

Wilmington Jan.28,1778

Sir,

I wrote you the other day to which I refer you of the accompt of our prize. She is not unloaded all yet,turns out better & better as the[y] come lower down Sone fine old Madaria

As to the militia in my brigada,am sorry to say by the reports of my officers,a total defection appears, & no hopes of turning out at present,not above 20 men, & they will not stay.

I have wrote to Mr Ried the Präsident to come here if possible to know what part we are to act,or give up the State to its ruin,which from the general behaviour of our people they are pushing on fast,for if the conti- nental troops are let loose on his,for our conduct,I dread the consequences,but from some appearances believe it will be done.

As to news have none only two ships burnt by our people near Gloster. every day taking some prisoners.

I am,Sir,with much esteem,

Your most obe<sup>d</sup> Hm ser

Sam Patterson

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Wilmington Jan.10<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

Your favor came to hand of the 8<sup>th</sup> & I observe the contents, for answer I can say that I am sorry that it did not ~~come-seeener~~ suit you to have come sooner than Sunday- As you say, times are much altered in the Spirit of the Delaware State, but I am in hopes times will mend.

Never was America in so fair a way to complete the grand struggle in our favor from every quarter- There is nothing here very material- There are acc<sup>ts</sup>. from Head Quarters every day- All is quiet- Deserters & prisoners are coming in there every day.

There is an affair of much consequence to our state & directly wants attention paid to it. I have wrote to our vice-president on the occasion- A schooner drove a shore in the Ice the other day at Rudy Point near White Head Jones- There was not a person on board. I enclose you a list of part of her cargo, worth £100,000 - She in my opinion is a prise to our poor state- If so, you can command if Mr. Read is not here as you know. I am here commanded & there are no troops as usual. I ordered Col. M<sup>c</sup>Donough to send a Comp<sup>y</sup> down to secure effects & one continental also went from here to bring all that is fit for the army agreed, but how is it to be ascertained & valued.

I am Sir, with much esteem,  
your most obd't humble serv't  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Patterson