

any gentleman would not gratify to break his land, to explore mines for the publick service. With the greatest submission I beg the favour of you to let me know if I may depend on the mining employment, or if I must look for business where Providence may provide me. I expect your good morals and acquaintance with the disappointment I met with by the request of *Colland Chandler*, in this County, (which rendered me under all the disadvantages of a stranger,) will excuse my freedom in giving this trouble.

And, with the greatest submission and good wishes to your undertakings, I am your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN McDONALD, *Miner*.

To the Honourable Provincial Congress for the Colony of *New-York*.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fredericksburgh, Dutchess County, May 23, 1776.

SIR: Having leave from General *Schuyler* last *March* to come down and settle some property I had at this place, he directed me to the County Committee for further leave; but not finding my affairs as I expected, I waited on the Committee and applied to them for a pass to go to the *Jerseys* or *Pennsylvania*, where most of the gentlemen that were taken prisoners in *Canada* were already sent. Their answer was, that they could not take it on themselves to send me anywhere but back again to *Albany*, without General *Schuyler's* directions.

I have written General *Schuyler* twice, acquainting him of their ordering me back again, and begging that he would be pleased to let me know where I was to go; but received no answer, though I wrote a month ago. As this is my situation, I will take it as a particular favour to have your Excellency's directions, and an order for carriages for myself and baggage, as none will otherwise be provided for me.

I would be glad to have the indulgence of going to the *Jerseys*, as I am well known in that place; likewise, as I have a large family of a wife and six children, which could be sent the most of the way by water-carriage.

I am, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

DUNCAN CAMPBELL,

*Ensign and Q. M. to Twenty-Sixth Regiment,  
and prisoner of war.*

To His Excellency General *Washington*, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental forces.

CAPTAIN VARICK TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Albany, May 23, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: Agreeable to General *Schuyler's* directions to me, I send down (under charge of Lieutenant *Van Waggenen*) Lieutenant *Schalch* and Dr. *Gill*, of the Royal Artillery, made prisoners at *St. Johns*, to be disposed of as your Excellency shall be pleased to direct. They are on their parole.

I also send down Mr. *John MacDonell*, one of the *Scotch* gentlemen made prisoners at *Johnstown*, *Tryon* County, in *January* last. He has the General's permit to go to *Reading*, in *Pennsylvania*, and join the other gentlemen made prisoners with him. The conduct of the two former gentlemen during a short stay at *Schenectady* has proved unexceptionable.

By the General's order I also enclose an account of moneys paid by him or by his order to Mr. *Elijah Bennett*, Post-rider. General *Schuyler* requests that *Bennett* may be charged with the amount.

I am your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

RICHARD VARICK.

To His Excellency General *Washington*.

ADMIRAL HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW.

Providence, May 23, 1776.

SIR: Please to send me, by Captain *Saltonstall*, as good an account of the guns and stores left in your hands as you can get; and likewise, should be glad you will send me an account of your schooner's cargo, which Captain *Biddle*

retook, as the officers blame me for delivering her until she was tried. Should be glad to satisfy them that they will receive no injury by that step.

I congratulate you on being appointed by the Congress agent for the fleet, and all prizes sent into your Government, which I have received an account of; expect you will act as such, whether you have received the order or not, and get the three prizes libelled and condemned as soon as possible. And as to your schooner, I make no doubt but you will satisfy the officers and people without a trial.

I now have the gentlemen here from the Committee of Safety of *Philadelphia*, but I expect they will not be able to get more cannon here than they did or I expected they would at *New-London*. What will be the event of their not succeeding, I cannot at present tell. I am well convinced their sending them away will be of very ill consequences to the continent, and their not going will have no other bad effect but on me, who had better suffer than the community.

I am, with great respect, your friend and humble servant,  
ESEK HOPKINS.

To Mr. *Nathaniel Shaw*, Jun., Merchant at *New-London*.

ADMIRAL HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN SALTONSTALL.

Providence, May 23, 1776.

SIR: Please to get an exact account of the number and weight of the cannon, mortars, shells, shot, and stores, left at *New-London*; and also get an account of Mr. *Spooner*, of all the provisions and stores delivered out of the several prizes to the fleet, and the particular vessels they were delivered to; and also an account of him of the schooner's cargo delivered to Mr. *Shaw*, and also Mr. *Shaw's* account of what they sold for, and an account also of the balance of what powder Mr. *Shaw* now has in his hands that was landed out of the fleet; and also take some care of the men belonging to the fleet, and send such here as are capable of duty.

Yours, &c.,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To *Dudley Saltonstall*, Esquire.

BILLERICA (MIDDLESEX COUNTY) MASSACHUSETTS.

At a legal Town-meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of *Billerica*, upon an adjournment, *May* 23d, 1776, Doctor *Timothy Danforth* Moderator:

The question was put, Whether said town will, in conformity to a resolve of the honourable House of Representatives of this Colony, advise our Representatives that if the honourable Congress shall, for the safety of the Colonies, declare them independent of *Great Britain*, they, the inhabitants, will engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the measure?

It passed unanimously in the affirmative.

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

On *Thursday*, *May* 23d, 1776, the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of *Boston*, qualified as the law directs, met at the old brick Meeting-House, in order to choose their Representatives for the ensuing General Assembly, when they made choice of the following gentlemen, viz: *William Phillips*, *John Pitts*, *John Brown*, *William Cooper*, *Benjamin Austin*, *Oliver Wendell*, *Nathaniel Appleton*, *David Jeffries*, *Joseph Gardner*, and *Arnold Welles*, Esquires, Mr. *Caleb Davis*, and Mr. *William Powell*.

Mr. *Welles* and Mr. *Powell* having declined the service, Mr. *Samuel Allyn* Otis and Mr. *Henry Hill*, chosen in their room.

The Town then gave their Representatives the following Instructions, viz:

GENTLEMEN: At a time when, in all probability, the whole United Colonies of *America* are upon the verge of a glorious Revolution, and when, consequently, the most important questions that were ever agitated before the Representative body of this Colony, touching its internal police, will demand your attention, your constituents think it necessary to instruct you in several matters what part to act, that the path of your duty may be plain before you.

We have seen the humble petitions of these Colonies to the King of *Great Britain* repeatedly rejected with disdain. For the prayer of peace, he has tendered the sword; for liberty, chains; and for safety, death. He has licensed the instruments of his hostile oppressions to rob us of our property, to burn our houses, and to spill our blood. He has invited every barbarous nation whom he could hope to influence, to assist him in prosecuting these inhuman purposes. The Prince, therefore, in support of whose Crown and dignity, not many years since, we would most cheerfully have expended life and fortune, we are now constrained to consider as the worst of tyrants. Loyalty to him is now treason to our country. We have seen his venal Parliament so basely prostituted to his designs, that they have never hesitated to enforce his arbitrary requisitions with the most sanguinary laws. We have seen the people of *Great Britain* so lost to every sense of virtue and honour, as to pass over the most pathetic and earnest appeals to their justice with an unfeeling indifference. The hopes we placed on their exertions have long since failed. In short, we are convinced that it is the fixed and settled determination of the King, Ministry, and Parliament of that Island, to conquer and subjugate the Colonies, and that the people there have no disposition to oppose them.

A reconciliation with them appears to us to be as dangerous as it is absurd. A spirit of resentment once raised, it is not easy to appease. The recollection of past injuries will perpetually keep alive the flame of jealousy, which will stimulate to new impositions on the one side, and consequent resistance on the other; and the whole body-politick will be constantly subject to civil commotions. We therefore think it absolutely impracticable for these Colonies to be ever again subject to or dependant upon *Great Britain*, without endangering the very existence of the state. Placing, however, unbounded confidence in the supreme councils of the Congress, we are determined to wait, most patiently to wait, till their wisdom shall dictate the necessity of making a Declaration of Independence. Nor should we have ventured to express our sentiments upon this subject, but from the presumption that the Congress would choose to feel themselves supported by the people of each Colony, before they adopt a resolution so interesting to the whole. The inhabitants of this town, therefore, unanimously instruct and direct you that, at the approaching session of the General Assembly, you use your endeavours that the Delegates of this Colony at the Congress be advised that, in case the Congress should think it necessary for the safety of the United Colonies to declare them independent of *Great Britain*, the inhabitants of this Colony, with their lives and the remnant of their fortunes, will cheerfully support them in the measure.

Touching the internal police of this Colony, it is essentially necessary, in order to preserve harmony among ourselves, that the constituent body be satisfied that they are fairly and fully represented. The right to legislate is originally in every member of the community, which right is always exercised in the infancy of a state. But when the inhabitants are become numerous, it is not only inconvenient, but impracticable for all to meet in one assembly; and hence arose the necessity and practice of legislating by a few, freely chosen by the many. When this choice is free, and the representation equal, it is the people's fault if they are not happy. We therefore instruct you to devise some means to obtain an equal representation of the people of this Colony in the Legislature. But care should be taken that the Assembly be not unwieldy; for this would be an approach to the evil meant to be cured by representation. The largest bodies of men do not always despatch business with the greatest expedition, nor conduct it in the wisest manner.

It is essential to liberty that the legislative, judicial, and executive powers of Government be, as nearly as possible, independent of, and separate from each other; for where they are united in the same person or number of persons, there would be wanting that mutual check which is the principal security against the making of arbitrary laws, and a wanton exercise of power in the execution of them. It is also of the highest importance that every person in a judiciary department employ the greatest part of his time and attention in the duties of his office. We therefore further instruct you to procure the enacting such law or laws as

shall make it incompatible for the same person to hold a seat in the legislative and executive departments of Government at one and the same time; that shall render the Judges, in every judicatory through the Colony, dependant, not on the uncertain tenure of caprice or pleasure, but on an unimpeachable deportment in the important duties of their station, for their continuance in office; and to prevent the multiplicity of offices in the same person; that such salaries be settled upon them as will place them above the necessity of stooping to any indirect or collateral means for subsistence. We wish to avoid a profusion of the publick moneys on the one hand, and the danger of sacrificing our liberties to a spirit of parsimony on the other. Not doubting of your zeal and abilities in the common cause of our country, we leave your discretion to promote such exertions, in promoting any military operations, as the exigencies of our publick affairs may require. And in the same confidence of your fervour and attachment to the publick weal, we readily submit all other matters of publick moment, that may require your consideration, to your own wisdom and discretion.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Philadelphia, May 24, 1776.

SIR: In obedience to a resolve of Congress, I herewith transmit the sum of sixteen hundred and sixty-two pounds one shilling and three pence, in three bags, which I have committed to the charge of Captain *Graydon*, of the *Pennsylvania* forces, in the Continental service. This is all the hard money that was in the Treasury.

Enclosed you have the resolves of Congress with regard to our affairs in *Canada*. At present I am so extremely hurried that I have only time to add, that the money voted by Congress to be sent to you shall be forwarded in a few days.

General *Washington* arrived here yesterday, in good health, the Congress having requested his attendance to consult him on the operations of the approaching campaign.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To Major-General *Schuyler*, *Albany*.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA.

Philadelphia, May 24, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By the enclosed resolves of Congress, which I do myself the honour of transmitting, you will perceive that every step has been taken to procure hard money that could be devised.

I have forwarded to General *Schuyler*, by this conveyance, the sum of sixteen hundred and sixty-two pounds one shilling and three pence, in hard money, which was all that was in the Treasury.

General *Washington* arrived here yesterday afternoon in good health, the Congress having requested his attendance in order to consult him on the operations of the approaching campaign, and such other matters as should be necessary.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To the Hon. *Benjamin Franklin*, *Samuel Chase*, and *Charles Carroll*, Commissioners in *Canada*.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL THOMAS.

Philadelphia, May 24, 1776.

SIR: You will perceive by the enclosed resolutions of Congress, which I do myself the honour of transmitting, and to which I beg leave to refer your attention, that *Canada*, in their opinion, is an object of the last importance to the welfare of the United Colonies.

Should our troops retire before the enemy, and entirely evacuate that Province, it is not in human wisdom to foretell the consequences. In this case the loss of *Canada* will not be all; the whole frontiers of the *New-England* and *New-York* Governments will be exposed, not only to the ravages of the *Indians*, but also of the *British* forces, not less savage and barbarous in the prosecution of the present war. In this view of the matter, it is needless to employ arguments