

1777 Sept. 20

54 39

Camp near Flatland Ford Sept 20 1777

Dear Sir

I am astonished, at a Report in Camp, whispering, that you are Suspended, by a Resolue of Congress; and that your Intention is to resign. — It is alarming to me, and I suppose to every Officer of Spirit & Reputation; — If the Congress have taken upon themselves to suspend you; they seem to have forgotten from whence the present Evil, partly Originated; Namely the Determination of British Government, to Condemn Americans without being heard.

I would rejoice to see that August Assembly Command respect from all the Nations of the Earth; But this is only to be Obtained by a steady & Uniform Conduct, keeping constantly in View the Principles, on which we set out. — It is said that it is for your Behaviour on Flatland Island, or at the Battle of Brandywine, by what I hear from the Officers on the Island with you. —

The descent on the Island was a well conducted Enterprize, and does you Credit. — Had the boats got over in time, the last trip, it would have been perfectly complet. — Supposing your Conduct blameable. You were to be tryed, & Arristed by a General C^t Martial.

King George the 2^d who was a great Officer, did not take upon him to suspend Lord George Sackville, no he was sent home under Arrest by Prince Ferdinand, and tried at the Horse Guards. — At the Action near Birmingham Meeting House; I was with you when it began, and found you as composed as I have seen you, when passing an Evening at Chatham in last January. —

I was then two Months, under your immediate Command, when you procured the best Intelligence of an ^{to} in the Army, & I had an opportunity of Observing your Coolness, when the Enemy came out against us near Benam Town, at Prospect Hill, and upon the whole I assure ^{you} without flattery, to which I am a stranger, There is not a Major General in the Army, under whose Command, or with whose Assistance, I would Conduct an Enterprize, sooner, than Gen^l Sullivan's

pray

Pray let me know matters by the bearer, and do not entertain a thought
of resigning: Consider what the State of New Hampshire would say
of your Resignation, whose brave Militia under Genl. Stark
have lately so eminently distinguished themselves.

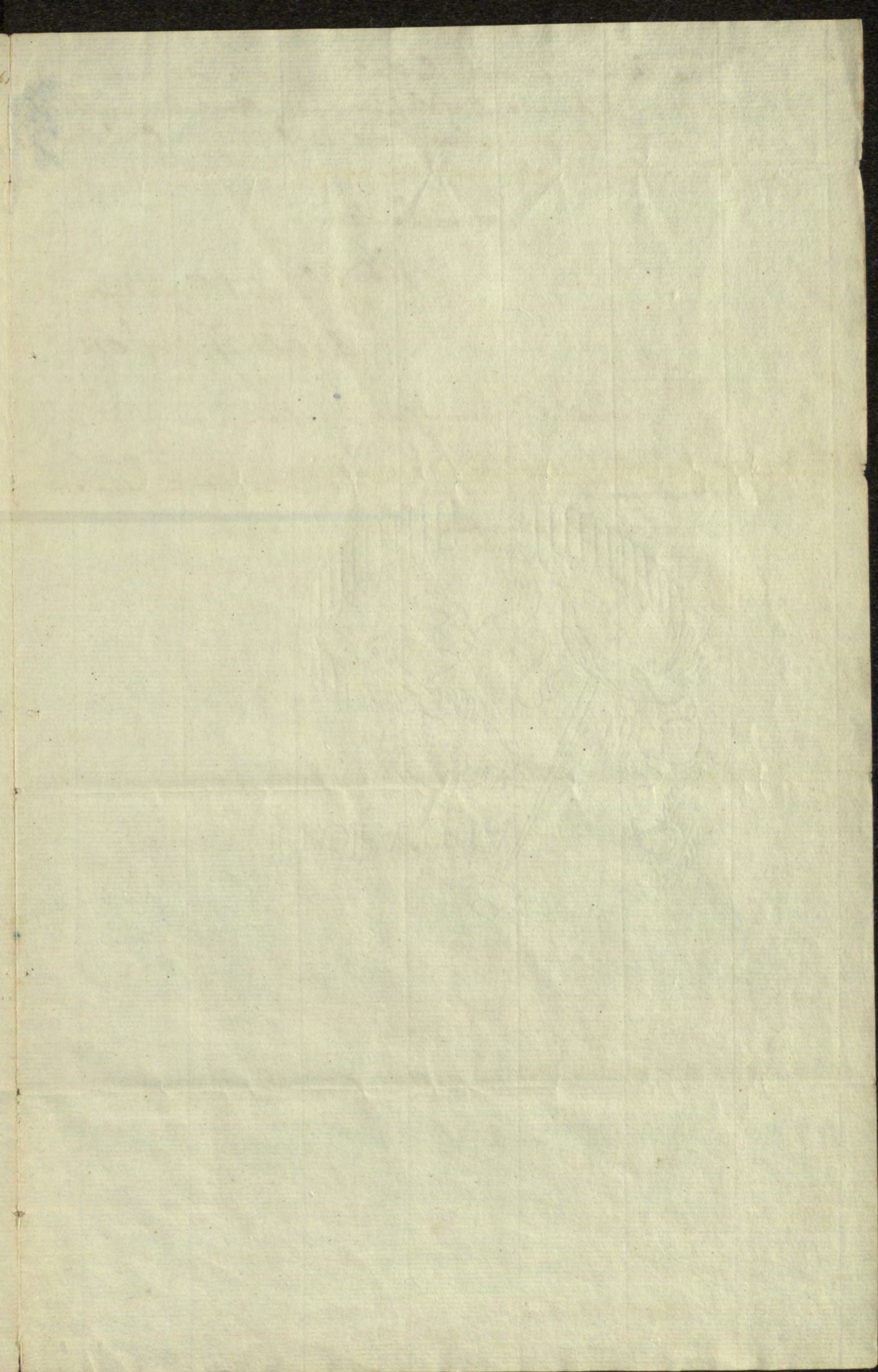
I am with Esteem

Sir Your most humble servant
Adam Stephen

P.S.

Your talk of resigning General; reflect on your noble Retreat
from Canada, which does you & the Officers concerned, the greatest
Honour. I scarcely know a retreat that is superior, it exceeds
Marshall's exploits from Prague.

Major Genl Sullivan



Copy of Geneva.

Stephens' letter

No. 27