



Philad. May 30th 1780

Dear Genl.

Permit one of your most sincere
the obscure Friends to congratulate you
on the glorious result of your generous Strug-
gles for the Liberty of your Country - to
express the Sentiments of my Heart on this oc-
casion however sincere, might be liable to the
Suspicion of Flattery, which my Soul abhors -
There can indeed be no Place for it in this In-
stance - May you long enjoy the Heartfelt Plea-
sure arising from the Agency you have had,
under Providence, in saving your Country, & may
you reap the Rewards of a glorious Im-
mortality at last.

There is another Subject I beg Leave
to mention to your Excellency, & that is the
Case of a worthy Citizen of these States, Mr.
Robert Aitkin, who has published an Edition

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of the Bible in our Language, and which was
undertaken at a Time when that sacred Book was
very scarce, & the Inhabitants of these States in
great Want of it - but the peculiar Difficulty & ex-
pense attending a Work of such Magnitude, in these
States of our Country, delayed its Completion till the
Approach of Peace; and British Bibles being import-
much cheaper than we can afford to sell this, it is
like to be revived by this generous Effort in behalf of
our Divine Religion - Painful Thought, & not very
conducive to this rising Empire, that the first Man
who undertook to print the holy Scriptures in
our Language, in America, should be forgotten by it.

What I would take the Liberty to suggest to your
Excellency, is the presenting each Soldier, & Non-
commissioned Officer in the American Army, with a Copy
of this Bible, by Congress, on their being disbanded.
This would serve not only to give a deserving Citizen
from hence, who highly merits Attention; but would
also furnish those brave Men to whom America is so great

indebted for their Liberties, in the Hand of Heaven,
with a sure Guide to eternal Life, if they will but
take heed to it.

Such are the Obligations that your Country, &
Congress as their grand Representation, owe
to your Excellency, and such is the just
Sense they have of these Obligations, that a
Letter from your Excellency to Congress on
the Subject, and I would wish it as a Motion
of your own, would probably have the desired
Effect - I take the Liberty to suggest the Thought,
and your Excellency will make such use of
it as your Prudence shall dictate.

I hope the Time is not far off when we
shall have the Pleasure of a Meeting in New-
York, in a Situation far different from that
in which we left it - In the mean Time I
am with the most affectionate Esteem,
Genl., your most Obedt. & affec. Servt.
His Excellency's Order - John Rodgers

17th May 1783

from

Doct^r Rodgers Obed

Propos Bibles to be given
to the discharged Soldiers

am^d 11th June

