

Sir,

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*I*N the present state of our National affairs, relatively to the Belligerent powers of Europe, I think it my duty to call the attention of the Officers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the prospect of such events, as cannot fail to interest the patriotism of every good Citizen; and which, if not happily averted, will, I anxiously hope, produce that unanimity of sentiment and conduct among the people, that is obviously essential to give energy and success to the exertions of a Republican Government, created by their will, and only to be supported by their confidence.

The station which you fill, affords you a favorable opportunity to inculcate and promote those principles of order and harmony, on which our social happiness depends; and of attachment to the Constitution and Laws, on which our political prosperity must be raised. And, I am persuaded, that, acting upon this intimation with becoming zeal and discretion, your Country will have occasion to rejoice in the influence, which your example and advice will exert upon your Fellow-Citizens, who inhabit the County in which you reside.

You will readily perceive, Sir, that the objects of peculiar moment at this critical period, are to ensure obedience to the Laws of that Government, which is immediately intrusted with the National defence, and to establish the Militia of the State upon a respectable and efficient footing. Let me request, therefore, that, according to your official avocations, or personal influence, you will attend to those objects; and let it be deeply impressed on the minds of our Fellow-Citizens, that, on the one hand, every irregular and illegal opposition to existing laws, will not only embarrass the operations of Government; but eventually undermine the only real security for the liberty and property of individuals. And that, on the other hand, to neglect the natural and safe resource of a free people, for the purpose of protecting themselves, and of repelling the injuries offered to their rights, is virtually to invite the use of those artificial expedients, which have been fatal, and must ever be dangerous, to Republican Freedom and Independence.

The disposition that has appeared in some of the Counties, to resist and counteract the execution of the Excise Law of Congress, will attract particular notice. Whatever diversity of opinion may arise as to the policy of imposing that tax; the propriety of acquiescing in it, while sanctioned by the Legislative authority, cannot be controverted, by any friend to the peace and happiness of his Country. The same Constitution that gave the power to lay a tax, has designated the mode in which original impolicy, or oppressive operation, may be represented to that tribunal which can, and, in a case of real grievance, is bound, to grant redress. As Freemen, let us always remonstrate against actual wrongs; but, as Citizens let us always obey existing Laws.

Relying upon your assistance to promote the design of this letter; and assuring you, that I shall receive, with pleasure, any communication upon the subject to which it relates;

I am, Sir,

Your most obed. serv.

Philadelphia,  
March 21. 1794.

*Theophilus*

*Sh* *Esquire,*  
*of the County of*  
*Allegheny*

To the Judges of the Suplo<sup>t</sup>, Pres<sup>t</sup> and Abs. Judges of Com Pleas  
Broth<sup>t</sup> - Mayors Genl. - Brig Genl. & Brigade Insp<sup>t</sup> of Militia  
of the several Counties in the State