

Dear Sir

Albany 8th June 1778 ⁴⁴⁹
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I take this opportunity by Express to Inform you of my situation at this place. I Arrived here the Eighteenth May found the greatest Confusion in the little Army & the Inhabitants much worse, there was two Regiments here when I came but they were Immediately ordered & however I Detained one of them for the security of the City & Stores as I could put no Dependence upon the Militia. such a nother set of Scoundrills is not in America when their all is depending they had rather see it all go to Ruin than to hazard the least fighting. on the 30th May there was a Party of the Continental Troops Stationed at a place called Scherary about thirty Miles from this place, when they were Informed that there was a party of the Enemy Advancing to Destroy it. the company Marched out but could not get any of the Militia to follow them. except Six or Seven & in a short time was Engaged with a party of the Enemy in which Action the Capt. & Lieut. were Killed & fifteen of the men while the Militia calmly looked on but did not go to their Assistance such is their conduct & when I applied to them for a Guard to Guard their State Prisons thus

They told me there was so many Tories among them that they could not be depended upon - The Indians & Tories are daily Making Depredations Every day to the Westward - They have burnt a Number of Houses & Killed & drove off a great many Cattle - The Enemy in the Northward have been very still but I Expect they will Break out soon as their Vessels are at Crown point & have been there this some time and if they should Break out in that Quarter there is none to be depended upon but you for their Security -

Gen^l Bagley informs me he has sent one Major Wright to N. Y. who is a Major to Peter's Corps but not get the Authority of that place to take him in Custody which is a similar case to what I found last year I should be glad their Conduct might be Inquired into & the Gen^l was obliged to send him to you - would take it kind he might be secured as he is a noted Villain -

it is Reported here that Gen^l Howe has left Philadelphia & that Gen^l Washington has Marched for N. York how that may be I do not pretend to say - but it is certain they have put their Baggage on Board some time ago - Gen^l Gates is on his March towards
N. York

N. York - they play their part in the Hanging
way here most Nobly Two was hanged on the 16th May & Seven
more 5th June & 120 Left in the City Hall Gate part of which
will share the same fate -

Murders & Robberies are daily Committed in this
Neighbourhood - by this you may see what my Situation
is the Enemy in my front & the Devil in my Rear
however I am in hopes to Conquer them all

I am Sir

Your Affectionate
Obedt Serv^t

John Starks

The Honble Mishech Wear Esq^r

For Mr. Sturges Letter
rec June 23 1778