

into action with that ardour, which despising overcomes all difficulties, and which led you, destitute of money, of allies, of arms, and soldiers, to encounter one of the most powerful nations in Europe. Single and unsupported, raw and undisciplined, you baffled for three successive years the repeated attacks of numerous and veteran bands. Shall we now, when strengthened by a mighty alliance, droop and desert the field, to which honour, the strongest ties, the dearest interests of humanity, point, to which victory itself invites us? A warlike, potent and magnanimous nation, has espoused our cause with all the warmth of friendship, and is determined to yield us powerful aid; a respectable land and naval force may be daily expected on our coast from France, ready to act under the orders of our patriotic general. How disgraceful would it be to this state, were it any ways accessory in laying that great and good man under the humiliating necessity of avowing to our allies an inability to undertake any enterprise of consequence against the common enemy, particularly if that weakness should proceed not from the real inability of this and the other states, but from the supineness, the avarice, or want of spirit, in their people! We have hitherto done our duty; the general has acknowledged our exertions, and we entreat you, by all that is dear to freemen, not to forfeit the reputation you have so justly acquired; let us set an example of fortitude, perseverance, and disinterestedness; these virtues form the character of true republicans: beware lest an inordinate love of riches should mark too strongly ours; remember that you entered on the war not through choice but necessity, not to acquire wealth or power, but to preserve liberty and property; remember that your cause is righteous, that you had not recourse to arms, until, the bayonet uplifted to your breast, a discretionary surrender of all that is valuable to man was demanded with menaces of hostile force, and with all the insolence of conscious power; remember too, that you have pledged to each other your lives, your fortunes, and your sacred honour, in defence of those rights, without the enjoyment of which life is but misery, and government a curse.

The general has called upon us to complete our battalions, and for a reinforcement of 2205 militia to join him with all expedition. Considering the approach of harvest, and attentive to your ease and convenience, we have offered to raise an additional battalion in lieu of the militia, and we have the satisfaction to inform you, that the general has approved of the offer, on condition that this battalion be ready at the place of rendezvous by the last of this month at farthest. By the law, printed for your information, and with which we entreat your ready compliance, you will perceive that we have held out the most liberal encouragement for recruits, upon principles of equality and justice. If, from negligence, indifference, or the dread of danger and fatigue, motives too degrading to be imputed to freemen, or from any other cause, this battalion should not be raised in time, we have directed the militia to be called out in classes, to supply the place of regular troops. Your duty, your interest, and no doubt your inclination, will impel you to second the views of your representatives. Without your co-operation, in vain may we make laws, or concert plans for the general cause; these must remain as dead letters, unless inspired by your zeal and activity. We have the honour to represent men, who, sensible of the blessings of liberty, must know, that the continuance of them rests altogether on the successful issue of this war. You feel not, indeed, at present, those distresses which our brethren, whose country is the immediate scene of action, are exposed to; their calamities, therefore, possibly may make a slighter impression on your minds. Contemplate, we beseech you, the ravages committed by the British forces on the plains of Jersey; behold the dwellings of the poor and rich in flames, or reduced to ashes; the fruits of a long and laborious industry swept instantly away as by a torrent; view the helpless infant, the aged parent, the tender virgin, victims to the savage fury and unbridled lusts of an insolent soldiery; view these scenes of horror and dismay; rouse and revenge these wrongs; for these we too in our turn shall feel, if we refuse our aid to drive these spoilers and invaders from our land; emulate the conduct of the brave militia of our sister states; the proofs of courage and patriotism which they have exhibited you cannot but applaud, and therefore must wish to imitate, and, if possible, surpass.

The prize we are contending for is inestimable; the blood of those heroes which has been shed in this just and glorious cause, the inviolable ties of plighted faith, the necessity of conquering, gratitude to our illustrious general and to the brave men under his command, all conspiring, call aloud for our redoubled efforts. Our army is weak, and reinforced it must be, to act on the defensive, or offensively, as circumstances may require; reinforcements, proportionable to those demanded from this, are to be furnished by the other states; the fall of Charles-town, and the distresses of our brave friends in that quarter, have infused fresh vigour into the councils of America; let us, like the Romans of old, draw new resources and an increase of courage even from defeats, and manifest to the world, that we are then most to be dreaded, when most depressed.

A letter from Benjamin Stoddert, secretary of the board of war, relative to arms and cannon heretofore granted this state, the resolution to restore the inhabitants of Worcester county their arms, the paper bill No. 1, and the following message, were sent to the house of delegates by William Hindman, Esq;

BY THE SENATE, JULY 5, 1780.

GENTLEMEN,

WE really think it a degree of cruelty, to single out a few particulars, <sup>which</sup> who may not fall within the limitations of your proposed amendment to the bill, entitled, A Supplement to the act to procure an extra supply of provisions of the bread kind, also waggons and horses, for the use of the continental army, as it were for destruction; when it does not appear to us there can be any reason for not extending to them the same terms that are held out to all other nonjurors, unless there can be a supposition, that a man is more innocent or guilty for being worth less or more than