

Liberty pole in Bergen

County Aug^t 28th 1780

I am much obliged to
you my dear Sir for your letter
of the 17th and for the interesting
intelligence you do me the favor
to communicate. -

The Blockade of the Port of
Brest by delaying the sailing of
the second division makes a mate
rial change in our prospects. - I
fear it will put it out of our pow
er to operate against New York
but if we are not unfortunate
in Europe and if vigorous mea=
sures are taken to give us ma
gazines, we may still hope for
some important operation; but
it will probably be in a different
quarter. - I think however
as I have mentioned in my

official

official letter to you that we ought not to discontinue raising men for the Continental Battalions, as there is a possibility that we may still operate here, from the movements of the Cadiz fleet, or by a reinforcement from the Islands - or if an operation here should not be practicable the increasing [of] our force will enable us the better to detach to the Southward. -

I should be happy to comply with the wishes of the council respecting the arms; but our present deficiencies and the casualties that dayly [sic] arise will make us stand in need of all that has arrived in the Alliance - We expect a further supply shortly and the State may depend

depend that as soon as possible
its loan shall be replaced - I en
treat your influence to have
all the arms powder cannon &
cloathing ready made forwar
ded without delay to Springfield
for the officers in the Service of
the Continent have not the ne=
cessary means of transporta
tion.

I am informed of a set of
resolutions lately entered into
by a convention of delegates
from the four Eastern States,
which if rightly represented
to me, & carried into executi
on will be the most likely means
that could be adopted to rescue
our affairs from the complica
ted & dreadful embarrassments
under which they labour, &
will do infinite honor to these
with

with whom they originate -
I sincerely wish they may meet
with no opposition or delay
in their progress. - Our situa=
tion is truly delicate, and dem^ds
all our wisdom, all our virtue,
all our energy. - Great Britain
no doubt encounters many
serious perplexities and dan
gers; But there will be no mira
cle in her surmounting them

- In Europe by the last advi
ces there was a critical moment
where the chances were too square
ly ballanced - On this Continent
the affairs of the enemy are ra
ther too prosperous - In the West
Indies at this Season, the Elements
may fight against our Allies;
but here is our best hope. -

As

- As to domestic desertions
though they will no doubt em=
barrass, I confess I have no great
confidence in them - We have
every motive to be in earnest
and to exert ourselves to the
utmost to take care of our=
selves. - With the truest esteem

I have the honor to be

D^r Sir

Y^r most Obed. Serv^t

G^o Washington

The Hon^{ble} James Bowdoin Esq^r