

Hampton May 15th 1776

Dear Sir

Your kind favour dated 5th Ult^o. but which from the tenor I conceive to be writ^t on the 3th Inst^o, I received Yesterday, by a private hand from W^m Smith, the substance whereof, makes me congratulate myself on having found not only an agreeable, but an useful correspondent, and if my desire to carry on such correspond^{ce} can be gratified, by showing regular punctuality on my side, it will afford me very considerable pleasure —

As to any thing of the agreeable I can furnish you with, you must then take your chance; at present, very little is stirring below W^mburgh worth your notice, and of those things, our accounts here are so prevaricating that I shall not say a word concerning them —

You will have heard of a number of Transports being arrived at Cape Fear, suppos'd to carry 3000 Troops, of the arrival of the Nautilus, Collins, & the Torrey, Montagu in our road, the last of which now lies upon Crumey Isle. If the former sailed to sea Yesterday attended by four of the largest Tenders, I suppose for North Carolina — The 8th Regiment march'd ^{about}

about three or four days ago for the same Quarter, where
we may suppose some stroke will soon be struck, there
is also a talk of Detachments of Southern Minute Men
(Marching) also, but I fear they will be of small
Service — General Lee, Brigadier Howe, their Aid de
Camps & D. a. G. Putt set off the day before Yesterday
— From Huggs of true we learn, that the British
General Howe is embarked for Debuca, whom schemes
may God in his Mercy to the distress, Frustrate
that Nova Scotia has sent Deputies to Congress — &
that the Great Attack will certainly be made in
North Carolina first — This will certainly draw
most of our Troops to that Province, & I sincerely
hope I may be among the Number who go —
at the same time I could ^{wish} that they had rather
chosen Virginia for the seat of war; Good reasons
on our side at large, justify this wish, but in particular
& the interest of this Colony in particular, make
me more earnestly desire it —

We have 2 Companies, Campbells, & Tolls, in Garrison,
besides the 3 of the 3^d Regiment — We have got up
& almost mounted all the Cannon from the Fort —
at

At least three Batteries will be erected upon some of the
points, & we Yesterday began double entrenchments
at little England, to be run from the old one (which
is to be much enlarged) to the wharf — Numbers more
are in contemplation, but our Engineer had not
time to stay when here last —

I really lament the torn & distracted situation
of your County; if I believe its situation is singular,
but a little time will set men right, who are
wrong, ^{from} chagrin & prejudice, & not from principles
of desertion to their Native Country — a few
disappointed carking creatures, whose dastardly souls
never enjoyed one generous thought, if they can talk
and hold forth among their honest well meaning
neighbours, shall work you more mischief in two
or three Church Sundays, than a hundred virtuous
& sensible Citizens, can perhaps eradicate in a year

Why dont you come down to W^{ash}burg? I
am sure more Regiments will be raised, & I do
most cordially join you in wishing to see you more
honourably in the service of your Country —
Believe me to be with much esteem & respect
Your Obedt ^{Servt}
A. M. ^{at}

[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]