

service, and your once powerful army is now wasted away.

The necessity for your return must, I think, by this time have very fully appeared. But even if no such necessity had existed, you received *orders* to return ; and if disobedience to the orders of that Sovereign, whose commission you bear, and to whose bounty you are so much indebted, can be justified in a military light, I confess I am ignorant of the mode of justification. You attempt to prove that the order was conditional, and the condition depending upon your own judgment. It is true, your orders were to proceed to Boston as soon as it could be done without any material risk to your health. They who have associated with you in private, who have seen and heard you in public, will determine whether you was not in a condition to obey even the *tenor*, much more the *purport* of this order. But, besides the persuasion which you entertained, that “ to expose your constitution to the next American winter was in all probability to doom you to the grave,” you assign another reason for not returning to America. “ Your
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