

Gentlemen

You have for some weeks past regularly served the impartial Public with your sentimental Lascubrations on the subject of the Pay of our Army and the Commutation of five years full Pay to the Officers in lieu of their promised half Pay. Whatever your ostensible designs may have been by introducing this literary Combat, I must inform you that your satirical lust of creating and propagating Seditious & discord have not been long enough or sufficiently masked fully to effect your Diabolical purposes, and that however specious your reasonings may be you may depend upon it that judicious and impartial Whigs will hold the most of your laboured productions in the highest contempt and view them as the Emanations of a heart tinged with the greatest degree of Political baseness, that your Temper & Disposition is considered as exotic to the benign regions of the United States, and as only suited to the barren and hopeless climes of Nova Scotia or the bloody & corrupted shores of the Island of Great Britain, to whose rewards of murder & bloodshed you may possibly be no great stranger, as like it you you appear to be in pain whenever the Idea of American Peace & Happiness presents itself to your minds, like Satan having no peace yourselves you ^{with labor} to disturb all the world about you - that those strictures are perfectly just appears evident from the following

You endeavour to make the world believe that the ^{of Federal Army} Officers view the Citizens of America more ungrateful than just as if they had not learned that the rules of justice were more easily or readily determined than those of Gratitude and that States for this reason have more frequently by their gratitude ^{than by their ingratitude} endangered their Liberties whilst justice.

That they have in 1778 while cantoned at Valley Forge, and at a time when the affairs of the Union wore the most unpropitious aspect, Unpatriotic like threatened to leave the service of their Country and ^{thereby} in a measure forced Congress to grant them half pay as tho' they had not considered that the same kind of pay which was delivered to the Soldier was also delivered to the Peasant for his services & produce as an ^{equitable} compensation for the same

That they by an unpardonable arrogance assume unto themselves the whole merit of having moored our new Government in the harbour of Peace and Independance, as if they were ignorant that ~~that~~ the Militia & especially those on the lines had at least fought as many battles as the Regulars, and that altho' the Capture of Cornwallis & Army ~~was~~ be ascribed to the latter yet that of Burgoyne & Army can only be ascribed to the spirit and Bravery of the former

That they only are the Persons who have sacrificed a fortune for the sake of their Country as tho' they were not conscious that no more fortunes have been spent in the Army ^{upon an average} by the service of their Country, than have been spent out of it by those who had not any present or future prospects of pay or emolument

That they only were the Body of Citizens who have suffered fatigues and want, as if those Gentlemen did not know that they were for the most part provided for by the public, and that at such times when this source failed them, they ^{possessed} ~~unwisely~~ ^{the means} of supplying their wants by the remains of property found with individual Citizens

Concerning the
Continental Army

10-21-1781

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