

Copy of the
Proceedings of the
Board of Directors

Sir,

Snow Hill March 12th 1777

I have waited sometime in expectation of receiving an Answer to my letter of this Inst, and of being favor'd with the commands of the general Assembly respecting any further Operations or Measures which might be thought expedient to be adopted, the better to protect the Whigs, and secure the Town of these two Counties; for I am better satisfied than when I wrote before, that the Proclamation will not have the desired Effect, nor indeed would any Measures avail here, unless similar should be adopted in the Delaware States, such is their Confidence in each other, from their Communication and Vicinity, and from their particular Situation and Intercourse with the British Navy, that unless this Intercourse, and the Principle and Spirit of disaffection can generally be removed, the Purpose by an attempt in any particular Part will not I doubt be effected. — I am daily discovering Persons who are not only more disaffected, but whose conduct has been more criminal, and from their Influence have injured the Comon Cause much beyond what has been in the power of many of the excepted Persons; yet I see the strongest assurances that such without altering their Principles will avail themselves of the Benefit of the Proclamation, & will view it in no other light than as a compulsory Act (which some already have intimated) whilst others more Conscientious, cannot renounce their beloved King, and therefore several have already absolutely refused to take Oath of Allegiance to his State. — What have you to expect from those who have cut down Liberty Poles, and in direct Opposition thereto, have erected the Kings Standard, & in an avowed manner drank his Health and Success, & destruction to Congress and Conventions? of those who have advised and actually signed General Howe's Proclamation? of Militia Officers who have embodied with and headed the Insurgents of Persons under Bond and Security to the State, & forfeited the Penalty by Commission of most of the within mentioned Crimes? of such who have supplied the Kings Ships with Provisions, and kept up a constant intercourse with them? of those who knowingly aided, and conveyed the Public Prisoners on Board? of those enrolling in the Kings service, during the War under Hallelo? of those advising the Soldiers of this State & the Continent, to desert, & not only harboring but supplying them with Arms to defend themselves against being taken? And lastly what can be expected from the Inhabitants of a Place, which becomes the Reception of Deserters, escaping Prisoners, & most of the disaffected who have been expelled the Neighbouring States? These Facts being unquestionably proved & in many Instances admitted, would not lead to demonstrate that Religion was the Original Cause of those Events, yet this is urged as the principal Motive in

very Instant; tho' there are some Deceptions, wherein ignorant Men from
their Religious Attachments, have been deluded (those are readily distin-
guished and to be pitied) yet by far the greater Number conceal their
true Motives, & make Religion a Block for their nefarious Designs;
and you may rely on it, there are few Circles of the like Extent
in New York or the Jersey States, which abound now in disappointed People.

I have been flattered that it will be in my Power to collect 15000
Blankets in those two Counties, for which Purpose have appointed
proper Persons to receive and pay for them, & to facilitate this &
other Purposes, have required the Militia Regts to meet on different Days
at their usual Place of Rendezvous, to be reviewed and bringing what
Blankets can be spared — this will afford a better Opportunity of making
such discoveries as may be necessary respecting their Number & Sentiments,
the State ~~of~~ of their Arms, and Discipline, and may probably pick up
some Recruits, which was a great Inducement for this Order, but
am afraid my design in this last Instance will in some Measure be
frustrated by the conduct of some Gentlemen of the Baltimore ~~Company~~^{Company},
who in general behaved well till they were discharged, after which if
they have not disobeyed Orders they have descended to a degree of
Petulance which ^{in this Instance} as Gentlemen and well Wishes to their Country
they ought to have held themselves above — whilst under my
Command, as Gentlemen I had ^{it} my particular Duty to treat with
Politeness and gave them every Indulgence; & from a Consideration
of their respective Circumstances & Situation in Trade, and to oblige
~~them~~ discharged them the 10th Inst. before it was consistent with my
Duty or the Obedience of the State, at the same time informing Capt.
Sturtt, and others of his Company, that as the Militia Regts were
to meet, I should keep their Pipe and Drummer, who would contribute
much (by the Musick) in procuring Recruits, & promoting that
Service, which he not only very politely agreed to, but ordered the
the Pipe and Drummer to continue, the Drummer then applied to
me to go to Baltimore, which I expressly refused, urging the Reason of
his being detained and that as soon as the Muster was over, he should be
discharged, however they went down to the Company's Boat about
seven Miles below Princeps Run — I then order'd Lt. Campbell who was
also going in this Boat, to take with him a File of Men well armed to
to take the Pipe and Drummer & send them back to me under their
Guard, which from the inclosed Letter of Capt. Sturtt you'll observe he
was prevented by some of the Company from doing. I should not

have taken up your Attention with this Circumstance, but to
point out ^{that} I am sorry your Independants had not a stronger
Sense of their Duty, both as Soldiers & Gentlemen well affected
to the general good, and to acquaint you that unless proper
Notice is taken of it, I shall decline in future the command
of your Independants or Militia, upon any occasion unless
under better Regulations, I wish Campbell may have
acquitted himself on this Occasion, becoming a regular Officer, I
have wrote to Capt. Street for the Names of those who refused
to let him comply with his Orders

No persons as yet have Crst in their Arms
or claimed the Benefit of the Proclamation except such who
have been under Examination, and some of those have refused
swearing Allegiance to this State, nor do I think they will
generally come in till towards the last Day — I shall not
presume to judge or draw Conclusions, but I am often shocked
and concerned for the manner in which this Class of Men
conduct themselves under Oath, and I sincerely wish it may
not be productive of many Dejections — The accepted persons
are still under Guard, Calles and Moore not yet taken
— 15 Deserters some Gunby's but mostly Longs, and two of
Flannings Virginia Reg^t have been taken, and I have now
Detachments out after near 30 more who have deserted
from the Navy and Army and are sulking among these
people — Capt. Shockley an Officer of Spirit, and one who on
this Occasion has render'd many Services being the other night
in quest of Deserters was fired on and one drop shot in
his Leg, and his Horn was wounded with several, but the party
being in the Woods and it being dark escaped upon our men's
returning the Fire — I should is
and have taken upwards of 100 which shall hereafter be
transmitted

with Respect
I have the Honor to be
Your very obed. Serv^t
W. Smallwood Brig. General

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