

Sir

Head Quarters near Dobbs'
Ferry Aug. 22nd 1781

I regret being obliged to inform
you that I find myself at this late
period very little stronger than I was
when the Army first moved out of their
Quarters. Of the Militia which were
required of the State of New Hampshire
which were to have joined me by
the 15th of last Month. none have come
in, and of the Service for the Continental
Battalions only thirteen in the
course of the last Month.

The reinforcements from the other States
have been very inconsiderable.

I leave you to judge of the delicate
and embarrassed situation in which I
stand at this moment - Unable to ad-
vance with prudence beyond my present
position, while perhaps in the general
opinion

opinion my force is equal to the commencement
of operations against New York, my conduct
must appear, if not blameable, highly myster-
ious at least. Our Allies, with whom
a junction has been formed upwards of
three Weeks, and who were made to expect
from the engagements which I entered into with
them at Weatherfield in May last, a very
considerable augmentation of our force by this
time, instead of seeing a prospect of advan-
cing, must conjecture, upon good grounds, that
the Campaign will waste fruitlessly away. I
shall just remark that it will be no small
degree of triumph to our Enemies, and will
have a very pernicious ^{influence} upon our friends in
Europe, should they find such a failure
of resource; or such a want of energy to draw
it out, that our boasted and expensive pre-
parations end only in idle parade.

I cannot yet ^{but} persuade myself, and
I do not discontinue to encourage our Allies
with a hope that our force will still be
sufficient to carry our intended operation
into

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into effect, or if we cannot fully accom-
plish that, to oblige the Enemy to with-
draw part of their force from the South-
ward to support New York, and which,
as I informed you in my Letter from Wea-
therfield, was part of our plan. —

You must be sensible, Sir, that the
fulfilment of my engagements must depend
upon the degree of vigor with which the
Executives of the several States exercise
the powers ~~vested~~ with which they have
been vested, and enforce the Laws lately
passed for filling up, and supplying the
Army — In full confidence that the
means which have been voted will be
obtained I shall continue my preparations.
But I must take the liberty of informing
you that it is essentially necessary that
I should be made acquainted immediately
on the receipt of this, ~~of the number~~ of
the number of Continental Series and
Militia which have been forwarded
and

and what are the prospects of obtaining
the remainder.

I will further add, that it will
be equally necessary to see that the monthly
Quota of Provisions stipulated at the
Meeting of the Commissioners at Providence
is regularly complied with.

I am

With great regard I remain
Your Most Obedient Servant

G. Waples

The Hon^{ble}
Micheal Ware Esq.