

(though I cannot ascertain the date) that an officer of very great ability, and a perfect knowledge in the country through which I was to pass, as soon as he heard no disposition was made for a support from New York, foretold to the secretary of state, or his near friends, the fall of my army. Under this apprehension it might appear to the secretary of state a proper caution, that an expectation of co-operation should exist under his hand.

If plans so inconsistently formed, and managed by the secretary of state with so much seeming confidence, as to mislead his generals, and so much real reserve as to destroy them, should be defended by that infatuated belief then entertained of the inability of the enemy to resist, I should beg leave to state, as one proposition more, that after the experience of their actions at Trenton, and many other places, and the intelligence of their new levies received from Sir William Howe, such confidence was an additional fault, and perhaps a more pernicious one than any I have stated.

Thus much for the noble Lord in his public capacity. What share of the perfection I have sustained (more than I have directly expressed in different parts of my defence) are imputable to his private councils, is not within my knowledge: but if in speaking of my persecutors in general, I may be thought sometimes to have used strong terms, I have only to say, that having advanced no fact which I am not able and resolved to maintain, I have not felt myself called upon, in applying those facts for any further attention, than to preserve the language of a gentleman, which is an attention due to myself as well as to the public. It is open and manly enmity alone that unites respect with resentment.

I wish I could as easily apologise for all the other faults with which this undertaking abounds as a composition. At a time when so many pens are employed, I must not expect to be spared. I shall treat with silent respect any comments that are fairly founded and delivered with liberality; and with contempt, equally silent, the common invectives of the political press. This appeal is not to rest upon literary criticism, or party dispute, but upon the broad equity of my country. I know that prejudice and malice will vanish before the man who dares to submit his actions to that test—If acquitted *there*, I feel I am not degraded; and I have not a sensation within my breast which does not at the same time assure me, I cannot be unhappy.

J. B U R G O Y N E.

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