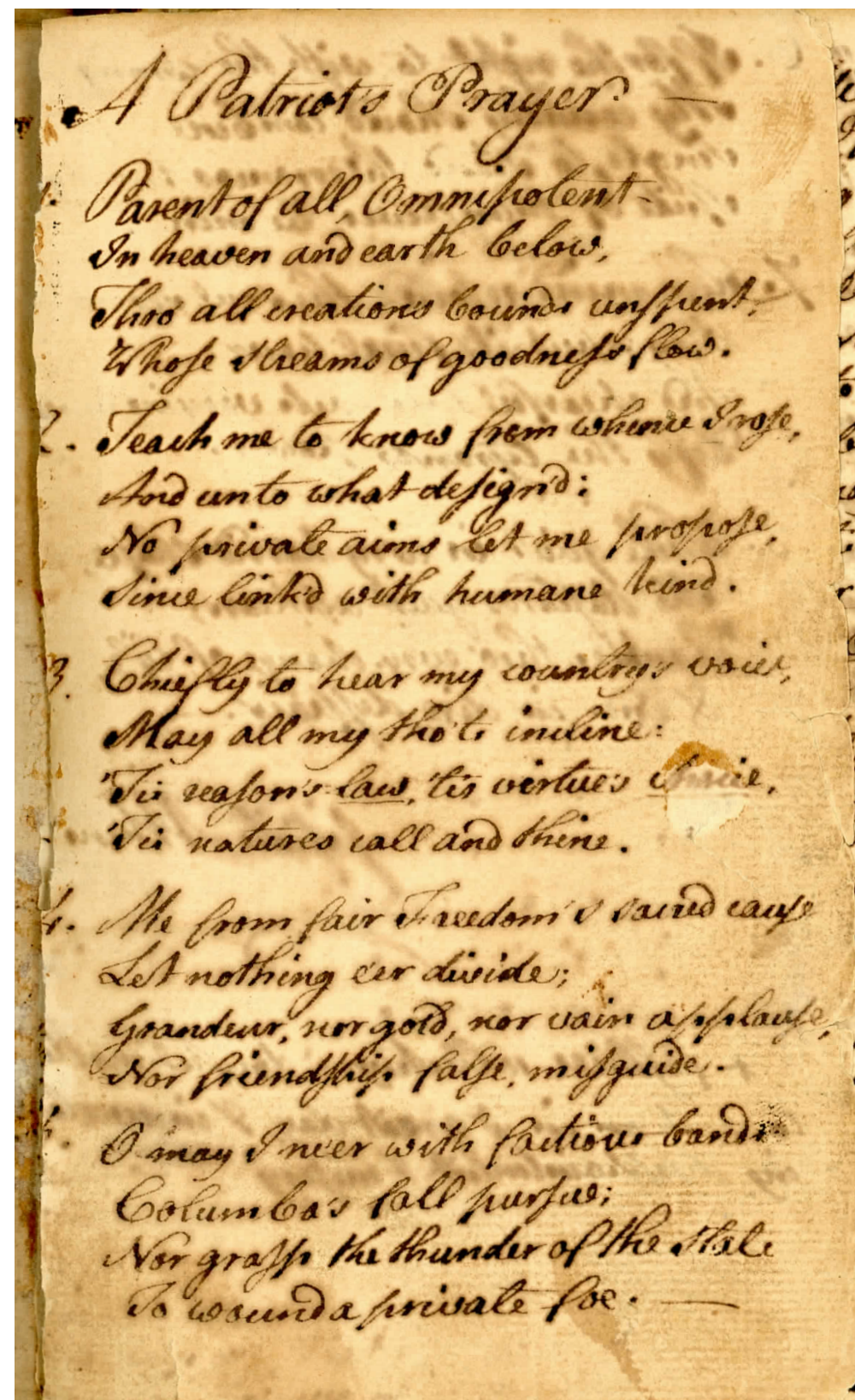


A Patriots Prayer

1. Parent of all, Omnipotent
In heaven and earth below,
Thro all creations bounds unspent,
Whose Streams of goodness flow.
2. Teach me to know from whence I rose
And unto what design'd;
No private aims let me propose,
Since links with humane kind.
3. Chiefly to hear my country's vow,
May all my tho'ts incline;
Tis reason's law, Tis virtues choice
Tis natures call and thine
4. Me from fair Freedom's sacred cause
Left nothing e'er divide;
Grandeur, nor gold, nor vain applause,
Nor friendships false misguide.
5. O may I never with factious bands
Columba's fall pursue;
Nor grasp the thunder of the state
To wound a private foe.



6. If for the right to wish the wrong,
My country should combine
Single, to stand the erroneous throng,
Spite of themselves, be mine.

7. The mind resolv'd, the soul serene,
May spect its final hour;
And cheerful thro' each varying scene,
Defy the tyrant's power.

8. While guilt in every horrid shape;
The dastards guest appears;
*Rankles thro' ev'ry change of life,
& ends in dire despair.

Josiah Atkins

*Festers, collecting y^e doleful matter
to work on in y^e great day, & in everlast-
ing disappointment & misery.

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My dear friends & fellow soldiers-

As we are engaged in a bloody war ye fate of which is uncertain; as we are drawing near ye enemy, I can expect nothing but fighting; as in every action some may fall & as my life is as uncertain as any other; so should it be my fate to drop & yours to survive & you may have to fight on this book & its contents, with ye other things I happen to have about me, which to probable will be a watch, a pair of silver shoe buckles, knee buckles, stock buckles, broach, stone sleeve buttons, & perhaps some more. These I will freely give you (to make good) yea I bid you welcome to them, on your gaging to grant me this request, to use ye best, your utmost endeavor, to send this book with its contents to my dear wife, whom I have left at home to morn myself. Shou'd this fall into your hands of our enemy I have no expectation of it ever reaching But shou'd any of you, my friend, & fellow soldiers, take this, I expect, I regret, yea I reason to exact it at your hand. You may think this of small importance: however, you must suppose, that it will be satisfactory to her / on whose account it was written to hear my fate

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You may think it matter difficult: but I
assure ^{you} to note: If you convey it to any of ye
Infantry belonging to Waterbury in Connec-
ticut (My wife & friends living in that town)
or to any who belong to Woodbury or Waterbury
or any of ye towns adjacent, it will hardly
fail to reach my house, Josiah Atkins in Wa-
terbury, or in ye society of Farmingbury. Give
them some of your bounty to induce them to
be faithful in discharging their trust in de-
livering this to my wife. This is a thing
I so anxiously desire, if you do not use your
utmost endeavor for this purpose I cannot forgive
ye, neither will I (unless by bitter repentance)
it if things you have taken will rise, yea &
ye this book rise in judgment against you.
Thus I entreat you by those powerful induc-
ments, & I could use many more: but relying
your goodness, generosity & benevolence,
I shall add no more; assuring you, I ever
while in life, I friend & well-wisher of
ye Soldier — Josiah Atkins.

P.S. Should this fall into ye hand of any
other person, than a soldier I shall & do expect
request ye some kind treatment at their
hands, & tho' I nor mine should not be able
to reward you, yet God will.

You many think ye matter difficult; but I
assure you to note if you convey it to any of ye
family belonging to Waterbury in Connec-
ticut (My wife and friends living in that town)
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A Journal of Josiah Atkins
Waterbury, Farmington society in
ye State of Connecticut, N. England:
written by himself. AD 1781.

January 1781. I enlisted in ye Continent-
al service, engaging for three years. And on
ye 5th day of April following, march'd to join
ye army at ye High lands. Lodg'd ye first
night at Southbury: ye 2d at Danbury ye 3d
in York State; & arrived at ye camp ye 8th
of y'd month; where I was joined with Col.
Sherman's regmnt in Capt Benton's comp'y.
Our business at present is learning ye military
art. Provisions, good beef & bread.

April 20th Tainted meat which continued to ye
28th. In ye meantime our allowance is shorten'd
at first to half-then to a quarter & some
times we drew nothing thro' ye whole day.

May ye 5 Continental Fast. It was observ'd
& I heard a sermon preach'd by Mr. Baldwin
our chaplin, from 2 Chron 20th latter clause
of ye 15th & 17th verses. It appear'd ye most excellent
sermon I ever heard on that subject.
Plenty of provision comes again from Waterbury,
but does not continue long. From ye 15th to ye 10th,
drew little bread & no meat. Rations yet unfit.

May ye 15th I set out (which was very unexpected)
to join ye Infantry down at ye Southward.

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May 16th. Reached New Windsor. This we left
towards night, & marched 6 miles, where we put up.
y^e 17th. Came to Warwick, where we drew provisions.
y^e 18th. We reached Sussex Court-house, 50. miles
from N. Windsor. We tarried at this place a
day or two; & drew some cloaths & money.

y^e 23rd. We came to Trenton, 50. miles from Sus-
sex - & this is a very fine place. -

y^e 26th. Arrived at Philadelphia, y^e most mag-
nificent city I ever saw. Here we tarried several
days, in which time I was spectator of most sad
melancholly scene. On Saturday May 26th (If I
mistake not y^e day of y^e month) & between y^e hour
of 12 & one o'clock, three criminals were executed
for robbery - three more pardoned - & all (as
I understood) for robbery. The three first were
executed on Philadelphia common, & appeared
to be somewhat penitent before their execution;
but said nothing to y^e spectators. They all pled
guilty, & some sign'd their own death warrant.
One was aged 36 years, another 30. & y^e other 25.

O my God! Teach me that I am a dying man, &
pos'd continually to y^e devouring dast of y^e king
of terrors! & if it be thy holy will, keep me from every evil, particularly
from sudden death; but above all things, grant
that I may constantly have such trust & confi-
dence in thee, as not to be surpris'd by death.
let it come sudden, or not, sooner or later; but
whenever it shall come, may I be landed safe-
ly in y^e mansions of eternal rest & peace!.....
Sunday, May 27th. We left Philadelphia, & sail'd
for y^e head of Elk. On our passage I saw Mud fort.

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Red bank & all those memorable forts on ye Delaware. The river has a swift current at ebb & flow. The weather here begins to be hot, in ye daytime, but cool at night, which presages what we may find, when we shall come 3 or 400 miles further to ye south...

On ye 28th we passed Chester, & Wilmington, which lieth on Brandywine river, upwards of 20 miles below Philadelphia. There I saw ye field of Brandywine battle. ye next town was Newcastle, where we landed about 10 o'clock, in order to proceed by land on our route to ye southward. Rye is now in ye bloom in this country. The small-pox prevails much in this town. Two small children were inoculated at one & ye same time, died at ye same & were buried together, at ye time we landed, about ten rods from ye place we lay...

But thanks be to God, I have not, taken it as yet! & I pray him to keep me safely from it, till a convenient opportunity to have it to advantage! However may I have an humble confidence in Him at all times, & in all things!

At three o'clock we left N. Castle, travelled 5 miles & came to Christan that evening. This is a small town; but howsoever large sloops come up close to it (even tho a small creek) ye tide seting up a considerable way above. The next day we left this place & reach'd ye head of Elk, a place of note in our papers. Here too is a small town, lying at ye head of a navigable river, 12 miles from Christan. This place we left ye next day, & proceeded on our way. The first town of note we pass'd is Charlestown

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in Maryland. Here ⁽⁴⁾ is a small town lying on a river, navigable for small vessels, & 10 miles from y^e head of Elk. In this part of y^e country I found a variety of strange trees & plants. There is one, call'd Jenkese, which grows about as large as our shrubs, y^e bark, leaf & burrs, like our chestnut; but y^e fruit is more like hazelnut. It blossoms about y^e middle of April; & these are like chestnut both in appearance & smell. There are three kinds of trees remarkable — y^e one resembles our black-oak, y^e leaves more scallopy — y^e other, y^e body is like oak, but y^e leaves like willow; & y^e other resembles liver-wood, with leaves like y^e currant bush; (this last is call'd a gum-tree, its leaves have a very fragrant smell.) Each of these bear a burr exactly alike, which are full of seeds. By y^e looks of y^e hole where they come out, like sunflower seeds. But trees that appear in these parts that appear y^e same with us, have different fruit from ours. The next place of note is Susquehannah river, 7 miles from Charlestown; which took us all night to cross with our men & wagons, our party being only a guard to take on cloathing, money & arms to y^e infantry. (Susquehannah river is near 2 miles wide at y^e ferry.) Early next morning (after our fatiguing night) we set forward on our march. We put up at a small river, call'd Gunpowder river, 20 miles from Susquehannah; & navigable for small vessels. Sunday, 10 o'clock, June 3^d. We have reach'd Baltimore, y^e capital of Maryland, which

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is a large & elegant town, lying on a fine navigable river 18 miles from Gunpowder. This is ye first time I have had ye satisfaction of seeing people regard ye Sabbath, since I began my march. How affecting ye consideration, that I am obliged to pass by, while others are worshipping in ye courts of my God! This brings fresh to my mind, my friends at home who are now worshipping ye Lord in his appointed way, & behold I am here! - O Lord my God, how lamentable my circumstances! Once I liv'd in peace at home, rejoicing in ye divine favor and smiles; but now I'm in ye field of war, surrounded with circumstances of affliction & heart-felt disappointment; Once I enjoy'd ye pleasant company of many friends, but now I am among strangers in a strange land! Once I could go with my friends in company to ye house of ye Lord; but now I spend ev'ry Sabbath hast'ning to ye field of blood and slaughter! Once I cou'd take delight in reading' hearing ye word of ye Lord preach'd, but now I can hear little or nothing besides ye profaning of God's holy name & Sabbath! How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord God of hosts! May I be sensible that a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere! O may I say in sincerity with David, That my soul longeth, yea even fainteth for ye Lord! When shall I again be suffered to stand in ye courts of my Lord, & my God!

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Tuesday, June 5th. ~~6th~~ We came to ~~Bladensburg~~ Bladensburg in Virginia. This is considerable of a little town, & is thirty miles from Baltimore. We crossed Potomac ferry into Alexandria standing on Virginia side. This river is very large; will let up large ships; and is y^e boundary between y^e States of Maryland & Virginia. Alexandria is not very extensive; but is pleasantly situated on y^e river. The 6th we left this place. How vastly different is this part of y^e world from y^e ideas I used to have of it! Instead of a plain cleared country (as I used to think it) I find it covered with vast lonely woods. Sometimes 'tis ten, 15. or 20 miles between houses; & they say we have a place to pass y^t is thirty. This day we pass Gen. Washington's plantation, which is of large extent. (Some men in these parts, they tell me, own 30,000 acres of land for their patrimony; & many have two or 300 Negroes to work on it as slaves. Alas! That persons who pretend to stand for y^e rights of mankind, for y^e Liberties of travellers, can delight in oppression, & y^e even of y^e worst kind! These poor creatures are enslav'd: not only so, but likewise depriv'd of y^e which nature affords even to y^e beasts. Many are almost without provision, having very little for support of nature; & many are as naked as they came into y^e world. What pray is this, but y^e striking inconsistent character pointed out by y^e apostle, While they promise them liberty, they themselves are y^e servants of corruption? But when I speak of oppression, it readily

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suggests to my mind my own troubles & afflictions. Am not I oppress'd as being oblig'd to leave my own state of peace & happiness friends & relations, wife & child, shop & tools, & customers, against my mind & expectation, & come these hundreds of miles distance in ye capacity of a soldier, carrying ye cruel & unwelcome instruments of war- Alas! my heart is full! but I forbid my pen. Oh! yt I were as great as my grief, or less than my name! Oh! might I forget what I have been, or not remember what I must now become! But my weeping eyes cannot ease my pain! We pass his Excellence's house & 'tis said we march 10 miles on his land- we also went into a beautiful Church & saw his pew. We came to Colchester & pass'd ye ferry, where ye river will let up a large ship. The name of ye river is Occoquan- ye town is small situated on ye bank of it- & is 18 miles from Alexandria.

The country here (& in Pennsylvania) abounded with cotton, growing on a small bush, planted every year in May & plow'd & hoed like corn. The 7th we press'd a Negro waggoner, belonging to a widow woman, who had 900 slaves. And what is remarkable, she, according to this Negro keeps them all victual'd & cloth'd. This I think, worthy to be noted, where almost all their slaves of both sexes go naked.

The 8th we continued our march in a great wilderness; & din'd on ye ground. Gen. Wane left in ye morning. We expect soon to join ye Marquess,

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Marquess, who is pursuing y^e enemy. (O Lord,
be merciful to us in this land according to thy tender
mercy.)
The 9th we lodg'd on y^e ground y^e Marquess ^{marched}
from yesterday; & which Gen. Wane left to-day noon.
We are all in pursuit after y^e British enemy,
which we expect, providence favoring, soon to overtake.
The 10th we came up with y^e baggage belonging to y^e
Marquess, who has a days march y^e start of us.
This is a long & tedious ~~road~~ ^{road} thro' a wilderness,
where no water is to allay our parching thirst: But
there is a greater drought with respect to hearing
y^e word of y^e Lord, y^e everlasting gospel dispens'd. Is
not this y^e holy Sabbath? Yet where am I? &
what am I about? O Lord, forgive my sins:
For tho' I am here, yet my heart is at home with
thy worshipping people.) We still direct our
course thro' this lonesome desert. We march'd not
far from 40 miles without finding above one or 2
houses, & a little water; finding none unless some
swamps or mud holes. At night we past Gen. Wane
& join'd y^e Infantry at 8 o'clock on y^e morning of y^e 11th.
after a long & tedious march of more than 600 miles
(perhaps 700) which cost us near a months time,
together with much fatigue & great hardships.
We left three of our party sick on y^e road. Gen.
Wane join'd soon after, & y^e militia are coming on.
We have orders to march at 2 o'clock this day. We ex-
pect to come up with y^e enemy in a day or two. (This
encampment is upwards of 100 miles from Alexandria)
Our Infantry, this day, (except those who came with
me) had dealt out to them one Holland shirt, one
linning one, one frock, ^{and} two pair of overalls. At
reveille beating we march'd off y^e ground, & pass

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houses & as little water; finding none unless some
swamps or mud holes. At night we past Gen. Wane
& Join'd ye Infantry at 8 o'clock on ye morning of ye 11th,
after a long & tedious march of more than 600 miles
(perhaps 700) which cost us near a month's time
together with much fatigue & great hardships.
We left three of our party sick on ye road. Gen.
Wane join'd soon after, & ye militia are coming on.
We have orders to march at 2 o'clock this day. We ex-
pect to come up with ye enemy in a day or two. (This
encampment is upward of 100 miles from Alexandria).
Our Infantry, this day (except those who came with
me) had dealt out to them one Holland shirt, one
lining one, one frock, and two pair of overalls. At
revelee-beating we march'd off ye ground & past

along a solitary desert, where we were in great strait for drink (which is but too common in these parts: houses being as seldom as colleges in Connecticut & wells as scarce as virtuous Fools). This day we had one month's pay in hard money. We are still in ye woods, 15 miles from our last camp.

The 13th we lay under marching orders: but did not move till ye 14th at ye rising of ye sun. We march'd 12 or 15 miles before we halted. And tho' ye last night was so severely cold yt we could not lie warm with all ye cloths we had; yet after ye sun rose ye heat increas'd to yt degree together with ye dust & want of water, as to render ye air almost suffocating. We found not a drop of water all ye way. We came near famishing all, & some fainted, while others drop'd with weary legs by ye way. This was our fore-noon's march. What then may we expect (rather what may we not expect) in ye afternoon! & O Lord, what must be our fate thro' ye summer!

The 15th we lay, tis said within 4 miles of ye enemy. Tis said too, our men took a spy today, who had follow'd us for several days. The enemy, we hear, retreated all ye night of ye 14th, & got some start of us. This morning we began our route at break of day & continued it till ye middle of ye afternoon; we then encamp'd in ye woods, about 50 miles from Richmond (Virginia). From what we can gather, ye enemy retreat with great precipitation, leaving behind them horses, waggons and baggage... This evening we had our general's applause for our fortitude to bear hardships with patience, especially ye want of provisions, meat being out & our bread but poor (Our bread was made chiefly of coarse Indian

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(10)
meal, which we wet & bake on barks, on stones.
This is what people live on chiefly in these parts:
& what they call Hoo-cakes.) However we are not
being used to such bread, nor such a country; y^e day
being intensely hot, & y^e night as cold & we having no
tents to cover us, our march long, water scarce
& very unwholesome, & rum not very plenty; &
y^e great & unexpected distance from home: all
these together make my trial almost insupportable.
They are too heavy, especially for one disappointed
every way, & unaccustomed to y^e service.

The 16th. In y^e morning we march'd five miles,
& encamp'd, in order to clean our arms & lining.

Among y^e many insects y^e trouble us, wood ticks
are not y^e least: they are exceeding many, & exceed-
ing troublesome. There is also a most ven-
omous spider; but none have been as yet hurt
by them. Beside; there is a small creature
y^e afflicts us far worse than wood ticks, yea, tho'
they are y^e smallest living thing I ever saw. Indeed
I think they would be discern'd, were it not for their
colour, which is scarlet red. They go thro' our
clothes, creep into y^e pores of y^e skin, where they cause
it to swell to y^e degree of a bee sting, & are exceeding
itching; & sometimes dangerous. They have a
shell like a tortoise; y^e inhabitants call them Gigars
& they comparatively are as thick as y^e dust of y^e earth.

The 17th. This morning we march'd about day break
towards Richmond, & went about 15 or 20 miles, &
encamp'd in about five miles of where y^e enemy had
their head-quarters a day or 2 before. They are now
in Rich-mond. - (O Lord God, our fatigue & trou-
bles are so great, y^e one can scarcely attend even

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So much as to think on they holy day! Yea, we can scarce
ly attend to our necessary food. But may we
sooner forget what to eat, than ye Sabbath
of ye Lord. My desires are drawn forth towards
thy worshipping assembly, though I am far from any.
There was a duel fought this day between a mili
tia officer & Lieut. Wheaton (of ye Connecticut line)
in which encounter ye latter was kill'd, or at
least mortally wounded. He was brigade quar
termaster, or waggon master general. This
night we doubled our guards & pickets.

The 18th we lay still; sent out scouts; & took some
prisoners belonging to Tarlton's light horse
who came out within miles of our lines.
(When we marched after Tarleton's light horse
we went without our pieces being loaded & with
our flints taken out. This, all may see, was yt no
one might fire a gun. Gen. Wane, whom they
call mad Antony & sword in hand, intended to
have put them to ye bayonet)-About
dusk ye Marquess stole a march on ye enemy (which
is no new thing with him), but without success.
We had a fatiguing march all night & arrived
at their camp before sun-rise next morning; but
we found them just gone (perhaps well for them).

The 19th we retired 6 miles & encamp'd. The
next day we had orders to clean our arms & cloths,
to cook our provisions & be ready to parade at 5 o'clock.
The 21st we marched at 4 o'clock P.M. & reach'd 8
miles. The next morning we set out at one o'clock
A.M. march'd upwards of 20 miles & encamp'd. We
past Richmond 4 miles. (This is a considerable town
situated on each side James River). In Richmond
ye enemy had large stores of various kinds, of pri
vate property many thousand hogsheds of

100
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tobacco, rope works & so on. Our march-
ing is truly fatiguing! We halt scarcely time
enough for cooking something to put in our mouths.
We seldom can catch more than 2 hours sleep in 24.
June 23. We march'd at 2 o'clock A.M. in pur-
suit of y^e enemy; who have gotten one day's start
of us. — This day I was expos'd again to y^e ter-
rible distemper, y^e small pox. & if I have not ta-
ken it, I can impute it to nothing but to y^e kind
hand of my watchful Guardian & Preserver. But
should I have catch'd it, I have nothing to look to,
unless y^e same hand, to raise me up again to health,
or to receive my departing spirit to himself. O
Lord, may I be sincerely & truly resign'd to thy will!
At 11 o'clock, A.M. we halted for some refreshment.
But I must shut my book for y^e present; y^e drum
beats for parading; y^e enemy are upon us.
On this we form'd a solid column, in order to re-
ceive their horse which were approaching with
their infantry, whom they preceded. They came
in sight, but dost not give us battle. They retreated
precipitately, by which we understood they were a
rear-guard sent back to cause us to make a halt,
that our foes might slip away with their main-
body & baggage. . . . After this alarm we march'd
as far as Bottoms bridge, about 16 miles from
Richmond, where we encamp'd. . . .
The 24th. Thanks be to thy name, O Lord, y^t thou
hast added another favor to y^e many already received.
Thou hast brought me to y^e return of another of
thy sabbaths! O may I never forget from whom
all blessings flow! May I this day have some
realizing sense of my obligation to be thine! &

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On this we form'd a solid column, in order to re-
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their infantry, whom they preceded. They came
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may I devote some of these honors to thee this day
tho' encompass'd with so many toils & inconveniences.
This day we had orders to clean our arms & lining
& lay still thro' this holy day- Here
I must take notice of some vilany. Within these
days past, I have march'd by 18 or 20 Negroes yt
lay dead by ye way-side, putrifying with ye smallpox.
How such a thing came about appears to be this:
The Negroes here being much disaffected (arising
from their harsh treatment) flock'd in great numbers
to Cornwallis, as soon he came into these
parts. This artful general takes a number of
them (several hundreds) inoculates them & just
as they are growing sick, he sends them out into
ye country, where our troops had to pass and repass.
These poor creatures having no care taken of them,
many crawl'd into ye bushes about & died where
they lie infecting ye air around with intolerable
stenches & great danger. This is a piece of Corn
wallissean cruelty. He is not backward to own yt
he has inoculated 4 or 500 in order to spread ye
small-pox thro' ye country & sent them out for
yt purpose: Which is another piece of his conduct yt
wants a name. But there is a King superior
to yt British King & a Lord far above their Lord
He is Lord of all. May he prevent any sad fatal
consequences from this conduct, take care of us
(I have so that I have not taken ye infectious
Were there no more than myself, it could not be much.
May yt Lord take care of us, & may ye mischief
turn upon yt authors own fate for Gods Sabbath.
At even, there was a man executed for desertion.
He belong'd to ye Pennsylvania line; was taken

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y^t purpose: Which, another piece of his conduct y^t
wants a name. But there is nothing superior
to y^e British King, & a Lord far above their Lords
He is Lord of all. May he prevent any sad fatal
consequences from this conduct, take care of us
(I have so that y^t I have not taken y^e infectious: but
were there no more than myself, it could not be much.
But what when thousands & thousands are exposed?
May y^e Lord take care of us, & may y^e mischief
turn upon y^e authors own fate; for Gods sake.
At even, there was a man executed for desertion.
He belong'd to y^e Pennsylvania line; was taken

up near ye enemy's lines. This is no less than y^e
seventh which has been shot since we left W - point.
But y^e first since I joined y^e Infantry in this quarter.

Deserters are continually coming in to us from y^e
enemy; & now & then some of them are taken.

The 25th We again began our march at break of day
when we had not proceeded above two miles before
there was a small alarm, by means of several pic
ces being discharg'd in front, at I know not what.
We march'd till night, & then encamp'd in about
25 miles of Williamsburg. This day we pass'd
by Kent court house: & truly it was an odd
disagreeable spectacle, A court in a wilderness,
where was no house, great or small, within
two miles of it! However, y^e court house was
answerable to y^e place. -- Wheat harvest
begins to come on in this state: & it is good. --
Indian corn too is very promising: but as their
slaves are gone, they apprehend a famine, be
cause they see not how to gather their harvest.

The 26th We began our march at sun rise in
pursuit of our unnatural foes, who are not far
distant. We expect an action, & it will not
be amiss to take some notice how our forces on
each side stand. Their army, according to ac
counts, consists of about 5000. Ours, I suppose
may amount to 2,500 regulars, 300 volunteer
light-horse, 300 rifles on horse back, & 300 foot.
besides, from what I can gather, 3, or 4,000 militia.
Doubtless there are 3,000, & these constantly rein
forcing. Which will make our force about 6,400.
This day a party of our horse & rifle men had a
scuirmish with y^e enemy, in which we lost several

up near ye enemy's lines. This is no less than ye
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may amount to 2,500 regulars. 300 volunteer
light-horse. 300 rifles on horse back, & 300 foot;
besides from what I can gather 3 or 4000 militia.
Doubtless there are 3,000 & these constantly rein
forcing. Which will make our force about 6,400.
This day a party of our horses & riflemen had a
scuirmish with ye enemy, in which we lost several

in kill'd & wounded; & they, tis said, lost 200.
Our men oblig'd them to retreat to ye main body.

The 27th. Last evening, near midnight, we took an unexpected rout, retreating about 3 miles. This was, perhaps, because our forces lay too much scatter'd to venture an action, or ye enemy's falling on us. Our Commanders are sensible, yt ye state & situation of our troops are not hidden from ye Tories in ye least, & they constantly give information to Cornwallis, as well as all their assistance possible. But our army is a little better collected this day & in better readiness to meet ye enemy, shou'd they not decline it. This day is warm, & exceeding bad for marching. At night we turn'd our route back & encamp'd. Our army lies more together. Our pack of artillery which was left behind, is come on. Our army is constantly reinforcing & becomes formidable.

The 28th. We lie still at present, but expect every moment to move, we know not where, ye enemy appearing on ye point of something new.

The 29th. We march'd again at 2 o'clock & went 14 miles, even within 6 miles of Williamsburg. There we lay all day & sent out scouting parties, but came across none of ye enemy, they retreating before us with precipitation. At even, we came back again 8 miles & encamped about 10 o'clock. (Wheat harvest comes on apace: apples begin to be fit for eating (where there is any but little or no fruit in these parts this year.)

The 30th we lay still all day & rested . . .

July ye 1st. With ye lessening light of this day

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July y^e 1st. With y^e lessening light of this day

(16)
I arose in healthful circumstances! Blessed be my
Kind Benefactor! O Lord, with y^e morning light
of this thy day, left on me y^e light of thy glori-
ous reformed countenance. I help me to rejoice
in God, y^t I am brought to y^e beginning of another
day, of another week, & of another month! O
y^t this day may be as y^e beginning of days to my
soul! O Lord, grant, y^t this day may have
some unfeigned holy desires; some unfeigned
tears of repentance; some unfeigned devotion; &
some unfeigned joy & rejoicing in y^e Lord!

This morning we set out at 4 o'clock A.M. &
march'd 8 or 10 miles, & encamp'd. This is y^e plea-
santest march, I think, y^t I have had since I left
my dwelling, even tho' thro' a wood: It is plea-
sant, because, as it has not been much frequen-
ted by y^e enemy in their tours; so it is not trou-
bled with y^e loathsome & dangerous stench of
dead putrifying Negroes. . . . Our camp lieth on
y^e river Pamounky (or York-river) Williamsburg
they say, lieth about 20 miles below, at y^e meeting
of this & St. James river: & little York 20 miles be-
low y^e same stream. Here we had orders
to wash our clothes & bodies. A sad accident hap-
pen'd while we were washing: one man was
drown'd; another taken up for dead, but recover'd.
At nine o'clock we mov'd, & march'd all night to
y^e enemy's line, in y^e morning, where we should
have taken 2, or 300 of them, had it not been
for y^e discharge of a piece, which alarm'd them, &
they made their escape. A few minutes more
would have been sufficient, as we had almost sur-
rounded them before they were alarm'd.

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wou'd have been sufficient, as we had almost sur-
rounded them before they were alarmed.

We retreated 10 miles.

The 3d. We mov'd to a new encampment, 5 miles distant from ye last.

The 4th. Last night we had a very heavy & tremendous thunder storm, which lasted thro' ye night. Truly it seemed as tho' ye God of war & terror had taken arms & rises in his own defence. But surprisingly awful! to the help less mortals stand & insult ye incensed Jehovah! Who has (at least to appearance) already descended to take vengeance on his advsaries. How he manifests his displeasure in fields of fire! How he manifests his indignation with tremendous peals of thunder, yt causes all virtue around to tremble! This terrible voice stokes awe of ye divine Majesty on every creature but man! Man, who has all reason to fear, can stand stupid & severe, & even mock ye desired voice! Have they not reason to expect, That he who is able to dash in pieces ten thousand words in a moment, will mock when their fear cometh. At 2 o'clock, we had a feu-de-joy on account of ye anniversary of American independence being ye entrance on ye 6th year... 3 o'clock Ye thunder begins to roar & we may expect another terrible night, to us, who have no tents to shelter us.

The 5th we marched ten miles towards Wmsburg & halted about sunset at a place call'd Birds homer; there we tho't to encamp; but at dark we had orders to proceed towards Wmsburg.

The 6th we continued our route till we (some

We retreated 10 miles

The 3^d. We mov'd to a new encampment, 5 miles distant from y^e last.

The 4th. Last night we had a very heavy & tremendous thunder storm, which lasted thro' y^e night. Truly, it seem'd as tho' y^e God of war & terror had taken arms, & risen in his own defence. But surprisingly awful! to see helpless mortals stand & insult y^e incensed Jehovah! Who has (at least to appearance) already descended to take vengeance on his advsaries. How he manifests his displeasure in fields of fire! How he manifests his indignation with tremendous peals of thunder, y^t causes all nature around to tremble! This terrible voice stokes awe of y^e divine Majesty on every creature but man! Man, who has all reason to fear, can stand stupid & severe, & even mock y^e desired voice! Have they not reason to expect, That he who is able to dash in pieces ten thousand words in a moment, will mock when their fear cometh. At 2 o'clock, we had a feu-de-joy on account of y^e anniversary of American independence, being y^e entrance on y^e 6th year. ... 3 o'clock y^e thunder begins to roar, & we may expect another terrible night to us, who have no tents to shelter us.

The 5th. we marched ten miles towards Wmsburg & halted, about sunset, at a place call'd Birds homer; there we tho't to encamp; but at dark we had orders to proceed towards Wmsburg.

The 6th. we continued our route till we (some

(18)
what unexpectedly) came upon a large body of
enemy, all paraded in a line of battle ready
to receive us. This was sudden business, be-
cause ye inhabitants had continually declared
to us, that there was no enemy within six
miles of our troops. It appeared unexpected to
our general: He hardly dream'd of finding such
a formidable body of y^e enemy so near him.
We too, were hardly prepar'd for so severe an
action, our men being very much scatter'd.
However, our officers & soldiers, like brave he-
roes, began y^e attack with (at first) but an hand-
ful of men: y^e other regiments came on with
all possible speed. The attack began about 5,
& lasted till dark: the rifle men, 'tis said, some
of them stay'd & scurmish'd with y^e enemy ^{in the woods} all
night, & all day, y^t they have not found time,
nor opportunity to pick up their dead. . . .
Our party consisted only of y^e brigade of Infantry,
& one brigade of Pennsylvanians (& these not more
than half of them engag'd) & a few rifle-men.
The enemy were more than 6 times our number.
This notwithstanding, our troops behaved well,
fighting with great spirit & bravery. The In-
fantry were oft broke, but as oft rallied & form'd
at a word: While y^e Pennsylvanians, when broken
could not be form'd again for action; by which
they lost their field-piece, & all y^e ground. . . . Our
loss of men cannot be yet ascertained, tho' I would
hope it is inconsiderable. . . . The enemy gain'd
y^e ground, but have no cause to glory, their dead
seen from all appearance, being many. . . . (Tho'
this was a severe action for us, yet y^e loss of
our regiment is trifling; Gen. Wane's considerable)

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We retir'd five miles yt night to rest & get some Refreshment, of which we stood in much need, having neither victuals, rum, nor water; & all we then had, was one gill of vinegar to 4 men. (How great was thy mercy O Lord, in our deliverance! Ye like was hardly ever heard of! Six hundred men have attack'd & stood, ye fire, sword & bayonet of ye force of an army of 5,000 yea, of ye whole army under Lord Cornwallis! When we were often broke, often form'd; several times almost surrounded; & yet all (as I may say in comparison of what might have been expected), came off again in heart; Wonderful Providence.

The 7th. Our missing are continually coming in. I had forgot. Our general ye Marquess, had 2 horses shot under him; yet he is not daunted: He is collecting his army, & designs to have another action immediately, if ye enemy will.

The 8th. O Lord, make one truly thankful & I am brot to ye returns of another of thy holy days Impress my heart with a grateful sense of thy goodness, in preserving one, my life & health, while to many of my acquaintance have since ye last sabbath, been numbered with yt vast congregations of he dead! O Lord my God, I acknowledge, ye tho' thousands shou'd fall at my side, & tis thousands at my right hand, yet there canst protect me! May I never distrust thy willingness, nor ability, to save, even at deaths door, if ones trust be in thee; yea, ye might of ye arrows of death & I can't best think again on ye late kind intercession of providence in our favor. How

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great & signal our deliverance, which y^e Lord
hath vouchsafed to us! We may see it y^t tho'
thousands & thousands combine against an handful
of God's people, & scatter y^e droves of death
like hail in y^e tremendous storms of thunder;
yet y^e Lord can keep them from harm! Thou,
Lord, directest every ball, y^t none can wound un-
less by thy permission! - I cannot forget this
memorable action! So few as a 1000 men should
attack y^e whole British force & lose no more
even when we were several times cut off & sent
back to y^e foe! But Oh! y^e sufferings of
y^e day for want of drink, & being weary before y^e
attack began. The fatigues of y^e day I cant describe!

Our missing did not all come till to day. - Our
general gave us great applause for our fortitude &
good conduct in this action. He assured us, y^t he
himself was eye-witness to our 2 regiments at-
tacking y^e whole British army with spirit. -
Immediately after this action Cornwallis cross'd
y^e river & embark'd on board his shipping with y^e
greatest precipitation; leaving a large number
of beeves half dress'd. -

The 9th we retir'd & encamp'd by y^e upper mills.

The 10th we march'd 20 miles up y^e river to y^e forge
mill, & there encamp'd. - The next day we lay still.
Here we drew a gill of rum a man. - While
we lay here I saw a compleat gig-mill, having
2 wheels, & 2 pair of stones. The wheels are 4,
or 4 1/2 feet diameter, & one foot deep: the buck-
ets 9 inches, or a foot long - dug or hewed out
hollow & winding, like y^e mould-board to a plow,
winding towards y^e water, & growing wider y^e

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winding towards ye water & growing wider ye

same way: viz. towards ye outside of ye wheel, or ye extream part. The tube, which is not exceeding 12 inches deep, is made of boards with three iron hoops round it.

The 12th we lay still & drew 3 days provision in order for marching. The next day we took ye river road toward Richmond, march'd 8 miles & then encamp'd... I am at present among ye invalids, & unfit for duty, but however, providence has so order'd it as to make me instrumental of some good to my country, at least to my fellow soldiers; which is by letting blood & drawing teeth. This last I practice very much, there not being another tooth-drawer in ye whole army: & ye other considerably, because few doctors have tools to let blood. Here I may take notice of an accident yt happened 8 days since: - A young man was lying on ye ground & a spider bit him on ye shoulder. It caus'd him some immediate pain, & in about 10 minutes struck all over him: Which threw him into such an

Draught of ye above gigmill wheel.
an outside rim to
keep ye water
within bounds
this outside rim
fits directly
above ye rim
of ye waterwheel.

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agony y^t he kept continually groaning, rolling
over, & screaming out horribly. I passing y^t
way, inquired into y^e cause of his distress. They
related y^e story as above. I would immediately
have let him bleed, but fearing I do^{might} mischief, I
advised, to take him directly to y^e doctor. They did.
But y^e doctor replied, He could do nothing for him.
They bro't y^e poor fellow back with y^e sentence
of death pass'd on him, at last in his mind...
I asked him, whether he was willing that I should
try to help him? He answered in y^e affirmative,
saying, He shou'd die, if he could not be helped, &
he could not die. Then I opened a vein imme-
diately, & bled him freely: & likewise, fed him
very freely after it with salt & water. He felt
some immediate ease. In 2 or 3 hours was com-
fortable... He came to me this morning to
have a tooth drawn, & told me he was almost
entirely well. He had no money, he said, to re-
ward me for what I had done; but he was sure
he owed his life to me... This I note y^e more,
because it may be of some service to others.

The 14th. We march'd sun half an hour high. P.M.
went 8 miles, & encamp'd at y^e old stage at Bot-
tom bridge.

The 15th. Glory to thy name, O Lord my God, for
y^e light of this holy Sabbath; & y^t I enjoy such a
measure of health! Keep me, O Lord, from sin this
day! May I be enabled to set a double guard on
thy day, over my heart & life-- & may I sincerely
unite with thy worshipping assemblies this day!
But, Lord, thou hast bro't me to y^e close of it! Dear
Lord, & most merciful God, pardon my sins, whate-
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Thou hast seen any ye day past! Pardon my Neglect & forgetfulness of thee! O Lord, didn't they as vainly forgot me as I thee, I shou'd never have seen ye light, or close of this thy day! May thee considerations properly affect my mind & conduct.

The 16th We march'd at 8 o'clock A.M. proceed ed 15 miles to James river, & other side of which ye enemy are landing down below us.

Our men begin to sicken already; what then alas! Shall we see when dog-days come on, especially before they are over? Next month is ye season for ye fever & ague.

The 17th we lay still, & clean'd our arms & clothes.

The 18th The news, yt four men, 3 Pennites & one of ye 18 month's men, were drown'd in Jame's river swimming.--The next day we had nothing worth remarking. I wrote a letter to my wife inclos'd in one to Joel Lane.

The 20th. We took new ground, clear'd our parade ground from filth, in order to regain ye health of our troops, for which purpose we are likely to lie still a few days. This encampment is pleasantly situated, on a hill call'd Marleborough hill, having a very fine prospect of Jame's river, & of several large houses at a distance. Which is not common to see in Virginia state.

The 21st The night before last was an exceeding cold night, in which I fairly suffered with ye cold: yesterday day was warm; but today is chilly, owing to much thunder at a distance... This day we bury'd one of our soldiers, of Col. Vorce's regiment. He got his bane at forge mill dam, a swimming. He must needs plunge into ye water from off ye mill dam,

Thou hast seen any ²³ ye day past! Pardon my neglect & forgetfulness of thee! O Lord, didn't they as vainly forgot me as I thee, I shou'd never have seen ye light, or close of this thy day! May thee considerations properly affect my mind & conduct.

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where a root, or something, took him ^{on} top of his head: It gave him no visible wound; yet it prov'd mortal. He linger'd along in a stupid state for about five days, & has just now expired.

This day, at 10 o'clock we receiv'd intelligence of 4 gun-boats coming up y^e river (supposed to be, in order to catch our gen y^e Marquess, who quarter'd near y^e river) on this, about 500 of us press'd forward, with 2 field-pieces, to scare them back again. We march'd 8 miles, came upon them, & began a scurmish. Our engineer directed his shot so well as to strike thro' y^e hull, & cut away y^e fore-mast of one of y^e boats; y^e 2^d took y^e rudder; & what our other 28 shot must have done, it appears must be considerable. They immediately tow'd down y^e river. We follow'd them four miles; but cou'd get no more shot at them. However, this may teach them what pay to expect for pilfering. They discharged not a piece at us. We retir'd, & came to camp y^e evening, at 8 o'clock, having travel'd 24 miles.

The 22th May I this day ponder on y^e death & sufferings of my Lord & Savior, & on his glorious resurrection! on his wonderful ascension & prevalent intercession! May I this day visit, in heart, y^e assembly of his people; but above all y^e throne of his grace, pleading mercy!

This day, at court-martial, 2 corporals were try'd & broke; 5 men sentenced to receive 100 lashes apiece; & one 70 for being absent at roll-call. Three receiv'd their punishment; y^e others are suspended till to morrow night, there not being time. There have been six others punished within 5 days past.

The 23rd. Last night was so excessively cold, by reason of a N-East storm, y^t I think I scarcely ever suffer'd so much with it, in one night, in my life; tho' I happen'd to have a tent to lodge in being not very well. — This day I went to y^e hospital to recover

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my health. Here I hope to find some more convenience than I have hitherto enjoy'd:

The 24th No remarks unless this, ye sick increases.

The 25th A man was executed this day, in our regiment, for breaking up a house & robbing it. This is a plain evidence of yt striking truth, The love of money is ye root of all evil. It was this, yt purchased this miserable wretch a rope.

The 26th Thunder & rain for these many days.

The 27th Some are very sick in ye hospital. The number increases both here, & in camp. If I am preserv'd from this terrible distemper (ye dysentery), which so greatly effects others, how much I shall be indebted to my kind Benefactor!

The 28th It continues stormy... I hear yt one Sergeant, one corporal, one drum, a fife, & several soldiers & some Hessians have deserted & come to our camp. They say ye enemy lies yet at Fredericksburg.

The 29th This is ye first day of ye week: But alas! where is ye Sabbath? Is there any in Virginia Is there any in ye 13 States of America? True, in N. England they pretend to keep it. But do even they keep it as they ou't? Do they call it a de-light? Ye holy ye Lord, honorable? Truly, is it not to be heard, ye for ye most part all this is a by a sore pretense. ye fear of punishment is ye motive. O Lord, give me more & more, a longing desire to appear in thy sanctuary, & to stand among ye assemblies of thy people! O — When! —

The 30th Nothing to remark but ye continuation of my health.

The 31st One of our regim'ts has crost ye river, & I think we shall go soon. But I would fain hear, that we may not go far to ye southward. I am yet in ye

my health. Here I ⁽²⁵⁾hope to find some more convenience than I have hitherto enjoy'd.
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it is a little more retir'd, which is a privilege.
 August ye 1st We march'd at 4 o'clock A.M. & en-
 camp'd 2 miles out of Richmond. This I hope is
 one step towards ye Northward. Ye next day no remarks.
 The 3^d. We march'd thro' Richmond (where ye small
 pox is very plenty.) & encamp'd 6 miles above. Here
 we bury'd one of our number, who died this day on
 ye road in ye hospital waggon. We bury'd him in a
 wood. He was aged 23 years. His name Rufus Ro-
 bins, & unmarried: his parents live in Lyme in
 Connecticut. He died of ye camp distemper. -- O
 Lord, sanctify this to me! -- Wherefore am I spar'd! Sure-
 ly tis nothing in me. Wherefore doth ye Lord take one,
 & leave another? Surely it can be no merit in ye
 survivor: It is of thy infinite mercy & grace! --
 The 4th. We march'd at sun-rise, & encamp'd 8 miles
 from North castle (in Virginia)
 The 5th. This morning sun has blest ye earth,
 It hath unsealed my eyes:
 This is ye day of joy & mirth,
 ye saw our Savior rise.
 Is he risen? yes indeed!
 & hath ascended high!
 And there he lives to intercede!
 (Glory to God on High!) --

* Cornwallis has miss'd his aim in a great mea-
 sure. Tho' he has spread ye small pox, yet it came
 God hath taken ye affair in his own hands; & he hath
 shown ye who is King of Kings & Lord of Lords, is
 above Britons king, & Britons Lords. He hath proven
 ed ye sad mentality which was above humans power to do, or
 even to expect. Our militia camp is more favored still.
 For tho' they have been frequently expos'd, yet very
 few have taken it. --

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 sure. Tho' he has spread ye small pox, yet it came
 God hath taken ye affair in his own hands; & he hath
 shown yt he who is King of Kings & Lord of Lords, is
 above Britons king and Britons Lord. He hath proven
 ye sad mentality which was above humans power to do, or
 even to expect. Our militia camp is more favored still.
 for tho' they have been frequently exposed, yet very
 few have taken it.

This day we march'd to & encamp'd in N. Castle;
A small town lying on Pamunky river, 88 miles
above York.

The sun's withdrawn, ye day is closed
Now comes ye evening shade:
An emblem of my dark repose,
when in ye grave I'm lay'd
What horror strikes my self, when I
Thus view my dusty bed!
Lifeless & long my corpse must lye,
made free among ye dear!

But will ye grave, last seal'd, last clos'd,
confine us ever? Nay;
If dead in Christ, thro' him willingness
To new & brighter day!...

Gen. Wane is on his march to join ye Marquise,
ye enemy, tis said, are block'd up in ye Bay, &
cant get out, tho' they have made several attempts.

The 6th It is reported, yt ye enemy are landing
down against York.

The 7th We lay still to rest, ye sick lay in a gar-
den, where I saw some rarities viz bean-trees,
fig trees & ye like.

The 8th Our troops march'd down towards York,
ye sick to Hanover & I among ye sick.

The 9th We lost one more of our number. His
name was Edward Snow, of Cape Cod, about 18
years of age. He lay in a strange agonizing pos-
ture for five or six days before he died.

The 10th We have a convenient house for a hos-
pital. Ye most of us are getting better.-

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a small town lying on Pamunky river, 88 miles
above York.

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now comes & evening shade:
An emblem of my dark repose,
when in & grave I'm lay'd.

What horror strikes my self, when I
Thus view my dusty bed!
Lifeless & long my corpse must lye,
made free among & dead!

But will & grave, fast seal'd, fast clos'd,
confine us ever? — Nay;
If dead in Christ, thro' him we'll rise,
To new & brighter day! —

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years of age. He lay in a strange agonizing pos-
ture for five or six days before he died.

The 10th We have a convenient house for a hos-
pital. & most of us are getting better. —

(28)
The 11th Here we have a supply of some fruit,
as green-corn, apples, pears, peaches, & water-
melons, by ye Negroes: but at a dear rate. Apples,
pears & peaches, cost one dollar apiece (Contin-
ental Currency) & watermelons cost 30...

The 12th I would note this day for it's first day
of ye week. O y^t it may be as ye beginning of days
to my soul! I sincerely lament my so long ab-
sence from ye assemblies of ye saints & people of God!
But since it is so, y^t I cannot go to ye house of ye
Lord, may I be more careful frequently & fervent-
ly to go to ye Lord of ye house!...

The 13th This is a very rainy day.

The 14th This is a very cold day, y^t a person
may be comfortable with winter clothes.

The 15th This day is likewise very cool.

The 16th, 17th, & 18th The days continue cool for
ye time of year: nights in particular are cold
enough for ye latter end of September.

Gen. Wane lieth at N. Castle - Our troops at
ye enemy at York.

The 19th Last night I had a violent pain in
my head; but am comfortable this morning.
Thanks be to ye Lord my God, whose enemies are
new every morning, I sensed every moment!
O y^t I may return him cordial thanks for his
goodness vouchsafed to me at all times, especi-
ally on this holy day! May I keep this day
holy, for those, who act of Lord of ye Sabbath, not
holy, & hast a right to all I am, & can be! This
thou mayst challenge on ye severest penalties.
I must sense ye Lord.

The 11th Here we have a supply of some fruit,
as green-corn, apples, pears, peaches & water-
melons, by ye Negroes: but at a dear rate. Apples,
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holy, & hast a right to all I am, & can be. This
thou mayst challenge on ye severest penalties.
I must sense ye Lord.

The 20th Our sick in ye hospital get better, but very slow.

The 21st We still may fear a very sickly time among our troops, before ye campaign be over: The sick are daily coming to ye hospital. Three wagon loads, I hear, are expected here this day from our brigade.

The 22nd Last night was very cold, but it would be warm today were it not for ye breeze of air, which is very refreshing.

The 23rd This day I have been sent for two ways: A man sent & desired to hire me, in order to instruct him how to make files, gimlets, knives & forks, etc & ye doctor sent to me to come & live with him in order to assist him in his hurry of business dealing out medicines, dressing wounds, etc. I am at a loss which will be ye most profitable invitation to me. It must be ye former, I being best acquainted with yt work. But ye doctor is so importunate yt tho I am sure I shall make a poor doctor's mate, yet I promis'd him to come tomorrow, if I should be no worse.

The 24th This day, I came to ye doctor's assistance & as far as I know, gave him satisfaction.

The 25th I have such thirst for medical knowledge yt were I capable of ye business in which I am now engag'd yet I shou'd be content, even tho' I have no prospect of any wages.

The 26th This is ye Sabbath. O Lord my God, & everlasting Father, who hast bro't me satisfy

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The 26th. This is y^e Sabbath. O Lord my God, & everlasting Father, who hast bro't me satisfy

(30)
to y^e beginning of this thy holy day, defend me
in y^e name by thy almighty power; I grant
y^t I, this day, fall into no kind of sin, nor
temptation; but may all my thots, words &
actions be order'd by thy spirit, & I be kept
from every thing y^t is not acceptable in thy
sight, thro Jesus Christ y^e Mediator!

(At even.) Enlighten my darkness, I beseech
Thee, O Lord, & forgive y^e sins of y^e past day!
& of thy great mercy defend me from all y^e pe-
rils & dangers of this night, this week & thro
life; Thro Jesus Christ my Lord! Amen.

The 27th The number of our sick increases.

The 28th We have some of whose life we despair.

The 29th We are out of hospital stores suitable
for y^e sick, in particular medicines.

The 30th We expect, & are continually wishing
for y^e medicines to come.

The 31st I was call'd up to see a man whose
life, apparently, cannot continue long (his
name is Henry Evans,) sick of y^e intermitting
fever. He fell a bleeding at y^e nose: we stopp'd
it several times; but could not for good & all,
till he, as judg'd, had lost a full quart of blood.

September 1st Last night one more poor
man left y^e hospital. He died a little before
sun-set. His name was Pendleton of Pennsyl-
vania. They buried him in a coffin: which was pur-
chas'd ^{for} with one of his shirts. — The day be-
fore yesterday we had an exceeding hard storm
of thunder & lightning (which fell on close

to ye beginning of this thy holy day, defend me
in ye name by thy Almighty present & grant
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chas'd with one of his shirts. The day be-
fore yesterday, we had an exceeding hard storm
of thunder & lightening, (which fell close

to ye house I was in, & shock'd me & several others) and of hail & rain & today looks likely for a long storm coming; which is common in these parts in ye fall of ye year.

The 2d With ye morning light of ye sun, life as O Lord one ye light of thy glorious reconciled countenance & this shall put joy & gladness in my heart more that ye increase of wine & oil & this worlds goods! In particular, grant me thy special favor & blessing this day to ye end, & thro' life, thro' Jesus Christ my Lord!

The 3d This day one of ye 18 months men died out of ye hospital. Our sick is daily increasing: which renders my business truly fatiguing. My business is just this—In ye morning I rise at day-light, & go about one quarter of a mile to wash: then comb my hair; & then I recommend myself to God: After this I have nothing to do but sit down to dealing out & putting up medicines for all ye sick; where I continue till 8 o'clock: which is break-fast time: Which done, I visit ye hospitals with ye doctor, which takes us till 10 o'clock: From yt time till dinner I spend among ye medicines: Dinner over, I have to carry medicines to all ye men in each hospital. One hospital is half a mile distant, with 8 rooms in it. From this I come directly back & visit 7 or 8 houses more, some 5, some 7 rooms; where I deal to every man his particular portion.

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Some will have 8, ⁽³²⁾ some 6, & generally they
have 4 in a day. Which multipli'd by 300 (
there being so many, or more sick) will a-
mount to a great many:— Beside I have
to give particular direction to every one (&
sometimes 2 or 3 times over, by reason of
their stupidity) how & when to take them,
lest they shou'd do wrong, & y^e medicine lose
its effect: All this, together with y^e feelings
nature has given me for y^e sick & wounded,
give me very great care, trouble, fatigue &
anxiety of mind. With which I return home
y^e day being spent, take a little supper, en-
ter my chamber, close y^e door, & after recom-
mending myself & them to God, & my friends
& all to his care (my tho'ts being in great measure
compos'd) I take my rest.

“Thus with my tho'ts compos'd to peace,
I give mine eyes to sleep;
Thy hand in safety keeps my days,
& will my slumbers keep.” DW.

The 4th Last Sabbath news came y^t y^e French
had landed a number of troops; & this day we
hear, our men are gone to join them. . .
I hope we shall not lose all this fatiguing
summer yet. But, gracious God, spare y^e
blood! No more wounds, nor sudden deaths,
if it consist with thy blest will! . . . But
I can sing of mercies as well as judgements:
yea, y^e Lord is my song! — Providence

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I hope we shall not loose all this fatiguing
summer yet. But gracious God, have ye
blood! He more wounds, nor sudden deaths,
if it consist thy blessed will! But
I can sing of mercies as well as judgements:
yea ye Lord at m Long! Providence

has call'd one from home, from friends & acquaintances, into this distant land & among entire strangers, where is no man I ever know, or ever saw, before (save one) yet he hath given me friends. I am in with forcing motive, while other recruits as good (perhaps much better) are created as strangers! How comes this about? From whom comes preserment? & whence ye favor I rose in joy. Truly, these things are from ye Lord. Did I ask it? No. Did I expect it? No. Did it even enter my heart? By no means. How surprisingly sweet are favors, which Come from an uneventful quarter! Unexpected indeed! Who would have tho't I, an entire stranger to every body, should be chosen to yt business I am unacquainted with, & to which I feel myself unequal! Where others are neglected, who by long practice & perceive have faced themselves skillful in What great reason then have I to devote all my spare moments to him who grant me so many uneventful, un tho't of favors!

My business is much fatiguing, but ye affections, or sympathy, I have for ye sick & my desire after medical knowledge, make it far easier for me than ye disaffected camp & ye loath some instruments of war. I have as good provision as I can wish, cook'd redy to my desire; I have as beautiful chamber as any in Virginia

(33)
has call'd me from home, from friends & acquaintances, into this distant land, & among entire strangers, where is no man I ever knew, or ever saw, before (save one) yet he hath given me friends. I am up with friendly notice, while others ^{recruits} as good (perhaps much better) are created as strangers! How comes this about? From whom comes preserment? & whence ye favors I rose in joy? Truly, these things are from ye Lord. Did I ask it? No. Did I expect it? No. Did it even enter my heart? By no means. How surprisingly sweet are favors, which come from an unexpected quarter! Unexpected indeed! Who would have tho't I, an entire stranger to every body, should be chosen to yt business I am unacquainted with, & to which I feel myself unequal! Where others are neglected, who by long practice & perceive have faced themselves skillful in it. What great reason then have I to devote all my spare moments to him who grants me so many unexpected, unthought of favors! My business is much fatiguing, but ye affection, or sympathy, I have for ye sick & my desire after medical knowledge, make it far easier to me than ye disaffected camp, & ye loathsome instruments of war. I have as good provision as I can wish, cook'd redy to my desire; I have as beautiful chamber as any in Virginia

(34)
to myself, I can retire when I please from y^e
notice of any one but God; & add to this, a
good state of health; y^t I am as happy as it
is possible for Virginia to make me: yea,
since my coming here, I have almost forgot
my native home. O Lord, fill my heart
with a sense of thy goodness, vouchsafed me,
& with thy grace, y^t I may thank & praise
thy name every day; yea, 7 times a day
make supplication before thee, for greater
mercies, even spiritual ones, which relate to
my superior part, my immortal soul! &
when I enter my room, whether joyful or
pensive, may this strike a divine calm on
my soul, y^t I have no continuing city here,
& I am pilgrim & stranger on earth; I
may this turn my tho'ts on seeking another
& a better, even an heavenly one, whose
builder & maker is God!

The 5th We have much news stirring: & if
all be true, we shall soon have a large ar-
my in this quarter. His Excellency, C. D.,
is on his way to join us.

The 6th Henry Evans (before mention'd)
for 2 or 3 months past, has been in a de-
clining state: since he came to this hospital,
I told him, I tho't he wanted bleeding. He
tho't so too. 'Twas propos'd to y^e doctor (for
safety) But he reply'd, By no means: He was
in too weak & low state for y^t. I tho't, however
I could hold considerable of an argument with

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him (tho' I was no physician) yt ye quantity of blood was not lessen'd by proper bleeding. However ye matter was defer'd, ye man grew sicker & weaker. I still held my opinion & so did he, & now & then wou'd mention it till at length he was taken down in a kind of slow stagnated fever; complaining frequently of pains, extreme pains, in his side, breast, bowels, etc. till he came to such degree as to lie at ye point of death. The doctor gave him over: & we all tho't death was inevitable. But (as I hinted above) he was, at length, taken with bleeding at ye nose. I sent & desired leave to open a vein. Ye doctor said No, if it was possible to stop ye bleeding without. Which, at last, was effected. Now it was concluded on all sides yt this was ye immediate forerunner of death. However, ye 2d day from this he was so much better as to be observ'd by ye most careless spectator. He is now in a hopeful way. To day he walk'd abroad. The doctor continues to give him cream tart & cinnamon. I think it was yt which affected ye cure. But I leave it for ye present since I have written it down for some future considerations, & my own improvement.

The 7th Our sick continue to increase in numbers & some of them, I think, cannot recover. The ague-fever, slow fever, & intermitting fever, dysentery, rheumatism & ye venereal disease, are what trouble us chiefly. But I think we have upwards of 20 of ye latter class.

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I would not forget ⁽³⁶⁾ of wounded; Thanks to God however, their number as yet is but small.

The 8th. This day I open'd 3 veins, 2 with y^e doctor's leave, & one without, which has had a very good effect.

The 9th. This is y^e holy Sabbath. & how shall I keep it? It must be by visiting y^e sick: some of which, probably, will be in eternity before night. 9 o'clock, I have just clos'd y^e eyes of one more of my fellow mortals.

O Lord, Teach me y^t I must ere long close my eyes on all things I behold under y^e sun, & must open them on y^e object of eternity.

His name was Thomas of
our chief cook.

The 10th. John Welch has clos'd his eyes this day. O that I may profit by all these solemn events! May y^e living lay it to heart! — I have a double task devot'd on me: I have y^e care of y^e hospital stores, to deal out to every mess, y^e doctor being sick, y^t he is scarcely able to help any in y^e medical way. But I hope to lessen some of my business in a few days: or I fear I shall be oblig'd to leave y^e whole of it. Nevertheless, I must thank my kind Benefactor, y^t my health continues whole all around as sick, fill'd with pains & tossings! I have no medicine to preserve my health, or to restore it when a little unwell. — This may answer a while; but not forever:

I would not forget ye wounded. Thanks to God, however their number as yet is but small.

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This body must be dispos'd, I find, & there
O for assurances for my soul. And is there
not balm in Gilead! Is there not a physician
there! Yes there is.

The 11th yesterday was very hot: but this day
is as cold as ye last of October among us.
These sudden changes are very hurtful; they
not only prey on our health: but likewise
on yt of ye inhabitants here at this season,
who are very sickly at this time of ye year.

The 12th This day Robert Powers died.

The 13th Last Saturday ye 2d division of ye
French troops join'd our army, with 5,000 men,
& his Excellency Gen Washington is to join
with a large body in a few days: & ye re-
port is, yt 10,000 militia are to be in readi-
ness to take ye field immediately. O Lord,
grant, yt ye gathering together of this army,
may be for ye better & not for ye worse!
Suffer us not to count in numbers; but if
Thou, Lord, art for us, who can be against us!

This day, at 4 o'clock, came up a storm of
thunder, which was severe, & continued till
dark. After which another arose from ye
same quarter, N. W. which has continued till
now (11 o'clock P.M.) filling ye minds of all
with almost insupportable horror. The airy
heavens rending o'er our heads with tremendous
awful claps of thunder, yt seem'd to echo from
pole to pole! & ye earth under our feet appear'd
all glowing with electrical flames!

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O for a physician for my soul. And is there
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is as cold as y^e last of October among us.
These sudden changes are very hurtful; they
not only prey on our health; but likewise
on y^t of y^e inhabitants here at this season.
Who are very sickly at this time of y^e year.

The 12th This day Robert Powers died.

The 13th Last Saturday y^e 2^d division of y^e
French troops join'd our army with 5,000 men.
& his Excellency Gen Washington is to join
with a large body in a few days: & y^e re-
port is, y^t 10,000 militia are to be in readi-
ness to take y^e field immediately. O Lord,
grant, y^t y^e gathering together of this army,
may be for y^e better, & not for y^e worse!
Suffer us not to count in numbers; but if
Thou, Lord, art for us, who can be against us!

This day, at 4 o'clock, came up a storm of
thunder, which was severe, & continued till
dark. After which another arose from y^e
same quarter, N. W. which has continued till
now (11 o'clock P. M.) filling y^e minds of all
with almost insupportable horror. The airy
heavens rending o'er our heads with tremendous
awful claps of thunder, y^t seem'd to echo from
pole to pole! & y^e earth under our feet appear'd
all glowing with electrical flames!

(38)
It truly seems as tho' y^e divine Majesty of
heaven & earth had risen in arms to plead
his own cause, to defend his injured name!

The houses, yea, all creatures around, man's heart
excepted, tremble at Gods reproof. — Re-
member, O Lord, y^t we are but dust & ashes,
& dealt not with us in strict justice: for we
cannot stand before thee, when one thou ^{art} angry.
The storm begins to abate; therefore I commit
myself in y^e hands of him who hath, hitherto,
preserved me, & lay me down to rest.

The 14th. May we who are favor'd with ano-
ther day, improve it as tho' it be y^e last.

The 15th. It continues cloudy, wet & foggy,
which is very hurtful on account of y^e ague &
fever, y^t is continually taking hold of our men.
But thanks be to God, y^t I can yet boast of
health, while all around are exercised with pain.

The 16th. The return of every day, hour & mo-
ment, calls on me for a new return of thanks.
How much more then, doth y^e return of every
Lords day? — What an unworthy creature am
I to be so unthankful! O Lord, grant me grace
to give thee all I am, have, & ever can be!

The 17th. The other day I was boasting of my
health amidst so much sickness. But my
just Judge would ^{not} suffer all around to feel y^e
dire consequence of sin, & I certainly to escape.
The last night I awoke with a violent pain
in my head — which I was in hopes to remove
in y^e morning with some light medicine: but

It truly seems as thy ye divine Majesty of
heaven & earth has risen in army to plead,
his own cause, to defend his injured name!
The houses, yea, all creatures around, man's heart
excepted, tremble at God's reproofs. Re-
member, O Lord, yt we are but dust & after,
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to give thee all I am, have, if ever can be!

The 17th The other day I was boasting of my
health amidst so much sickness. But my
just Judge would not suffer all around to feel ye
dire consequence of sin & I entirely to escape.
The last night I awoke with a violent pain
in my head — which I was in hopes to remove
in ye morning with some light medicine: but

It prov'd abortive; ye pain still increases.

The 18th I resolv'd to take a puke; accordingly I took 4 gr's of tar-emet then 5 more; which made nigh 10 gr. 2 of which, our doctor says, is sufficient to operate on any man (How ever we generally give 3 or 4) but all this ne ver made me sick. To help it forward, I drank a bason-ful of warm water: but still all avail'd nothing. A sad pickle I should have been in, had not nature given me a remedy! By ye help of my finger, I bro't up all ye physic & made out considerable of a puke. However, all this answer'd but little purpose.

The 19th My head-ache increases & medicine cannot remove it till God put to his hand.

It continued till ye 27th all which time I got little nourishment, & no sleep, but what I obtain'd by ye help of anodyne pills.

The 28th My head & bones pain me less & continue to mitigate.

The 30th On ye night of ye Lord's day he was pleased to visit me with sickness: & at night of ye Lord's day (ye 30th) he was pleas'd to restore me to such measure of health, as to be enabled to sit up & to bless his gracious & holy name.

October ye 1st I yet continue better, tho' full of pain.

The 2d This day I made application for a pass to return to ye Northward. But I find yt I cannot obtain it without going 120 miles right from home & then 'tis uncertain whether I obtain one or not, which is enough to

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discourage one, being sick & lame. But
I leave ye affair with God my Disposer.

The 3^d To day I concluded to journey to ye regmt.

The 4th This day I obtain'd my recommend
from ye doctor, about 10 o'clock.* About 12
I set off feeble & faint hearted; but I hope
God will go with me. Travel'd 10 miles.

The 5th Was overtaken by a waggoner from
Southington (one Thorpe) & his wagon be-
ing chiefly empty, he was pleas'd to let me
ride. We came as far as N. Kent court-house
where we put up. This is about 20 miles
from N. Castle.

The 6th This is ye Lord's day. May I remem-
ber it as such; May I keep it holy! - It
is something stormy; but we expect to reach
Williamsburg; which, 15 or 16 miles. I con-
cluded to tarry here over ye Sabbath (tho we
came about noon) in hopes y^t there was some
meeting kept in this place. But I was disap-
pointed; & standing about in ye cold (there be-
ing no fire for soldiers) I took ye fever & ague
to my great sorrow.

* Hanover 4th October 1781.
Josiah Atkins of capt Douglas's com-
pany, in Col Ginnat's regimt, laboring under
a confirm'd Rheumatism, which will render
him unfit for any further duty in ye field this
campaign, is hereby recommended for leave to
retire into ye country for ye recovery of
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The 8th I set out on foot for ye camp:
I reach'd it about ye middle of ye afternoon.
Had a bit of ague.

The 9th Completed my business by 10 o'clock,
& set of for Williamsburg, where I arrived
before night, 12 miles: Lodged in ye flying hospital.

The 10th I left Williamsburg, & continued my
march till ye 12th at night, when I reach'd ye
hospital very weak & low, having ye ague & fever
every day.

The 13th Here I expect to tarry many days
to recover health.

The 14th I thank thee, O Lord, for ye pros-
pect & wilt thou hasten ye time when I shall
again stand in ye assembly of thy people. Tho'
thy Sabbaths are forgotten almost every where,
yet I have reason to hope, yt tis not entirely
neglected in my native state.

Oct. the 15th I recover but very slow my ague &
fever is very severe on me at present.

*Josiah Atkins being rendered unfit (by sickness)
for service in ye light Infantry-Has permission to
pass from this to ye Highlands in ye State of N. York
to rejoin ye regt to which he belongs.

J. Ginnat, Lt. Col. Command
Camp before York 8th Oct. 1781.

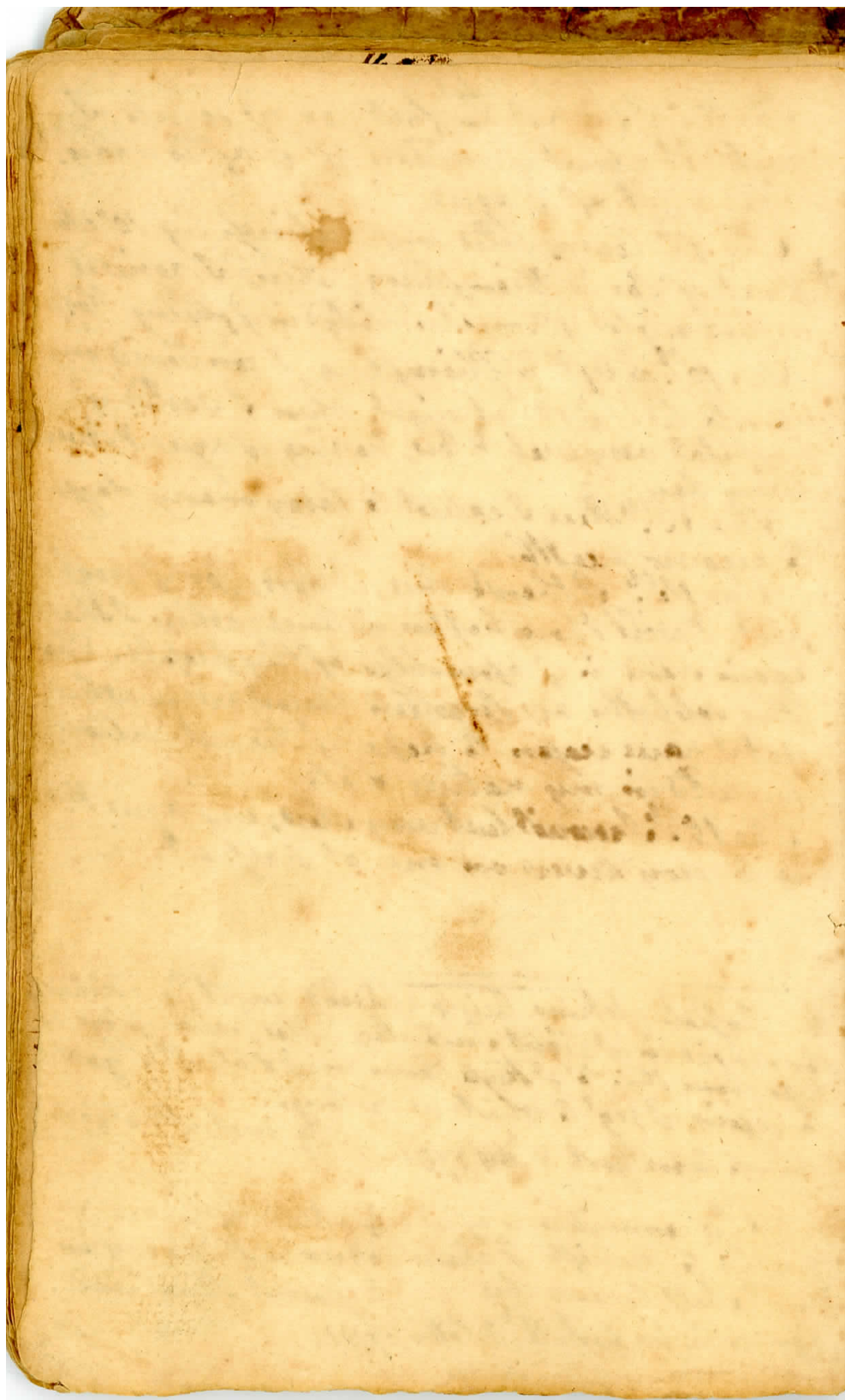
The commissaries of ye respective Posts are re-
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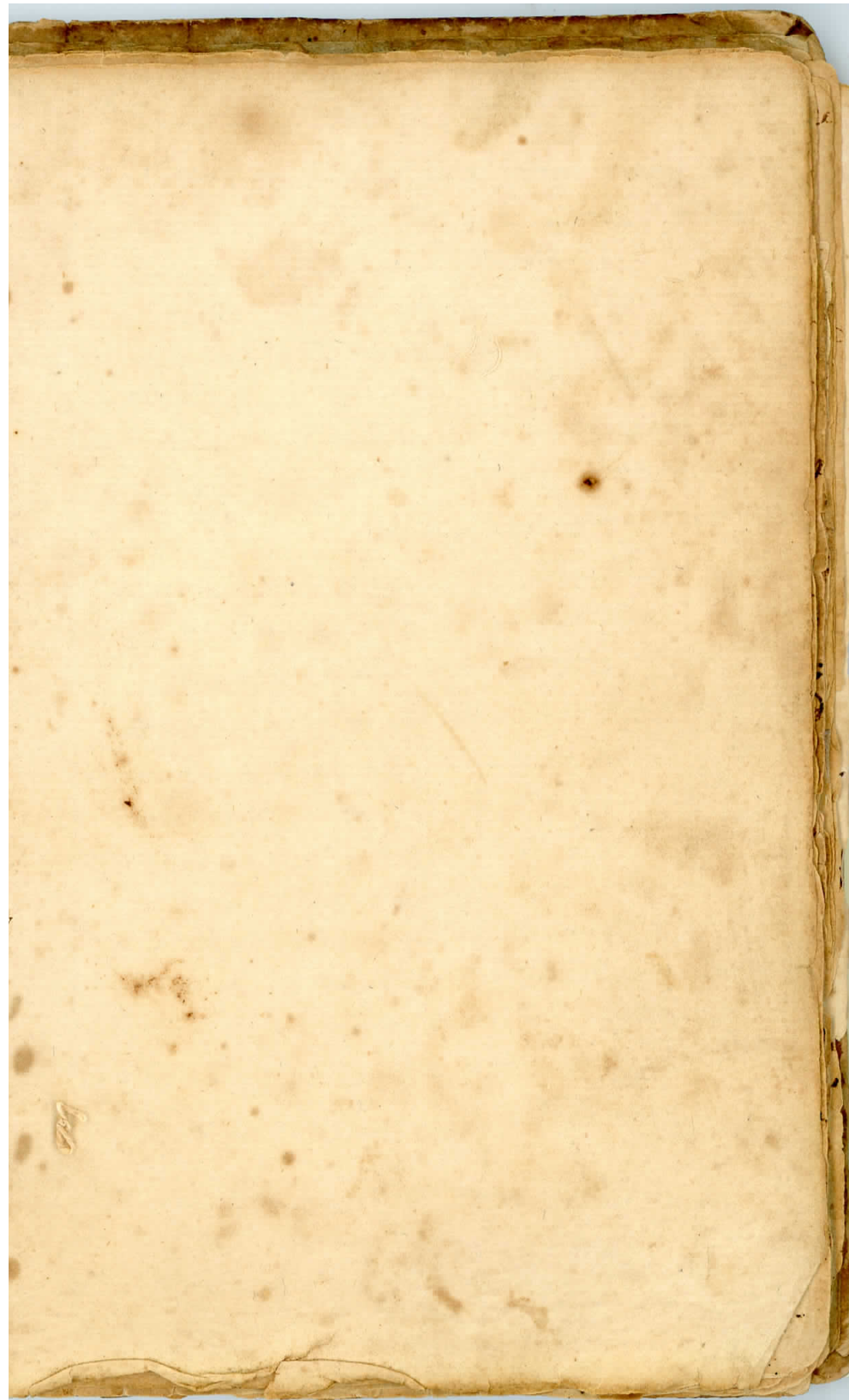
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Camp before York 8th October 1781.





Dear & beloved wife.

I desired, when I came from home, to keep a journal * of things & events worthy of notice, both for your perusal & satisfaction, & for my own, should I return in peace & safety. But dear comfort! My circumstances are such at present, that I have but little expectation. (Tho' an ardent desire) of returning to you again. The prospect is gloomy! My heart forbodes ye dark side! I am engag'd against a potent foe, where I can expect nothing but fighting & dangers. Possibly I may escape ye fatal ball & divorcing sword: but ye small-pox this contagious dangerous distemper which our own merciless enemy has taken so much pain to spread among us. I expect I have in my vital already; & if not, I am far from being safe from it, where I am daily exposed to it. Have I taken it, or should hereafter in this season here, ye, together with ye unwholesome part of ye year. This country, our living & ye miserable care yt can be taken at ye sick among unfriendly people; these considerations

*I cannot say a perfect one, and some things were left out thro mistake, & many more on purpose, because I tho't they wou'd afflict you more than comfort, they being afflicting to me.

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*I cannot say a perfect one, as some things were left out thro mistake & many more on purpose, because I tho't they wou'd afflict you more than comfort, they being afflicting to me.

Give me little expectation of ever setting my
foot again in Farmingbury. But all things
are possible with God; in whose name may I
ever confide, & never trust in vain!

Having these things in view, & being satisfied
of your love & tender regard for me, I can-
not but think it must, at least, be of some sa-
tisfaction in your mind, to know something
in particular concerning my fate; & per-
ceiving no other way for it than this, I hope
& pray God to put this book, by some means
or other, into your hand. — It is in

consideration of these things, I have taken
pen in hand to ~~blacken~~ blacken this sheet.
After I left home, I found (as I expected) yt
leaving of you, my dear wife, & my darling babe
were exceedingly painful to me: Indeed I hardly
know whether y^e painful tho'ts were ever entirely
out of my mind from y^e rising sun to y^e evening
shades: I was so intent on family & friends y^t
my sleep went from me in great measure, espe-
cially when I met troubles & difficulties: The
want of provision, fatigue, or any other hardships.
These naturally drove thy tho'ts from camp, & you
may easily imagine where they must naturally
flee. This, together with y^e prospect of consi-
derable time being elapsed before I could get into
y^e work, was almost too much for me. But
in y^e midst of these afflictive anxious tho'ts y^e
first duty they put me to, was to take six or

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ye work, was almost too much for me. But
in ye midst of afflictive anxious tho'ts, ye
first duty they put me to, was to take six or

eight hundred miles march to join ye Infantry
at ye southward with my instruments of war & death.
I make no doubt, my dear, but one of your
tenderness & affection will easily paint to your
self my confusion at this unexpected maneuver.
Being sent at such distance, it appear'd to cut
me off entirely from ye satisfaction to writing
to my friends, especially to you;* Which, together
with my full disappointment of ye business, yt
induce'd me to enlist in ye army, (Which also could
give me content in ye service) & having nothing
before me but to take my armor & hand the
brunt of an unexperienced service in an un-
wholesome country, myself alone, (all being
entire strangers to me) & in a strange, & unfriendly land,
there to

meet a formidable enemy; alas! All this to-
gether (& much alone) I acknowledge so damp'd
my spirits yt I almost fainted at ye thought!
& my perplex'd mind had such effect on my
body as to consume ye flesh, away, ye it was not
seen; & my bones yt were not seen stuck out!
Oh yt there was an interpreter with me, one
among a thousand to show me my sin, ye by
any means I might be brought to repentance!

I then found those who had been my best &
desireable friends, to have become more danger-
ous foes, in some sense, & to be avoided. I was

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my breast, like some venomous serpent, not
allowing myself so much as to think of home,
friends or relations! Nay, I found myself neces-
sitated to tear from my bosom that to my bosom
friend, & my little innocent, my heart's delight!
(Except when I retired to y^e throne of grace, where
I let them come in mind with y^e greatest free-
dom; which seldom fail'd to produce a flood of tears)
This was indeed heart felt! but I found it of y^e
greatest importance to my bodily health & vigor;
which had become greatly emaciated. (My body
lost 10 pounds of its weight in less than 2 weeks)
My grief drank up my spirits, y^t I became, as
they told me, like one in a study or amaze as I
passed along y^e road. This was not good.
The Lord had me to consider, y^t God was in all this; y^t
nothing took place here but by his knowledge &
dispose; & y^t He punished me far less than I deserved,
(I might justly expect every calamity & disappoint-
ment here, & eternal confusion in hell; but am
spar'd!) Which tho'ts gave me resolution to recom-
mend myself to him in prayer, & beg of him to
give me patience under my sufferings, & carry
me safely thro' them; or otherwise, when he should
call me home, to receive my departing spirit to
y^e arms of his mercy & love thro' y^e merits of
Jesus Christ. Thus I conclude to drop my over
anxious tho'ts, reflecting y^t I must have my

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lot & portion as well others; & if ye was to die here I must; if not, God wou'd allow me to return. But still I cou'd hardly keep from complaining ye I should be so ungratefully sent down here, torn away from my friends, & from my unexpectedness business, to encounter all ye hazards & hardships imaginable. I tho't ye could not be so continued neither, to take my last little portion of land (tho' but my length & breadth) & leave my lifeless lump on this barren soil! However, when I relented, ye this barren soil of Virginia must be enriched with ye rich measure of Connecticut, ye my little lump was as dearer to me than another mans to him; ye our cause in just & must be supported; & ye God will raise ye dead here as well in Connecticut; These tho'ts put me to silence; & I become (I hope) in some measure resigned to God's will.

When I recollect ye many favors I have receive'd, ye many dangers I have escaped, Thro' ye kind providence of God, I think I may with all encouragement, trust in him to keep me for time to come. But an examination, my sins appear too many, my vileness so great, ye I feel distrustful, not of God's ability, (I am fully satisfied ye he is able & ready to have to ye ut most all who trust in him thro' ye mediator) but of my submission & confidence in him. Oh ye I had such a spirit thro Christ Lord

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grant me y^e Holy Spirit in his divine teach-
ings & influences, particularly to witness
with my spirit y^e I am thy child & true friend!
This will give me exceeding joy & gratitude!
This will yield me peace & serenity of mind,
even amidst y^e greatest darkness & trial! Tho'
he slay me, yet I can trust in his salvation!
This will be peace of conscience! & I might
regale myself on y^e Lord, & joy in his protection!
Happy state! - Then I cou'd join with D W
& sing.

Halt thou not given thy word
To save my soul from death?
And I can trust my Lord
To keep my mortal breath:
I'll go & come, nor fear to die,
Till from on high thou call me home.

These words have been very ready to dart in
my mind with delight & comfort in my heavy
pensive hours; but, knowing my guilt & un-
worthiness, I dare not apply them to myself,
lest I be deceived, & believe in a lye.

My hard fate has put me much on conside-
ration, & pondering o'er my past life of sin,
of dangers of deliverance, & of experiences: &
alas! I find I was altogether born in sin! I
was conceived in sin, & bro't forth in iniquity!
The seeds of sin early took deep root in my
heart, have shot forth & borne much fruit.

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heart, have shot forth & borne much fruit.

I have partook deeply of original pollution
& ye hath grown into practical sins, & open
arts of disobedience & rebellion against God,
violating his laws & precepts, trampling on
his sacred authority, & wasting his goodness.
This effectively convinced me; ye I have no
claim to make of any mercy or favor from
him; & consequently no cause to murmur at
ye appointment of his providence to me.

These words frequently pass'd in my mind,
& seldom fail'd of silencing my complaining
tho'ts; Shall a living man complain? A
man for ye punishment of his sins? I
have vows, ye a man who is yet alive can
have no cause to complain against ye al-
mighty. I concluded also, ye sin in ye pro-
curing cause of all ye evil, miseries, & af-
flictions which befall ye children of men
on this stage, & consequently of mine.

When I take all these things into view,
I can plainly see, ye hand of God in them;
& I think, I can say, I see ye justice of God
causing evils & disappointments to come
in once. He is just in bringing me down to
his unhealthy soil: He is just, shou'd I
ever return to New England to see my dear
friends: He is just, shou'd he slay me.

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Yea, he is just, shou'd he cast me into hell.
Hence may I be silent & resign'd! May
I earnestly & cordially ask of him mercy!
Seek his pardon, plead his promises, thro'
Jesus Christ: obey his commands, Trust
his grace, - pay my vows, - reform my
life, - & learn to live every day as tho' it
were y^e last: y^t whenever death shall come
it may not surprize me, but find me ready!
Especially, may I have love to God, hunger-
ing & thirsting after righteousness, & an
ardent desire to be with Jesus!

Yea, he is just, shou'd he cast me into hell.
Home may I be silent & resign'd! May
I earnestly & cordially ask of him mercy!
Seek his pardon, plead his promises, thro'
Jesus Christ, obey his commands, Trust
his grace, - Pray my vows, - reform my
life, - & learn to live every day as tho'
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Dear & beloved Comfort

Hoping that this book may come to your hand, tho' I may not live to bring it (Which I pray God grant for your sake) & having given you a short & imperfect account of my sufferings & trouble of mind in this my last & unhappy adventure; I have still a desire to say something further to you before I bid you farewell! But alas! I must pause! — My heart is full! — I know not what I write! — Or how to begin!

Whenever I decease, shou'd you survive, no Doubt you may have a mind again to marry: to which I have no objection. Rather I would recommend it in ye strongest manner. Concerning this I have no injunction. But however let me offer my advice in a word, To marry in ye Lord. This is of all importance. When you are about to seek another comparas On, ask counsel, wisdom, & discretion of God: In much in prayer to him for his presence, & direction in so weighty an affair! Be not guided by whimsy, or sudden passion of mind! Ye effects of which are too evident before you seek one you can have a tender regard for one who will repay you in ye same, Whose mind may exactly meet you, agree & comprehend yours

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(yours)

with whom you can live in love & peace—
Then joy & tranquillity may be your lot; but
especially, if your prayers be not hindered. —
Remember your former state & mine, if
love & joy we have had together! yea, & if
we coupled ourselves for life! —

Should these prospects be cut off, seek others
as agreeable & delightful. You will surely find
this a matter of importance in y^e end. Here
I mind remind you, that y^e happiness of your
family also depends on this care; yea, &
your well-being here & hereafter is greatly
connected with it. But why do I thus en-
large, since I know you have a capacity of
judging, & a right to determine for yourself? —

What I now write you may receive as an
injunction. Should this be the case (Which
I pray God it may not, till I once more return
in peace, & we both rejoice together in love!)
I say, should all this come to pass, I cannot
make myself contented, unless something be
regulated concerning Sally my babe, my dar-
ling! Who is y^e delight of my eyes! * You

* The reason I always use more tender & fond
expressions for my child than towards my wife,
is, because I would not give you offence, knowing
you are not fond of such like language: But
this I would say, tho' you know it before, if you
both very dear! — very dear to me! —

with whom you can live in love & peace—
Then joy & tranquillity may be your lot, last,
especially, if your prayers be not hindered.
Remember your former State & mine, ye
love & joy we have had together! Yea, & ye
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Should these prospects be shut off, seek other
as agreeable & delightful. You will surely find
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know my affections were much, ay! Perhaps too much set on my child! You will then, if you had any love to me, (which I have not ye least doubt of) deal more tenderly with her for my sake (tho' I dispute not your own affection for her neither) - It is pretty certain, ye the will have but little fortune I wou'd have you give her good learning. To this end, I wou'd have you immediately at least before you pronounce her a father in law lay aside some of your little intent. Let it be some of your country which I was to have for engaging in ye service, or any other ye come ye most handy. Let it be put safely into Father Rogers, or some other honest man's hand, at interest till she be of age for schooling. Then keep her at school till she have learned well to read & write; and of she learn some rules in Arithmetic, twill do her no harm. Then give her ye trade which taken with her genius, & which may be profitable to her.

Have I now done! Shall I stop here? No, I must go further. Shou'd your pregnancy, now, bringing forth a living child & it be a daughter, deal with her in ye same manner. But if I be a son, give him good schooling & likewise, give him ye trade he best likes. Put him out to a good master: & shou'd you remain a widow, put him out young, or keep

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him not at home in idleness. - I shou'd
you marry, & it shou'd be your lot to find
an husband, (as it too oft happens) not alto-
gether such an one as you cou'd wish, tho'
you must not ^{leave} him yourself, yet keep not my
children at home to be ruin'd; but seek them
good places, & send them away. - - - - Or
shou'd you be driven to want (which God for-
bid, tho' I can ^{hardly} expect any other) then keep not
your children at home to suffer hunger, or
to want raiment; y^t being very pernicious to
them. But why do I multiply words? -

Can a kind woman once forget,
The infant of her womb?
Among a thousand tender tho'ts,
Her suckling have no room?

Above all, be careful to bring them up
in y^e nurture & admonition of y^e Lord. Take
care to learn them useful lessons as they
learn language: Be careful to instill y^e prin-
ciples of virtue in their minds, before y^e seeds
of sin, which is sown in their nature, be grown
into habits of wickedness: Begin early! Con-
tinue with unwearied, persevering diligence &
prayer! & thro' y^e blessing of God you may
obtain your desired end, even y^e salvation of
their immortal souls. - Be earnest at y^e throne
of grace, y^t God wou'd wash their infant souls

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you marry, & it shou'd be your lot to find
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you must not leave him yourself, yet help not my
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from ye stain of original pollution, which they drew from us their parents; & that he would give you grace to preform your duty towards them. I have given them to ye Lord. So do you. But first devout yourself to him, & your children in a humble manner, if you can be sensible of it really being your duty: When I think it is, without disgust. Strive to be determined about it- search carefully without prejudice, lying open your mind to conviction Look seriously into these places of scripture which give encouragement, & on what grounds. (I would mention some, had I time) but you will readily turn to them where your bible is before you. I know some scriptures, at best, find to brighten ye weak mind, & cause it to shrink back: Such as Eating & Drinking so worthily; Eating and Drinking judgment to themselves. These things have been much on my mind of late, & ye more I think of it, ye more I am convinced, ye no one ever comes worthily in & of himself. If they are worthy, it must arise from another quarter, even from ye Lord Jesus Christ, who is altogether worthy. But ye reasonableness of ye thing will greatly tend to convince a confederate mind. Have we a God from whom we received all we enjoy & we (pretend at least) to own him in serious

from y^e stain of original pollution, which they drew from us their parents; & that he would give you grace to perform your duty towards them. - I have given them to y^e Lord. So do you. But first devote ^{yourself} to him, & your children in a public manner, if you can be sensible of its really being your duty: Which I think it is, without diffult. Strive to be determin'd about it- Search carefully without prejudice, laying open your mind to conviction Look seriously into those places of scripture which give encouragement, & on what grounds. (I would mention some, had I time) but you will readily turn to them where your bible is before you. - I know some scriptures, at best, tend to brighten y^e weak mind, & cause it to shrink back: Such as, Eating & Drinking so worthily; Eating & Drinking judgment to themselves. These things have been much on my mind of late, & y^e more I think of it, y^e more I am convinced, y^e no one ever comes worthily in & of himself. If they are worthy, it must arise from another quarter, even from y^e Lord Jesus Christ, who is altogether worthy. But y^e reasonableness of y^e thing will greatly tend to convince a confederate mind. Have we a God from whom we receive all we enjoy & we (pretend at least) to own him in serious

in private; & shall we not own him in public, before y^e world? He publicly bestowed on us innumerable mercies & blessings; & can we not own him as our Lord & Benefactor!

Again: among other mercies, we receive y^e blessing of children: & shall we not give them leash in public? - Can any refuse it? -

In a word, is there not y^e greatest reason y^e we devote ourselves & all we have, ^{and} are to him in y^e strongest & most solemn manner, considering, he we are, & his are all our ways?

I could use more arguments: But y^e would be needless, seeing you must search for yourself.

For my part, I am so far convinced, that should y^e Lord vouchsafe my return, I mean, with y^e assistance of his grace, to devote myself, & mine, to him from whom I received them, & now a new addition of mercy.

But, perhaps, you will reply upon me, as I have often to others, & say; that when a person is convinced, or is assured, of his being born again, & converted to God, then to plain ly his duty to come to y^e Lord's table & partake of his Supper. Should you thus reply, I will turn & argue, ^{for one} against my former opinion. Perhaps there are many (at least some) who labor under an uncertainty about y^e state y^e their souls, & go on doubting all their days, till they come to lie on their death bed.

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Sometimes they think they are in a state of grace & sometimes not. They are full of doubts & fears, & grace so small, ye they have little or no comfort to ye last hour. Which will make those alarming places of scripture strike their weak minds with terrible fears. Here I will query, whether a person, who has a spark of grace, doth not commit a more sin in omitting this solemn ordinance, then another wou'd, shou'd he, destitute of grace, come to ye Lord's table? To be a little plainer: Here give two persons under ye go spel, ye one has grace, ye other not; & both alike in suspense. He who has grace, seen ye most of his unworthy & dares not come; ye other see life of his dissidence & so ventures to come & partake of this healing ordinance. Now ye question is, which of ye two commits ye greatest sin? Had (Poter) judg'd himself unworthy to sit at ye table of his Lord, & so refus'd which Judas sat at & partook unworn thily, on which wou'd have fallen ye severest reproof from their Lord? Think you, I only ask ye question, & leave it for every once, to determine for themselves; remembering ye only in commended, & ye other is caution'd against. Or you may say, both are forbidden. Search & see.

When I can read any title
To mansions in the skies,
I'll bid farewell to every fear,
& wipe my weeping eyes.

Sometimes they think they are in a state of grace & sometimes not. They are full of doubts & fears, & grace so small, if they have little or no comfort to if last hour. Which will make those alarming places of scripture strike their weak minds with terrible fears. Here I will query, whether a person, who has a spark of grace, doth not commit more sin in omitting this solemn ordinance, then another wou'd, shou'd he, destitute of grace, come to if Lord's table? - To be a little plainer: Here give two persons under if go spel, if one has grace, if other not; & both alike in suspense. he who ^{has} grace, sees if most of his unworthiness, & dares not come; if other see life of his deficiency, & so ventures to come & partake of this sealing ordinance. Now if question is, which of if two commits if greatest sin? - Had Peter judg'd himself unworthy to sit at if table of his Lord, & so refus'd; while Judas sat & partook unworn thily, on which wou'd have fallen if severest reproof from their Lord? - Think you. I only ask if question, & leave it for every one to determine for themselves; remembering if if one is commended, & if other is caution'd against. Or you may say, both are forbidden. Search & see.
When I can read my title clear
To mansions in if skies,
I'll bid farewell to every fear,
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Shou'd earth against my soul engage,
& hellish darts be heard,
Then I can smile at Satan's rage,
& face a frowning world.

There is one thing further I would recommend concerning y^e well ordering of your family. It is this: Keep your little society from all profane loose persons & company, whose consciences are sear'd, & who sin without remorse: Such as commit y^e sin of drunkenness, theft, lying, sabbath breaking, catling, but especially of profane swearing: these out to be spurr'd out of our house; their practice being of such infectious nature, y^t it will soon spread thro' y^e family, acquaintance, neighborhood, & nation. It is like a pestilential disease, especially profane language, & most justly provoking to almighty God to pour out his vengeance on its horrid practitioners. Do not even children catch y^e foul example? & y^e before they can really speak plain? Are they not thus taught to blaspheme y^e name of God, before they are learn'd to pray to him? Shocking indeed! When I consider y^e common swearer, I am ready to charge him not only with his own sins, but likewise with corrupting thousands, & with sending down his wickedness, however dangerous & horrid, to succeeding generations. Can such be desirable company? Can they be safe in a family, whose very breath corrupts all around! & y^e length of which runs down y^e length of time! The sin of a common swearer appear to me dreadful for several reasons: (1) Because, while other sinners have their ceasing time, & wide gaps between y^e repetition of them; y^e common swearer is like a continual drop-

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ing in a rainy day (2) Because, I think this sin has had a great hand in calling down ye wrath of God, which has caused, & still causes, such desolate ons & distress to fall on our land. (3) Because this practice tends to drive away all remains of ye fear of God, & value of a savior; hardens ye conscience, causes ye spirit of God, to depart, puts one onto ye hands of Satan, & their own hearts lusts, issues in all manners of villainies & debaucheries, & brings a curse on what they undertake. To this cause, doubtless it is, ye those who fight in fleet, & armies, oft loose their courage, & flee before their enemies. & (4) it prepares a greater damnation for them in ye world to come, continually ripening them for it. Dreadful wils indeed! But I will for bear; only will give one word more of series advice, & close.

From ye above observations, you may easily say my dear wife, of what force example is - & what heads of families have in their power to do by serious & proper examples. (I speak not because I support your ignorance of duty, or unwillingness to do it, but because I am sensible, ye you do know, & will discharge it far as you are able: & because I have not answered so freely, with you on this head as my duty call'd: for which I regret it). - On ye other pour ye observations show, ye evil examples in are doubly capable, & doubly pernicious. Serious truth persons are vile in themselves, & not only do no good, but much harm, to others by their wicked examples. Their condemnation then will be answerable. This may lead one to reflect, How aggravated

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my condemnation (& may you not say y^e same, who
have had such good education under your good mo-
ther; whose memory I shall ever retain) Shou'd
I forget, with all these mercies heap'd on me,
what belongs to y^e station & relation I now sus-
tain in y^e character of a parent. O for an heart
to walk in my house according to y^e knowledge
with which I am bless'd of God!

Time wou'd fail to point out to you every particu-
lar in which a parent ought to let good example
shine before his children: Nor need any more be
said, than y^e parents ought, at all times & places.

But y^e duty of charity I wou'd recommend to
you in a very particular manner to set before
those under your care & y^e both in word & example.
you are to do alms in secret: True, from y^e view
& applause of y^e words: But not from your child-
ren. Therefore, if you have but two shillings to
bestow on a poor object, divide one of them a-
mong children (not both) & let them see you be-
stow yours, y^e they may not ^{think} ^{you} ^{are} ^{not} ^{to} ^{practice} ^{yourself}. Teach them y^e duty:
show them y^e joyful countenance of a reliev'd ob-
ject; & if it will lead them to partake of y^e satis-
faction of a reliable & cheerful giver.

Forgive me, my friend & beloved wife, for
give me y^e ^{best} ^{of} ^{your} ^{pen} thus far, &
I'll add no more. But may y^e blessing of
God rest on you, my child, my family & friends;
& give us all grace & perseverance; y^e shau'd never
meet again in this world, we may all be so happy,
as to meet where no separation shall ever come!
This granted, I can freely bid you all
farewell! Farewell! Farewell!

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have had such good evacuation under your good mo-
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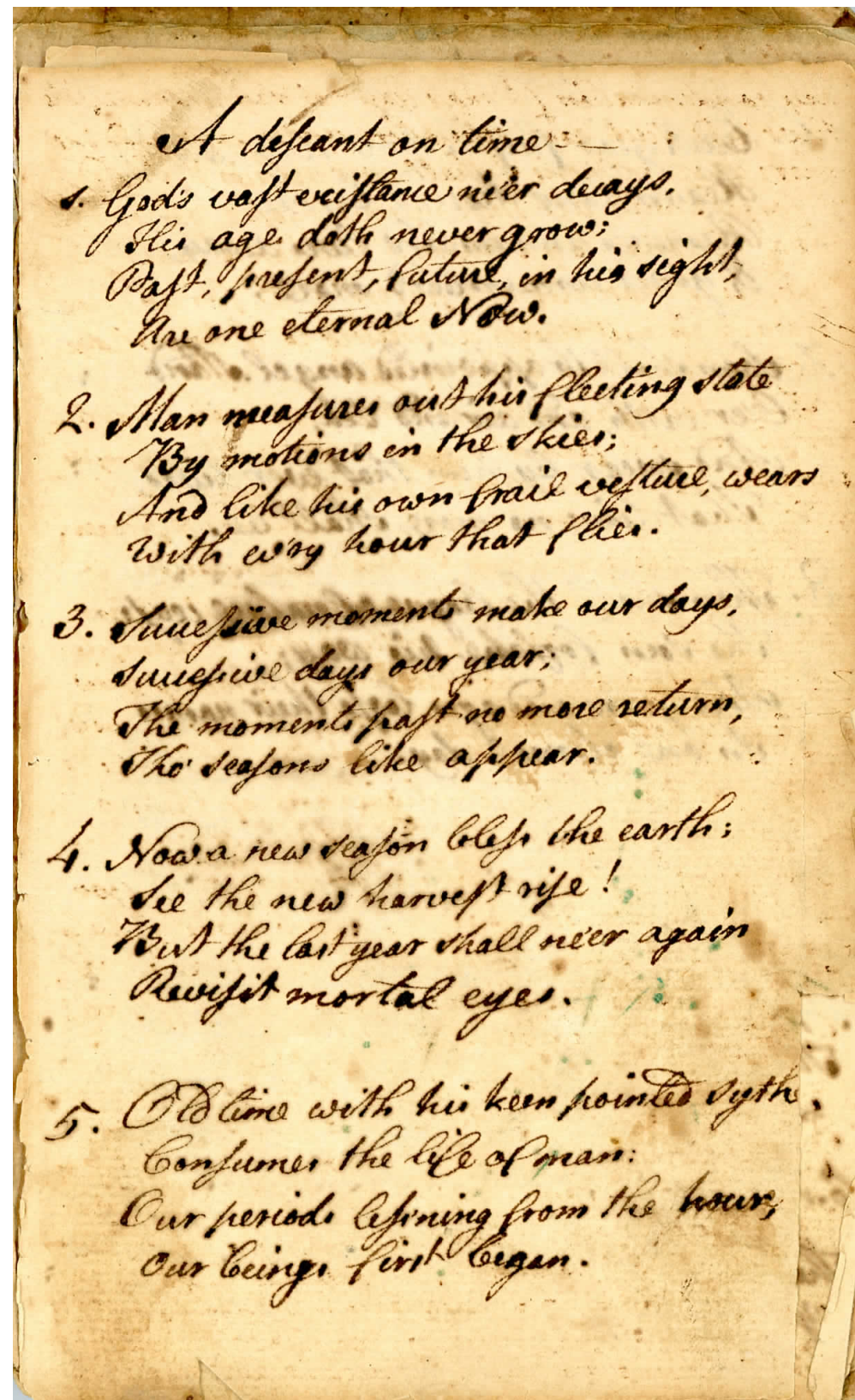
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Forgive me, friend & beloved wife, for
give me judged my pain thus far &
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& give it all grace & perseverance; ye shou'd we never
meet again in this world, we may all be so happy,
as to sweet whose no separation shall ever come!
This granted I can freely bid you all -

Farewell! Farewell! Farewell!

A descant on time-

1. God's vast existance ne'er delays
His age doth never grow;
Past, present, future, in his sight
Are one eternal Now.
2. Man measures out his fleeting state
By motions in the skies;
And like his own frail vesture wears
With ev'ry hour that flies
3. _____ moments make our days
_____ days our year;
The moments past no more return,
Tho' seasons like appear.
4. Now a new season bless the earth;
See the new harvest rise
But the last year shall ne'er again
Revisit mortal eyes.
5. Old time with his keen pointed sythe
Consumes the life of man
Our periods fighting from the hour
Our beings first began.



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6. Each year fulfils some new event,
Heav'n long decreed before;
Removes unnumbered lives away,
& gives unnumbered more.

7. Soon shall th' appointed angel stand,
O'er earth, and air and sea,
And swear by him that ever lives,
That time no more shall be.

8. Then shall the league of nature cease,
The sun forsake his way;
And years and ages lose their names,
In one eternal day.

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That time no more shall die.
8. Then shall the league of nature lease,
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And years and ago loose their names
In one eternal day.

Thoughts on death & Frailty

1. Behold out years how swift they fly!
Youth vanquish & beauty fades,
Age drops her snow upon our heads,
And draws sweat & slumber from our eyes!
2. Why do we toil, t' augment our store?
The more we gain, still crave ye more;
Alas! Are quite forgot ye man's
A mortal & his life a span!
3. Grim death has summon'd us to go,
All pensive to ye shades below!
Oh dismal regions! From whose urn,
Alas! No travelers return.
4. What eye can steadfastly survey
Death & it's dark tremendous way!
Far soon as fate hath clos'd our eyes,
Man does! Forever, ever dies!

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For soon as fate hath clos'd our eyes,
Man dies! forever, ever dies!

America's joy and mourning.

1. America sat by y^e brow of y^t hill
Where Mystic doth silently glide;
Lamented y^e ravage of wide spreading war,
And mixed her soft griefs with y^e tide.
2. How long, said she, sighing; shall heavens decree
Permit y^e rude Britons to waste
The land, where, of old, she established my sons,
And bid them of liberty taste!
3. How long shall y^e light of y^e burning ascend
From rural abodes, & from towns!
While vanquish'd by toil, & fatigue, or by arms,
Dead bodies are strew'd o'er y^e downs.
4. An angel descended in dazzling robes,
And tore y^e thick film from her eyes;
She saw, out of those which in ruins did lie,
New towns & new dwellings arise.
5. She saw her fair form like y^e light from y^e storm
Bid plenty & pleasure to smile;
The Britons expect'd from her soil by her sons,
Lash'd home by y^e gale to his ile.
6. And now my dear sons, said she smiling, be happy!
Bid trouble & weeping adieu!
The sorrow & moaning may spring for a moment,
Yet joy shall be endless with you.

America's joy and mourning

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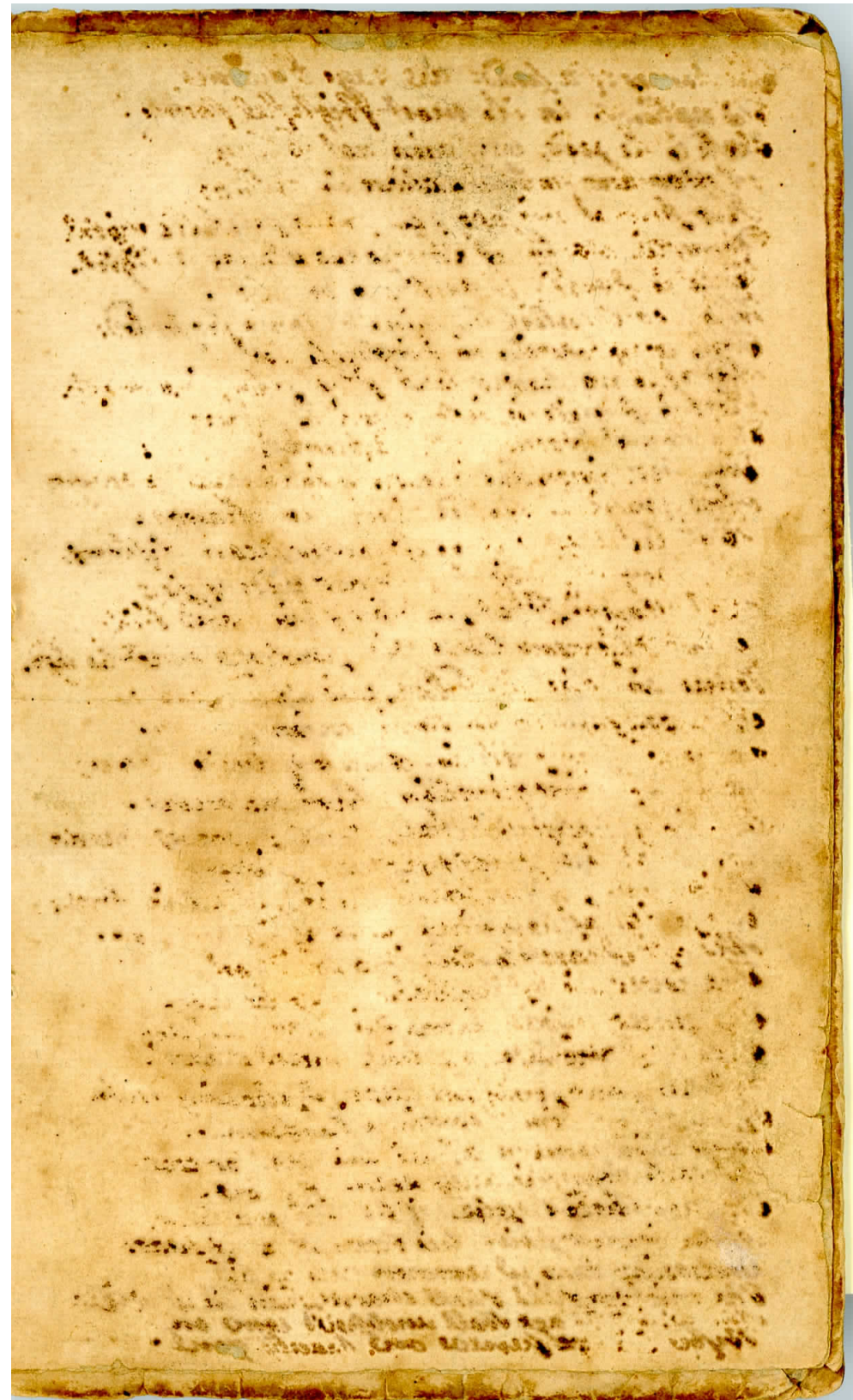
Advice to the Ladies-

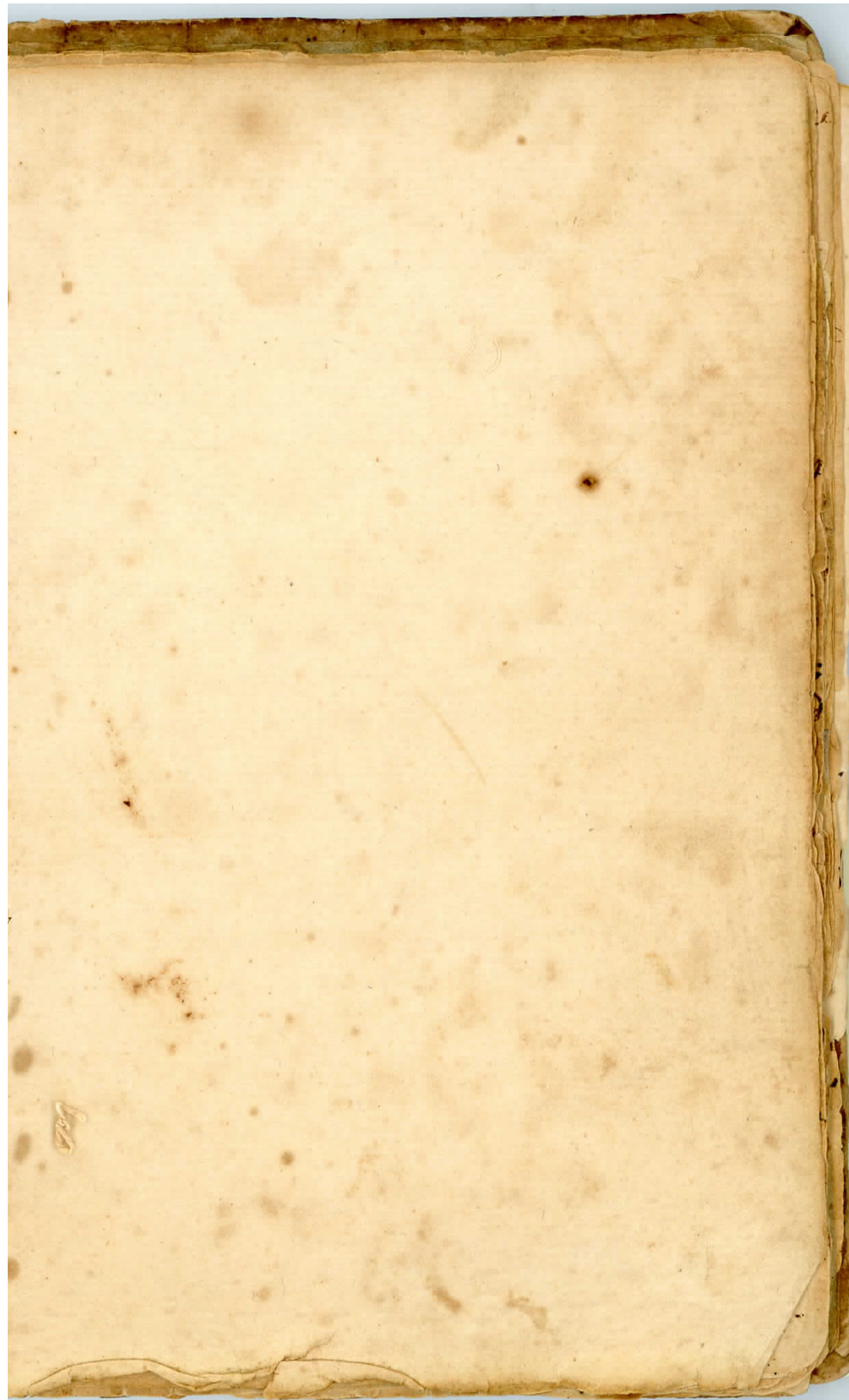
Hard is ye frontline ye you sex attends.
Women, like paines, find few real friends:
All who approach them, their own ends pursue
Lovers & ministry are seldom true.
Hence oft' from reason heed life beauty strays,
And ye most trusted guide ye most betrays.
Hence by fond dreams of family's power amus'd.
When most you tyrannies, you're most abus'd.
What is your sexes earliest latest case?
your hearts supreme ambitious to be fair.
For this ye tailes every tho't employs;
Hence all ye tails of dress, & all ye joys.
For this hands, life & eyes are just to school,
And each instructed feature has to rule.
Do you, my fairs, endeavor to possess.
And elegance of mind as well as dress:
Be if your ornament & know to please
By grateful natures unaffected ease:
Nor make to dangerous wit a vain pretense,
But wisely, rest content with modest sense.
For wit, like wine intoxicate ye brain,
too strong for fraile women to sustain.
Of those who claim, it more than have had,
And half of those who have it are undone.
Be still superior to your sexes art.
Nor think dishonestly a proof of parts:
For you ye plainer is ye wiser rule;
A cunning woman is a knowable fool.
Be good yourself, northern anther shame.
Can raise your mount, or adorn you fame.
Virtue is amicable! Mild, serene,
Without, all beauty, & all peace within.

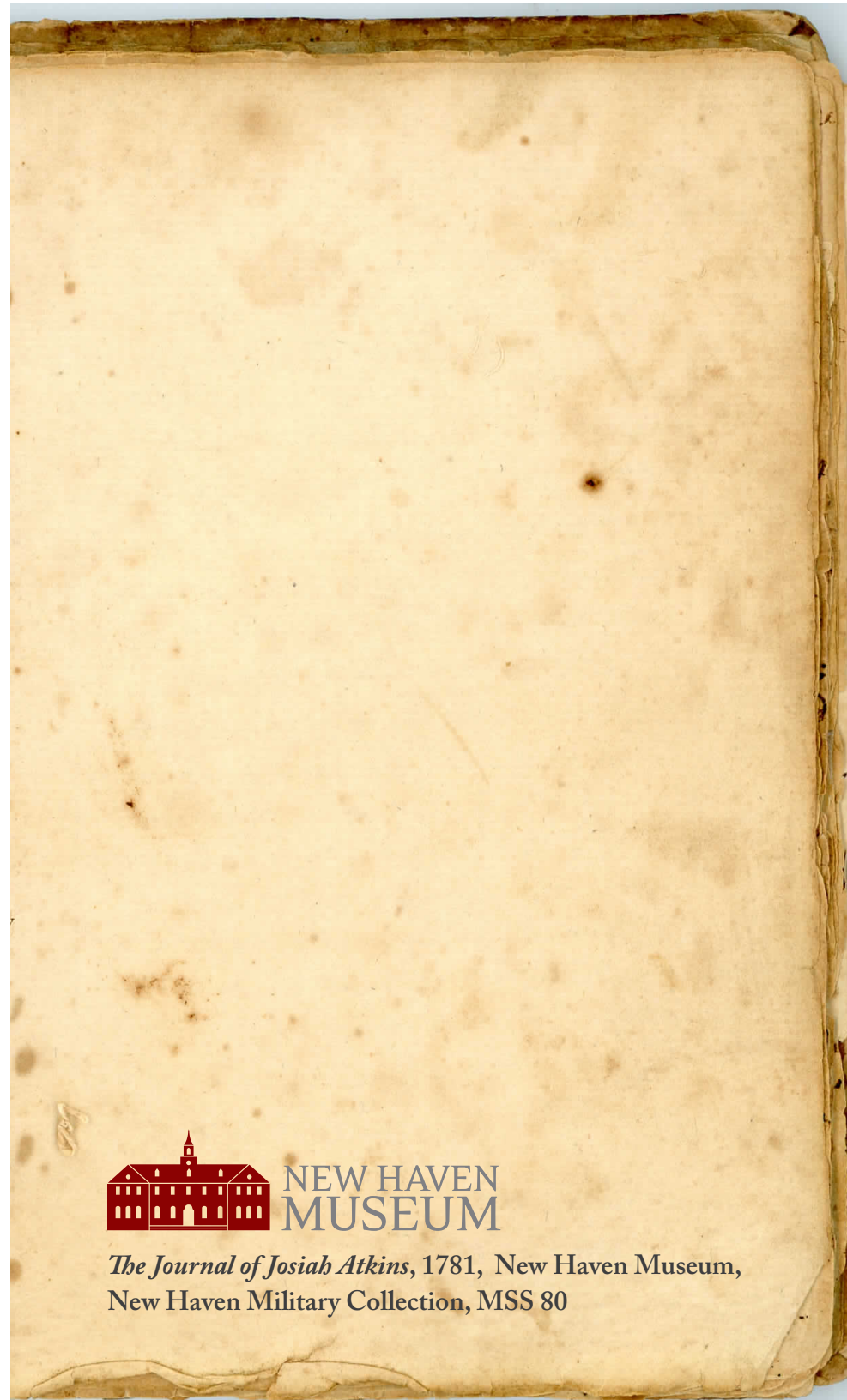
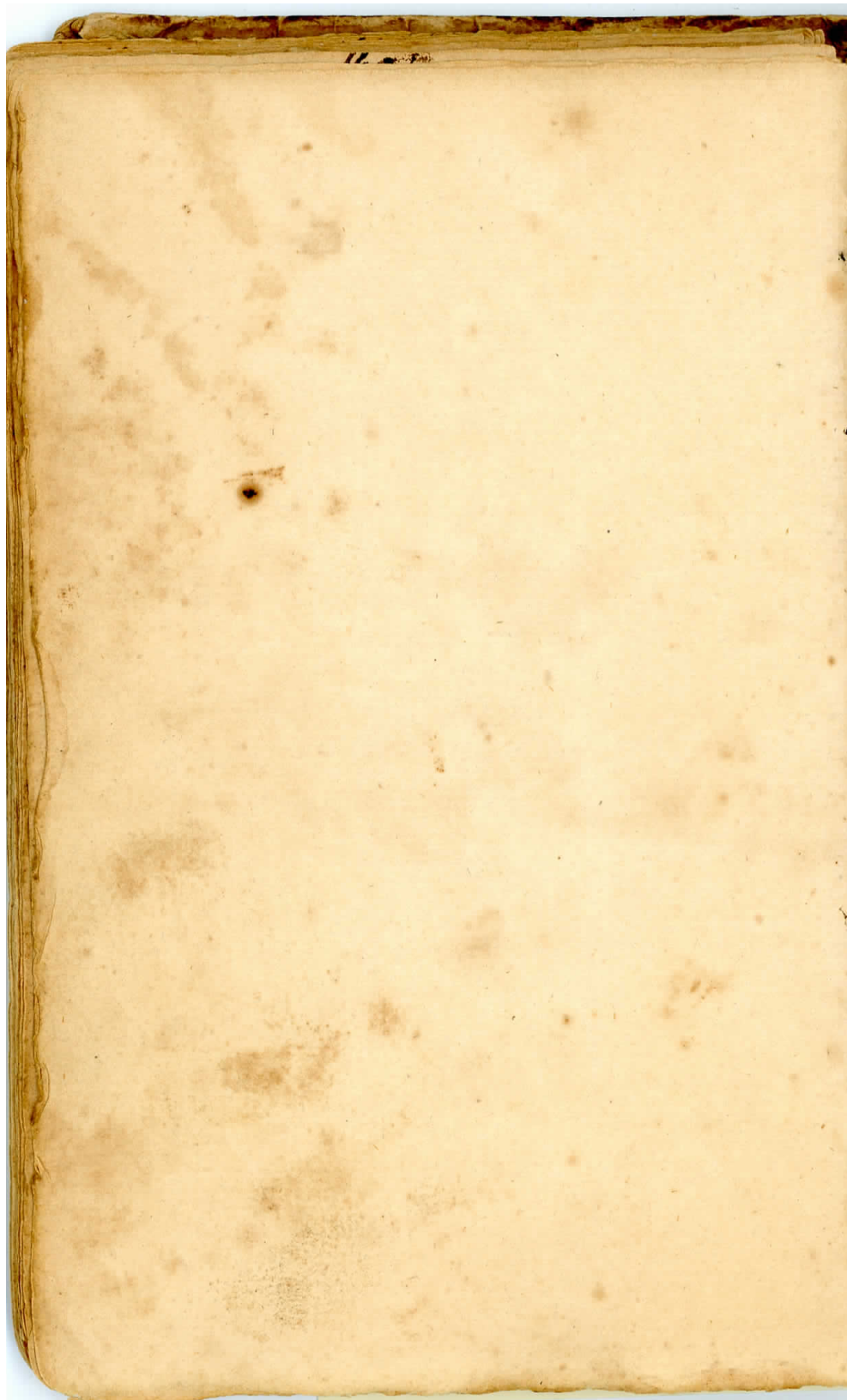
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The honors of a prude are sags & storms,
Tis ugliness in its most frightful forms!
Seek to be good, but aim not to be great;
A womans noblest station is retreat.
Her purest virtues fly from public sight,
Sometime worth it shuns too strong a light.
Blest is ye maid, & worthy to be blest!
Whose soul entire by him she loves possessed.
Fool, wry vanity in kindness lost,
And as for power but of of pleasing most.
Fapt is it bliss in just return to prove
The honest warmth of unadorned love.
For her, inconstant man might cease to range,
And gratitude forbid desire to change.
But lest harsh cares it lovers heart destroy,
And roughly blight it tender buds of joy,
Let reason, what passion fair would hide,
That Hymen's bands with prudence must be ty'd.
Venus in vain if wedded pair would crown,
If angry fortune on their union frown.
Soon will ye flatering dream of bliss be o'er,
And cloy'd imagination cheat no more.
Even in ye happi'est chase, where savoring heaven
Has equal love, & easy fortune giv'n;
Think not, if husband gain'd, ye all is done;
The prize of happiness must still be won.
And oft it can be find it to their cost
The lover in ye husband may be lost.
The graces might alone his heart allure,
They & ye virtues meeting must secure.
Let care your prudence wear ye pleasing deep,
If care for him & anxious tenderness.
Hooen kind concern about his weal or woe,
Let each domestic duty seem to flow.
The household seethe if he bid you bear,
Make it your pride his servant to appear:
Emulating thus ye common acts of life,
The mistress still shall charm him in ye wife:
And wrinkled age shall unsoldered come on,
But his eyes presence are beauty gone.

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NEW HAVEN
MUSEUM

The Journal of Josiah Atkins, 1781, New Haven Museum,
New Haven Military Collection, MSS 80

