

the United Colonies) into Continental pay; and to establish a force here for the defence of the Colony.

I am, with great truth and esteem, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General *Washington*.

DR. MORGAN TO COMMITTEE OF MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.
Cambridge, April 23, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have been thrice over to *Boston* on purpose to have the honour of a conference with you; but not knowing of your engagements out of *Boston*, had not the pleasure of suiting my time to your convenience. It was not till last night that I received the list of articles found in the stores of *Dr. Sylvester Gardner*, which you have given orders to the Sheriff to take possession of, and secure till he should receive the order of the General Court to the contrary. As this instruction of yours does, in my opinion, interfere with General *Washington's* orders to me, and the resolve of the General Court on that head, I should have been happy to have had a conference with you, as it would give me the greatest concern to give you offence, by exceeding the intent of my commission, which I am confident I have not done, nor did I mean to do. Not having the satisfaction to meet you, and having business at *Portsmouth* that will detain me from *Boston* for a week to come, I think it my duty to state my claims to such articles contained in your list as I think will be of use to the General Hospital, which I shall submit with all deference to your consideration. If you approve thereof, I shall direct *Mr. Cutting* to proceed in getting them packed up and sent forward; and I flatter myself the good of the Army, the welfare and service of which I am sure you have at heart, will gain your acquiescence, when you maturely consider every circumstance with attention. I shall say nothing in respect to such articles as are enumerated in your list, that are already sent forward, further than that some of them are as essentially necessary to the General Hospital, and as much intended by General *Washington* to be appropriated to the use of the General Hospital, and fitting out all regiments in the Army with complete medicine chests, as any drugs or medicine found in the shop; and if some few others were sent, that might as well have been left behind for your use, I am sorry not to have had notice of those particulars in time to have given orders for their being left: but the attention that was necessary to take care of the extensive concerns of the sick, and of the Hospital stores at *Cambridge* and *Roxbury*, prevented my being as much at *Boston* as I could have wished, and of course I am obliged to leave the general management of the concerns of the Hospital in *Boston* to gentlemen under my direction, who, I believe, acted to the best of their judgment.

Passing these matters over, I proceed to point out the articles in your list which I have ordered to be left behind, and to mark the particulars included in it which I hope you will consent to my ordering to be sent along with the medicines and other parts of the shop furniture not included in your list. In the first place, then, I have ordered, and shall repeat the same, that all the following articles, if not sent away already, be wholly left behind, viz: the verdigris, three hogsheds of allum, four hogsheds of copperas, two hogsheds of brimstone, cork bungs, one hogsherd of red wood, one hogsherd of madder, read lead, white lead, logwood, a large bell-metal mortar, iron mortar, pestles, shut-corks, skillets, wire sieves, iron ring-pans, frevets for ring-pans.

The other articles coming within the General's intention as being necessary for the use of the General Hospital, and for fitting out complete Regimental chests, might all with great propriety be claimed for the use of the General Hospital, being such articles as I must purchase if I cannot get them here; but as you may wish for them for the good of the town, (which I sincerely join with you in regarding,) as well as I wish for them for the Continental Army, (which you must regard,) I propose to divide as follows, viz: to take one bag of allspice, equally necessary with any medicine for the use of the sick, and to leave the remaining ten bags; to share the bottle-corks, retorts and receivers, vials and galley-pots, bolt-heads, bottles in wicker-baskets, and to take such bottles as were designed for medicines only, leaving all others. The small mortars fit for Regimental chests, twine, and oint-

ment, already sent, were wanted, as well as the flat-irons, and a few large mortars for the General Hospital.

In proposing this division, I endeavour to consult the interest of the town of *Boston* and country, as much as of the Army. If you can propose anything more equitable, or more reasonable, I shall cheerfully acquiesce; for I would on no occasion wish to execute my orders in any manner detrimental to the good of this country, the interest of which I would willingly promote to the extent of my power. On the other hand, my immediate duty and the General's orders, (which I am bound to obey,) will not permit me to deprive the Army or General Hospital of whatever is essential to the service of the former, or the good of the latter. I will take upon me to answer for it, although the orders of the General mention no more than drugs and medicines, that his intention was to include all those particulars belonging to a General Hospital, not less necessary than medicine itself, as vials, galley-pots, corks, and other shop furniture equally wanted, and that he never once allowed himself to think that the Committee of *Boston* would have thought of putting any narrow constructions on his orders. If we cannot agree on these constructions, and the resolves of the General Court founded on the same, I shall either wait here for the General's further orders, or submit to such constructions as the General Assembly are pleased to put upon them. In the mean time, I remain, with fervent wishes for the prosperity of the town of *Boston*, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN MORGAN.

To the Committee of the General Court.

SAMUEL TUFTS TO BENJAMIN GREENLEAF.

Newburyport, April 23, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I hope, sir, you will pardon the freedom of my troubling you with this letter; but being appointed, with Captain *Edward Sawyer*, by the honourable General Court, to the important trust of inspecting and receiving saltpetre, the reason of my now addressing you is, to request the favour of you to inform the honourable Court that we have purchased, on account of the Colony, two thousand eight hundred and forty-seven and a half pounds, and paid for the same. And as many people have called upon us to receive large quantities, and more expected, to the amount of four thousand pounds weight, we are not able to receive for want of money. We request the favour of the honourable Court to grant a sum to enable us to fulfil the trust reposed in us.

Your communicating this will much oblige (by order and in absence of Colonel *Sawyer*) your humble servant,

SAMUEL TUFTS.

To the Honourable *Benjamin Greenleaf*, Esq., at present at *Watertown*.

P. S. If the money should be granted, request the favour of your forwarding it.

INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES FOR JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The Freeholders of *James City* being desirous of expressing their sentiments on the important subject of Independence, a majority residing in the County assembled at *Allen's* Ordinary, the 24th of *April*, 1776, for that purpose, and agreed to the following Instructions:

"To ROBERT C. NICHOLAS and WILLIAM NORVELL, Esq's:

"GENTLEMEN: In vain do we congratulate ourselves upon the impotency of the Minister to divide us, if our union amounts to nothing more than an union in one common lethargy. War hath been brought into our houses, heightened by terrors and cruelties, which the justest cause wants even palliatives for; but faint advances towards peace, insidiously urged, have caught the ear of the credulous, and groundless hopes of accommodation deluded the timid, so that the true military system remains untouched in the most essential points. As if our inexperience, poverty in warlike stores, and the infancy of our Navy, were of trifling moment, we have ventured to neglect resources, in such difficulties, which Heaven hath placed within our attainment.

"Alliances may be formed at an easy price, capable of supplying these disadvantages, but an independent State disdains to humble herself to an equality in treaty with

another who cannot call her politicks her own; or, to be explicit, she cannot enter into a negotiation with those who denominate themselves Rebels, by resistance, and confession of a dependancy.

"Reason, drawn from justice, policy, and necessity, are everywhere at hand for a radical separation from *Great Britain*. From justice; for the blood of those who have fallen in our cause cries aloud, "It is time to part." From necessity; because she hath, of herself, repudiated us, by a rapid succession of insult, injury, robbery, murder, and a formal declaration of war. These are but few, and some of the weakest arguments which the great volume of our oppression opens to every spirited *American*.

"It cannot be a violation of our faith now, to reject the terms of 1763. They are a qualified slavery at best, and were acceptable to us, not as the extent of our right, but the probable cause of peace; but since the day in which they were most humbly offered as the end of animosities, an interval hath passed marked with tyranny intolerable.

"We, therefore, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do request and instruct you, our Delegates, (provided no just and honourable terms are offered by the King,) to exert your utmost abilities, in the next Convention, towards dissolving the connection between *America* and *Great Britain*, totally, finally, and irrevocably."

[The above Instructions are signed by a majority of the Freeholders living in the County.]

GENERAL LEE TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read May 6, 1776, and referred to Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Braxton, and Mr. Duane.]

Suffolk, April 24, 1776.

SIR: As it is now beyond all doubt that it is the intention of the enemy to attack these Provinces with a very considerable force, and as the extent of the assailable parts is so very great, it must appear that the troops under my command are inadequate to the service; I must therefore entreat the Congress to detach as many battalions as possible from *Pennsylvania*, with a large addition of powder. I wish a good horse officer could be found and sent to me; he is much wanted. You will excuse the shortness of my letter, as I am in great haste.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient humble servant,

CHARLES LEE.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

P. S. We want medicines (bark in particular) most cruelly.

THOMAS STONE TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

Philadelphia, April 24, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR: Mr. *Johnson* wrote to you, yesterday, by post, and I wrote to Mr. *Hall*. Nothing is known since, in consequence of your letter and resolution to the President. We have been very much engaged, for some days, in attending to the affairs of *Canada*, having received late intelligence from that quarter. I presume the *Canada* Department, with its Conventions and despondencies, will engross our attention for a few days, and then some answer will probably be given to your letter. What it will be, I cannot guess with any degree of certainty; but I am inclined to think everything will be left to the Convention. We shall attend the meeting of that Assembly.

Governour *Eden's* letter is published in one of the papers here, and various are the comments on it. Independent of everything else, it is very suspicious; but taking Mr. *Eden's* conduct, and the letters from his brother, (who must know his sentiments,) into consideration, I think greatly lessens the charge which the intercepted letter would, of itself, import.

If the Commissioners do not arrive shortly, and conduct themselves with great candour and uprightness, to effect a reconciliation, a separation will most undoubtedly take place; and then all Governours and officers must quit their posts, and new men must be placed in the saddle of power. I wish to conduct affairs so that a just and honourable reconciliation should take place, or that we should be pretty unanimous in a resolution to fight it out for Independence. The proper way to effect this is, not to move too quick.

But then we must take care to do everything which is necessary for our security and defence; not suffer ourselves to be bullied or wheedled by any deceptions, declarations, or givings out. You know my heart wishes for peace, upon terms of security and justice to *America*. But war, anything, is preferable to a surrender of our rights. You may rely on my friendship on all occasions.

My brothers are all steady friends to your Council; and we have not the least doubt but when your conduct comes to be tried by your country, you will receive its thanks for your great attention to the publick good. You have been steady, firm, and determined, in the present opposition to Ministerial tyranny, and I hope will persevere to the end, bearing all blasts with unshaken constancy and resolution.

Nothing new here. I shall set out on *Saturday* or *Sunday* next, to meet my wife. Be pleased to show this to your brothers in Council, to whom I present my most respectful regards.

I am, sir, your most obliged and affectionate friend,

T. STONE.

To *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WARD.

Philadelphia, April 24, 1776.

SIR: I am commanded by Congress to acquaint you that your letter of resignation, of the 12th instant, was this day laid before them, and that they have been pleased to accept of the same. The motives which first induced the Congress to appoint you a Major-General in the Continental service, would naturally make them regret your retiring from the Army; but when it is considered that, in the course of your duty in that high rank, you have acquitted yourself with honour and reputation, I am persuaded the reluctance they feel at your retiring is much increased.

The Congress, in a letter to General *Washington* of the 2d instant, have declared the thanks of these United Colonies to be due to the brave officers under his command, and have requested him to communicate to them this distinguishing mark of the approbation of their country. I mention this, as the letter did not reach the General until he arrived at *New-York*.

With the sincerest wishes for a restoration of your health, and for your future happiness, I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To Major-General *Ward*.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL FRYE.

Philadelphia, April 24, 1776.

SIR: The Congress having received your letter of resignation, I am commanded to acquaint you that they have been pleased to accept of the same. While they lament the cause that obliges you to retire, they cannot but acknowledge it to be a sufficient one. The reputation and honour with which you have conducted yourself, on all occasions, in the Continental service, must always afford you the most pleasing satisfaction.

The Congress, in a letter to General *Washington*, of the 2d instant, have declared the thanks of these United Colonies to be due to the brave officers under his command, and have requested him to communicate to them this distinguishing mark of the approbation of their country. I mention this, as the letter did not reach the General until he arrived at *New-York*.

With the most sincere wishes for the restoration of your health, and for your future happiness, I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To Brigadier-General *Frye*.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO COLONEL HAZEN.

Philadelphia, April 24, 1776.

SIR: It affords me great pleasure to have it in charge from Congress to convey to you their approbation of your letter to General *Schuyler*, as well as your attention to the publick good. Though it appears that some of the Continental troops have behaved in an imprudent manner towards the *Canadians*, yet I trust the evil is not incurable. It is only by