

## Thomas Johnson, Jr., to To: Horatio Gates

My dear Major, Annapolis 3d May 1775

I am exceedingly obliged by the Freedom of your Communication; since the King and Ministry have resolved to enforce the Execution of the Acts I am not at all sorry that the pent up flame has broke out. We begin to have the Tory Accounts of the Action. All of them lessen the Success, and increase the Loss of the New England Men, and some of them have drubbed the Yankees most woundily, but I believe all agree that the Regulars marched from Charles Town to Concord & back again the same day, and that in their Return they came 15 Miles of the Distance, in about three Hours, though the Yankees gave them very warm Invitations to stay longer, which were accepted by a part of the Regulars, who still remain there.

I am much more alarmed at the Situation of N. York than the Massachusetts. Every Man who will reflect must think it of the utmost Consequence in every View to keep possession of that Province. By the last of this Month we may expect the Arrival of the Troops who are to occupy that post. I indeed wished to have immediately sent about 2000 picked Men to N York and have pressed my Neighbours on either Side to a proportional Exertion but the Motions of Numbers are too slow and their Counsels too cautious to act effectual. Nothing can be done till the Meeting of the Congress.

I expect we shall be plagued at the Congress with plans of Reconciliation thrown out, not indeed to obtain that Desirable End but to revive Hopes of Liberty and Peace, retard our Operations, and di-vide us, when at the same Time they are pushing us vigorously on every Side, and the firm N. England Govts in particular are to be sur rounded in such a Manner as to be starved into Submission.

I am in Hopes the Neighbourhood of N. York will have Virtue enough to take more upon themselves than their own Share for a little while and that my Countrymen will act in Time enough to relieve some of the Jersey or Connecticut people who may be forward in the Business.

I imagine Questions of immense Consequence must come before the Contl. Congress. The Ministry have so conducted themselves that it seems to me all Men must be satisfied they do not intend to heal the Distractions Divisions & wounds in the British Empire. I intirely agree with you that when the Hope of peace is lost the preparation, if so long delayed, for Defence ought to be with the utmost Vigour. I am obliged to add but and yet I hate the word, but I cannot say I am sorry that Lord Dunmore has begun in Virginia since we have no prospect of any Thing but Extremities. The more general the Wrongs and Insults on the Subjects the better they will rouze & unite better than all the Arguments & Oratory in the World. We cannot but be successful if we are beat into a Submission under the Execution of the Acts of Parliament, that Submission and Slavery will last no longer than their comparative strength and our comparative Weakness. Our Children will resume the Contest on the first favourable Occasion and though Individuals and many of the best amongst us may be lost, the Liberties of America will be saved but if we become Tributaries by Consequence, Individuals of the present Day will be saved but the Liberties of America will be lost.

Unless there shd be a prospect of seeing you at Phila. I shall be obliged to you for a Line now and then. Pray make my Compliments to Mrs. Gates. I am Dr. Sir Yours

Th. Johnson, Junr.