

Original feel the impolicy of trusting our security to a want of activity and enterprise in the enemy.

An expectation of peace and an opinion of the Enemy's inability to send more troops to this country, I fear, have had too powerful an influence in our affairs. I have never heard any thing conclusive to authorise the former, and present appearances are in my opinion against it. The accounts we receive from Europe uniformly announce vigorous preparations to continue the war, at least another campaign. The debates and proceedings in Parliament wear this complexion. The public papers speak confidently of large reinforcements destined for America. The minister in his speech asserts positively that reinforcements will be sent over to Sir Henry Clinton; though he acknowledges the future plan of the war will be less extensive than the past. Let it be supposed, that the intended succours will not exceed five thousand men. This will give the enemy a superiority very dangerous to our safety, if their strength be properly exerted, and our situation is not materially altered for the better.

These considerations and many more that might be suggested point to the necessity of immediate and decisive exertions to complete our battalions and to make our military force more respectable. I thought it my duty to give an idea of its true state and to urge the attention of the States to a matter in which their safety and happiness are so deeply interested. I hope a concern for the public good will be admitted as the motive and excuse of my importunity.

There is one point which I beg leave to mention also. The want of system, which has prevailed in the clothiers department has been the source of innumerable evils, defective supplies, irregular and unequal issues great waste loss and expence to the public general dissatisfaction in the army, much confusion and perplexity, an additional load of business to the officers commanding make but a part of them. I have for a long time past most ardently desired to see a reformation.

Congress by a resolve of the 23^d of March has established an ordinance for regulating this department. According to this, there is a sub or State Clothier to be appointed by each State. I know not what instructions may have been given relative to these appointments; but, if the matter now rests with the particular States, I take the liberty to press their execution without loss of time. The Service suffers amazingly from the disorder in this department, and the regulations for it cannot be too soon carried into effect.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect & esteem

Y^r Excellency's Most obe^t hum. Serv^t

G^o Washington