

Letters of Members of the Continental Congress

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have been or may hereafter be erected in the Eastern States. Your proportion only of the Connecticut forts would amount to as much as the whole of those proposed for your colonial security. In this case therefore it will be political (at least for us) to suffer each state to bear its own burdens.

Should the Convention think it proper to apply to the Continentl. Congress for the Assistance of an Engineer to execute this proposal, I shall upon being informed thereof immediately take the proper steps to procure one and send him on.⁴

188. JOHN WITHERSPOON TO HORATIO GATES.¹

PRINCETON Octr 30, 1776

Sir

. . . . It gave me much Concern that you had not an immediate and fully satisfying answer to your Letter to Congress relating to the dissolving the Court Martial. There was a full and ample report brought in upon it by the board of War but it was postponed after some Debate for a little and many things being thrust in that seemed to require immediate Despatch it was some time before it was brought in again and the second time when it was just about to be almost unanimously agreed to by the artful Management of some who wanted a little Alteration made it was postponed again by the Demand of a paper which was not at hand and since that time your friends thought it not worth while to resume it.² I must however assure you that by far the greatest part of the Congress have a very high sense of your importance and services in a particular Manner for discouraging to the utmost of your power Colonial Jealousies and Distinctions.

I have written to General Maxwell that he is indebted to you for a very honourable Mention of him in your Letter to Congress which was read at the last promotion of General Officers when he could certainly have been promoted but for some of his friends here.³ . . .

189. BENJAMIN RUSH TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY (THOMAS WHARTON, JR.).¹

Sir

In consequence of the letter from Mr. Fisher to the Counsel of Safety of Pennsylvania being laid before Congress, the Congress resolved that the board of war should immediately order a part of a Virginia regiment now on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to march to Dover there to wait

⁴ See Hooper's letter of Oct. 26, *N. C. Col. Recs.*, X. 862.

[188]¹ *N. Y. Hist. Soc.*, Gates Papers, VII.; Force, *Am. Arch.*, fifth ser., II. 1293.

² The reference is to the court-martial of Col. Moses Hazen. See, in the *Journals*, Sept. 18, the "postponed" articles in a report of the board of war. When the second postponement took place cannot certainly be made out.

³ The promotion of general officers referred to is probably that of Aug. 9. See Maxwell's memorial, Aug. 28 (read in Congress Sept. 6), in Force, *Am. Arch.*, fifth ser., I. 1204. He was made a brigadier-general Oct. 23.

[189]¹ Library of Congress, Personal; *Pa. Arch.*, first ser., V. 58.