

Sir

Lancaster 13th July 1781.

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I have just now the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of the 9th Instant, and have communicated the contents to Col. Hubley, who will take the Necessary Steps to Prevent any further Preparations being made in the Neighbourhood of York Town. With Respect to Accomodating the whole of the Prisoners, including those of the Convention Troops within the Pickets, I think your information Erroneous; there is at Present upwards of Two Hundred men with four Hundred Twenty Seven Women and Children without the Pickets, sheltered with Blankets and Planks procured by themselves, and yet the Barracks are exceedingly crowded; Add to this a malignant Fever Prevails among them, of which many have Died, and upwards of One Hundred are now Down with it. upon the whole, if your Hon^{ble} Board Determine to keep them here, I think it will be Absolutely Necessary to enlarge the Pickets, and to Direct a Quantity of Oak Plank to be Provided, to make Shelters for themselves, and which may Answer as a Temporary Expedient; Besides, I think it would be an Exceeding Proper measure to have a House Detached from the Barracks, appropriated for an Hospital, and to remove the Sick as they are taken Down; for the Security of which, a small Detached Guard would be Sufficient. — The Present Guards consist of About three Hundred Non Commissioned and Privates, with their proper Officers, part of which, were intended to guard the British to York, and a Guard for the Removal of the Seamen now confined here, to Philadelphia. I am barely of Opinion that One hundred and fifty men properly Officered, will be a Sufficient Standing Guard for this Post. — I am Happy to inform your Excellency that I have found a real Disposition in the Commissary of Prisoners, and the Commanding Officers of the Militia to do every thing in their Power for the good of the Service. I shall set Off tomorrow for Reading, and will Return in a few Days to this Place, where I shall be ready to receive any further ^{Orders} you may think Proper to Honor me with. I am with the greatest Respect & Esteem.

Sir Yr. Excellency's
Very Obedt. Servt. Wood.

Public Service.

His Excellency President Read.

Philadelphia

Lancaster July 13. 1781
from Col. Wood
Lancaster

Lancaster History