

All Europe is Interested in Our Fate, Mercy Warren Otis

GLC01800.02

(Note: Transcript follows)

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Plimouth N E August 24 1775

At a time when all Europe is interested
in the fate of America you will forgive me Dear Madam
if I lay aside the ceremony usually observed when there
is no attachment that arises either from Affection or
Esteem. & again call of your Attention when I have
not been assured of the Welcome Reception of my Last.
in that I hinted that the sword was half drawn from the
scabbard soon after which this people were obliged to un-
sheath it to Repel the Violence offered to Individuals, &
the Impudence of an attempt to seize the private property
of the subjects of the King of England. And thereby put it
out of their power to defend themselves against the Corrupt
Ministry of His Court. you have Doubtless Madam been
apprized of the Consequences of this Hostile Movement which
compel'd the Americans to fly to arms in Defense of all that is held
dear & sacred among Mankind. And the public papers as well
as private accounts have dropp'd to the Ears of the
Peasant of Lexington. & the spirit of Freedom Breath'd from
the Mountains of the Province of New England have
been told of the Distresses of the people of Boston. And the
shameful Violation of Faith which will leave a stain on
the Memory of a certain General Officer so long as the
obligations of Honour & Truth are held sacred among Men.
He after sporting with the Miseries of the Wretched Prisoners

The Gilder Lehrman Collection

till Famine & pestilence began to Rage in the City, permitted
 the Most of them to Depart leaving their effects behind. & to quit
 their elegant & Convenient Habitations, in the Capital & fly a
 head into the Hospitable arms of their Brethren in the Country.
 And the Conflagration of Charlestown will undoubtedly Reach
 each British Ear before this comes to your Hand. Such Instances
 of Wanton Barbarity have been seldom practiced even among the
 Most Rude & uncivilized Nations. the ties of Gratitude which
 were Broken through by the King, troops, in this Base transaction
 greatly Enhance, their Guilt. it was the Inhabitants of that
 town who prompted by Humanity Generously opened their door, to
 the Starved Coops, on the twentieth of April. & poured Balm into
 the Wound, of the exhausted & dying soldiers after their pre-
 cipitous Retreat. Had they observed a different Conduct on
 that memorable day. Had they yielded in cutting off the
 Retreat it might not have been in the power of General Gage
 to have Wraged that town in flames & Turned out the Miserable
 Inhabitants the prey of poverty & Despair. But a particular
 Detail of ^{the} sufferings of the Mischiefers, you will have from other
 Hands. I shall therefore give a short account of the present
 situation of American affairs. in the Environs of Boston
 we have a well appointed Brave & High spirited Continent
 al army. Consisting of about twenty two thousand Men.
 Commanded by the Accomplish'd George Washington Es: a Gen-
 tleman of one of the first Fortunes in America. A man whose
 Military Abilities, & public & private Virtues, place him in the
 first Class of the Good & Brave & on Really of so High a Stamp
 as to do Honour to Human Nature. this army is to be offici-
 onally Recruited & to be supported & paid at the Expence of
 the united Colonies of America. And now Britain

powerful & Infatuated Enough to find out a force sufficient
 to cut of to it than this little Reprobate army. Less than the Compass
 of it week would Exhibit in the field three times their Numbers Ready
 to Avenge the stroke. & to Call down the justice of Heaven on the
 Destroyers of the peace Liberty & Happiness of Mankind.

In Compliance with the Recommendation of the Continental Congress the Massachusetts have at last
 Reassembled the powers of Government. the provincial Congress sent out
 a writ for Calling a House of Representatives & Agreeable to the
 Charter of Wm & Mary they proceeded to Elect 28 Counsellors
 And Considering the Gov^r & Lt as Absent the supreme Authority
 of of the province was vested in any fifteen of the Members
 Thus after living without Government without Law and
 without any Regular Administration of justice for more than 12
 months, we are just returning from a state of Nature to the
 subordination, of civil society. The Grand Council of America
 have once more petitioned His Majesty to Terminate some speedy
 Reconciliation. this is a final proof with what Reluctance the proprie-
 ty of Britain Transports the sword against their unnatural
 parent. Both the Ministerial & the American army seem at
 present to be rather on the Defensive, as if each were wishing
 for some Benign Hand to Interpose & heal the Foul and Contagious
 without letting out the Blood from the Bosom of their Brethren
 But stand as this people are of the Restoration of that Harmony
 which they added Riches & Strength to the power of Britain. yet
 so tenacious are we of the Birth Rights of Nature & the fair
 possession of freedom which no power on Earth has a Right to
 Curtail that we shall never give up the invaluable Claim,
 But with the Warm Current which plays round the Heart and
 stimulates the Breast to Resist the arm of tyranny. My desires
 to Welcome the Bright Image of peace if at the same time that the

our Good friends Mr Adams has just told us to Return to practical Liberty & will
 My very Good Myself please you would accept their Respectful Compliments,
 the Respectful Pleas.

24 Aug. 1795. W. Warren
Handwritten by Cherry Worren
Aug 24 1795

appears with the Olive Branch in the one hand. the other holds
forth a Radical Redress of Grievances. Stamped with such a
signet that as they may not be Broken either by the ^{conduct} practices of openly
Abandoned Men. or the Machinations of perfidious Traitors. Who
propose the Heavenly Name of Virtue. by putting on the Guize
that they may more securely perpetrate Every species of Iniquity.

I fear notwithstanding the Efforts of a Virtuous & sensible
Minority. the Ministerial Schemers will prosper their Mad
projects. till the scepter Drops from the Hands of Royalty. &
the Liberty of the People, falls solitary & alone. till she becomes
the Derision of Nations, & the Contempt of her Enemies.

But will not their Confusion be inexorable when disappointed in every
Fiducial scheme. when perhaps Ere long they may see the ports of
America thrown open to Every Foreign power. & the Heart of the
Whole World be fixed in the Western Region. What were the united pro
vinces when the Contest began with Spain in Comparison with the united
Colonies of this Wide Extended Continent.

Although I have already
Detained you longer than I designed. I cannot Close without Observ
ing to you Dear Madam that the protest of the Dissenting Lords
and the Conduct of several Members of Both Houses with re
gard to American affairs is never mentioned but with Every
Expression of approbation & Applause. The Noble Example of
Lord Effingham will be Remembered in the Historic page. but at
the same time that it transmits his Name with Honour to posterity
It will Evince to future ages the Corruption of the times that
such an Instance of Disinterested Merit should stand Recorded
almost alone. one who has hitherto been Honored with your
Correspondence prefers by with the Highest Esteem & Gratitude of
eternity.
Cherry Worren

1800.02

Transcript

Plimouth N E August 24 1775

At A time when all Europe is Interested in the state of America you will forgive me Dear Madam, if I Lay Aside the Ceremony usually observed when there is no Attachment that Arises Either from Affection or Esteem, & again, Call at your Attention when I have Not been Assured of the Welcome Reception of my Last, in that I hinted that the sword was half Drawn from the scabbard, soon after which this people were obliged to unsheath it to Repel the Violence offered to Individuals, & the Insolence of an Attempt to seize the private property of the subjects of the king of England. And thereby put it out of their power to Defend themselves against the Corrupt Ministers of His Court.

You have Doubtless, Madam been Apprized of the Consequences of this Hostile Movement which compiled the Americans to fly to arms in Defence of all that is held dear & sacred among Mankind. And the public papers as well as private accounts have Witnessed to the Bravery of the Peasants of Lexington, & the spirit of Freedom Breath'd from the Inhabitants of the surrounding Villaiges. You have been told of the Distresses of the people of Boston, And the shameful Violation of faith which will leave a stain on the Memory of A Certain General Officer so long as the obligations of Honour & Truth are held sacred among Men. He after sporting with the Miseries of the Wretched Suffers [2] till Famine & pestilence began to Rage in the City, permitted the Most of them to Depart Leaving Their Effects behind, & to quit Their Elegant & Convenient Habitations in the Capital & fly Naked into the Hospitable arms of their Brethren in the Country.

And the Conflagration of Charlestown will undoubtedly Reach Each British Ear before this comes to your Hand. Such Instances of Wanton Barbarity have been seldom practiced Even among the Most Rude & uncivilized Nations, the ties of Gratitude which were Broken through by the kings troops in this Base translation Greatly Enhances their Guilt. it was the Inhabitants of that town who prompted by Humanity Generously opened their doors to the Routed Corps on the Ninteenth of April, & poured Balm into the Wound; of the Exhausted & dying Soldiers after their precipitant Retreat. Had they observed a Different Conduct on that Memorable day, Had they assisted in cutting [inserted: off] Ld percys Retreat it Might not have been in the power of General Gage to have Wraped that town in Flames & Driven out the Miserable Inhabitants the prey of poverty & Despair. But A particular Detail of [inserted: the] sufferings of the Massachusets you will have from other Hands. I shall therefore only Give a short Account of the present situation of American affairs in the Environs of Boston. We have a well Appointed Brave & High spirited Continental army, Consisting of About twenty-two thousand Men, Commanded by the Accomplished George Washington Eqr. A Gentleman of one of the first fortunes in America. A man whose Military Abilities, & public & private Virtues place Him in the first Class of the Good & Brave & are Really of so High a stamp as to do Honour to Human Nature this army is to be occasionally Reunited & to be supported & paid at the Expenche of the United Colonies of America. And were Britain [3] powerful & Infatuated Enough to send out a force sufficiant to cut of to A Man this little Resolute army. Less than the Compass of A week would Exhibit in the Field thrice their Numbers Ready to Avenge the stroke & to call down the justice of Heaven on the Destroyers of the peace, Liberty & Happiness of Mankind.

In Compliance with the Recommendation of the Continental Congress, the Massachusetts have at Last Reassumed the power of Government. the provincial Congress sent out A writ for Calling a House of Representatives & Agreeable to the Charter of Wm & Mary they proceeded to Elect 28 Counselers. And Considering the Govr & Liet as Absent the supreme Authority of of [sic] the province was Vested in any sixteen of the Number.

Thus after living without Government without Law and Without any Regular Administration of justice for more than 12 Months we are just Returning from a state of Nature to the subordinations of Civil Society.

The Grand Counsel of America have once more petitioned His Majesty to Revise some Methods of Reconciliation this is A final proof with what Reluctance the progeny at Britain Draw forth the sword against their unnatural parent. Both the Ministerial & the American armies seem at present to be Rather on the Defensive as if Each were wishing for some Benign Hand to Interpass & heal the Dreadful Contest without letting out the Blood from the Bosom of their Brethren.

But fond as this people are of the Restoration of that Harmony which Has Added Riches & Strength to the power of Britain, yet so tenacious are we of the Birth Rights of Nature & the fair possession of freedom which no power on Earth has a Right to Curtail, that we shall Never give up the Invaluable Claim. But with the Warm Currant which plays round the Heart & eluminates the Breast to Resist the arm of Tyranny. This disposed to Welcome the Bright Images of peace if at the same time that she [4] Appears with the Olive Branch in the one Hand. The Other holds forth A Radical Redress of Grievances Stamped with such a signet [strikeout: that] as May not be Broken Either by the [insert: Corrupt] practices of openly Abandoned Men or the Machinations of persidious Trayters, Who profane the Heavenly Name of Virtue, by puting on the Guize that they may more securly perpetrate Every species of Iniquity.

I fear Notwithstanding the Efforts of A Virtuous & sensible Minority, the Ministerial Hirelings will pursue their Mad Projects till the sceptre Drops from the Hands of Royalty, & the Mistress of the Flag sits solitary & Alone, till she becomes the Derision of Nations & the Contempt of Her Enemies.

But [illegible] not their confusion be inexpressable when Disappointed in Every Vissionary Scheme, when perhaps Ere long thy may see the ports of America T[h]rown open to Every foreign power & the Mart of the Whole World be fix'd in the Western Regions. What were the United provinces when the Contest began with Spain in Comparison with the United Colines of this Wide Extended Continent.

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Esteem A Daughter of America Mercy Warren

[written on the margin of page 3:]

Our Good Friend Mr Adams Has just left us to Return to philadelphia & with My very Good Husband
Desire you would accept their Respectful Complements And Highest Esteem.

Mercy Warren Aug 24: 1775

24 Augt. 1775 Mrs. Warren