

To his Excellency George Washington Esq. General and
Commander in Chief of the Continental Army
May it please your Excellency

We the Inhabitants of
North Yarmouth and New Gloucester in the County of
Cumberland beg Leave to acquaint your Excellency
that we in these and the neighbouring Towns are greatly
alarmed and distressed by the Desolation of a great Part
of the Town of Falmouth which was on Wednesday last
cannonaded and set on Fire by some of his Majestys
Ships of War, the Particulars of which we suppose your
Excellency has already received some other Way. We
have been informed their Design was next to assault and
destroy North Yarmouth. But that which gives us the most
painful Apprehensions is, a Jealousy that their Design is
to take Possession of Falmouth Neck and fortify an Emi-
nence there from which we judge it would be most difficult
if not impracticable to dislodge them. In this Case they would
enjoy a most commodious Harbour for their Ships & be able
to annoy and distress the defenceless Country around them
at Pleasure. We would further inform your Excellency
that we are weak and unprovided with Artillery and milita-
ry Stores in this Part of the Country and should they erect
a Fort and garrison it with Troops as we have suppo-
sed, we judge that unless we are assisted by some of your
Army or other Ways we must be obliged to fly with our
Families or submit to their Superior Power. And as to
the Importance of this Part of the Colony to the others
we refer your Excellency to others who are acquainted
therewith and can fully inform you. Certain it is that
from this Part of the Country may be carried Plenty of
Fuel Timber &c. and large Stocks of all Kinds of Cattle
which would be most serviceable to our Enemies if they should
once get Possession of this Part of the Colony, and thus
they might be greatly assisted in carrying on Hostilities a-
gainst other Places. In these distressing Circumstances
we would commend Ourselves to your Excellencys Attention

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Commander in Chief of the Continental Army

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and fortify an Eminence there from which we judge it would
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for their ships and be able to annoy and distress the
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provided with Artillery and military stores in this part
of the country and should they erect a Fortress and garri-
son it with Troops as we have supposed, we judge that
unless we are assisted by some of your Army or other Ways
we must be obliged to fly with our Families or Submit to
their Superiour Power. And as to the Importance of this
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large stocks of all kinds of Cattle which would be most
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sion of this Part of the colony, and thus they might be
greatly assisted in carrying on Hostilities against other
Places. In these distressing Circumstances we would
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and Compassion, referring the Matter to your Wisdom whether you will not judge it expedient to take Possession of the said Eminence in Falmouth and fortify and garrison it with some of the Forces under your Command, which woud at the same Time prevent such another terrible Ruin as has befallen great Part of that Town and also guard the other Parts of this Part of the Colony from Ravages and Devastations. But if your Excellency shoud not judge this to be expedient yet we woud pray your Excellency to afford us such Assistance of Men & military Stores as your Excellency shall judge proper; that we may not be exposed every Hour to be plunderd burnt and destroyed, or be forced naked and helpless to leave our Settlements and Habitations and fly for Shelter to some other Parts of the Country.

Thus have we briefly and imperfectly ventur'd to lay before your Excellency our distressed Situation and the Anxiety of Mind we are in, not doubting but your Excellency will judge our Case worthy your Attention and that your Benevolence to the distressed tho they may be utterly unknown to you will influence you to do your Endeavour to afford us that Assistance which you shall think we stand in Need of. For further Information we beg Leave to refer your Excellency to Dr Edward Russell the Bearer hereof a Gentleman that resides in North Yarmouth and is capable of giving your Excellency any further Intelligence you shall need.

We beg Leave to subscribe Ourselves your Excellency most humble and obedient Servants

North Yarmouth Oct^r 24. 1775.

A Copy

Return Mr R's
North Yarmouth
in a paper of
North Yarmouth
Oct. 24. 1775.

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