

Annapolis September 18<sup>th</sup> 1774

Sir

A Paragraph in your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Instant compels me to express my regret that any circumstances of a private nature should on the hour of public Emergency occasion in any of the Field Officers of Militia inattention to the orders of their Brigadiers issued too in direct pursuance of the General Orders of the Commander in Chief.

It cannot but occur that so long as General Lloyd continues in commission, implicit obedience ought to be yielded by all the Officers within his Brigade to such orders as he is justified in issuing.

A military establishment from which all subordination is banished must forever be feeble and inefficient; and the consequences of such an imbecility being found on Experiment to be necessarily attached to a Militia are too obvious to escape observation.

The Legislature in providing for the Organization of the Militia have directed that there should be Brigadiers; and the Executive have appointed and commissioned Mr Lloyd as one of them under an impression that his Merit entitled him to the Command. If the Commission was intended by the General Assembly as merely titular and nominal it would have been better to have rejected it altogether; but if it was designed as a place of real authority (as it unquestionably was) the power meant to be committed with it must be submitted to.

An Example of a systematic contempt of reasonable orders by Officers whose worth is universally admitted and whose military reputation has acquired the respect of the community will evidently produce the most injurious effects and ultimately render all dependance upon our militia in the event of danger equivocal and precarious.

Influenced by these reflections and feeling the value of your services I lament sincerely the Determination you have intimated to resign your orders but such as you shall receive from me but still I hold it to be my indispensable duty to say that an Execution of that Determination must and will be considered as inadmissible. I beg however with confidence on your well known attachment to the Service and your readiness for an abandonment of this Resolution, and it is with sincere Pleasure that nothing could afford me greater Pleasure.

Lieut Colonel  
Philip Reed

I am Sir  
Your Obedt Servant  
G. B. Hill