

of the army have not had the small pox. The greater part of Grea-ton's, Bond's, and Burrell's regiments have been lately inoculated. There are about eight tons of gunpowder in the colony. To evince the great distress we are reduced to for the want of bread, we must inform you that we were obliged to buy thirty loaves of bread of our baker to feed Col. De Haas's detachment, which entered this town Friday night on their way to join General Arnold at *La Chine*, and who could not be supplied by the Commissary. Such is our extreme want of flour that we were yesterday obliged to seize by force fifteen barrels to supply this garrison with bread. Previous to this seizure a general order was issued to the town major to wait on the merchants or others having provisions or merchandise for sale, requesting a delivery of what our troops are in immediate want of, and requiring him to give a receipt expressing the quantity delivered; for the payment of which the faith of the United colonies is pledged by your Commissioners. Nothing but the most urgent necessity can justify such harsh measures: but men with arms in their hands will not starve when provisions can be obtained by force. To prevent a general plunder which might end in the massacre of your troops, and of many of the inhabitants, we have been constrained to advise the general to take this step. We cannot conceal our concern that six thousand men should be ordered to Canada, without taking care to have magazines formed for their subsistence, cash to pay them or to pay the inhabitants for their labour, in transporting the baggage, stores, and provisions of the army. We cannot find words strong enough to express our miserable situation; you will have a faint idea of it, if you figure to yourselves an army broken and disheartened, half of it under inoculation or other diseases; soldiers without pay, without discipline, and altogether reduced to live from hand to mouth, depending on the scanty and precarious supplies of a few half starved cattle and trifling quantities of flour, which have hitherto been picked up in different parts of the country.

"Your soldiers grumble for their pay;—if they receive it they will not be benefitted, as it will not procure them the necessities they stand in need of. Your military chest contains but eleven thousand paper dollars. You are indebted to your troops treble that sum, and to the inhabitants above fifteen thousand dollars."

To such a state of affairs there could be but one end. The Congress struggled hard against the necessity of evacuating Canada. On the 17th of June, 1776, they resolved that an experienced General should be immediately sent into Canada, with large powers of appointment and supervision, and they directed General Washinton to send General Gates to take command of the forces there. Some efforts were at the same time made to send