

[Hancock to Council.]

C. S. C.

Philadelphia July 8<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Gentlemen.

Altho' it is not possible to foresee the consequences of Human Action, yet it is nevertheless a duty we owe ourselves & Posterity in all our Public Councils, to decide in the best manner we are able, and to trust the Event to that Being, who controuls both Causes and Events, so as to bring about his own determinations.

Impressed with this Sentiment, and at the same time fully convinced that our affairs may take a more favourable turn, the Congress have judged it necessary to dissolve all connection between Great Britain and the American Colonies, and to declare them free and Independent States, as you will perceive by the enclosed Declaration, which I am directed by Congress to transmit to you, and to request you will have it proclaimed in your Colony in the way you shall think most proper.

The important consequences to the American States from this Declaration of Independence, considered as the ground & foundation of a future Government will naturally suggest the propriety of proclaiming it in such a manner as that the People may be universally informed of it.

I have the Honour to be Gentlemen  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> and very hble Sev<sup>t</sup>  
John Hancock Pres<sup>t</sup>

[Wiesenthal to Council.]

July 8<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Gentlemen.

In all the Troops which are design'd, or are taking the field, there is a necessity for a Medical Department, abstract from that of the Battalions, & which is committed to the superintendency of a Physician or Surgeon General, or Director in Chief, who has the care of the Hospitals & given the proper directions thereof as well, as to the Troops in General. This was that station I meant when I accepted the service, very well knowing that as Surgeon in common, several might be had to fill that Station, because during Engagements in which they chiefly act in dressing wounds &c. but very little art is necessary, but after the removal of the wounded to the Hospital, the proper applications are made.

The first Surgeon of a Battalion or Regiment is called Surgeon Major, and his province goes no farther than his Battalion, only except he is contiguous to the Hospital and has time, then he assists his men belonging to the Battalion.