1776, I received without superceeding a single officer in the York line, (who was continued in service) an appointment of Lieutenant Colonel in the Third regiment, and by the resignation of the officer commanding the Fifth regiment on the 22nd of December 1779, the command of that regiment with the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, fell to me. In this command I continued untill the first of January 1781 when upon the army's being New Modeled, it fell to my Lott to retire. Four months had not elapsed before I was again called upon and have served a Cam-

paign accompanied with difficulties superiour to any that has fell to my share in any one Campaign during the war. I am happy in meeting with your Excellencie's approbation of my Conduct during the Campaign, and am not only willing, but desirous if my Country requires my service, to continue in my present Command, if this, as I have before observed, can be done consistent with my former appointments, and rank in the American Army.

Your Excellency cannot be unacquainted, that by the rules for the Government of the American Army, all officers of the same Denomination receiving Commissions from any particular State, are to take rank after officers who have Commissions from Congress, even tho' the commissions from the State should be of elder date than those from Congress. This being the case, your Excellency must at once see how disagreeable my situation is while I continue to serve under my présent appointment, liable every day to be commanded by officers who I have always been acustomed to command and who by no just rule ought on any account to Command me, and a submission to which in the Ordinary course of things would be degrading to the Military character. That this cannot be either just or right is I humbly conceive exceeding clear. And for this reason beg leave, to request your excellency's assistance in endeavouring to procure, for me from Congress, a Power to rank agreeable to my former appointment in the American Army.

Nothing, I do most sincerely assure your Excellency less than a full conviction of the Justice of this Measure could prompt me to ask your aid in this business.

I have the honor to be your Excellencies most obedient and very humble servant.

His Excellency Gouvernor Clinton.

[No. 4229.]

*Indications that the Conditions at Schaghticoke Are Uncertain and Warlike.*

## Advertisement.

Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants of the Town of Scorticook that they are forbid by all that Concerns Christianity and regular order that they Cease from all Seditious, factious Conduct.

And we command all the inhabitants of this said Scorticook, by the Authority invested in us by the Authority of the free men of Vermont, that they leave off their advising the people and trying to Disafect them, and spreading Evil Reports and Raising Sedition among the people of this Town, and that they act no farther in that nature, thus to Destroy the peace and comfort and entrest of the people, for they may expect to meet with trouble from said Authority, according to the law of said State made for the Defence of the Good people of said State. This by Order of the well wishers to all peace and good order.

Scorticook, Octr. ye 15th, 1781.

Edward Jewett, } Justices of  
Thomas Benedict, } the peace.

Memorandum on back of above letter:

A few days ago the friends to New York Appointed a meeting where we found this Advertisement stuck up; this was not all; the Vagabon Jewit had the Impudence to come with a party of Armed men & ordered us to disperse; we paid no regard but finished our Business.

I Expect we shall soon be at blowes.

S. Rowland.

[No. 4230.]

*Colonel Walbridge Submits Proposals to Colonel Van Rensselaer Regarding the Vermont Imbroglia.*

Mapletown, Decr. 17, 1781.

Sir, Inclosed are the Articles I wished to have sent for your Approbation, upon my first Arrival.

The Settlement of the present unhappy Dispute in an Honorable and peaceable manner, were the only Motives which induced me to offer the Articles as inclosed.

I am sorry to find by your sudden Departure, & by taking sundry persons with you as Prisoners, will rather widen the Breach, & prevent a Settlement upon such a Basis, as will tend to the Peace & safety of each Party.

For particulars I refer you to the Gentlemen, the Bearers of this.

I am Sir, your very Obt. Sert.

E. Walbridge, Colo. Comman't.

Coln. Henry Vn. Renssalaer.

PROPOSITIONS FROM COLONEL WALBRIDGE TO COLONEL VAN  
RENSSELAER.

Maple Town, 17th Decr., 1781.

Sir, Yours of this day to Genl. Safford has been duly considered, and as you are pleased to say, that you are not authorised to Treat with any but subjects to the State of New York. It is Imagined there is no such opposed to you. Those in opposition to the authority of N. York, now in Armes; Inhabitants of this Teritority Claimed by your State, who profess to own allegiance to Vermont, now propose for your consideration, and request your immediate answer, viz;

1st. That you Release all the prisoners which is in your Custody, belonging to the Claims in dispute.

2d. That You make good all Damages sustained by Individuals by the Troops under your Command.

3d. That all those Inhabitting said Teritory respectively professing to own allegiance to N. York & Vermont, shall rest Quiet and Unmolested in their persons and properties, until the dispute shall be finally Adjusted by Congress, or such other Tribunal as shall be mutually agreed on by the Contending Power.

I am Sir, Your most obt. Humb. servant.

E. Walbridge, Colo. Command't.

Col. Henry Van Rensselaer.

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[No. 4231.]

*Orders to the Justices of Rhinebeck, Claverack, Etc., to Assist in Forwarding Troops to the Frontier.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 17th, 1781.

Gentlemen, His Excellency the Govr. relying on the Zeal of the Justices & Inhabitants to assist in forwardg this Detachmt

of regular Troops, destined for the further Defence of the Northern & Western Frontiers, conceives it unnecessary to use the authority vested in him for the Purpose & therefore expects that the Justices at Rynbeck will cause the sleds which go on that service from Poughkeepsie, to be relieved at that Place and provide sleds to proceed with them to Claverack from whence they are to be forwarded to Albany. The Justices are requested also to attend to the providg. these Troops with comfortable Billets on their Route.

I am &c

R. Benson, A. D. C.

To the Justices of Rynbeck, Claverack &c &c &c.

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[No. 4232.]

*The Governor, Through Robert Benson, Informs Captain Williams His Conduct Is Approved.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 17th, 1781.

Sir, His Excellency directs me to acknowledge the Rec't. of your Letter of the 2d Inst. & to inform that he approves of your Conduct in endeavoring to have the Deserters from your Company & those who persuaded them to desert discovered & apprehended; and that he has sent an Order to Genl. Heath which will justify the Trying of such of them as you shall report as proper Objects, by a Gen'l. C't. Martial of officers from the line of the Army, who will be most likely to inflict Punishments equal to their Demerits.

I am Sir Your most Obed. Servt.

Capt. Williams.

[No. 4233.]

*Congress Issues an Appeal for More Funds and Men.*

The United States in Congress Assembled to the Legislatures of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia.

Gentlemen, We are happy to observe that the present year hath been distinguished by the reduction of a powerful British garrison in Virginia and that our arms have also been prosperous in other parts of the United States. But to infer that our inexorable foe is subdued beyond recovery may be attended with ruinous consequences. These events will yield but momentary advantages unless supported by vigorous measures in future.

From an assurance that peace is best attained by preparations for war and that in the Cabinet of negotiations those arguments carry with them the greatest weight which are enforced not only with a retrospect of important victories, but by a well grounded prospect of future successes, we have called upon you for Eight Millions of Dollars and for your respective deficiencies of the Military establishment.

Seven years have nearly passed since the sword was first unsheathed. The sums expended in so long a period, in a just and necessary War, must appear moderate nor can this demand for pecuniary aid be deemed exorbitant by those who compute the extent of public exigencies and the proportion of the requisition to the abilities of the States.

Suppose not that funds exist for our relief beyond the limits of these States. As the possessions of the Citizens constitute our natural resources and from a sense of their sufficiency the

standard of War was erected against Great Britain, so on them alone we now rely. But even if loans were attainable their amount would be merely commensurate with our ability & inclination to repay, and by nothing can both be more satisfactorily evidenced than by a generous exertion amidst the languor of Public Credit.

Arguing from the former dilatoriness of supplies, the enemy after having abandoned serious expectations of Conquest by arms, anticipate it in imagination from the dissolution of our public Credit. They can not however deny the firmness of the basis on which it may be placed, when they survey the wide limits of this Confederate Country, the fruitfulness of its soil, & the industry of its people.

But the want of money is not the only source of our difficulties, nor do the Enemy gather consolation from the state of our finances alone, We are distressed by the thinness of our Battalions; so vulnerable does the boldness of Navigation render the very bosom of these States so dispersed in some parts is the population and so rapid our Enemy in transportation that they seize and exhaust large districts before their ravages can be checked. The requisition for the completion of your Battalions is, therefore, not only reasonable but indispensable.

Tardiness in the collection of our troops has constantly encouraged in our enemy a suspicion, that American opposition is on the decline. Hence money from time to time, is poured into the Coffers of our Enemy and the lender perhaps is allured by the prospect of receiving it with an usurious interest from the spoils of Confiscation.

To whom then rather than yourselves who are called to the guardianship & Sovereignty of Your Country can these consid-

erations be addressed? Joint Labourers as we are in the work of Independence duty impels us to admonish you of the Crisis. We possess no funds which do not originate with you. We can command no levies, which are not raised under your own acts. Well shall we acquit ourselves to the World, should peace, towards the acquisition of which so illustrious a point hath been gained now escape our embraces, by the inadequacy of our Army or our treasure: for an appeal to this exposition of your affairs will demonstrate our watchfulness of your happiness.

We conjure you to remember what confidence we shall establish in the breast of that great Monarch who has become a party in our political Welfare by a bold energetick display of our ability.

We, therefore, trust in your attention & Zeal to avail yourselves at this important Crisis of the glorious advantages lately obtained by a full compliance with the requisitions of men & money which we have made to you, the necessity of which hath been pointed out to us by the maturest Consideration on the present circumstances of these United States.

By order of Congress ·

John Hanson, Presid't.

December 17th, 1781.

[No. 4234.]

*Colonel Willett Points Out to the Governor Reasons Why Longer Service Would Prove Intolerable.*

Albany, 17th Decr., 81.

Sir, On application to the Commissioners, I have found that their powers to sell lands ceased twenty days after the rising of the last sitting of the Legislature. So that I came a few days



too late. Numbers have taken care to embrace the opportunity of purchasing lands in that way lately. But our fortune was to come too late. I shall be much obliged to your Excellency to forward my requisition to Congress, as soon as you can, as I am very desirous to know the Issue of that attempt. I shall do everything in my power to forward the several matters agreeably to your Excellencie's directions in the Letter handed to me when I was at Poughkeepsie. But to serve another campaign under such disadvantages as I did the last, and to come home in the winter and sit down with empty pockets is what I cannot find a Dissposition to Comply with Unless, therefore, some better prospect should open, I hope none of my friends will say I do wrong if I try to look out for something else. The Restoring to me, however, if it can be done my former Rank as the Army appears to be new Established with the prospect of receiving such pay as would free me from present difficulties would make the Command your Excellency desires to keep me in very pleasing to me. But without this I dont see how I can continue. All these things, I think it not amiss to make known in Confidence to your Excellency.

I am with the greatest respect Your Excellencies most obdt. humble. Servt.

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[No. 4235.]

*Governor Clinton to General Moylan in Regard to Clothing.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 18th, 1781.

Sir, Your favors of the 1st Octr. last, 2d Ulto. & 16th Instant were duly delivered to me & I should have acknowledged the Rect. of the first at an earlier Day had you not mentioned your Intention of immediately setting out for Boston which rendered

it uncertain where to direct. It was with its enclosure laid before the Legislature at their late Meeting, where it was referred to a special Committee in both Houses but not reported on before their rising. I have it not in my Power at pres't. to inform you of the particular state of the Clothing in the sub-Clothier's Hands; but from the great disadvantages this State has during the whole War labored under, in procuring Clothing for its Troops, I am lead to believe the quantity must be very small. Capt. Black, the Gentleman who executed that office under this State, I presume has delivd. them over to your Order, agreeable to late Regulation of the Department and if he has not, will on your application give you the necess'y information on the subject. The state procured on private Acc't last Summer a small Quantity of Clothing suitable only for officers, which they directed the Commissioners to distribute among them on Acc't of their pay & a small quantity since obtained is directed to be disposed of in the same manner. The Quarter-Master on his application to me was immediately furnished with the necess'y Aid of Teams for the transportation of the Clothing agreeable to your Request.

I am &c.

Jno. Moylan, Esqr. Clothr. Genl.

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[No. 4236.]

*General Waterbury Concerned Over a Flag He Had Given Messrs. Gildersleeve and Newcomb to Pass from Connecticut to Long Island.*

Stamford, December 18th, 1781.

Sir, A few days past there came to my Quarters Mr. Daniel Newcomb and Mr. Finch of Gildersleeve, with permission from your Excellency to cross to Long Island on their obtaining a

Flag from me for that purpose, the former for the purpose of bringing a Negro fellow from thence belonging to his Father, and the latter to pass for a visit to his Friends; they desired that I would permit Capt. Gregory, an Inhabitant of Norwalk, to go Master of the Flag that I should grant for that purpose. I told them I did not chuse to let any person to take the command of a Flag granted by me, except an officer belonging to the Troops under my Command, as I could not call any Inhabitant to an Account if they should be found to carry on a clandestine trade with the Enemy (which I have reason to believe has been too much practised by Flags of Truce that have been sent from this Shore to Long Island); they answered that they supposed the expense would be greater, if one of my Officers took the command of the Flag than what it would if the person should go whom they had propos'd, as they had already agreed with him for that purpose; I replied that could be no Objection to my proposal as neither myself nor the Officer Commanding the Flag should take any thing for setting them across.

I accordingly ordered my Major of Brigade to prepare a Boat and granted a Flag for the purpose of carrying them to Long Island agreeable to the permission granted them by your Excellency; they left my Quarters and agreed to return the second day following; but I have neither heard nor seen any thing of them since. Have thought proper to give your Excellency the above information and am with the greatest Respect Your Excellency's most obedient and Humble Servant

David Waterbury, B. G.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

## GOVERNOR CLINTON'S REPLY.

Pokeepsie, 23d Jany., 1782.

Sir, I have been favoured with your Letter of the 18th Instant, and thank you for the many Oblidging Marks of attention which you have been pleased to favour me with. I cannot help at the same time expressing my Concern for the Trouble Messrs. Gildersleeve & Newcomb have given you; from the Characters they sustain I am not in the least Apprehensive of their doing anything injurious to their Country & if they should be so imprudent as to bring themselves into Trouble by departing from your Orders, they must abide the Consequences, as they were sufficiently apprized of the Danger of passing to the Island without the sanction of a Flag. Let me intreat, Sir, that you will not at any Time out of Complassance to me indulge any Person who may have my Permits to pass to the Island with a Flag when it is inconvenient to yourself, or there is the least Reason to suspect it may be injurious to the public safety. When the latter is not the case I am persuaded you will be desirous to give every reasonable indulgence. I am Sir, with great Regard & Esteem, your Most Obedt. Servt.

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 [No. 4237.]

*Colonel Willett Submits to the Governor a Plan for Managing the Indians.*

Albany, 18th Decr., 1781.

Sir, A visit with a Dun from some of the Oneida Indians puts me in mind of my promise to your Excellency to offer my thoughts upon the situation of our Indians.

The few Indians who have continued among us, belonging principally to the Oneida & Tuscarora Nations, are such as when their settlements where broke up choose to remane amongst

and take part with us. These Indians have been and must continue to be supported by us. This being the case it is without doubt our Wisdom to have as much service from them as we can, for supported by us they must be. But in the way they are supported at present, such is their make that altho they may receive from the Commissioners, provisions and Clothing, whenever they are wanted by an officer to perform the least service they Look for pay—nor will they be satisfied without being paid for every petty scout or other piece of service they may do. In order, therefore, to avoid this supernumerary expence, I humbly conceive that it would be best for the officer who commands upon the frontiers, to have the Indians put under his directions, and that he have the charge of supplying them with provisions, and that such Indian Clothing &c as may be procured for the use of the Indians be subject to his order. This will put the officer in such a situation that he can call upon the Indians for their services and pay them for those services with such things as otherways they receive without having the benefit of their services.

That the Indians may, if they are disposed to it, be very useful, is undoubtedly true, and the way to create and preserve this disposition is to keep 'em in a state of dependence upon the person who may from time to time want their services.

From this sketch your excellency will perceive my plan to be, that Congress adopt a new system in their Indian affairs in this Quarter, Which is that the provisions and Clothing with which they must be supplied, be subject to the order of the Officer who may Command on the frontiers where their Services will be immediately wanted. And in this way, I am quite clear that considerable advantages might be gained from Indian assistance.

I have the honor to be your Excellencies most obedient humble servt,

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

P. S. I believe your excellency forgot to answer Captain Marshall's letter by me.

M. W.

[No. 4238.]

*General Gansevoort Demands an Explanation from the Officer in Command of a Body of Vermonters for Invading New York State.*

Sir, In Pursuance of a Law of this State a Part of my Brigade has been detached to suppress an Insurrection of some of the Subjects of this State residing in the district of Schachtikoke and Hoseck. For this Purpose I arrived here this Day and to aid the Sheriff of this County to apprehend the Insurgents by Virtue of legal Process. On my arrival here I am informed that a large Body of Troops from the Grants are marching in Force with Artillery; in Consequence of which the small body of Men who were detached as above mentioned have returned back to this Place. Before I proceed any farther, I thought it expedient to write to you requesting you to inform me by the Bearer, Stephen Vielen Q. M. and Abraham Vielen what is the Object of your present Movement into the interior Parts of this State with a military force and by what Authority.

I am Sir, your Hum Servt.

P. Gansevoort, B Genl.

Head Quarters, Schachtikoke, 18 Dec. 1781.

[No. 4239.]

*Robert R. Livingston to the Governor on His Retirement from Congress—Difficulty of Maintaining Representation—News of the French Fleet Destined for the West Indies.*

19th Decr. 1781, Philadelphia.

Dear Sir, I have been for sometime your debtor but do not the less readily acknowledge the existence of the debt. Mr. Smith enables me to discharge it & I hope soon after this comes to your hand to receive a receipt in full from you. I am happy to find that the last sessions passed off with so much harmony, but am surprized that you have not fallen on effectual means to keep up a representation here, when I consider the important interests you have to manage; your poverty is a radical evil which only time & skill can cure, in the mean While it must appologize for all your other defects. From this quarter you expect news; I wish I could satisfy your expectations. The favourable accounts we have received of late has rendered us delicate & nothing but what is high seasoned will go down. Should I give you reports or probable prospects they would seem vapid & unsatisfactory. However, there is something so promising in what we have received today that I will venture to communicate it. The Armament equipped at Brest left that harbour & went down to the road on the 25th, in order to sail with the first fair wind; it consists of 10 sail of the line under the Marquis De Veudruil & 8000 Land forces & is destined for the West Indies where it has probably arrived, so that we may shortly expect interesting news from thence.

I should have resigned my Commission before this, had I not thought it could be of no consequence to the State, till the next Session of the Legislature, or till some business is ripe in the

court of Chancery & indeed that it would be a saving of expence to keep it in suspense. At present I am determined to quit this next spring, unless the appointments of the office are rendered more adequate to the expence than they are at present, which must be ascertained before the Legislature meet on whom I propose to attend—& in the course of the winter I shall return & try such causes as may be set down for hearing so as to suffer no injury to accrue by my absence. This, however, is submitted to your Excellency; if you should conceive that the public sustains even a temporary injury by this line of conduct I will if you shall so advise quit either one or the other commission. I have the firmest reliance on your friendship & feel in return that warm attachment with which it gives me pleasure to say I am

Dear Sir, Your Excellencys Most obt Hum Servt.

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[No. 4240.]

*General Heath Draws a Graphic Picture of the Pitiabie Condition of His Troops.*

Head quarters, Highlands, December 19, 1781.

Sir, The distress of this army for the want of bread has become almost insupportable—they are nearly half their time without—this obliges them to eat a larger quantity of meat than is good for their health—their naked condition for want of clothing obliges many of the soldiers to lay in the barracks nearly the whole of the time; these complicated wants are destroying their health—numbers are falling sick. A considerable quantity of flour is yet expected from the State Agent. Permit me, Sir, at this critical and distressing moment to request your orders to the agent, instantly to push down a relief of flour, if possible—and if any extra aid of teams is



necessary, that you would be pleased to order them impressed. A more pressing emergency I have scarcely known. It is but a few days before the contract will take place and we are led to hope the supplies will be ample. I must, therefore, beg that such relief of flour may be thrown in to the troops in the interim, as will relieve them from their present distressing wants, and remove the grounds of those serious consequences, which I assure your Excellency there is but too much reason to fear.

I have the honor to be  
With the highest respect,  
Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4241.]

*Colonel Thomas Thomas' Dismal Description of the Situation in  
Upper Westchester County.*

Bedford, Decb. 20th, 1781.

Dr Sir, In pursuance of your Excellency's Recommendation I have consulted with the military officers and the principal Inhabitants of the County respecting future Protection which will be shortly requisite, as the Levies Times of Service will expire next Sunday, who are then to be discharged. I must refer your Excellency for Particulars to Lt. Colo. Crane the Bearer. I must particularly inform you that our Situation is truly dismal; our strength exhausted, and our Poverty great; the Burden so heavy on all sides that it is impossible we can bear any further assistance as a County; I earnestly beg your Excellency's Attention to our Situation, that you will afford us the most ready Relief, as the least Delay may be productive of bad Consequences to the good People on the Frontiers being exposed to a ravaging Enemy making frequent Incursions Amongst us.

That your Excellency will signify your Pleasure to the Bearer who forward this Affair, I am with Esteem your Excellency's most Ob. & very H. St.

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[No. 4242.]

*Affidavits Taken before Judges Morris and Yates As Indicating Rumors of Negotiations between Certain Vermont Leaders and the British.*

Albany, Decr. 20th, 1781.

Good Sir, Yesterday the Bearer of this Applied to us intimating he could give Important Information relative to the Conduct of the Leaders of the people in the North East Quarter of this State; we accordingly took his Affidavit which is Inclosed. Just as we had finished it, David Abeel called on other Business; as he had Lately returned from Canada where he had been a Prisoner, we were led to ask him some Questions; his Answers Coroborating the Examination of Edgar we thought it proper to taken them on oath, which we Also Inclose; we conceive they may be of use to our Country and submitt to your Excellency's better Judgment to put them into that Road of Utility, and are, with the Greatest Respect, Your Excellencys most obedient Humb. Servts.

R. Morris.

Robert Yates.

His Excellency Govr. Clinton.

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AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN EDGAR.

Albany ss: John Edgar late of the Detroit being duly Sworn Deposeth and Saith, that he Commanded a Vessel belonging to the King of Great Brittain on the Lake's Huron and Erie, from some time in the year 1772 to some time in the year 1775; that he then gave up the said Command and went into trade; that on the 24th day of August 1779, he was taken into Custody at Detroit by one Major Lenolt [Lernoult] of the Eighth or King's Regiment, chargeing this deponent with corresponding with the Americans and Counselling the Savages, &c; that he was put in prison and In Irons, and in two days Sent of in Irons for Niagara, where he continued in Irons for nine months, and in prison for eleven; that he was then sent on to Bucks Island where he was Continued in Confinement for five Months; that he was then Removed to Montreal where he was confined for six Months at the end of Which time, after Repeated

Applications, he was by Genl. McClean, Granted the Liberty of the town; that on the 30th day of September Last he was sent for by one *Thomas Johnston* who had before been taken by the Brittish from the *Lower Cohass* [Coos]; that on his calling on the said *Johnston* he told this deponent that he was privy to his design of making his Escape, and that he was desirous of Sending Some Important Intelligence to Genl. Bailey, and on this deponent's Engaging to Deliver any message, the said *Johnston* informed this deponent, that he had not been Confined since he had been brought there; that he was one of the persons on the part of the State of Vermont (as he called it) who had been in treaty with the Brittish touching an Agreement to deliver up that Country into the Hands of the Brittish; that they had compleated the Agreement and desired him to Inform Genl. Bailey of it and Desire him to gett some one to be exchanged for him on his Arrival which he Expected soon to do on his parole and then he would make Known the Whole Affair; that this deponent understood that the two *Fays* and *Ira Allen*, were with others, agents for that tract of Country, called by them the State of Vermont, and that one *Captn. Sherwood* and one *Doctor Smith*, who formerly lived in Albany, were two of the Agents on the part of the Brittish; that the said Agents sometimes mett in *Castletown* in the *Grants* and Sometimes in *Canada*; that this Deponent has also understood that part of the Agreement between the British and the people calling themselves the people of the State of Vermont was that they were to Raise two or Three thousand Men for the British, who were to be officered by the people of the Country, and were never to be drafted into other Regiments, and never to be employed out of the Country; and these men were to be fed, paid, Cloathed and otherways Supported by the British and that Britain was to furnish and maintain a twenty Gun ship, which was to be kept for them upon the Lake, and this deponent further saith, that Since his Escape from *Canada* at the *Lower Cohass*, he saw the above named *Thomas Johnston* at his own house there who had been permitted to come on his Parole, but was not then Exchanged, that on this deponents coming to *Cohass* he went from there East to *Newberry port*, to Avoid Coming down through the *Grants* lest he should be taken up and sent back to *Canada*, and further this deponent saith not.

John Edgar.

Sworn this 19th Day of December, 1781 Before  
R Morris,  
Robert Yates.

## AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID ABEEL.

State of New York ss. *David Abell*, of *Katts-kill* in the County of Albany, Yeoman, being duly sworn deposed and saith, that some time in the month of April last past, he was taken prisoner at his own House by a party of Indians and Tories, and carried to *Niagara*, and from thence to *Montreal*; that on his way to the latter place, at the Cedars, he saw one *Johan Jost Herkimer*, who informed this Deponent that the people on the *New Hampshire Grants*, headed by *Colo. Alen*, would join the British with fifteen hundred Men; that a *Major Alen* was then gone down to *Quebec* for that purpose; that at *Montreal* it was the General Report that the *New Hampshire Grants*, would join them; that this Deponent saw at *Isle L'Noix*, a *Major Fay*, on Board a Vessell called the *Royal George*, and who this Deponent understood was an Inhabitant on the said *Grants*; that on Board of the said Vessell was one *Doctor Smith*, *Captain Sherwood* and another person, whose name the Deponent does not recollect, who were appointed Commissioners to treat with the said *Major Fay*; that the said *Fay* brought with him upwards of thirty Hessians, deserted from *Burgoin's Army*, for exchange, as this Deponent was informed, and which he delivered to the British, and further this Deponent saith not.

David Abeel.

Sworn this 20th day of December, 1781 before  
R Morris,  
Robert Yates.

[No. 4243.]

*Treasurer Bancker's Letter with Brigade Major Lansing's Account.*  
(Omitted.)

[No. 4244.]

*Captain James Blakeslee's Letter Respecting the Pay of His Company.*

Brattleborough, 20th Decr., 1780.

Sir, The great Distance of my Residence from the Seat of Government, I hope will sufficiently apologise to your Excellency for the trouble of this Letter.

The men which were under my Command last summer are anxious to receive their Wages; and as it is intirely uncertain whether the Money is in the Treasury, or when it will be in my Power to draw it, I beg that your Excellency will be kind enough to let your Secretary inform me by a Line, when it may be had, and what steps I must take to entitle me to receive it.

Should also be glad of Directions in what manner I may pay the Money your Excellency was kind enough to advance me.

I am With Sentiments of the highest Gratitude & Esteem,  
Your Excellency's Most Obed't. Servt.

P. S. A Line directed under cover to Mr. Townsend I imagine will be most likely to come to hand.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4245.]

*Judge Robert Yates Furnishes Governor Clinton with the Affidavit of Casper Rouse in Relation to the Actions of Certain Vermonters.*

Albany, December 25th, 1781.

Sir, I inclose your Excellency the Examinations of Mr. Rous and Green, and the persons therein named as Insurgents I have issued a warrant against, directed to the sheriff who has been up as far as Tomhenick [Tomhannock] in order to apprehend them. Upon his return he informs me that the force sent from

the Grants to aid and protect them, rendered it impracticable to proceed. Genl. Gansevoort will inform your Excellency by this opportunity of the reasons which induced him to discharge the Militia.

I am with the greatest respect, Your Excellency's most obt. humble servant

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

CASPER ROUSE'S AFFIDAVIT.

Albany ss. Casper Rouse, of the District of Schaghtekoche in the County of Albany, being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that on the third day of December Instant, on his way home from Coll. Israel Thompson, in Schaghtekoche District aforesaid, he was taken Prisoner by one Barney Hyat, who told the Deponent, he was a Constable under the Authority of the State Vermont, and that he took the Deponent Prisoner by Virtue of a Warrant granted by Esquire Benidict; that upon this Deponent refusing to submit to the arrest and denying the authority of Vermont, the said Barney Hyat called to his Assistance, Johannis Snyder and Frederick Reemer, two of the Inhabitants of the District of Schaghtekoche aforesaid, who were armed with each Guns, and that the said Barney Hyat delivered the Deponent over to the said two armed men with directions to carry the Deponent before the said Benidict; that the said two armed Men carried the Deponent about a Mile Prisoner and then took his Parole to appear before the said Benidict; that the Deponent agreeable to his Parole went to the said Esquire Benidict, whom he found to be Thomas Benidict, an Inhabitant of and residing within the said District of Schaghtekoche; that Edward Jewitt of the said District was with the said Benidict, and that the said Thomas Benidict and Edward Jewett acted as Justices of the Peace under the Authority of the State Vermont; that this Deponent asked the said Benidict and Jewett what Crime was alledged against the Deponent; that the said Benidict told the Deponent he should know his Crime when the Constable returned; that at Benidict's there were about fifteen Persons assembled all Inhabitants of the said District of Schaghtekoche aforesaid; that the Deponent does not know the Christian Names of the Persons so assembled besides the said Justices, but that ——— Reed, ——— Martin, a Son in Law of William Shepherd, of the District of Schaghtekoche aforesaid, two Sons of the said Thomas Benidict; that when the Deponent was before the said Justices he exclaimed against their Authority; that the said Justices told the Deponent he must go to the said William Shepherd's which he refused; that shortly after the said Justices went away, and some time after this the said Reed told the Deponent he must go to the said William Shepherd, which he refused; that thereupon the said Reed ordered the said Johannis Snyder, Frederick Reemer, ——— Root and others to take and carry the Deponent to the said William Shepherd's; that the said Johannis Snyder, Frederick Reemer & ——— Root, laid hold of the Deponent and forcibly carried him out of the House of the said Benidict in order to bring him to the said William Shepherd's; that all the Persons in the said Benidict's House (except one Andrew) were aiding and assisting in the taking and carrying the Deponent as aforesaid.

And this Deponent further saith, that sometime last Summer, a Meeting of about sixty Persons Inhabitants of the District of Schaghtokoche aforesaid, and of the East District of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, in the County of Albany, aforesaid, was held at the House of one Henry Jackson in the District; that this meeting was called by Advertisement for the purpose of choosing a Governor and Representatives of Assembly for the State of Vermont; that the said Advertisements were signed by the said William Shepherd and one Doty, who lives on the Farm of William Rogers, Decd. in the District of Schaghtekoche aforesaid; that at this Meeting were present Schadrick Phelps, Henry Jackson, Jurry Wetzel, Peter Crawberger, David Smith, Edward Henderson, Jacob VanWormer, Hendrick VanDerHoof, Thomas Benidict Edward Jewitt all of the

District of Schaghtekoche aforesaid; — Fairbanks, — Hubbard, of the East District of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, aforesaid; that all the said Persons above named voted at the said election and took the Freeman's Oath to the State of Vermont; that the said Oath was administered by the said Thomas Benidict, Edward Jewit and — Fairbanks, who severally acted as Justices of the Peace, under the said State of Vermont at the District of Schaghtekoche aforesaid; that at the said meeting, was present Doctor Wood, whose name this Deponent is informed is John, and altho he Did not Vote, it appeared to the Deponent that the said Wood is an advocate for the said State of Vermont, and a supporter of the Government thereof, over the said District and further this Deponent saith not.

Casper Rouse.

Sworn to before me the 16th Day of Decr. 1781.

Robert Yates.

JAMES GREEN'S AFFIDAVIT AS TO PROCEEDINGS OF SUNDRY PERSONS OF THE VERMONT PARTY.

Albany ss. James Green of the City of Albany being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that some time at the District of Schaghtikoche in the County of Albany last Summer he was taken Prisoner by Virtue of Warrant issued by Samuel Fairbanks of the New City in the East District of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck in the County of Albany upon the Complaint of David Smith and Recompence Smith; that the Deponent as Deputy Sheriff of the said County had taken Recompence Smith by Virtue of Process issued out of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the City & County of Albany: That among the Party who took the Deponent were the said David Smith, Recompence Smith and — Hubbard That after the Deponent was a Prisoner he was carried before the said Samuel Fairbanks, as a Magestrate under the Authority of the pretended State of Vermont; that the Deponent in order to get Released from his Imprisonment was compelled to give Ball for his appearance at a Court to be held at Bennington at a future day, That after the Deponent was a Prisoner he was carried to the House of Christopher Pillman, at New City aforesaid, where Daniel Toneray came in, and appeared to be aiding and assisting therein and approved of the Proceedings against the Deponent, and the Deponent further saith that he was taken by virtue of the Warrant aforesaid for having exercised hjs Authority as Deputy Sheriff aforesaid at the said District of Schaghtikoche in the County of Albany aforesaid, in manner as before mentioned, and further this Deponent saith not.

James Green.

Sworn before me this 16th day of December 1781.

Robert Yates.

[No. 4246.]

## ALMOST A CRASH OVER THE VERMONT AFFAIR.

*General Gansevoort Forced to Retire before Superior Numbers—He Suggests That Governor Clinton Should Call the Legislature in Session—Correspondence and Affidavits.*

Sir, If your Excellency should call the Legislature in Consequence of the inclosed dispatches, I would beg leave to suggest the Propriety of their Sitting at Albany, as there will be a Number of Persons who reside to the N. E. of this County whose Examinations as Witnesses may perhaps be wanted.

Your Excellencys most Hum Servt.

Peter Gansevoort

21 Decr. 1781.

COLONEL EBENEZER WALBRIDGE TO GENERAL GANSEVOORT AS TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY VERMONT IN SCHAGHTICOKE AND HOOSICK.

Bennington, 19th December 1781.

Sir, Yours of yesterday's date (directed to the officer commanding the Troops from the Grants &c) was this morning handed me by Mr. Vielen; and altho not properly addressed to me or any other person as an officer of this State, yet to prevent as much as in me lies confusion and an Increase of animosities and the effusion of Human Blood, (the Troops having been put under my Command), I will endeavour in general Terms to communicate the object of their Movements.

The Claims of the State of Vermont to the Territory being East of and adjoining to the River Hudson, together with the principles upon which Jurisdiction was extended and a Union entered into with the people inhabitting the said Territory, and the faith of the State pledged for their security on conditions,

you undoubtedly have before you, which renders it unnecessary for me to Enter particularly into them, and Complaints by sundry persons (having been duly made on oath to proper Authority,) that a Number of men who professed to owe Allegiance to the State of New York, were collected within the said Territory for the avowed purpose of taking by force and Imprisoning sundry Inhabitants who do by Virtue of said Union profess themselves Citizens of and to owe Allegiance to this State, and that a body of Troops from the state of N. York were collected in force with Armes and has thrown up fortifications to assist in the support of such undue Measures, a number of Troops were directed and put under my Command to assist the Sheriff of the County, to Execute his orders in Apprehending those Transgressors in due form of Law. Nevertheless agreeable to my directions I have ever held and still hold up to view to the officers commanding the said Troops from N. York, that upon their discharging the prisoners in their custody, and becoming obligated that the State of N. York should not exercise Authority over any of those persons, who profess to owe allegiance to the State of Vermont until the matter could be amicably adjusted, either by the mode pointed out in the Articles of confederation, the proposals adopted by the Legislature of this State & Transmitted to his Excellency Govr. Clinton, or any other Method that may be Mutually agreed on by the States of N. York & Vermont respectively, that no authority of this State shall be exercised over any in said districts who profess to owe Allegiance to the State of N York, during the Negotiation of this Matter, but that each party Rest unmolested during that time both in their persons and properties.

Should these proposals be Rejected, and the people who pro-



fess to be Citizens of Vermont, be imprisoned, and their property destroyed, I cannot be answerable for the Consequences, to this I Request your Answer until which time I am Sir, your Most obedient Humble Servant

Ebenezer Walbridge, Colo. Commandant.  
Genl. Gansevoort.

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AFFIDAVITS OF DIRCK SWART AND MAJOR DANIEL DICKENSON.

Dirck Swart Esq. and Major Daniel Dickenson being duly sworn, depose and say that on the 16th day of Decemr. Inst. they joined Coll. Yates who lay with his Men at the House of Lieut. Coll. Renselar at Sinkaick; that these deponents requested Coll. Yates to give them Liberty to go to Bennington in order to obtain Intelligence relative to the Designs & Movements of the People of Bennington and the Grants, that by Leave of Coll. Yates these deponents on the 17th day of Decemr. Inst. accordingly set out, and on their way about two Miles and a half from Bennington, these deponents stopped at the House of Captain Maus, who informed these deponents that the Vermont People were ordered out and that a Man from Bennington had passed his House a few Minutes ago with Ammunition, and that five hundred men from Arlington with a field piece were to be at one Mr. Waits, where the Ammunition was to be carried; that these deponents then proceeded to Bennington and went to Mr. Dewy's Tavern, where they saw about one hundred Men collected with Arms; that after being some short Time in the house not exceeding half an Hour, these deponents heard Major Titchner (in Conversation with Genl. Ethan Allen) declare, that he would with his Life and Fortune protect the new Union, and quoted some Author that a General should not

let his Enemy know when he intended to strike, but give the Blow and think afterwards, and said that he was also of that opinion declaring at the same Time that now the Time (or Hour) was come; upon which said Allen answered, now you begin to talk something like and declared himself to be of the same sentiments; that these deponents do not suppose that they were known by said Titchner and Allen, while they were in the said House of Dewey where said Conversation was; that on their Return they again stopped at the House of Captain Maus, who said that a certain doctor Dickenson of Bennington had been on the East side of the Mountain where the People told said doctor that they were jealous that the People of the West side were in Alliance with the Enemy in Canada; that the said doctor returned to Bennington and on making Enquiry, found that it was absolutely true, and thereupon declared he would as leave be dead as to live among them; that these deponents then left Capt. Maus and in coming opposite Mr. Wait's (on this side of the twenty mile Line and three Miles from Coll. Renselar's at Sin Kaick saw a Number of Armed Men at said Wait's and a field Piece drawn by four oxen thro the Creek, and between that and said Coll. Renselar's, met several Men in Arms going (as appeard to these deponents) to join the said Vermonters at said Wait's, and farther these Deponents say not.

Dirck Swart,

Daniel Dickinson.

Sworn 20th Decem. 1781 before me one of the Alderman of the City of Albany & one of the Justices of the peace of the City & County of Albany.

Peter W. Yates.

GENERAL GANSEVOORT'S RATHER HUMILIATING REPORT ON THE  
CRISIS.

Albany Decem. 21 1781.

Sir, Your Excellency's Letter of the 11th Inst. sent by Mr. Rous, I did not receive until the 15th Inst. in the Evening. On the 16th I set off for Saratoga and applied to General Stark for a Field Piece and some of his Troops in order to assist those of my Brigade at Schachteoke & Hoseck, detached there for the Purpose of suppressing the Insurrection. I was induced to make this Application in Consequence of a Letter from Genl. Stark to Coll. Yates, dated the 8th Inst., wherein he declares his Readiness to march his whole garrison (in order to suppress the Insurrection—when Occasion might require) and of which he desires Coll. Yates to give him the earliest Intelligence. With a field Piece and a few Troops from Genl. Stark, added to the Militia then on the ground, I flattered myself that I should have been able to dislodge the Insurgents from the Blockhouse in which they were posted, and to have dispersed or captivated them. But Genl. Stark informed me that, tho he was disposed to give me Aid, yet he did not think it justifiable without an order from Genl. Heath, and at the same Time declared that his Men were almost naked. Whether these were the true Reasons of his Refusal or on Account of the letter he received from Chitenden dated the 15th Inst, (requesting him not to interfere with his Troops) your Excellency will be able to determine. Upon this I went from Saratoga in order to take the Command of the Militia at Schachteoke and Hoseck. Shortly after my Arrival at the House of Charles Toll at Schachteoke, the Sheriff of Albany (with a Magistrate and some private gentlemen) came there with a Warrant granted by Mr. Justice Yates in order to

apprehend a Number of the Insurgents. We had not been there above half an Hour before the Militia, on their Retreat from the house of Coll. John Van Renselar, and from the White House, consisting of about 80 Men, arrived at Mr. Toll's. This retreat was ordered by Coll Yates in Consequence of Orders I had given him not to risk an Action unless he had a prospect of Success & not to engage if the disparity of Numbers against him was too great. This appeared to be the Case from the Intelligence he had received, previous to the Retreat, which was that the Militia of the pretended State of Vermont (consisting of at least 500 Men, with a field piece) had joined the Insurgents and were on their march within a few Miles of Coll. John Rensseler's House and the White House where our Troops were stationed. And Coll. Henry Van Renselar informs me that the Vermonters appeared in sight of the White House within one mile, when he left it. In this Situation of Matters, I deemed it advisable to retire five Miles farther to the town of Schachtekoke where the Men might be housed from the Inclemency of the cold weather and to prevent the Interception of our Retreat in Case the Insurgents (who had divided their Force) should advance, which from their superior Numbers, I had Reason to expect. On my arrival at the Town of Schachtekoke Alderman Peter W. Yates made out Process against four Insurgents whom we had taken and sent them to gaol. I then wrote a Letter to the officer commanding the Insurgents dated the 18 Decem. Inst. requesting him to inform me by what Authority they came with such a military Force into the Interior Parts of this State and the design of it. Altho I was well satisfied as to both in my own Mind, yet if I could obtain an Answer, I supposed it might answer some good Purpose at a future day, before the Legis-

lature, or Congress. I waited for an Answer until the next day the 19th Inst. near Sun Sett; but receiving none and the Messengers who carried my Letter not returning, I ordered the Militia to be discharged. To which I was induced from various Considerations. With only 80 Militia who had already been a considerable Time from Home, unsupplied with Provisions, I could not expect to engage the Insurgents with the least Prospect of success. To augment our Number in due Season to answer any salutary Purposes I deemed impossible. Out of the Regim't. of Coll. Yates, Renselar, VanVechten, & Major Taylor, only 80 Men appeared on the ground. From that of Coll. VanVechten, were only himself and a few officers and one private. Add to this that had my whole Brigade with that of Genl. Renselar been called out on the Occasion, I am confident that they would not have been sufficient to suppress the Insurrection, as the People from the Grants were all ordered out to aid the Insurgents and a large Body of them in Force already on their March with a Field Piece towards us. I was induced to believe that Vermont did not mean to interfere or assist the Insurgents, but from the Letters of Chittenden and the officers under him, which are inclosed (and some of which are in Possession of Coll. Yates which will be transmitted to your Excellency as soon as I obtain them) and the actual Movement of their Troops against us, even on this Side of the twenty Mile Line, I was at Length undeceived. This being the Case I thought it most expedient upon the whole to discharge the Militia and advise your Excellency of every Thing relative to the Matter, in order that your Excellency, the Legislature, or Congress may adopt some speedy & effectual Measures in Consequence thereof. The Inhabitants residing in the districts of

Hoſick & Schahtekoke (& eſpecially thoſe who have taken an active Part againſt the Inſurgents) are in a very peccarious Situation. Numbers have complained to me on the ſubject. They ſay that they daily expect to be taken by the people of the Grants and that they will be reduced to the Alternative of either ſwearing Allegiance to the State of Vermont or abandoning their Habitations, and that ſeveral of them have been already reduced to that Dilemma. I have promiſed to ſtate their Caſes to your Excellency, aſſuring them that this government or Congreſs would undoubtedly adopt ſome ſpeedy vigorous and effectual Meaſures for their Relief.

Alderman Yates has taken two Diſpoſitions which are incloſed, and is to take ſome more from Perſons whom he expects ſhortly in Town for the Purpoſe. Theſe he informs me will tend to prove that the Pretended State of Vermont is in Alliance with the Enemy. I have ordered the officers who did not turn out on this occaſion, to be put in arreſt.

I am your Excellency's moſt obedt. and very Hum. Servt.

Peter Ganſevoort.

P. S. I this Moment received Coll. Wallbridge's Answer dated 19th to mine of the 18th Inſt. which I have alſo the Honor to incloſe.

To his Excellency Geo. Clinton Eſq. Governor &c of the State of New York.

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[No. 4247.]

*Generals Van Rensſelaer and Ganſevoort to Governor Clinton with the Annexed Reſult of a Conſultation as to the Defence of the Frontier.*

Sir, Agreeable to your Excellencies orders to us, of the 3d Inſt. we requeſted the Field Officers of our Brigades and ſuch

of the Principal Gent'men as could conveniently be collected, to meet us at the City of Albany, to deliberate and determine what Number of Men in their opinion would be necessary for the defence of the Western Frontiers of this County, and Inclose you the result of their Deliberation with the Names of such as did attend.

We have the honour to be your Excellencies most obedt. humbl. Servt

Robt. Van Rensselaer.

Peter Gansevoort.

Albany, 21 Decemr., 1781.

To His Excellency Governor Clinton.

At a Meeting of a Number of Gentlemen convened in the City of Albany at the Request of Generals Rensselaer & Gansevoort the 20th day of December 1781.

Present

Brigadier General Rensselaer.  
 " " " Gansevoort.  
 Colonel Van Alstyne.  
 Colonel Cuyler.  
 Lt. Col. Wendell.  
 Major Price  
 The Honble. Richard Morris, Esqr.  
 Robert Yates, Esqr.  
 Leonard Gansevoort Esqr.  
 John Hansen  
 Abraham Schuyler  
 John J. Beeckman  
 Peter W. Yates Esqrs. Aldermen  
 Cornelius Cuyler  
 Thomas Hun  
 Robert McClallen  
 Matthew Visscher, Esqr.  
 Isaac D. Ponda, Esqr.  
 Leonard Gansevoort, Junr., Esqr.  
 The Honble Henry Oothout, Esqr.  
 John N. Bleecker, Esqr.  
 Jacob Cuyler, Esqr.  
 Gerard Bancker, Esqr.  
 The Honble Abraham Yates, Esqr.  
 Henry Wendell, Esqr.  
 Philip Van Rensselaer, Esqr.  
 John TenBroeck, Esqr.  
 John Lansing, Junr. Esqr.

His Excellency the Governor's Letters to Genl's Rensselaer and Gansevoort being read—several Questions were agitated and passed in the Negative.

The Question whether it was necessary to raise any Number of Men for the Defence of the Western Frontiers of this County before the opening of the Spring was put and passed in the Affirmative by a great Majority.

After several Questions were put relative to the Number of Men necessary to be raised for the Defence of the Western Frontiers and passed in the Negative, it was moved that it is the opinion of this Meeting that 200 Men are necessary for the immediate Defence of the Western Frontiers of this County & upon the Question being put it passed in the Affirmative by a great Majority

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[No. 4248.]

*Governor Clinton Writes to General Heath in Regard to Bread for the Troops.*

Poughkeepsie, Decr. 21st, 1781.

Sir, Your Letter of the 19th was handed to me late last Evening. It was a standing Direction to the state agent to collect & forward the supplies of the State with the utmost Expedition, and it has been faithfully repeated on every application from you for bread for the troops. Your Letters on that subject which were rec'd before the rising of the Legislature were also laid before them. I shall now notwithstanding renew my Orders to the Agent and press him in the most earnest Terms to relieve you from your present Distress and if Teams are wanting for the Purpose Warrants of Impress shall be issued. I am unhappy to hear of the naked condition of the soldiery; and it adds to my distress when I reflect that this must arise from the want of exertion to forward them from Boston where, all accounts agree, they arrived many Months ago—the Moment the Qr. Mr. informed me that he should have occasion for Teams to transport the Clothing thro. this State notwithstanding the extraordinary share of Transportation which from our peculiar Situation we are charged with, he was furnished with the Means of acquiring them, so that in this respect we shall at least stand acquitted & I am lead to believe that if the other states generally had as nearly delivered their quotas of specific supplies as this has, you would not feel your present



Want of Bread. I wish not, however, to be understood as offering this as a Reason for not completing our Quota. It is my earnest Desire to have it perfected and I have confidence it will be done; but whether it will be possible to effect it in season to relieve your prest. Distresses I am unable to determine.

I am &c &c &c.

The honble. Major Genl. Heath.

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[No. 4249.]

*Governor Clinton Forwards to Mr. Floyd the Key of the State Box  
by John Edgar Who Has Been a Victim of the Vermont Conspiracy.*

Private:

Pokeepsie, 24th Decr., 1781.

Dear Sir, I have been duly favoured with your Letters of the 3d & 6th; the latter is acknowledged in my Official Letters of this day. The Key of the Box containing the state Papers together with the Delegates Commissions are in the hands of Genl. Scott who I am informed intends setting out for Philadelphia in the course of the present week, which I hope will be the Case, as the obstacle which hitherto prevented his Departure to wit, a supply of cash, is (I have reason to believe) now removed.

The Bearer, Mr. Edgar, is the Gentleman aluded to in my Official Letter, a Copy of whose Deposition respecting the traitorous Correspondence of the Leaders on the Grants with the enemy is therewith transmitted. He is able to inform you of many particulars not mentioned in his Affidavit which tend to corroborate his Testimony on that subject. He appears to be a sensible Discreet Man & as by a Letter from Mr. Taylor, of Albany, to me in his Favour & other Documents in his Possession, I am induced to confide in his Integrity & to believe

that he has suffered much by his Attachment to this Country & if you can be of any service to him it will be an act of Benevolence which I am persuaded will give you Pleasure & Oblige  
Dr Sir, Your Most Obedt Servt.

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[No. 4250.]

*General Heath to Governor Clinton—Bearing on Clothing, Deserters, Lieutenant Pendleton and Bread.*

Headquarters, Highlands, December 24, 1781.

Sir, I have been honored with your's of the 12th and 21st. The instructions for the issue of clothing restrict me to the Continental Line of the army only, which at present prevents my furnishing clothing to the recruits inlisted by colonel Willett; but I have written his Excellency, the commander in chief, on the subject, and have requested his direction.

I have directed that the deserters from Captain William's company of levies be brought to trial conformable to the signification of your pleasure.

I have ordered a court of inquiry for Mr. Pendleton, agreeable to his request.

I thank you most heartily for your renewed assurances of affording every aid in your power for relieving the army from their present distresses on account of their want of bread—and I pray your Excellency would be assured that while I am frequently requesting and urging the specific supplies of flour from the state of New York, which I am led to do by the distresses of the army and local situation, I am by no means unmindful of the numerous and cheerful exertions made by this state, and which I very frequently hold up as a precedent to others—nor shall I attempt to palliate the conduct of any who

may be delinquent in their quotas, or slow in exertions on any occasion. It is natural in times of distress, to call on those nearest to us. Happy when we can find a friend. Such, you are sensible the wise man tells us, is better than a brother far off.

I hope our supply of clothing will be adequate to the necessities of the troops. All the lines from Delaware eastward, except colonel Lamb's regiment of artillery, corps of sappers and miners, general Hazen's regiment, and colonel Olney's of Rhode Island (who are otherwise provided for) will equally partake of the distribution.

I have the honor to be With great respect and esteem, Your Excellency's Most obedient servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4251.]

*Governor Clinton Communicates with the New York Delegates in  
Regard to the Charges of Treachery against Certain Vermonters.*

Pokeepsie, 24th December, 1781.

Gentlemen, The inclosed Papers relate to Matters so highly interesting to the United States, that Considerations of Regard for the General Peace and safety induce me through you to communicate them to Congress without Delay.

My situation may easily be conjectured and my Letter to Brigr. Genl. Gansevoort fully evinces my Sentiments & Determination with respect to what I conceive my undeniable duty on this Occasion.

The Bearer of these Dispatches, Mr. Edgar, who is one of the Deponents and whose Deposition appears to be of the most material import, will be able to give Congress the fullest Infor-

mation and will suggest the Propriety of not too freely divulging the name of Mr. Johnson, the Person mentioned in his Deposition, for I have Reason to believe that could his Testimony be obtained, it would furnish Evidence still more explicit of what has long been suspected, a Treasonable Intercourse between the Leaders of the usurped Government on the Grants and the Enemy.

On these Communications I shall only take the Liberty to observe, that it cannot possibly consist with the public Safety, that Persons against whom there are such unquestionable Proof of a traitorous Correspondence, should be permitted to go at large with Impunity and even at Times be attending our public Councils. From your Knowledge, Gentlemen, of the State, you must be sensible of the disagreeable Impression which this has made on the minds of many of our most Zealous Friends, who have not hesitated to attribute to this Cause in a great Measure our Missfortunes on the Frontiers during this and the last Year.

I have the Honor to be &c

The Honble The Delegates of this State of New York in Congress.

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[No. 4252.]

*He Follows it Up with a Private Communication to the Delegates.*

Poukeepsie, 24th Decr., 1781.

Gentlemen, My other Letter which you will receive with this I intend for a public Reading in Congress with its Inclosures, and I have only to add in this for your Confidence, an earnest Desire that you will apprize me by every earliest Conveyance, of any Measures which Congress may adopt or of what you may suppose to be the Sentiments or Intentions of Congress in Consequence of the Intelligence now communicated.

I have been duly honored with Colo. Floyd's Letter of the 6th Instant acknowledging the Receipt of mine of the 24th November, inclosing the concurrent Resolutions of the Senate & Assembly respecting the New Hampshire Grants. His Attention to that Business cannot fail meeting the Approbation of his Constituents & altho he failed in his Endeavour to have them entered at large on the Journals of Congress, the Entry of their being read & Order for their being filed in the Secretary's Office I flatter myself will suffice.

I will be much obliged by an early Communication of the Result of the Deliberation of Congress on the subject Matter of my Letter representing the distressed Circumstances of the state.

I Am &c

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[No. 4253.]

*Draft of Impress-Warrant for Teams to Take Flour to the Posts in Highlands, Etc.*

State of New York ss:

By His Excellency George Clinton Esquire Governor of the State of New York General & Commander in Chief of all the Militia & Admiral of the Navy.

To the Sheriff of the County of Dutchess and to the Constables within the Precincts hereinafter named and each of them Greeting:

Whereas Major General Heath commanding the troops of the United States within this State hath represented to me that the Troops at the several Posts in the Southern parts of this State are mostly destitute of Flour and hath, thereon, requested me to furnish teams for transporting an immediate supply of the said Article, I do, therefore, on this special and extraordinary Emergency, authorize and require you and each of you to impress all the Waggon in the Precincts of Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck and Charlotte in your County with two Horses and a Driver to each Waggon for the purpose of transporting and conveying Flour from Poughkeepsie Precinct and from Van Sicklen's Mill in Rumbout Precinct to the several Posts and Garrisons in the Southern Parts of this State. Provision being made to Use for the Payment of the Services to be performed by the said Teams & Drivers—and for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand this 25th day of December 1781.

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[No. 4254.]

*General Heath Reports to the Governor the Successful Expedition of Captain Williams to Morrisania.*

Headquarters Highlands, Decr. 25th, 1781.

Sir, After wishing you a Merry Christmas, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that on the night of the 23d instant, Capt.

Williams of the New York levies, with twenty five Volunteer Horse, made an excursion to Morrisiania, and made prisoners, One Captain, one Lieutenant, and seven privates without any loss on our side. Capt. Pritchard moved down with a Detachment of Infantry to cover the retreat of the Horse, in case it had been necessary, but the Enemy did not think proper to pursue. I intend to exchange the Captain immediately for Capt. Sacket.

I have the honor to be with great respect & Esteem your Excellencys Most obed. Servant,  
His Excellency Governor Clinton.

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[No. 4255.]

*Colonel Abram J. Van Alstyne Reports to the Governor His Failure in Raising the Levies in His Regiment and Gives the Reasons.*

Kinderhook, 26 Decr., 1781.

Sir, Yesterday I received your Excellencys two Letters of the 15 & 19th Instant with Capt. Moodie's inclosed by the Men therein mentioned. Immediately on the Receipt of them I went with the Men to the Heads of some of the Classes, who warned the rest to meet this day for the Purpose of agreeing with the Men, and from the encouragement given in Capt. Moodie's Letter of their being willing to take part of the Pay in Produce &c I had great hopes they would have been hired, but when the Classes met they would not agree to serve for less than Forty five Pounds hard money, to be paid to them in hand; this the People declared themselves unable to do and I readily believe it, for I do not think there is one fourth part of the hard money it would require in the District, so that all hopes of agreeing with them was at an end and the Men resolved to Return.

I am sorry they would not agree to take Part in Produce

Security &c. for I believe some of the classes would otherwise have hired. Early last summer I furnished the Assessors of this District with the Names of the People who compose the Delinquent Classes, and directed them to proceed to assess them according to Law, but nothing has been done therein to my knowledge.

Pursuant to your Excellency's Command I will again direct them immediately to proceed against the Delinquent Classes, and probably the new Emission may be procured, which is the best I have reason to expect the People will do.

I am Sir Your Excellencys most Humble Servant  
His Exelly. Govr. Clinton.

[No. 4256.]

*Ebenzer Clark and John Rowan, of New Perth, to Governor Clinton in Behalf of William Moncrief against the Sentence of a Court Martial.*

(Omitted.)

[No. 4257.]

*Thomas McFarren's Letter Concerning His Goods Detained in Connecticut.*

Norwich, Decem. 29th 1781.

Sir, by promichan from the governor and Council of this Steate i was promited to bring off my goods from Long Island to this place, which i have don, but to my Surprice the are de-teaned heare till the oppinon of the asembly is known on the Matter, and what the may meacke of it is so unsartin to me, that i pray your Excellency Seport and protection otherway i really may Looze what is heare; i requist a line from your Excellency to the Asembly or to the governor; indeed nothing less will Seave the goods; indeed the sooner i can have them to your

Steate is the better, as sum of the goods is been very weet, and no place to driy them; the bearer Mr. Clark will inform your Excellency the way they are in the Asembly; set the 10th of Nixt munth at Hardfoard and a line from your Excellency in my favore no doubtte will do the bisness.

I could not get any of Mesr. Davis's goods, although there was Sum in Sum of their homs, but want of an order from him, the were not willing to give them, and i had no time to Speare; when i was on the Island to meak much inquire about any thing but what was ready to put directly on board the vesell, and com off with what i have heare; i am with due respect your Excellency's very humble Servant

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[No. 4258.]

*Act of Congress Incorporating the Bank of North America.*

An Ordinance to incorporate the Subscribers to the Bank of North America:

Whereas Congress on the twenty sixth day of May last did from a conviction of the Support which the finances of the United States would receive from the establishment of a National Bank approve a plan for such an institution submitted to their consideration by Robert Morris, Esq. and now lodged among the Archives of Congress and did engage to promote the same by the most effectual means; And, whereas, the Subscription thereto is now filled from an expectation of a Charter of Incorporation from Congress, the Directors and President are chosen, and application hath been made to Congress by the said President and Directors for an Act of Incorporation; and whereas the exigencies of the United States render it indispensibly that such an Act be immediately passed.

Be it, therefore, Ordained and it is hereby ordained by the United States in Congress Assembled that those who are, and those who shall become Subscribers to the said Bank be and for ever after shall be a corporation and body politic to all intents and purposes by the name and Stile of "The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of North America."

And be it further ordained that the said Corporation are hereby declared and made able and capable in Law to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy and retain lands, rents, tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattles and Effects of what kind, nature or quality so ever to the amount of ten Millions of Spanish Silver milled Dollars and no more; and also to sell, grant, demise, alien, or dispose of the same lands, rents, tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattles and Effects.

And be it further ordained that the said Corporation be and shall be for ever hereafter able and capable in Law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded; answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended in Courts of Record or any other place whatsoever, And to do and execute all and singular other matters and things that to them shall or may appertain to do.

And be it further ordained that for the well governing of the Said Corporation and the ordering of their Affairs they shall have such Officers as they shall hereafter direct or appoint provided nevertheless that twelve Directors one of whom shall be the President of the Corporation, be of the number of their Officers.



And be it further ordained that Thomas Willing be the present President, and that the said Thomas Willing and Thomas Fitzsimmons, John Maxwell Nesbitt, James Wilson, Henry Hill, Samuel Osgood, Cadwallader Morris, Andrew Caldwell, Samuel Inglis, Samuel Meredith, William Bingham, Timothy Matlack be the present Directors of the said Corporation and shall so continue until another President and other Directors shall be chosen according to the Laws and regulations of the said Corporation.

And be it further ordained, that the President and Directors of the said Corporation shall be capable of exercising such power for the well governing and ordering of the Affairs of the said Corporation; and of holding such occasional meetings for that purpose as shall be described fixed and determined by the laws, regulations and Ordinances of the said Corporation.

And be it further ordained that the said Corporation, may make, ordain, establish and put in execution such laws, ordinances and regulations as shall seem necessary & convenient to the Government of the said Corporation. Provided always that nothing herein before contained shall be construed to authorise the said Corporation to exercise any powers in any of the United States repugnant to the laws or Constitution of such State.

And be it further ordained that the said Corporation shall have full power and authority to make have and use a common seal with such device and inscription as they shall think proper and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

And be it further ordained that this ordinance shall be construed and taken most favorably and beneficially for the said Corporation.

DONE by the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS ASSEMBLED the thirty first day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, and in the SIXTH YEAR of our Independence.

John Hanson, Presdt.

Attest Chas. Thomson Secy.

By the United States in Congress Assembled, December 31st 1781.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislature of each State to pass such laws as they may Judge necessary for giving the foregoing Ordinance its full operation agreeably to the true intent and meaning thereof, and according to the recommendations contained in the resolutions of the 26th day of May last.

Extract from the minutes.

Chas. Thomson, Secy.

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[No. 4259.]

*List of an Assessment Laid on within Persons.*

(Omitted.)

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[No. 4260.]

*Westchester County Field Officers Appeal to the Governor for the Protection of the Frontier of That County.*

To His Excellency George Clinton Governor of the State of New York General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

The Memorial and Petition of the Subscribers being Field-Officers of Militia and other Inhabitants of the County of Westchester.

Sheweth, That it is with Reluctance they are constrained to apply to your Excellency for Relief; but when they view a general and substantial defence & Security afforded not only by the United States but by the State of New York to the other frontiers of this State, and the frontier of Westchester County left open to the Ravages of a thievish Enemy, worse than Barbarians, we feel within us a jealousy of neglect. We mean not to impute the cause of it to your Excellency, who, we with reason believe, have exerted your influence and Aid in our protection. We would take the liberty, however, to remonstrate, that we have not only furnished our quota of Troops upon every Requisition for our frontier, but have also furnished a Company of Men for the support of the Northern frontiers the last Campaign; which we conceive an hardship and imposition, as it is well know that we have had a constant & garrisoned Enemy in our County for five years past, who issue out as occasion offers, and destroy and butcher our People. We are unaccustomed to complain, but when Grief by the loss of friends and property urges, the Complaint must be justifiable. Sir, the Inhabitants of this County have exerted themselves in the course of this War in a manner that must have attracted your notice; and we are a body of Militia, tho' small, yet worthy of notice. The Times of our Levies are nearly expired and we have only one Company of Continental Troops on our Lines, and no prospect of further support, which strength is entirely insufficient to oppose the force of the Enemy within reach of us. It is true a Law has passed to raise Troops in this State, but we can inform your Excellency that this County is so debilitated by the War as to render the raising of Men a matter of Burden; besides we really believe that there is not a possibility of raising

men at this time. We, therefore, pray your Excellency to intercede in our behalf with the Continental Commanding Officer in this department, to send more Troops to our Relief, and that they may be disposed of in the manner as the Continental Troops and Levies have been distributed, by being posted in the Vicinity of Bedford and North Castle. Your Excellency's particular interposition will be gratefully acknowledged.

|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Thomas Thomas, Coll.                  | Israel Lyon            |
| Thaddeus Crane, Lt. Coll.             | Samll. Lyon            |
| Joseph Benedict, L. Colo              | Benj. Miller           |
| Ebenr. Slason, Major                  | Ezra Wilson            |
| Jesse Hunt, Sheriff                   | John Rundell,          |
| Gilbert Drake, Judge                  | Benjamin Hays          |
| James McDonald, Justic peace          | Joseph Rundell         |
| Peter Lyon, justice of peace,         | Josiah Miller          |
| Benj. Stevenson, Justice of<br>Pease, | Isaac Smith            |
| Danl. Horton, Justice of the P.       | Jonas Hait.            |
| Marcus Moseman, Capt.                 | Philip Pell, Jur.      |
| Moses St. John, Capt.                 | Edward Thomas,         |
| Gilbt. Lyon, Capt.                    | John A. Miller,        |
| Silas Miller, Lieut.                  | Peter Holmes,          |
| Joseph Miller, Lieut.                 | Becher Holmes,         |
| Isaac Miller, Lieut.                  | Gilbert Reynolds,      |
| Isaac Clark, Lieut.                   | Jesse Truesdell, Capt. |
| Peter Fleming                         | Isiah Maynard,         |

[No. 4261.]

*Memorial of Charles Phelps of Cumberland County (Vt.).*

To the honorable the United States in Congress Assembled

The memorial of Charles Phelps of the County of Cumberland in that part of the State of New York commonly [called] the New Hampshire Grants humbly sheweth, that your Memorialist with a great majority of the Inhabitants of the said County are attached to the Government of the State of New York & profess to owe alligiance to the same. That by the resolutions of Congress of the 24th of September 1779 and the 2d of June 1780 those Inhabitants considered themselves protected & secured in their persons and properties from any authority which might be attempted to be exercised over them (either civil or military) by the pretended State of Vermont, especially as those resolutions of Congress, so wisely adopted to preserve the peace of that District of Country, have been religiously observed by the Inhabitants professing allegiance to the state of New York & Newhampshire, who are by far the greatest number of Inhabitants residing on the East side of the Green Mountains, west of Connecticut river, and in no instance have been violated by them, in exercising any authority under the state of New York, over those Inhabitants who profess to owe allegiance to the pretended state of Vermont. That the said pretended State of Vermont in direct violation of the said resolves of Congress in the month of June last did make & publish a pretended Act, inflicting the most cruel and unheard of penalties on such of the Inhabitants residing on the Newhampshire Grants, who should not submit to the authority of their usurped Government, a copy of which Act is herewith presented to Congress for their inspection; And Ethan Allen (who holds a commission of Colonel under the United States) in pursuance of the said act and in obedience to the authority of Vermont, so called, did in September last past with some hundreds of armed Men make a sudden descent upon the said county of Cumberland and has taken & confined in Prisons a number of reputable Inhabitants of the said County, particularly the high Sheriff and other officers both Civil & Military, holding commissions under the authority of the State of New York; some of whom have been fined in large sums, others are condemned to banishment; not to return on pain of death, and their Estates confiscated; and to add to their affliction, tis said & believed they will be sent into Canada to be delivered up to that power with whom the Executive of the said pretended State of Vermont, the last year, made a treaty of Alliance.

That your Memorialist is duly authorised by a convention of the County of Cumberland to lay before the United States in Congress assembled the unhappy and deplorable situation of such of the Inhabitants of the said County as profess Allegiance to the State of New York as by the Certificate of the chairman of the said convention herewith presented, more fully may appear.

Therefor your Memorialist humbly prays that Congress would immediately interpose by their authority for the relief & protection of those unhappy sufferers who are now prisoners or banished, and to prevent any violences of the like kind in future: This protection & relief they humbly conceive they have a right to expect and receive as good citizens of the United States, professing allegiance to the State of New York, & having inviolably observed those resolutions of Congress which intitles them to the notice & protection of the United States.

Your Memorialist further begs leave to observe that unless a restoration of property is ordered, and the authority of the United States interposed for the preservation of that peace which by their resolves they have declared to be so necessary to the federal Union & which they were determined to support & maintain, many hundreds of families owning allegiance to the State of New York will soon be reduced to a state of the greatest poverty & misery which will evidently appear by a number of affidavits and other papers herewith presented to your honorable body relative to the violent proceedings of the Vermonters in pursuance of their said pretended act, besides the information your memorialist is able to give of the present State of that district of Country if he should have the honor to be heard before a Committee of Congress on that subject, and your memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Charles Phelps.

[No. 4262.]  
*Return of Cloathing delivered to the New York line for the year 1781.*

| DATE          | Regs. | Coats | Vests | Woolen Breeches | Shirts | Shoes | Hose | Hats | Blankets | Socks | Woolen Mitts | Woolen Caps | Watch Coats | Linen Overalls | Drilling Breeches | Stable Jackets | Infantry Caps | Shoemakers Tools | Taylors Tools |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|------|------|----------|-------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Novr. 19 1780 |       | 205   | 205   | 205             | 410    | 410   | 410  | 205  | 205      | 210   | 210          |             |             |                |                   |                |               |                  |               |
| Jan'y 4 1781  | 1st   | 124   | 573   | 573             | 1073   | 1073  | 468  | 295  | 295      | 572   | 84           | 64          | 8           |                |                   |                |               |                  |               |
| do do         | 2d    | 69    | 328   | 328             | 608    | 608   | 365  | 154  | 238      | 328   | 86           | 56          | 13          |                |                   |                |               |                  |               |
| May 11th      | 1st   | 338   | 81    | 345             | 430    | 507   | 305  | 12   | 72       | 265   | 86           |             | 7           |                |                   |                | 30            | 2                | 1             |
| do do         | 2d    | 191   | 104   | 100             | 348    | 395   | 25   |      | 65       | 92    |              |             |             | 240            | 53                | 30             | 37            | 2                | 1             |
| June 15th     | 1st   |       | 83    | 83              | 360    | 360   | 63   |      | 30       | 30    |              |             |             | 190            | 47                |                |               |                  |               |
| do do         | 2d    | 23    | 27    | 27              | 327    | 327   | 67   |      | 27       | 27    |              |             |             | 490            | 100               | 30             | 57            | 4                | 2             |
|               | Total | 944   | 1849  | 1577            | 2096   | 3319  | 1999 | 667  | 1259     | 1412  | 340          | 100         | 28          | 490            | 100               | 30             | 57            | 4                | 2             |

N. B. The Artillery had drawn from the Clothier General before they were considered as part of the Line of the State.

Jas. Black,  
 Sub. Cloathr.

END OF VOLUME VII.

















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