

Gen. Greene to Gen. Marion

CAMP COLONEL'S CREEK, May 9, 1781

Dear Sir:

I am favoured with yours of the 6th inst. I am sorry the Militia are **deserting** because there is not greater support. If they were influenced by proper principles, and were impressed with a love of liberty and a dread of slavery, they would not shrink at difficulties. If we had a force sufficient to recover the country, their aid would not be wanted, and they cannot be well acquainted with their true interest to desert us, because they conceive our force unequal to the reduction of the country without their assistance. I shall always be happy to see you at Head Quarters, but you cannot think you seriously mean to solicit **leave** to go to Philadelphia. It is true your **task** has been **disagreeable**, but not more so than others, it is now going on seven years since the **commencement** of this war. I have never had a **leave** of absence an hour, nor paid the least attention to my own private affairs. Your State is **invaded**; your all is at stake, what has been done will signify nothing, unless we persevere to the end. I left a wife in **distress**, and every thing dear and valuable to come and afford you all the assistance in my power, and if you leave us in the midst of our difficulties while you have it so much in your power to promote the service, it must throw a damper on the spirits of the Army, to find the first men in the State are retiring from the busy scene, to indulge themselves in more agreeable **amusements**; however your reasons for wishing to decline the command of the militia, and for going to Philadelphia may be more pressing than I imagine, I will therefore add nothing more upon this subject till I see you.

My reasons for writing so pressingly respecting the dragoons, was from the **distress** we were in. It is not my wish to take the horses from the militia if it will injure the public service. The efforts and consequences you can better judge of than I can. You have rendered important services to the publick with the militia under your command, and done great honour to yourself; and I would not wish to **render** your situation less agreeable with them, unless it is to answer some great purpose, and this I persuade myself you would from a

desire to promote the common good. I wish you success in the fort you are **besieging**. Lord Rawdon was out yesterday, we had the night before taken a new position on Sanders' Creek, and imagined he came out to attack us expecting to find us on the Twenty-five Mile Creek. We did not like the situation on Sanders' Creek to risk an action on, and therefore took a new position at this place, leaving the Horse, Light Infantry, and Piquets and the old encampment, the enemy came and drew upon the other side of the Creek, but did not attempt to cross, but retired into Camden before night.

We are in daily expectation of a large reinforcement of Virginia militia and some Continental troops, when those arrive we shall push our operations with more vigour. No further news of **Lord Cornwallis**.

I am, sir, with the highest esteem and regard,

Your most obedient humble servant,

NATH. GREENE