

only are they models of simple and forceful composition, but they reflect with great clearness the customs of the time and the characters of their writers. In Colonel Eddy's bold summons to a larger and better trained force inside a strong fort to surrender to his inferior one outside of it, and in Col. Gorham's calm rebuke of his adversary's disloyalty and expression of his own devotion to his Sovereign, we can read the minds of two very different men. In both documents, also, we note a characteristic of belligerents in all ages—the effort to make the enemy appear in the wrong. That in both papers the grammar is faulty and the spelling weak, does not detract from their interest, and they are here printed precisely as they occur in the work from which they are copied—Kidder's "Revolutionary Operations in Eastern Maine."

*To Joseph Gorham Esq. Lieut. Colonel Commandt of the Royal Fencibles Americans Commanding Fort Cumberland.*

The already too plentiful Effusion of Human Blood in the Unhappy Contest between Great Britain and the Colonies calls on every one engag'd on either side, to use their utmost Efforts to prevent the Unnatural Carnage, but the Importance of the Cause on the side of America has made War necessary, and its Consequences, though in some Cases shocking are yet unavoidable. But to Evidence that the Virtues of humanity are carefully attended to, to temper the Fortitude of a Soldier; I have to summon you in the Name of the United Colonies to surrender the Fort now under your Command, to the Army sent under me by the States of America. I do promise that if you surrender Yourself as Prisoners of War you may depend upon being treated with the utmost Civility & Kind Treatment; if you refuse I am determined to storme the Fort, and you must abide the consequences—

Your answer is expected in four Hours after you receive this and the Flag to Return safe,

I am Sir

Your most obedt. Hble Servt

JONA EDDY

Commanding Officer of the United Forces.

Nov. 10, 1776.

SIR—

FORT CUMBERLAND, 10th Nov., 1776.

I acknowledge the receipt of a Letter (under coular of a Flag of Truce) Signed by one Jonan Eddy Commanding officer expressing a concern at the unhappy Contest at present Subsisting between great Britain and the Colonys and recommending those engaged on either side to use their Endeavors to prevent