

## AMERICAN NEWS.

From the NEW YORK ROYAL GAZETTE.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ORDERS to the ARMIES of the UNITED STATES.

Rocky Hill, near Princeton, Nov. 2, 1783.

THE United States in Congress assembled, after giving the most honourable testimony to the merits of the federal armies, and presenting them with the thanks of their country, for their long, eminent and faithful service,—having thought proper, by their proclamation, bearing date the 18th of October last, to discharge such part of the troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the Officers on furlough to retire from services from and after to-morrow, which proclamation having been communicated in the public papers for the information and government of all concerned;—it only remains for the Commander in Chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the armies of the United States (however widely dispersed individuals who composed them may be) and to bid them an affectionate, a long farewell.

But before the Commander in Chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight review of the past, he will then take the liberty of exploring, with his military friends, their future prospects, of advising the general line of conduct, which, in his opinion, ought to be pursued; and he will conclude the address, by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them, in the performance of an arduous office.

A contemplation of the complete attainment (at a period earlier than could have been expected) of the object for which we contended, against so formidable a power, cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition, were such as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving, while the unparalleled perseverance of the armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement, for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

It is not the meaning, nor within the compass of this address, to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses, which, in several instances, have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness, combined with the rigours of an inclement season; nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs. Every American officer and soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances which may have occurred, by a recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to act no inglorious part; and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness; events which have seldom, if ever before, taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disciplined army formed at once from such raw materials? Who that was not a witness could imagine, that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that men who came from the different parts of the continent, strongly disposed by the habits of education, to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of brothers? Or who that was not on the spot, can trace the steps by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils?

It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sove-

reignty, almost exceeds the power of description: And shall not the brave men who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained? In such a Republic, who will exclude them from the rights of Citizens, and the fruits of their labours? In such a country, so happily circumstanced, the pursuits of commerce, and the cultivation of the soil, will unfold to industry the certain road to competence. To those hardy soldiers, who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment; and the extensive and fertile regions of the West will yield a most happy asylum to those, who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking for personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive that any one of the United States will prefer a national bankruptcy, and a dissolution of the union, to a compliance with the requisitions of Congress, and the payment of its just debts, so that the officers and soldiers may expect considerable assistance, in recommencing their civil occupations, from the sums due to them from the Public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

In order to effect this desirable purpose, and to remove the prejudices which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the States, it is earnestly recommended to all the troops, that, with strong attachment to the Union, they should carry with them into civil society the most conciliating dispositions; and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as soldiers.—What though there should be some envious individuals, who are unwilling to pay the debt the Public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to merit; yet let such unworthy treatment produce no inventive, or any instance of intemperate conduct;—let it be remembered, that the unbiassed voice of the free citizens of the United States has promised the just reward, and given merited applause; let it be known and remembered, that the reputation of the federal armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence, and let a consciousness of their achievements and fame, still excite the men who composed them to honourable actions, under the persuasion, that private virtues of economy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valour, perseverance, and enterprise, were in the field:—Every one may rest assured that much, very much of the future happiness of the Officers and men, will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them, when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And although the General has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicit manner, that unless the principals of the federal government were properly supported, and the powers of the union increased, the honour, dignity, and justice of the nation, would be lost for ever. Yet he cannot help repeating on this occasion so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every officer and every soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavours to those of his worthy fellow citizens, towards effecting these great and valuable purposes, on which our very existence as a nation so materially depends.

The Commander in Chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the soldier to change the military character into that of a citizen; but that steady and decent tenour of behaviour, which has generally distinguished, not only the army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and separate armies, through the course of the war: from their good sense and prudence he anticipated the happiest

consequences; and while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he feels himself under, for the assistance he has received from every class, and in every instance. He presents his thanks, in the most serious and affectionate manner, to the General Officers, as well for their counsel, on many interesting occasions, as for their ardour in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted; to the Commandants of regiments and corps, and to the other Officers, for their great zeal and attention in carrying his orders promptly into execution; to the Staff, for their alacrity and exactness in performing the duties of their several departments; and to the non-commissioned Officers and private Soldiers, for their extraordinary patience in suffering, as well as their invincible fortitude in action; to various branches of the army the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship.—He wishes more than bare professions were in his power, that he was really able to be useful to them all in future life;—he flatters himself, however, they will do him the justice to believe, that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him, has been done.—And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short time, of the military character,—and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honour to command, he can only again offer, in their behalf, his recommendation to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of Armies.—May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favours, both here and hereafter attend those, who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others. With these wishes, and this benediction, the Commander in Chief is about to retire from service.—The curtain of separation will soon be drawn—and the military scene to him will be closed for ever.

EDWARD HAND, Adjutant General.

We have been favoured with authentic copies of the following Letter and Address, which were presented to his Excellency General Washington on the 15th instant.

New-York, Nov. 22.

S I R, West-Point, Nov. 15, 1783.

THE Officers of the part of the army who agreed on the inclosed Address, having committed to us the honour of presenting it, with great pleasure we now offer to your Excellency this testimony of their affectionate attachment and respect.

We have the honour to be,  
With perfect consideration,

S I R,

Your Excellency's most obedient,  
And most humble Servants,  
A. M'DUGALL, Major-General.  
H. KNOX, Major-General.  
T. PICKERING, Qr. Mr. General.

His Excellency General Washington.

The ADDRESS is as follows:

To his Excellency General WASHINGTON,  
Commander in Chief of the Armies of the  
United States of America.

WE, the Officers of the part of the army remaining on the banks of the Hudson, have received your Excellency's serious and farewell Address, to the Armies of the United States. We beg you to accept our unfeigned thanks for the communication, and your affectionate assurances of inviolable attachment and friendship. If your attempts to ensure to the armies the just, the promised rewards, of their long, severe, and dangerous services, have failed of success, we believe it has arisen from causes not in your Excellency's power to controul. With extreme



regret do we reflect on the occasion which called for such endeavour. But while we thank your Excellency for these exertions in favour of the troops you have so successfully commanded, we pray it may be believed, that in his sentiment our own particular interests have but a secondary place; and that even the ultimate ingratitude of the people (were that possible) could not shake the patriotism of those who suffer by it. Still with pleasing wonder and with grateful joy shall we contemplate the glorious conclusion of our labours. To that merit in the revolution which, under the auspices of heaven, the armies have displayed, posterity will do justice, and the sons will blush whose fathers were their foes.

Most gladly would we cast a veil on every act which sullies the reputation of our country—never should the page of history be stained with its dishonour—even from our memories should the idea be erased. We lament the opposition to those salutary measures which the wisdom of the Union has planned; measures which alone can recover and fix on a permanent basis the credit of the States; measures which are essential to the justice, the honour, and interest of the nation. While she was giving the noblest proofs of magnanimity, with conscious pride we saw her growing fame; and regardless of present sufferings, we looked forward to the end of our toils and dangers, to brighter scenes in prospect. There we beheld the genius of our country dignified by sovereignty and independence, supported by justice, and adorned with every liberal virtue. There we saw patient husbandry fearless extend her cultured fields, and animated commerce spread her sails to every wind. There we beheld fair science lift her head, with all the arts attending in her train. There, blest with freedom, we saw the human mind expand; and throwing aside the restraints which confined it to the narrow bounds of country, it embraced the world. Such were our fond hopes, and with such delightful prospects did they present us. Nor are we disappointed. Those animating prospects are now changed and changing to realities; and actively to have contributed to their production is our pride, our glory.—But justice alone can give them stability. In that justice we still believe. Still we hope that the prejudices of the misinformed will be removed, and the arts of false and selfish popularity, addressed to the feelings of avarice, defeated: Or in the worst event, the world, we hope, will make the just distinction: We trust the dissimulosity of a few will not sully the reputation, the honour, and dignity of the great and respectable majority of the States.

We are happy in the opportunity just presented, of congratulating your Excellency on the certain conclusion of the Definitive Treaty of Peace. Relieved at length from long suspense, our warmest wish is to return to the bosom of our country, to resume the character of Citizens; and it will be our highest ambition to become useful ones. To your Excellency this great event must be peculiarly pleasing: For while at the head of her armies, urged by patriot virtues and magnanimity, you persevered, under the pressure of every possible difficulty and discouragement, in the pursuit of the great objects of the war—the freedom and safety of your country;—your heart panted for the tranquil enjoyments of peace. We cordially rejoice with you that the period of indulging them has arrived so soon. In contemplating the blessings of Liberty and Independence, the rich prize of eight years hardy adventure, past sufferings will be forgotten; or if remembered, the recollection will serve to heighten the relish of present happiness. We sincerely pray God this happiness may long be yours; and that when you quit the stage of human life, you may receive from the Unerring Judge, the rewards of valour exerted to save the oppressed, of patriotism and disinterested virtue.

West-Point, 15th November, 1783.

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22494	22774	22916	23340	23342	23371	23418
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40422	40611	40790	40865	40884	40999	41014
41015	41049	41191	41269	41556	41590	41613
41635	42045	42166	42183	42333	42414	42444
42470	42625	42631	42696	42734	42760	42829
42927	43243	43245	43561	43655	43898	43987
44031	44335	44481	44527	44537	44803	44913
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