

Philadelphia October 27<sup>th</sup> 1778

Dear Sir

In Reading the Several letters & other Publications of the British Commisrs, you will observe that they are constantly endeavouring to make people on both Sides the water, Believe, That Congress Have exceeded their powers in Rejecting <sup>(the Commission<sup>rs</sup>)</sup> their offers of Reconciliation & Entering into an alliance with France; and that in both of these instances the Congress had acted contrary to the Sentiments of their Constituents.

Whether they are really Deceived by the Tory accounts they Receive from the Several States, Or whether they mean to Deceive others, I am not certain; But of this I am certain, that so long as Britain has the Smallest hope Remaining of these States Submitting again to her Domination, She will never Recognise our Independance & consequently the war must continue, It is therefore our interest to convince Britain & every Body else, that the French Alliance and the Rejection of the British Commisrs offers of Reconciliation are universally approved of by these States: For this purpose I should think it would be proper for the Legislatures of the Several States in this Union (as of their own motion without the advice of Congress) to pass Resolves Signifying <sup>their</sup> approbation of those

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Those measures: and in order effectually to cut off all their pretences for applying to individual States or persons, To Resolve that the Congress of the united States are solely vested with power on our part for Contracting foreign Alliances, for making & conducting war & for Restoring peace, and that They & They only have full power for making peace with Britain on the principles of our absolute Independance & not otherwise; and that These States Depose entire confidence in them for those purposes:

If the several States would carefully Draw up & unanimously pass Such Resolves, publish them to the world in the public newspapers and send attested Copies to their Delegates in Congress to be made use of as occasion might Require, I am persuaded that it would effectually cut off all the hopes our Enemies may still entertain of their being able to Deceive & flatter us into Submission, and as they are now convinced that they are not able to Conquer us by force, I Doubt not Such Resolves would greatly facilitate their acknowledging our Independance and offering us reasonable terms of peace

I Believe Such Resolves will be passed by several of the Legislatures, and as our assembly will likely be sitting when you Receive this, I thought proper just to Hint the matter to you for your Consideration.

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In the Enclosed papers you will find the Remarks of  
Common Sense on the Commission<sup>rs</sup> manifesto, also a  
Genuine petition of the Refugees in New York to the  
Commis<sup>rs</sup> the petition appears so ridiculous that  
I should not have believed it Genuine had we not had  
the best proof of its authenticity.

You have heard I doubt not that M<sup>rs</sup> Simpson  
has the Command of the Ranger & that she together  
with the Boston & Providence may be hourly expected  
at Boston.

As my power of Representing the State  
will expire next Saturday, I expect to set out for  
New Hampshire the Beginning of next week and  
hope proper care will be taken <sup>to</sup> keep up a Represent<sup>ion</sup>  
here.

I am Sir with great Respect  
your most obedient  
Servant

Josiah Bartlett

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Langdon Esq<sup>r</sup>

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Col<sup>d</sup> Bartlett's Letter 1778

October 27

Proposing that certain numbers  
should be passed by the General  
Court.

