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Valley Forge Camp, twenty Miles
from Philadelphia. Jan^y 28. 1778

Sir

His Excellency General Washington informs me, your State is called upon to fill their Regiments, which induces me to find the Inclosed Returns; one specifies the Number of Men you have now in actual Service. The other those who have been in Service, but now absent from various Causes as therein mentioned. — The Officers that are at Home may be employed to singular Advantage in collecting and bringing forward to Camp, the Recruits, as well as such of the Absentees, as may be found; — and as many of those were left Sick and Wounded at Albany, & since obtained Furloughs home; I have no Doubt with due Care and proper Attention the greater Part of them may be looked up. —

The Nature and Necessity of the Service is such, as demands your most spirited and vigorous exertions, this you doubtless are sensible of, and being sensible it cannot fail to rouse every Effort in your Power to effect speedy Execution of that so necessary Request. But Sir, your own Abilities, united with those of that Body, to which in a more immediate Sense you stand politically connected, & cooperating with that Zeal and indefatigable Diligence in the public Service, which has ever marked the Proceedings of the Genl & Representative Body of the People, make it unnecessary for me to detain you longer on a Preharsal of the public Exigencies —

Give me Leave Sir, Nay! Duty

Obligate me to observe to you the present Situation of your Soldiers, with respect to Cloathing, near one half of them destitute of any kind of Shoes or Stockings to their Feet, and I may add many without either Breeches, Shirts or Blankets exposed, (as they are unavoidably obliged to be) to all the Inclemencies of this Cold Season, living in Log Huts without Doors or Floors - Paint to yourself this their ragged suffering Condition. - Conceive yourself in their Place, and your Humanity must shudder. - I am every Day beholding their sufferings, and every Morning waked with the lamentable Tale of their Distresses, they look up to me for Relief, & it is not in my Power to afford them any. - Imagine yourself then in my Situation, & think how disagreeable it must be.

If any of them desert, how can I punish them, when they plead in their Justification, that on your Part, the Contract is broken. - That you promised and engaged to supply them with such Things as were requisite to make them comfortable here, and the Situation of their Families tolerable at Home, this they say, they had an undoubted Right to expect. you promised they should be supplied with the common Necessaries of Life, at a reasonable stipulated Rate, Corn at $3/6$ per Bushel, & other Things in the same Proportion; instead of which they must now give 10 or 20 per Bushel, and so in like Proportion for every Thing else; which vile Extortion, if permitted, they say, must inevitably reduce their Families to a starving Condition, to a Dependence on the Cold Hand of Weekly Charity alone. -

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The Ties of Nature, we all know are
such, as will hardly endure the reflection,
much more the Reality. — For Heaven's
Sake, My dear Sir think then of their dis-
tressed Situation both at Home and here, &
let me conjure you to point out some
Mode, by which their own, and their fami-
lies cruel Sufferings may be relieved;
which speedily adopted, would not fail to
sweeten the Hardships of War, make every
Soldier smile on Toil and Danger, and
every one with Cheerfulness & Alacrity
to discharge those Duties his Country
would then have a right to demand.
But should you neglect doing any thing
to quiet their Minds, I should shudder &
tremble at the Consequences. Nay! it
will be impracticable to keep them ^{much} longer
in the Field. —

The enclosed Advertisement would
be much obliged to you, to have inserted
in the News Paper as soon as possible —

I am Sir,

Your M^t O^b Serv^t

Enoch Poor.

Hon^{ble} Meshech Weare

Hon.ble Meshech Weare
President of the Council of Safety
for the State of
New Hampshire

Recd
Jan. 21. 1778