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Whitehall, February 20, 1781.

Extract of a Letter from Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, received this Morning by Lieutenant Sir William Tawfden, who arrived in the Grantham Packet, which sailed from Sandy-Hook the 29th of last Month.

ON the 3d Instant it was reported to me, that on the 1st the Pennsylvania Line had revolted. The Particulars, as far as I have been able to ascertain them, and the Steps I took in consequence, are contained in the Journal, which I have the Honour to inclose. My Offers reached them on the 6th, together with a Declaration of the Admiral's and mine, as Commissioners. They admitted Two of their Generals to a Conference on the 7th: Their Demands were Pay, Arrears of Pay, the Depreciation of Money made up to them according to the different Periods, and their Discharges from further Service. I had no Reason to suppose they intended joining us; nor was it possible to say what Measures they meant to pursue, until they removed at a Distance from us, and delivered over Two of our Messengers to Congress. On the 5th, notwithstanding the Season was so far advanced, I made a Movement with the Elite of the Army to Staten Island, in which Situation, with the Assistance given me by the Vice-Admiral of a Ship of War, and a Number of Boats, to cooperate with the Army, I was ready to act as Circumstances might make necessary; but until I had some certain Information respecting their Intentions or Wishes, it would have been very imprudent for me to have done any thing more than favor the Revolt, and offer Asylum, for one Step further might have re-united them to their Oppressors. On the 17th I received, by the Return of Two of my Messengers, the inclosed printed Papers, by which I plainly saw that there was an Appearance of Accommodation. I therefore returned from Staten Island; and the General Officer I left in the Command there reporting to me that the Troops suffered much from the Inclemency of the Weather, and that their State in Fact might be termed a continual Picquet, I ordered them to return to their Huts on Long Island.

It is impossible at present to say in what Manner, or how soon, this Business will be settled; 'tis generally thought that Congress cannot satisfy the Demands of the Revolters, and it is probable, therefore, they may attempt to force them; if they do, those People can still fall back upon us, as there is no Force in Jersey to prevent them, nor any Rivers to pass but that at South Amboy, which our Ships can command.

General Washington has not moved a Man from his Army as yet; and as it is probable their Demands are nearly the same with the Pennsylvania Line, 'tis not thought likely that he will. I am, however, in a Situation to avail myself of favorable Events, but to stir before they offer might mar all.

I have received no certain Intelligence from the Southward since my last, but I make no Doubt that General Leslie has joined Lord Cornwallis, and I expect every Hour to hear that the Rebels have quitted the Carolinas: More especially as Brigadier-General Arnold arrived in the Chesapeak on the 2d. Rebel Reports say he has reached Richmond, the Capital of Virginia.

There is every Reason to suppose that Ethan Allen has quitted the Rebel Cause.

Lieutenant Sir William Tawfden, of the Royal Fuzileers, who has requested my Permission to return to Europe on his own private Affairs, will have the Honor of delivering my Dispatches. I beg Leave to refer your Lordship to him for further Particulars, particularly with Regard to the Operations to the Southward.

No. 1. JOURNAL.

On the 1st of January, 1781, the Pennsylvania Troops huddled at Morris Town, having been for some Time much dissatisfied, turned out in Number about 1300, declaring they would serve no longer unless their Grievances were redressed, as they had not received either Pay, Cloathing or Provisions: A Riot ensued, in which an Officer was killed, and Four wounded; the Insurgents had Five or Six wounded.

They then collected the Artillery, Stores, Provisions, Waggons, &c. marched out of Camp, and passed by General Wayne's Quarters, who sent a Message to them, requesting them to desist, or the Consequences would prove fatal; they refused, and proceeded on their March till Evening, when they took Post on an advantageous Piece of Ground, and elected Officers from among themselves, appointing a Serjeant-Major, who was a British Defterter, to command them, with the Rank of Major-General.

On the 2d they marched to Middlebrook, and on the 3d to Prince Town.

On the 2d a Message was sent them, by the Officers from Camp, desiring to know their Intentions, which they refused to receive. A Flag of Truce was then sent; to which some answered, that they had served Three Years against their Inclinations, and would serve no longer; others said, they would not return, unless their Grievances were redressed.

The first Information the Commander in Chief received of this was on the Morning of the 3d of January, in consequence of which a large Corps was ordered to hold themselves in Readiness to move on the shortest Notice.

On the 4th, Three Persons were sent out from hence to them, with Proposals to the following Purport: "To be taken under the Protection of the British Government, to have a Free Pardon for all former Offences, and the Pay due to them from Congress faithfully paid to them, without any Expectation of Military Service, (except it might be voluntary) upon Condition of laying down their Arms, and returning to their Allegiance." It was also recommended to them to move behind the South River; and they were assured a Body of British Troops should be ready to protect them whenever they desired it. The Inability of Congress to satisfy their just Demands, as well as the Severity with which they would be treated, should they return to their former Servitude, was pointed out to them. They were desired to send Persons to Amboy, to meet others from us, in order to treat further.

The Corps ordered to be in Readiness passed over to Staten Island the 5th, where they were cantoned in Readiness to move.

The Insurgents having taken Post at Prince Town, frequent Messages and Proposals to the same Effect were sent out; but the Militia of Jersey having been assembled soon after the Meeting, they kept so strict Watch on the Coast, and on the Roads leading to Prince