

Philadelphia July 5th 1781

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Dear Sir

I am honored with your favor of the 20th of
June with Governor Wentworth's Commission Thence
I find you sent it without requisition ~~but~~ at which
I am much surprised as repeated requisitions ought
to have reached you months since for ~~your~~ you
repeatedly on the Subject but my Letter (it seems) did
not come to hand. I am rejoiced to hear that you have
chosen two other Delegates & beg you will satisfy them
both to come on as I wish to be relieved immediately.

You know well how much reluctance I accepted
the office, you intrusted me with; I assigned many
reasons; I had many more which I did not think proper
to communicate at that time.

I find your People have been annoyed by
a Colo Olcott to whom I paid very little attention
as I found, by a Secret Channel, he was much in
favor of New York; & you may rely on his being
deeply in their Interest; but this time will discover.

I find that I am or have ^{been} charged in your House
of assembly, with not getting a Disfranchisement
respecting Vermont; that I said I was sorry to differ
in opinion from those who instructed me; that I had
much rather it should be a ^{Separate} State than not; & that
I had taken a grant of Land from Vermont as a
bribe to all these I reply with that Spirit which
"injured innocent Inquiries" that they are all false
& malicious. I rejoice Sir that no part of my Publick
Conduct can cause a guilty Whisker to possess my
Check, nor have I ever wished to conceal my Publick
Sentiments

As ~~with respect~~ to getting a Deersman enforced respecting
Vermont, I have endeavored to do it; but in the way
pointed out in the Confederation viz by appointing
Commissioners, New York urged Congress to decide upon
it themselves. The Least attention to the Confederation
will show you whether I was right. I moved
repeatedly for the Commissioners to be appointed
but did not then prevail. in the course of the argument
I urged the inconvenience of Congress undertaking such
a lengthy trial; at a time when the army was
disfellowing the enemy making rapid conquests of the
Independence of America tottering to its base & when
when a Deersman was given it could not be binding
as it would be contrary to the Confederation & not
warranted by the Acts of New Hampshire or New York.
Instead of saying that I was sorry to differ from
my Constituents, I said that New Hampshire did not
expect Congress to decide ^{on} it as a body; & even if they
did I should differ from them in sentiment. ~~but~~
You must remember Sir that the Committee of
Safety informed me that they did not expect ~~that~~
any thing further would be done this time than to
appoint Commissioners; so that I did not differ in
sentiment from them as to the mode of saying with
respect to saying that I would rather it should be a
State than not; I deny it totally in words I often
said I had much rather it should be a separate State
than joined to New York. I also when conversing
with people who were intimate with Mr. Allen and
others who were in town & threw out sentiment to show
that New Hampshire did not wish to persuade the people
of the Grants with that violence, that the People of
New York

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had done, you cannot forget Sir that in consequence upon
the matter The Committee Instructed me to conduct myself
with such address, as not to appear violent ag^t the People
of the Grants, that they might when they found themselves
unable to obtain their claim of being an Independent State they
~~would~~ throw their weight in the scale in favor of N Hampshire.
& that if it could not be secured to New Hampshire, to use
my Influence for its being a Separate State, in preference to
its being annexed to New York. How injurious then must
it be to receive a censure for complying with the verbal
Instructions I received). (As To my receiving a grant of
Land from Vermont as a Bribe; I am happy in the
reflections that no bribe of any kind ever was received
by me upon any occasion, I never spoke to a man who
belonged to the Grants except about a man that was
in company with him, since I left New Hampshire nor
did I ever hear of any grant of Land being made to
me by them ~~or else that yet~~. ~~The~~ & I
will assert that there is not a man on Earth, villain
enough to ^{Say} ~~assert~~ that I had been the most distant hint
of such a thing Allen & others when here avoided
coming near me, or speaking to me, & I thinking I had
no business to intrude on their Delicacy or unexpressed
Caution never spoke a word to either of them.) I shall
now follow the Instructions you Inclosed me, one part of
them I see is agreeable to the Sentiments of Colo Allen which
he Borrowed from the Delegates of New York This has been
urged by them with violence namely - for Congress to
Determine first whether it shall be an Independent State.
I am Surprized that no man in the assembly has discovered
the Designs of this - if this is first Determined, the ~~rest~~
of Decision of the King & Council takes place ^{immediately} of the Grants
fall under the same Jurisdiction they were by the Act of 1764
they will thus Delay a final Decision by every possible
artifice till they get the mind of the people reconciled to
their Government - permit me Sir to ask you, if this question
was -

was determined to honour, & Vermont should submit; ~~not~~
under whose Jurisdiction, would they be previous to a final
Determination? would they be at Liberty to chuse for themselves?
or come under the Jurisdiction that held them previous to the
Decision of the King & Council? or would they be under the
Jurisdiction which held ~~them~~ ^{by} the last Judgement given
between the contending States? if the former was to take place
the Judgement would have no effect, except that of producing
endless Confusions if the second ~~was to take place~~ it would be
to annul the Judgement of the King & Council without a Trial
& this cannot be expected; then Sir the latter must take place
of course. & the wish of New York will be completed; This
they have been aiming at from the beginning & I am sorry
to find that Colo Allen has brought the assembly of New
Hampshire to assist them - I never supposed it could or
ought to be made a serious Question whether the State of
Country had a right to be a Separate State: now let us
suppose for a moment that Congress were to try the Question
& determine it to be a Separate State, are not New Hampshire
or New York or both striped of their right by this Decision?
Then Sir examine the Confederation & see whether Congress
have any such power; you will find that they have
no authority to determine or to try but by Compromise

The regular mode in my opinion is this; as the Land is
claimed by two States (to one of which it most assuredly
belongs) Congress are to appoint Commissioners & if they
determine it to be within the Limits of either there never
can be a Question whether it is an Independent State.

I only mention these things for the consideration of
the assembly before whom I wish this Letter to be laid for
their information. I shall follow the Instructions I have
received. Let the consequences be as they may

Sir you cannot suppose me chagrined at being recalled
from Congress as I petitioned for it long since; but I
feel myself hurt at being almost pressed to undertake in
behalf of the State, & then to have a Trial upon
me & a Condemnation to take place without my being
heard

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I have now given the motives of my conduct to
my Constituent; & I am assured they will approve
them, I wish the Gentlemen appointed may find
you with more abilities; but with more Integrity I
am sure they cannot. I shall not however repine at
the effects of Art or Malice; I am not the first ~~Man~~
who has suffered for being a faithful Servant to the
Publick. I shall (however severely used or unduly
treated) attend to its true Interests with that Disinterested
openness, which I have ever done. Though my feelings
may be wounded, my Integrity cannot be shaken.
& whenever my Country in General or New Hampshire
in particular call for the services of those inconsiderable
abilities which I profess they shall be exercised with
uprightness & Integrity. I want no posts of Solitude
affair I never did & am convinced I never shall
when my Country demand my services they shall
not be withheld, ~~when~~ when they are not wanted
I shall be happy in retirement.

I Inclose you the opinions of Congress
respecting Mr. DeLalour - & am with much esteem
& respect your most obed^t Serv^t J^{no} Sullivan

P.S. I will forward the Commissions as soon
as possible -

Feb^y 6 8:06 A.M. The Secretary has this morning
informed me that he rec^d your Letter & will forward
the Commissions by the next Post.

Superscribed

Meshuk Wear, Esq.

*President of the Councils,
New Hampshire.*