

Dear General

I take Pleasure in embracing the first leisure Moments, to acquaint y^o of my arrival in this City, to congratulate you on your Exchange & to assure you of a Continuance of my Friendship. Since I had the Satisfaction of seeing you, I have met with many Acts of Cruelty & Insult; but an Exchange has released me from the Power of my Enemies, & I shall endeavour to obtain a Sense of their Injuries, for the sole Purpose of preventing an Exercise of others to the rest of my Fellow Citizens. Every kind of Experience which I have had convinces me that, Retaliation is the only Means by which the British are to be kept to the Duties of Humanity. They are like the Savages with whom they are in Alliance, & are to be retained within the Lines of Propriety by Fear alone. Convince them that you have the Ability, & Inclination, to do yourself Justice, & they will soon be as harmless as Children; but give way to the finer Feelings of Humanity, & they will instantly attribute it to a dread of their Power, & act they part of Tyrant.

— Before we left St. Augustine we had every Reason to imagine that a French Fleet & Reinforcement

Dear General

I take Pleasure in embracing the first leisure moments to acquaint y^o of my arrival in this City, to congratulate you on your Exchange & to assure you of a Continuance of my Friendship. Since I had the Satisfaction of seeing you, I have met with many Acts of Cruelty & Insult; but an Exchange has released me from the Power of my Enemies, & I make endeavors to attain a Sense of their Injuries, for the sole Purpose of preventing an Exercise of others to the rest of my Fellow Citizens – Every kind of Experience which I have had convinces me that, Retaliation is the only Means by which the British are to be kept to the Duties of Humanity – They are like the Savages with whom they are in Alliance; & are to be retained within the Lines of Propriety by Fear alone - Convince them that, you have the Ability, & Inclination, to do yourself Justice, & they will soon be as harmful as Children; but give way to the finer Feelings of Humanity, & they will instantly attribute it to a dread of their Power, & act they part of Tyrant.

-Before we left St. Augustine we had every Reason to imagine that a French Fleet & Reinforcement

would have afforded you Assistance - the People in that part of the World was decided on the Point, & all the English Papers which we say as low down as the 5th of May held out the Idea very strongly - Indeed L^d: Geo: Germaine had given it as his firm Opinion that such a Measure was to take Place - I most sincerely wish he may not be disappointed - The Garrison of East Florida is in daily expectation of an Investment. Their Force is very inconsiderable, not more than 400, their Works very extensive, the majority of their Inhabitants, Minorcans, & Disaffected, & their Subsistence precarious - There will therefore be no other Resistance than such as Honor shall exact. The Situation of the British in Georgia is more watched - their Numbers fewer, many of those very sick, a total Disaffection, & narrow Limits to their Inhabitants - In the State of S. Carolina the Enemy have nothing to boast - By a Flag which arrived last Night we learn that their Port at Haddrell's under a Major Carter has fallen & that Officer made Prisoner - that Major was in the Neighborhood of Dorchester, that the greatest part of the 19th Regiment under L^t: Col^o: Coetis, who had been compelled to retreat from Monk's Corner had been cut off & captured, & the Remainder rescued by a Detachment from Charles Town - & also that the Port at Braselton was closely invested.

would have afforded you Assistance - the People in that part of the World was decided on the Point, & all the English Papers which we say as low down as the 5th of May held out the Idea very strangely - Indeed L^t: Geo: Germaine had given it as his firm opinion that, such a Measure was to take Place - I most fiercely wish he may not be disappointed - The Garrison of East Florida [is?] in daily expectation of an Investment. Their Force is very inconsiderable, not more than 400; Their Works very extensive, the majority of their Inhabitant [?] & disaffected, & their [?] precarious. There will therefore be no other Resistance than such as Honor shall exact. The Situation of the British in Georgia is more watched - their Numbers fewer, many of those very sick, a total Disaffection, & narrow Limits to their Inhabitants - In the State of S. Carolina the Enemy have nothing to boast - By a Flag which arrived Last Night we learn that their Port at Haddrell's under a Major Carter has fallen, & that Officer made Prisoner - that [?] was in the Neighborhood of Dorchester; that the greatest part of the 19th Regiment under the L^t: Col^o: Coetis [?] who had been compelled to retreat from Monk's Corner had been cut off & captured, & the Remainder rescued by a Detachment from Charles Town - & also that the Port at [?] was closely invested.

All these Matters open to Us the most pleasing Prospects,
& require the Assistance of a little Exertion, to be
improved into solid Advantages. Gen^l Green I am
informed wishes to have a civil Government established
in S^o Carolina, & has written for the Assistance of them
of Influence who are here belonging to that State.
Many will leave this plain in a few Weeks; but if I
come within the Description I shall not be able to go
to the South ward until the Last of September —
Some Attention to an exiled Family, & to a Constitution
requiring the Benefit of a moderate Climate, will
detain me here to the time I have mentioned.
I wish I may then be of Service to my Country.
Should it be in my Power I hope you know me so
well as to be satisfied that, I would cheerfully embrace
any opportunity of doing my Duty to America.

Be pleased to remember me Respectfully to Gen^l.
Howe, Clarkson & such of my Friends as think
me worth Enquiring & be assured that

I am D^r. General with
Esteem & Respect of affective
table Serv^t.

Edward Rutledge.

Philad^a: Aug: 14. 1781.

All these matters open to Us the most pleasing Prospects,
& require the Assistance of a little Exertion, to be
improved into solid advantages. — Gen^l Green I am
informed wishes to have a civil Government established
in S^o: Carolina, & has written for the assistance of them
of [?] who are here belonging to that State.

Many will leave this plain in a few weeks; but if I
come within the Description, I shall not be able to go
to the South ward until the Last of September —
Some Attention to an exiled Family, & to a Constitution
requiring the Benefit of a moderate Climate, will
detain me here to the time I have mentioned.

I wish I may then be of Service to my Country.

Should it be in my Power — I hope you know me so
well as to be satisfied that, I would cheerfully embrace
any opportunity of doing my duty to America.

Be pleased to remember me Respectfully to Gen^l.
Howe, Clarkson, & such of my Friends as think
me worth Enquiring & be assured that

I am D^r: General with
Esteem & Respect of affective
Hble Serv^{nt}.

Edward Rutledge.

Philad^a: Aug:² 14. 1781.