

Philadelphia 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1776

Dear Major,

I arrived here yesterday from the army, which I left at Prince Town. I am here for the purpose of seeing the just into Hospitals & to send the well back to the Army. Indeed Major we have much need of a speedy reinforcement. I am much afraid we shall not have one in time to prevent the Destruction of the American Affairs. When I left the Army two Days ago things were a tolerable face & our Troops were again advancing; But the Enemy have since been strongly reinforced; & Gen<sup>l</sup>. Howe has put himself at their head, & has come on so rapidly that Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington was obliged to quit Trenton yesterday Evening & crossed the Delaware with his whole Army. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Lee has about 5000 Men with him but has not yet joined the main Army. Whether that can now be effected is uncertain - The River is between them, & Lee is now much exposed to the whole force of the Enemy. Every thing here wears the face of despondency. This Town will not turn out 2000 Militia notwithstanding all their Parade. & the whole Province of New Jersey has not furnished <sup>more than</sup> that Number. No Militia has yet joined us from the Back Counties of Pennsylvania, & I am afraid but very few will. A Strange Consternation seems to have seized every body in this Country; a Universal Dissatisfaction prevails, & every body is furnished with an Excuse for declining the publick Service. Publick Virtue seems to be quite extinct; The most exorbitant extortion prevails among the Inhabitants, and the greatest Peculation & Avarice among the Servants of the

The Publick. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington has not, at this time,  
more than 4500 Effective Men with him, exclusive of what  
Militia may have joined him. Could a Junction of the whole  
be brought about, he ~~might~~ would have a respectable force.

I am much afraid our Worthy General will be left  
victic to the Stupidity & Babery of New England Poli:  
ticians. What think you of the Eastern Delegates? Not  
withstanding the Deploable Situation to which their Policy  
has reduced their Country, yet they have <sup>had</sup> influence enough  
to have the Resolution for raising Troops  
in War, ~~renewed~~ revived, & have Determined that  
they shall be raised ~~but~~ for 3 Years only. I am told that  
two of our Delegates have joined them in all their  
Schemes. You'll not be at a loss to know who I mean.

It is thought that Gen<sup>l</sup>. Howe aims at this Place;  
If he pushes on briskly he will get Possession of it without  
much Difficulty: Gen<sup>l</sup>. Wash<sup>g</sup>. cannot prevent it if the  
Inhabitants will not. You may conceive what will be  
the consequence should it fall into the Enemys hands.  
I am sorry I have it not in my Power to communicate In:  
telligence that would be more agreeable; But the Present  
Prospect is very gloomy, & I think that nothing but the  
most signal interposition of Providence can save our Coun:  
try from Destruction. That the Sovereign Ruler of Events  
would stretch out his Arm for its Protection is the  
fervent Prayer of your affectionate Sub<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

D. Griffith  
8<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1776

