

PAPER No. VIII

A letter, of 12, and one of 18 March last, from the Commander in Chief, with the papers accompanying them, relative to the proceedings of the army in consequence of certain anonymous papers:

HEADQUARTERS, *12th March, 1783.*

SIR,—It is with inexpressible concern I make the following report to your Excellency:—Two days ago anonymous papers were circulated in the army, requesting a general meeting of the officers on the next day. A copy of one of these papers is enclosed, No. 1.

About the same time another anonymous paper, purporting to be an address to the officers of the army, was handed about in a clandestine manner. A copy of this is marked No. 2.

To prevent any precipitate and dangerous resolutions from being taken at this perilous moment, while the passions were all inflamed, as soon as these things came to my knowledge, the next morning, I issued the enclosed order, No. 3. And in this situation the matter now rests.

As all opinion must be suspended until after the meeting on Saturday, I have nothing further to add, except a wish that the measures I have taken to dissipate a storm, which had gathered so suddenly and unexpectedly, may be acceptable to Congress; and to assure them that in every vicissitude of circumstances, still actuated with the greatest Zeal in their Service, I shall continue my utmost Exertions to promote the welfare of my Country under the most lively expectation, that Congress have the best Intentions of doing ample justice to the Army, as soon as Circumstances will possibly admit.

With the highest Respect and Esteem, etc.

(signed) G: WASHINGTON.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, another anonymous paper has been put in circulation, a copy of which is enclosed, No. 4.<sup>1</sup>

(No. 1.)

A meeting of the general and field officers is requested at the public building, on Tuesday next, at 11 o'clock. A commissioned officer from each company is expected, and a delegate from the

<sup>1</sup> This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, XI, folio 105. The indorsement states that it was read March 17, and referred to Mr. [John Taylor] Gilman, Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer, Mr. [Abraham] Clark, Mr. [John] Rutledge and Mr. [John Francis] Mercer. Committee Book No. 186 shows that this committee was discharged on March 22, and the letter referred to the committee appointed on that day to consider Washington's letter of March 18.