

(on Public Service)

Honble Brigadier General Hand.

Wilmington.

M. G. Sullivan.

1779

Wagon from Sullivan's Camp 31. May

Letter from

Dr Sir / I Read of. Easton, May 31. 1779.

Enclosed are two Letters which I received yesterday from General Clinton. By their contents you will find that vigorous exertions are making by the Enemy to give us Battle, & as they are marching downwards it is necessary that some step should be taken to prevent depredations. For the purpose, I propose augmenting the Garrison at Wilmington. Col. Smith with a party of two Hundred Men is now on his March to join you, & Col. Ogden with the first Jersey Regiment, will move from this place To-morrow Morning.

The Party under Col. Cortland, now in the swamp, consisting of three Regiments, will be conveniently situated to grant you every necessary assistance should you be attacked.

You will please to exert yourself in clearing the Road from Wilmington to the great swamp, so that a speedy communication may be opened between you & Col. Cortland.

The stores that are coming up the River will require a Guard, you are therefore requested particularly to attend to them.

I am Sir  
Your mo. ob. hble servt.  
J. Sullivan

Brigad. Gen. Hand.

The first of these is the fact that the  
 present state of the country is such  
 that it is impossible to carry out  
 the plan of the late administration  
 without incurring a heavy loss of  
 money and of the confidence of the  
 public. It is therefore necessary to  
 adopt a new system of finance  
 which will enable us to meet our  
 obligations without resorting to  
 the expedient of borrowing money  
 at a high rate of interest. The  
 first step towards this end is to  
 reduce the expenditure of the  
 government to the lowest possible  
 point. This can be done by  
 cutting down the salaries of the  
 officials and by abolishing all  
 unnecessary offices. The second  
 step is to increase the revenue of  
 the state by raising the duties on  
 imports and exports and by  
 introducing a new tax on the  
 consumption of spirits. The third  
 step is to issue a new paper  
 currency which will be convertible  
 into gold and silver at a fixed  
 rate. These measures will enable us  
 to meet our obligations without  
 resorting to the expedient of  
 borrowing money at a high rate  
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