

Life Without Liberty

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Introduction

1. Who posed the question, “Who can prize life without liberty”?
2. What organization, in what colony, was he the founder of?
3. Just based upon the name of the organization, what do you think its purpose might have been?
4. In what month was this letter written? How many months after the first shots of the American War for Independence in Lexington and Concord, in April, was the letter written? How long after the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775 was this letter written?
5. Why was the situation so tense in New York?
6. The text says, New York’s population “was rich in both Whigs and Tories.” What other two names do we usually say instead of Whigs and Tories?
7. What two threats loomed in and around New York?
8. What had happened to many businesses in New York due to this turmoil?
9. By the time Scott wrote this letter, what had he come to believe as inevitable?
10. Where was the letter by John Morrin Scott found? How much of the letter survives today?
11. What does Scott wait to hear news of?
12. What did King George III reject that Scott makes mention of?
13. What did the rejection of the “Olive Branch Petition” convince Scott would happen in New York?

The Document

14. Why had all business in the city “stagnated” according to Scott?
15. What new organization had been elected and how did Scott feel about them?
16. Even though he was a member of the Second New York Provincial Congress Scott is not allowed to participate in the meetings. Why not?
17. What does Scott call life without liberty? What does he mean?
18. Who does Scott mention in the last part of the letter?
19. What do you think Scott means when he writes, “We are very friendly for opposites in politics”?
20. In Scott’s closing line, what do you think he means?