

last instance, the evident intention of rather admonishing you to return to your duty, than of punishing your disobedience, cannot fail to convince the world, that no political resentments (however well founded) are suffered to interfere in the regulation of military affairs. It must as forcibly strike every man, unbiassed by party prejudices, that, tho' the dignity of the Crown, and the welfare of the service required some censure should be passed on a conduct tending to the subversion of both, yet even this apparent severity was tempered with benevolence and moderation.

I have now, Sir, performed my promise of examining the several supposed motives of your stay in England, of stating the probable inducements with Government, to order your return to America, of discussing the validity and import of that order, and canvassing the pretences set up against it. And now I should with pleasure take my leave of a disagreeable subject, but that there appears something so very uncommon in almost every part of your conduct, from the convention of Saratoga to the present hour, that curiosity tempts me to take a cursory view of it.

I will begin with your policy in framing the convention. And here the first object that attracts our notice, is your very singular boast, of having