

Sr

Boston Jan^y 20th 1777

We have been honored with your Letter of the 30th Dec^r with the inclosed Papers. And it affords us great Consolation that there is such a Man as General Washington at the head of the American Army. Since ^{Congress} has found it necessary to vest him with such large Powers as can with Safety or Prudence be trusted to but very few Men. The exalted Opinion we have long since entertained of that Gentleman precludes from our Minds every Fear that he will not improve them to the best Purposes. And We trust the Wisdom of the Measure will be made manifest by the happy Effects it will produce. It is certain that at the present Crisis, Decision & Vigor are absolutely necessary to secure the public Happiness of this & perhaps of all future Generations in the united States of America. We take leave to suggest whether your honorable Body lessening its Distance from the Seat of War, by taking Residence in some State to the North of Hudson's River, would not be able with greater Dispatch to afford the General that Advice & Assistance which in many Cases he must still look up to you for. It is with Concern that We hear of the imminent Dangers he (perhaps too freely) exposes himself to and would respectfully ask whether it would be amiss for Congress to exjoin it upon him in all Respects to pay the strictest Attention to his Personal Safety, that can consist with the Duties of his Station, for We deprecate wth Occasion a Trial who can best supply his Place. We mean those only as hints which

Letter to
Hon^{ble} J^r Hancock

which with all due Deference we submit to your Au- .27.
-gust Assembly. This State are willing to leave no
Trial unessay'd to complete their Quota of Battalions for-
-merly requested & hope from the Measures now using
a great Part of them will in a short Time be upon their
March, should the public Exigencies require it and
the General Desire any further Levies from this State
the fullest Aid & Influence of this Assembly shall not
be wanting tho' it is to be lamented that such frequent
& large Draughts of the Militia have been necessary for
We can scarcely conceive that the Advantages derived
from such Troops can compensate the vast Expence & other
Inconveniences consequent thereon.

I am &c
Pres^r

Jn^r Hancock Esq^r

Boston 20th Jan^{ry} 1777.

Sir We had the Honor to receive the Instant your
Letter of the 30th December with the inclosed Papers, We
took upon the Subject of them to be very momentous, & trust ^{Letter to youth}
that the Powers we find to be vested by them in the General Jn^r Hancock
will produce great & happy Effects. Nothing can be more
true, than that in the present Crisis, Decision & Vigor
are absolutely necessary to secure the ~~public~~ public
Happiness of this & perhaps of all future Generations
in the united States of America - We cannot but felicitate
ourselves & the Continent, that there is a Washington to be
found who is able to wield such mighty Powers as your
hon^{ble} Body have entrusted him with, & with whom we
conceive they may safely be reposed, under the Limitations
& Bounds