

1781
New Hampshire Village Jan^y 13th 1781.

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A supposition that it is my indispensable duty to give you information of every remarkable Incident which may happen in the army, I presume will be a sufficient apology for troubling you so frequently with Letters. The Beginning of this month The Major part of the Pennsylvania Line mutinied, compelled those who were willing to still remain quiet, kill'd one of their Capt^s and wounded several other commission'd officers who attempted to quell the mutiny, broke open their magazines, took an ample supply of Ammunition & ^{some} provisions & field pieces with them And proceeded from Morristown to Princetown, under officers of their own Election from their noncommission'd officers. They proceeded thro^o the country with very great regularity, And their whole conduct has been remarkably systematical for such a Body of men when in open Rebellion. They had for Commanders a Major & M^{aj}^r Colo^l Capt^s &c in proportion to their Numbers And a Board of war to conduct matters of police. They permitted none of their Officers to come near them except Gen^l Wayne & two of their Colonels, on whom they mounted Guards not so much out of respect, as to prevent any communication between them & the soldiery. Their complaints are many & too many of them not without Foundation. Tho infinitely inadequate to justify such a mode of seeking redress. The first and principal one is their equivocal Oathments which were worded for three Years or during the war. The soldiery construed them not to be binding after the expiration of three Years. The State and Officers urg'd the latter clause and com

compell. them to continue in service, On which side justice was I won't presume to determine. However a Gratuity given them by Congress in 1779, and which ~~size~~ they receipted for as soldiers enlisted for the war (tho. some of them not without compulsion) I believe would have kept the greater part of the line contented in service during the war, had they receiv'd pay, clothing and subsistence regularly as ~~it~~ ^{they} became due. But the want of these in common with the soldiery from other states excited afresh their old complaint. Their Example I believe has had no Influence on the minds of the other Troops as yet. How far it will have a future operation I am unable to determine. To induce them to persevere in the unexampled patience, perseverance, Fortitude, magnanimity, and bravery which they have exhibited, these three years past, A better supply of money & such other necessaries as will tend to make them comfortable will be much the surest, if not the only effectual means. Their sufferings have been such, as no army ever before underwent for so long a time. And the virtue of our Troops may be put to too great a Trial. And what gives a keenness to their sufferings is, ~~that~~ ^{themselves} their fellow citizens, for whom in common with ^{themselves} they endure the Fatigues of a camp Life, are enjoying domestic ease and affluence. They wish for the bare comforts of life only, and will ever cheerfully share in the Inconveniences with which an infant Country must unavoidably struggle in a greater or less degree.

A series of unforeseen accidents has prevented a seasonable supply of clothing & the Inattention of many of the States, has been the means of our suffering so frequently for provisions.

I wish our brother citizens would realize the real wants and sufferings of the army, if they once

did, I am persuaded they might with ^{ease} render the 24th situation of their brethren in arms, vastly more eligible. The superfluities of their Tables only would relieve the soldiery from pinching hunger, a small contribution from each of clothing would cover their nakedness. And perhaps a small sum of money from ^{each} afford ample payment to the army. An average sum not exceeding the unnecessary expences which daily take place through the States.

I beg leave to suggest the absolute necessity of the State procuring a sufficiency of clothing to supply their Troops now in the field, and not to place the smallest dependence on the public. By depending on that resource for clothing our Troops may soon be reduced to an absolute state of nakedness, as I see but very little probability of any clothing arriving from Europe. Our prospects from that quarter I think are too precarious.

My Feelings and anxiety at our present situation have led me to a digression from my first Subject which I hope is not inexcusable.

A committee from Congress & Governor Mifflin have come on to Princeton to persuade the Pennsylvanians to return to their duty. which ought to have been done by force of Arms as such examples may prove destructive to discipline and subordination. If they do not submit to reasonable Terms, honorable in a regular army. A large body of Troops will march tomorrow to quell them. and would have marched much sooner had our Troops here been properly clad for so long a march. If matters should come to extremities, altho our men we shall march against them have too many grievances in common with them, I make no doubt but they will cheerfully compell the Insurgents to subordination by force of arms.

The Honble
Messrs Weare.

I Have the Honor to be most respectfully
Yr Obedt & very Humble
Servt Alexr Scamshell

Letter from Gov. Mifflin to
Mell. Nov. 18, 1781, respecting
the clearing of the Pennsylvania
line.

The Honble
Neyneck Weare Esq^r
Governor of the State
of New-Hampshire.

Received of Samuel
of Jan'y 10th 1791
New-Hampshire