

Affairs, being advised by Letters from our Delegates last c. c. Tuesday that it was obtained & would be sent as soon as possible under Guard. We would have the Wheat ground up as soon as may be and the Flour lie 'til further Orders. We believe the Quantity wanted is procured and would not have you make further Purchases. The six Hundred Barr^{ls} in Kent, we reckon in & hope that it will not be lost by Col^o Henry's and your differing in Opinion about it. Would it not be well to send over some Body and have the Point settled?
We are &^{ca}

Richard Dallam Esq^r

[Washington to Gov. Johnson.]

Original

Circular

Head Quarters Middle
Brook 22^d May 1779

Sir,

The situation of our affairs at this period appears to me peculiarly critical, and this I flatter myself will apologise for that anxiety which impels me to take the liberty of addressing you on the present occasion.

The State of the army in particular is alarming on several accounts that of its numbers is not among the least. Our battalions are exceedingly reduced, not only from the natural decay incident to the best composed armies; but from the expiration of the term of service for which a large proportion of the men were engaged. The measures hitherto taken to replace them so far as has come to my knowledge have been attended with very partial success; and I am ignorant of any others in contemplation that afford a better prospect. A reinforcement expected from Virginia, consisting of new levies and reinlisted men is necessarily ordered to the Southward.

Not far short of one third of our whole force must be detached on a service undertaken by the direction of Congress and essential in itself. I shall only say of what remains, that when it is compared with the force of the enemy now actually at New York and Rhode Island, with the addition of the succours, they will in all probability receive from England, at the lowest computation it will be found to justify very serious apprehensions and to demand the zealous attention of the different legislatures

When we consider the rapid decline of our currency the general temper of the times the disaffection of a great part of the people, the lethargy that overspreads the rest, the increasing danger to the Southern States we cannot but dread the consequences of any misfortune in this quarter; and must