

Dr. May.

Philad^a Jan^y 5th 1777.

Since my last of the 27. Ult^o in which I gave a particular Acc^t. of our successfull attack upon Trenton; the Gen^l. (lately victed ^{with} the skill & unlimited prowess necessary for the Times) determined to cross the Delaware; an acc^t. of which up to the 2^o Inst. I have sent to Col^l Celaphin Gen^l. Stephen's & de Formays Brigades ^{with 2 Cannon} were advanced the 31st to Maidenhead 4 miles from Princeton: 2 other Brig^s advanced 2 miles from Trenton to cover their Retreat; the main Body being posted on the Eminence between a Creek running thro' the Town & the Delaware with 30 odd pieces of Cannon. On the 2^o Inst. the Enemy say 5000, advanced to Trenton, fell in with the advanced parties, who resolutely maintained their ground with much Loss to the Enemy, their passage into the Town was disputed every Inch, till the Gen^l. ordered 'em all in to the main Body, which they effected with but little Loss. The Enemy, deceived by the advanced parties crossing the Creek, attempted the Bridge twice, but were repulsed

The fight continuing from 10^o till 5. & each fatigued, peaceably made their fires & lay down. At 12^o at night, our Gen^l hearing that Howe was com^g in person with a Reinforcement of 3000 to join his Men in Trenton the next Morn^g. decamp'd so privately as not to be observed, filed off to the Left & waited till they came up. at 8^o A.M. of the 3^d. this Reinforcement came on, an obstinate Battle ensued till 12^o C. at length the Enemy gave way & our brave Gen^l drove 'em thro' Princeton, doing good Execution as they ran & taking upwards of 700 Prisoners, who were yesterday at Borden Town, & are I suppose now escaping. Report says that Howe with all of the 40th Reg^t were so closely pursued, that they took shelter in the College, that Gen^l W. sent him a flag offering quarter if they w^d surrender, if not that he w^d batter it down & put 'em to the sword; they accepted his offer: But this wants Confirmation. Providence so directed the Matter, that the Gen^l while engaged with the Reinforcement, was out-attacked in his Rear by the Enemy which he left behind.

I saw 'em march out of Town at 11^o P.M. Gen^l C. who commands here, this Morn^g informs me that there are now 1000 prisoners, that all the Enemy are sent off flying to their sh^{es}. Gen^l Putnam left them yesterday, leading on 1500 Militia to our Gen^l's aid, who is safe. There are now no more. Gen^l Heath is in their Rear with a large Party. Gen^l Wooster is in possession of Kingsbridge. I have not yet heard of any of our considerable Officers being hurt, many of the inferior are wounded. I believe we have lost many Men: they fell on a glorious Field. The Rheumatism prevented me from being with 'em, tis growing better. Pray send this immediately to Maj^r Powell. Y^r Obedt ^{Servant} G. Smith

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Mr. John A. Munn

March

Alexandra

per A. Ballou

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