

writer that Washington was of the same way of thinking as Tom Paine rests on imperfect information.

Washington, who had attended Congress in the uniform of a colonel, undertook the terrible responsibility of the position, with the generous personal provision that no pay was to be attached to his office. He merely expressed a wish that his disbursements on behalf of the army or in the public service might be repaid. It is well known that he not only adhered to this line of action, but that he spent much of his private fortune in the service of his country.

What his administrative difficulties proved to be may be gathered from what follows in these pages, but there was one element exceedingly prolific of embarrassments which in itself does not belong to military administration; this element was the cold and steady dislike of the men who were mainly instrumental in putting the bâton of supreme command into Washington's hand. Long after Washington's public career closed, John Adams ventured the statement that had he not married a wealthy lady, whose money he used to promote his fortunes, Washington had never become Commander-in-Chief. Both Samuel and John Adams plotted in 1777 for his removal, and drew nigh to Horatio Gates with a view to his displacing the Commander-in-Chief. It was indeed about these two malcontents that were gathered the men on whom in their degree the general was officially dependent. Gates, the adjutant-general, Charles Lee, a major-general, Reed, Mifflin, Conway, and Richard Henry Lee, to say nothing of the smaller wire-pullers, co-operated and conspired to entangle his plans and to attenuate his influence. Left to the tender mercies of Congress, Washington had been displaced at the end of 1777, but his ragged and incongruous army knew the man at their head and saved the situation.

The newly appointed general, accompanied by Major-General Charles Lee, quitted Philadelphia for Boston in June 1775. A Board of War, consisting of John Adams, Richard Henry Lee, and Edward Rut-

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