

To his Excellency George Washington Esq.
General, Commander in Chief of the Continental
Army.

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Copy
Address to
General
Washington.
July 1775.

May it please your Excellency.

The Congress of the Massachusetts Colony
impress'd with every Sentiment of Gratitude, and Respect—
beg leave to congratulate you on your safe Arrival; and to
wish you all imaginable Happiness, and Success in the execution
of your elevated Station.

While we applaud that Attention to the
public good, manifested in your appointment, we equally
admire that disinterested Virtue, and distinguish'd Patriotism
which alone could call you from those Enjoyments of domestic
Life, which a sublime, and manly Taste, joined with a most
affluent Fortune can afford, to hazard your Life, and to
endure the fatigues of War, in the Defence of the Rights
of Mankind, and the good of your Country.

The laudable Zeal for the common Cause
of America, and Compassion for the Distresses of this Colony
exhibited by the great dispatch made in your Journey hither
fully justify the universal Satisfaction we have with pleas-
ure observed on this Occasion; and are promising Presages
that the great Expectations form'd from your personal
Character, and Military Abilities, are well founded.

We wish you may have found such
Regularity, and Discipline already establish'd in the
Army, as may be agreeable to your Expectation. The
Havry with which it was necessarily collect'd, and the
many disadvantages, arising from a suspension of Government,
under which we have rais'd, and endeavour'd to regulate the
Forces of this Colony, have render'd it a Work of Time.

And

And though in great measure effected, the Completion of so difficult, and at the same time so necessary a Task is reserved to your Excellency; and we doubt not will be properly consider'd, and attended to. —

We would not presume to prescribe to your Excellency, but supposing you would choose to be inform'd of the general Character of the Soldiers who compose the Army. We beg leave to represent, that the greatest part of them have not before seen Service. And altho' naturally brave, and of good understanding, yet for want of Experience in military Life, have but little Knowledge of divers things most essential to the Preservation of Health, and even Life. — The Youth of the Army are not possess'd of the absolute Necessity of Cleanliness in their Dress and Lodging, continual Exercise, and strict Temperance, to preserve them from Diseases frequently prevailing in Camps; especially among those, who, from their Childhood, have been us'd to a laborious Life.

We beg leave to assure you, that this Congress will, at all times be ready to attend to such Requisitions, as you may have occasion to make to us; and to contribute all the Aid in our Power, to ^{the} cause of America, and your Happiness and Ease, in the Discharge of the Duties of your exalted Office.

We most fervently implore Almighty God that the Blessings of Divine Providence may rest on you; That your Head may be cover'd in the Day of Battle; That every necessary Assistance may be afforded; And That you may be long continu'd in Life, and Health, a Blessing to Mankind. —