



Dear Sir,

I had the honor to write you the 25th Ultimo [Frth] Ins^t. acknowledging your favor of the 11th January, and pursuant to your request, & my duty, I shall proceed to give you every information in my power relative to the Public Weal.

About two Months ago Congress sent a Committee of their Body to Camp in order to consult with the General upon a mode for regulating the Army, M^r [Dannal], one of that Committee is returned with a Report for the new arrangement of the Army, in which it is proposed to reduce the present establishment to 88 Battalions, each to consist of one Colonel, one Lieut Colonel, one Major, six Captains, one Cap^t Lieut, eight Lieut^s, nine Ensigns, the Staff, to be appointed out of the Line. The Q^r M^{rs} General for the grand Army are already appointed, viz Major Gen^l Green, with a Col. Cox & M^r Pellit (both of this State) as assistant Q^r M^{rs} General; There has

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Date: March 30, 1778

Description: Francis Lewis on the actions of the militia relayed to Congress, Yorktown

has been great complaints of neglect & speculation
in this department, into which a strict inquiry will
be made.

The Report proposes half pay, to all the
Commissioned Officers on the new Establishment, who
shall remain in the service at the end of the War.
Congress has already employed a Week, de diem in
diem, debating warmly upon this point, & nothing
yet determined, the half pay scheme meets with
great opposition, the House divided in a Committee
of the Whole, the Question not yet put, but will I
believe tomorrow, if carried in the affirmative (w^{ch}
is still with me a doubt) it will be for a limited
term of years, & not for life.

By a letter from General Washington received
last night, we are informed the Enemy are preparing
for an Expedition, they have ordered Troops from
Rhode Island, & New York round to Philadelphia,
from which manoeuvre the General conjectures,
that they do not expect any considerable reinforcement
from Europe this Campaign, or they would not take
the Field so early; Should their designs be against
Gen^l Washingtons army, it is at present in a
weak state, should they be routed, or obliged to
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retreat, from the negligence of Quarter, & Barrage M^{rs},
they have not Horses to bring off their Artillery,
& Military Stores &c.

Governor Caswell from N. Carolina
is on his march with 5000. Volunteers for the
Grand Army, and Virginia has 5000 more, but we
know not as yet what has been collected in the other
States, by Inlistments or drafts; If the public re-
ports we have from abroad be true, we have nothing
more to do than to exert ourselves this Campaign,
& our Independence will have a permanent Establi-
shment

Our Magazens of Provisions are filling daily,
especially of the bread kind, and we have lately
advice of the arrival of large supplies ^{of arms, ammunition, & cloathing} in the out
Ports, both to the Eastward & Southward, but from
the badness of the roads & scarcity of Waggons,
but few as yet have been conveyed to the Army.

I forgot to inform you that it has been also
moved in a Committee of the Whole, that a bounty
should be given to the Soldiers at the end of the War,
of fifty dollars each & a suit of cloths, over and
above the bounty of Land formerly voted.

The Marquis de la Fayette is in high esteem
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be done to give him the least disgust.

The Polish General Polasskey, is appoint-
=ed to raise an Independent Corps of sixty Dragoon
with 200 light Infantry, to [Rank?] a Brigd General;
I believe he will prove a valuable Officer.

Congress is anxious to know if the Forts
on Hudson River are carrying ^{on} with Vigour as they
have the security of that River very much at
Heart; such has been the large demands for money
that the Treasury was nearly exhausted, but hope
it is now in such a train, as to be soon and amply
replenished.

General Wayne with a party, made lately
an excursion into the Jerseys where he was followed
by a party of the Enemy, they skirmished & were driven
back with the loss of eight or nine taken some-
wounded; Genl. Wayne destroyed large quantities
of forrage & returned; The Enemy took from us
a drove of 120 black Cattle near Corrells ferry on
the West side the Delaware coming for our Camp;
If General Washington is not soon reinfomed, I fear
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he will be obliged to quit his ground & cross the
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will have the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware &
Maryland, in their possession, & Virginia must be
our Asylum.

My worthy Colleague Col: Duer returned to
Congress last week, so that now our State is repre-
-sented, W^g: Morris is still at Camp, we expect
he will joins us in a fortnight;

The following is extract from a letter I this
day received at Baltimore^{cc} In a vessel that arrived here
last Monday from Martinique, a gentleman came
Passinger who reports, that Mr. Bingham showed
him a letter, which he received from Parris, the day
before this gentle^m left the Island, the purport of
which was, that Doctor Franklin, was received by
the French Court as Ambassador from the United
States of America, & that a packet for Congress
came in this Vessell, which was landed on the
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is not as yet received by Congress.

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Men just arrived at Nuburn N. Carolina, with
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~~for our Army~~ for our American Army, of which
he makes an offer to Congress, I have a list of
The several Articles, but time will not permit
me to send you a Copy, let it suffice, when
I say, that in my opinion we have lately
arrived on this Continent of a sufficiency of
Supplies for our present wants, nay more,
if they were properly collected to their respect^{ive}
Magazines.

Be assured Sir I shall give the Hon^{ble}
Council every material information that comes
to my knowledge.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obed^t + Hum^{bl} Serv^t

York Town, 30. March 1778. Fra. Lewis

The Hon^{ble} Pierre VanCoslant Esq.

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