



Camp Brunswick 3 July 1778

My dear Brother

I wrote you last week from Hopewell Town-
 ship in this State informing you of the relative
 movement of both Armies and the probability
 of their coming into contact with each other. We
 made several moves forward from that time
 while the enemy inclined more to their right
 than we expected and took the road to Sandy
 Hook instead of the suppos'd one to South Amboy
 _____ A body of Militia of the Jersies community
 to about two thousand had endeavored to retard
 them by taking up the bridge, and breaking
 up the roads, and harrasing their flank &
 rear. besides those his Excellency had de=
 tached several large bodies for the same pur=
 pose, all of which except Colonial Morgan were
 on the Morning of the 23^d ultimo united
 under the Command of General Lee who
 early in the morning advanced to Mon=
 mouth Court House with the intention of
 attracting their covering party or left and
 rear. The Army under his Excellency General
 Washington moving on at the same time, tho
 some miles in the rear to support, or act
 as

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 (Coll. 420, Box 3/, MS00-20.0062)
 Date: July 3, 1778
 Description: Henry Knox letter concerning Battle of Monmouth

as circumstances might require. ^{body} The party
 under Genl Lee found the whole Army or the
 greater part of it instead of a covering party &
 after some manœuvring and Cannonading &
 from some other circumstances which as yet
 are not sufficiently explained, it was thought
 proper by Genl Lee for them to retire which
 they effected with small loss for about two miles
 untill they found the main Army under
 his Excellency which was drawn up in order
 of battle on some advantageous Grounds -
 The Enemy advanced with con-
 siderable impetuosity and began a brisk Can-
 nonade which was return'd with becoming
 Spirit. This was about half past nine or
 ten in the morning and the Cannonade
 lasted untill five or six in the evening.
 The action of musketry was ^{very} ^{and with inter-} ^{missions}
 untill about six o'clock when ours
 gained the superiority and pushed the Enemy
 off the field. They retreated about one
 mile from the place of battle and took post
 on a strong piece of ground having a morass in
 their front and on both flanks. To disposses
 them of this Ground required a particular disposition
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The night coming on too soon prevented being
executed. — They retreated in the night
with great precipitation towards Sandy Hook
leaving a considerable number of their wounded
officers and men in our hands. We buried
~~about~~ three hundred of them on the field of
battle among whom were Col^o Monckton
and number of other officers. The whole loss
must amount to above thousand perhaps
about twelve or 1400 kill'd ~~and~~ wounded
— ours is much less. The weather was ex=
tremely hot and we had much business
on hand.

The Corps of Artillery have their
full proportion of the Glory of the day, much
has been said in their favor by the Army.
His Excellency in public orders did them &
me the honor to thank us in very pointed
and flattering terms. Indeed I was highly
delighted with their steadiness, bravery & good
conduct — The effects of the battle of Mon=
mouth will be great and lasting. It will
convince the enemy and the World that nothing
but a good constitution is wanting to render
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