

August 1780

Dear Diary,

Everyone is outraged! But what am I to think? On one hand, the British are horrible. They kick people out of their homes like the Kershaw family and have captured over two-thirds of Gates's men. They are beginning to take over South Carolina, and many fear for their lives. The British are warning the loyalists and Patriots of consequences of treason. The Loyalists are being rewarded, while the Patriots are being punished. But, of course, the British and the Loyalists are on the same side, but if they betray the British they are said to be "immediately hanged" according to the August 1780 Order of Lord Charles Cornwallis.

On the other hand, the British are giving Patriots a chance at life! They let them sign a parole, which means that the British will set you free as long as you promise never to fight against them. If you go back on your word, of course, the British will hang you too.

I am glad that I am not a part of this madness. Loyalists or Patriot—I just want to be left alone to run my dry goods shop. Both of these groups has money to spend and I need to support my family since my husband's death. A person does what a person has to do to survive. I wonder what the days ahead hold for me and my family and the citizens of Camden??

Fondly,

M. ~~_____~~