

Philad^a. August the 3d 1776

Sir

I Recd yours of the 30th of July
and shall endeavour to answer it. Captⁿ Gor
don might have had the place you mentioned
But on talking with me Very prudently de
clined it. The History of your Manuevers, pro
cession &c please me, and the more so, as
I had heard of the Choice without knowing
the principals on which it was made.

With respect to the Return made me
by the field Officers. They have neglected to send
me the dates of their Commissions or appoint
ments in the Militia. I have therefore wrote
to them to return me the dates before Com
missions can be made out - as to the
Subalterns, their being placed with an
Older or Younger Captain does not affect
their Rank as that will be preserved by the
Commission made out for them - and as that
will be the case it is better they should be
fixed in such Companies as best please -
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plac'd with respect to the Companies -
Which M^r Gordon said was agreeable to
their desire so far as he had knowledge in it.
That he ^{was} sure it was right as to Caldwell's
Company -
With respect to the Choice of a
Convention, I would submit it to you and
Your friends whether / When you have fix'd
on such ticket as meets with your appro-
bation / it would ^{not} be best to pursue and En-
deavour to improve the utility of such choice
being made by the people / Especially at a
time when the Establishing their Rights and
Privileges as freemen depends on such
Choice / Upon your former plan, I mean
of true Whiggism, true Patriotism - This
plan if pursued with diligence and such
cool argument & reasoning as the cause will
point out, ^{it} I think must carry
with it Persuasion and Conviction, it cer-
tainly will with all such as are not
governed by a party spirit - If any per-
son or persons be proposed in opposition to
your ticket who have heretofore been un-
friendly to the cause - point out to the people
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the propriety of trusting to such men, at
such an Important Crisis, Your scheme
ought out to hold out to the people more of the
Patriot, than of party-man - I will again
submit as before - Whether the Inquiry
& Examination proposed to be had before
the Committee will not tend so to irritate
as to occasion many people by taking
sides in that matter to loose sight of the
Cause, their true interest; for if they are
lead to believe that you and your friends
are lead Governed more by party Spirit, than
than by the true Interest of America, they
will hold you in the light of all other
party-men and deal with you according-
ly - You say the Committee are about to
make this Inquiry - Are there a sufficient
number of Patriots in that Committ. to answer
your expectation? Are there a considerable ma-
jority of them that wish the Inquiry should
be had? Will they, if matters turn out as you
Expect, publish their opinions to the Country
so that the friends to Liberty may benefit
by it? It is an Enquiry that ought to
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have been made. but it is an Enquiry that ought to be made ^{by} men of understanding - only - Do such make a Majority of the Committee the good men? By what authority do they take it up? Are not many of the members principals in the matter of Enquiry? All these things I submit to the Good sense and prudence of you and your friends - Tho you seem to have determined on the measure / by your letter / before my opinion was asked - In short it is difficult for me to give an opinion in this case. as I am a stranger to the present complexion of the Committee. However as this Convention is undoubtedly the most important assembly that ever was chose in that Government. would advise the avoiding every kind of violence. and on the other hand the utmost diligence and persuasion ^{to procure} as many friends to liberty on the return as possible. by this means men who have been known to be heretofore unfriendly ^{to} Liberty / if properly pointed out / cannot prevail. the people when uninitiated generally ~~make~~ ^{to} hearken ^{to} reason and make prudent choices - But you may be able

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able to let me know now about these
things by the next Post.

Yesterday came to town a Ship be-
longing to the Congress from France with
ten drums of Powder, about forty drums of
Lead, one thousand stand of arms, &c &c,
and the same day an armed vessel ta-
ken by Captain Barry at sea - I have
put your thread in the hands of a weaver
I am with love to all Yours &c.

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