

LET. XXXIX.

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LET. XL.

FROM AMERICA.

437

L E T T E R XL.

New York, Sept. 20, 1777.

WE have intelligence of the most in-
teresting and pleasing nature. It
is said that General Washington has suf-
fered a total defeat in the neighbourhood
of Philadelphia. Should this report, which
is generally credited, be well founded, this
destructive war will surely be quickly ter-
minated.

I am happy to inform you, that the ac-
count respecting Annapolis was totally
without foundation. Hitherto Maryland
has not experienced the actual scourge of
war: may the sweet return of peace ex-
empt her from participating in the almost
general calamity.

On the appearance of the British fleet
in the Chesapeake, the loyalists throughout

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