Liberty pole in Bergen

County Augt 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 material change in our prospects. - I fear it will put it out of our power to operate against New York but if we are not unfortunate in Europe and if vigorous measures are taken to give us magazines, 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 Alli
ance - 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 demds
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

Dr Sir

Yő most Obed. Servő

GO Washington

The Honble James Bowdoin Esq!