

A FEW OF HAMILTON'S LETTERS

INCLUDING HIS DESCRIPTION OF
THE GREAT WEST INDIAN
HURRICANE OF 1772

EDITED BY

GERTRUDE ATHERTON

AUTHOR OF "THE CONQUEROR," "THE SPLENDID IDLE FORTIES"
ETC., ETC.

WITH PORTRAITS

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.

1903

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Set up and electrotyped February, 1903.

**Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing & Co. — Berwick & Smith
Norwood Mass. U.S.A.**

ordinary supply. At present, however, he scruples to proceed in the same way, until he can be put upon a more certain foundation.

FROM HUGH KNOX

ST. CROIX, April 31, 1777.

My Dear Friend,—A pretty fair opportunity just offering for Philadelphia, I could not omit acknowledging the receipt of your very circumstantial and satisfactory letter of the 14th February. The thing has happened which I wished for. We have been amazed here by vague, imperfect, and very false accounts of matters from the continent: and I always told my friends, that if you survived the campaign, and had an hour of leisure to write to me, I expected a more true, circumstantial, and satisfactory account of matters in your letter, than by all the public papers and private intelligence we have received here. I have but a moment to command at present, and have not time to remark upon your letter. I can only inform you, that it has given high satisfaction to all friends here. We rejoice in your *good character* and *advancement*,

which is, indeed, only the just reward of merit. May you still live to deserve more and more from the friends of America, and to justify the choice, and merit the approbation, of the GREAT AND GOOD GENERAL WASHINGTON—a name which will shine with distinguished lustre in the annals of history—a name dear to the friends of the Liberties of Mankind! *Mark this:* You must be the Annalist and Biographer, as well as the Aide-de-camp, of General Washington—and the Historiographer of the AMERICAN WAR! I take the liberty to insist on this. I hope you take minutes and keep a Journal! If you have not hitherto, I pray do it henceforth. I seriously, and with all my little influence, urge this upon you. This may be a new and strange thought to you; but if you survive the present troubles, *I aver*—few men will be as well qualified to write the history of the present glorious struggle. God only knows how it may terminate. But however that may be, it will be a most interesting story.

I congratulate you on your recovery from a long and dangerous illness. It is my own case—I am just convalescent, after the severest attack I ever had in my life. I hope to write you more at large

soon, and remain, with the tender of every kind of friendly wish,

My dear Sir,

Your affectionate servant

HUGH KNOX.

FROM WASHINGTON

(LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS)

HEADQUARTERS, PHILADELPHIA Co. 30th Oct. 1777.

Dear Sir,— It having been judged expedient by a council of war held yesterday, that one of the gentlemen of my family should be sent to General Gates, in order to lay before him the state of this army and the situation of the enemy, and to point out to him the many happy consequences that will accrue from an immediate reinforcement being sent from the northern army, I have thought it proper to appoint you to that duty, and desire that you will immediately set out for Albany, at which place, or in the neighbourhood, I imagine you will find General Gates.

You are so fully acquainted with the principal points on which you are sent, namely, the state of