

for Impossibilities from Government, but they wish to see that Effusion of a liberal Heart which it is possible to exhibit in a State of Poverty. Generosity is the Characteristic of a Soldier: For the Love of his Country he lavishes Health and Life, for which no Equivalent can be given him: Should he not then be spared the Mortification of receiving his Pittance from a reluctant Hand?

The present Incomes of the Majority of the People who bear the Burthen of the Public Charges are proportioned to the increased Prices of the Necessaries of Life: If it is objected that those who subsist by fixt Salaries, or by the Interest of their Money, or have been ravaged by the Enemy, are as great Sharers, as the Army, in the common Calamity, it argues, perhaps, no more than that they ought to be favoured by some Exemptions, or that those who have suffered less should contribute to indemnify them.

Was the Case and Circumstances of the Army fully understood by the People at large, we are persuaded their Wisdom and Sensibility would render their Situation eligible and happy as possible.

The War appears to us as far from an honourable Issue as it has ever done. Our Allies, however generous their Intentions, have not been able to give us the expected Assistance. Perhaps Providence, by repeated Disappointments from this Quarter, designs to convince us that our Help and Salvation is, under God, to be derived from our own Exertions.

There is no Ground of Hope that the Enemy will relinquish their Object, till they find the Country prepared to defend itself; that is, until they see an Army opposed to them as regular as their own, and on as permanent a Basis. Our present Condition promises them the speedy Accomplishment of their Wishes: An Army consisting of a few inadequate Thousands, almost destitute of every Public Supply; its Officers, whose Tables once abounded with Plenty and Variety, subsisting, Month after Month, on One bare Ration of dry Bread and Meat, and that, frequently, of the meanest Quality; their Families looking up to them for their usual Support; their Children for the Education to which they once had a Title. Our Enemies know Human Nature too well to apprehend they shall have to contend long with an Army under such Circumstances.

In Faithfulness to our Country we make this Representation, without the Solicitation or Knowledge of those Officers who are the chief Subjects of it: They, we are assured, are generally determined to resign their Commissions at the Close of this Campaign; indeed it is impossible for them to continue, let their Virtue and Inclination be ever so great; and we cannot but express to you, that we shall consider the Loss of the present Body of Officers as little short of the Dissolution of the Army.

If the Country is competent to its Defence, without a regular Army, no more need be said on the Subject; let our's progress, as it does, to its Dissolution; but, on the other Hand, if an Army well appointed and provided is absolutely necessary, the Subjects of it must be made easy and contented with their Situation; reasonable Things will satisfy them.

The Officers have, we conceive, a just Claim to a handsome Support, according to their Rank, for the Time present, and to be secure of an After-Provision, to compensate for the Loss of Business, and to enable them, when the War is over, to live among their Brethren above Contempt. Without this Provision, a pitiful Penury, if not Want and Misery, must be the unavoidable Portion of Men who have faithfully discharged their Duty as Officers and Citizens.

The Wages and Rations of the Officers, if paid in Specie, much less in Notes, are by no Means

sufficient to support them with Decency and Comfort to themselves, and Advantage to the Service: The Necessaries and Conveniences of Life are raised to Two or Three Times their former Prices in Specie; and as to the Depreciation Notes (so called) they do not in Fact sell for One Third their Nominal Value.

It is our Opinion, that nothing less than the Nominal Sum of the Wages and Rations, made good from Time to Time in its relative Value to the Property of the Country, will or ought to be satisfactory: This has been done for the New York Line; and as to a future Provision, our's ask no more than what the last-mentioned State and the Southern States have done, or may do, for their respective Lines serving in the same Army with them. If it should be thought best to vary the Mode of Payment, there will be no Objection. A Sum in Gross will be more agreeable and advantageous to the Eastern Officers; and more consonant to the Sentiments prevailing in their States, than an Annuity unaccompanied with Services: And here we take the Opportunity to mention that some States seem to be taking Measures to attach to themselves the Affection of their own Troops; with what Views it is done we know not; but we should suppose similar Motives to the same Line of Conduct must exist in every State.

We beg Leave to add, as a Measure of Propriety and Justice, that a reasonable Consideration be paid to Officers, who, through Want of Health, shall be obliged to retire before the End of the War.

*Nath. Greene, Major Gen.
Samuel H. Parsons, Brig. Gen.
John Paterson, Brig. Gen.
John Glover, Brig. Gen.
John Stark, Brig. Gen.
J. Huntington, Brig. Gen.
T. Knox, Brig. Gen. Artillery.*

Copy of an intercepted Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, Aid-de-Camp to General Washington, to Isaac Sears, Esq; at Boston, dated October 12, 1780.

I WAS much obliged to you, my dear Sir, for the Letter which you did me the Favor to write me since your Return to Boston. I am sorry to find that the same Spirit of Indifference to publick Affairs prevails. It is necessary we should rouse, and begin to do our Business in earnest, or we shall play a losing Game. It is impossible the Contest can be much longer supported on the present Footing. We must have a Government with more Power. We must have a Tax in Kind. We must have a Foreign Loan. We must have a Bank on the true Principles of a Bank. We must have an Administration distinct from Congress, and in the Hands of single Men under their Orders. We must, above all Things, have an Army for the War, and an Establishment that will interest the Officers in the Service.

Congress are deliberating on our Military Affairs; but I apprehend their Resolutions will be tinctured with the old Spirit. We seem to be Proof against Experience. They will however recommend an Army for the War, at least as a primary Object. All those who love their Country ought to exert their Influence, in the States where they reside, to determine them to take up this Object with Energy. The States must sink under the Burden of temporary Inlittments, and the Enemy will conquer us by Degrees, during the Intervals of our Weakness.

Clinton is now said to be making a considerable Detachment to the Southward. My Fears are high, my Hopes low.

We are told here, there is to be a Congress of the Neutral Powers at the Hague, for mediating a Peace.