

All Europe is Interested in Our Fate, Mercy Warren Otis

GLC01800.02

(Note: Transcript follows)

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Plimouth N E August 24 1775

At a time when all Europe is interested  
in the fate of America you will forgive me Dear Madam  
if I lay aside the ceremony usually observed when there  
is no attachment that arises either from Affection or  
Esteem. & again call of your Attention when I have  
not been assured of the Welcome Reception of my Last.  
in that I hinted that the sword was half drawn from the  
scabbard soon after which this people were obliged to un-  
sheath it to Repel the Violence offered to Individuals, &  
the Impudence of an attempt to seize the private property  
of the subjects of the King of England. And thereby put it  
out of their power to defend themselves against the Corrupt  
Ministry of His Court. you have Doubtless Madam been  
apprized of the Consequences of this Hostile Movement which  
compel'd the Americans to fly to arms in Defense of all that is held  
dear & sacred among Mankind. And the public papers as well  
as private accounts have dropp'd to the Ears of the  
Peasant of Lexington. & the spirit of Freedom Breath'd from  
the Mountains of the Province of New England have  
been told of the Distresses of the people of Boston. And the  
shameful Violation of Faith which will leave a stain on  
the Memory as it certain General Officers so long as the  
obligations of Honour & Truth are held sacred among Men  
he after sporting with the sufferings of the Wretched Prisoners

The Gilder Lehrman Collection

till Famine & pestilence began to Rage in the City, permitted  
 the Most of them to Depart leaving their effects behind. & to quit  
 their elegant & Convenient Habitations, in the Capital & fly a  
 head into the Hospitable arms of their Brethren in the Country.  
 And the Conflagration of Charlestown will undoubtedly Reach  
 each British Ear before this Comes to your Hand. Such Instances  
 of Wanton Barbarity have been seldom practiced even among the  
 Most Rude & uncivilized Nations. the ties of Gratitude which  
 were Broken through by the King, troops, in this Base transaction  
 greatly Enhance, their Guilt. it was the Inhabitants of that  
 town who prompted by Humanity Generously opened their doors, to  
 the Starved Coops, on the twentieth of April. & poured Balm into  
 the Wound, of the exhausted & dying soldiers after their pre-  
 cipitous Retreat. Had they observed a different Conduct on  
 that memorable day. Had they yielded in cutting off the  
 Retreat it might not have been in the power of General Gage  
 to have Wraged that town in flames & Turned out the Miserable  
 Inhabitants the prey of poverty & Despair. But a particular  
 Detail of <sup>the</sup> sufferings of the Mischiefers, you will have from other  
 Hands. I shall therefore Give a short account of the present  
 situation of American affairs. in the Environs of Boston  
 we have a well appointed Brave & High spirited Continent  
 al army. Consisting of about twenty two thousand Men.  
 Commanded by the Accomplish'd George Washington Es: a Gen-  
 tleman of one of the first Fortunes in America. A man whose  
 Military Abilities, & public & private Virtues, place him in the  
 first Class of the Good & Brave & on Really of so High a Stamp  
 as to do Honour to Human Nature. this army is to be offici-  
 onally Recruited & to be supported & paid at the Expence of  
 the united Colonies of America. And now Britain

powerful & Infatuated Enough to find out a force sufficient  
 to cut of to it than this little Reprobate army. Less than the Compass  
 of it week would Exhibit in the field three times their Numbers Ready  
 to Avenge the stroke. & to Call down the justice of Heaven on the  
 Destroyers of the peace Liberty & Happiness of Mankind.

In Compliance with the Recommendation of the Continental Congress the Massachusetts have at last  
 Reassembled the powers of Government. the provincial Congress sent out  
 a writ for Calling a House of Representatives & Agreeable to the  
 Charter of Wm & Mary they proceeded to Elect 28 Counsellors.  
 And Considering the Gov<sup>r</sup> & Lt as Absent the supreme Authority  
 of of the province was vested in any fifteen of the Members  
 Thus after living without Government without Law. and  
 without any Regular Administration of justice for more than 12  
 Months, we are just returning from a state of Anarchy to the  
 subordination, of civil society. The Grand Council of America  
 have once more petitioned His Majesty to Terminate some speedy  
 Reconciliation. this is a final proof with what Reluctance the prope-  
 rity of Britain Transports the sword against their unnatural  
 parent. Both the Ministerial & the American army seem at  
 present to be rather on the Defensive, as if each were wishing  
 for some Benign Hand to Interpose & heal the Foul and Contagious  
 without letting out the Blood from the Bosom of their Brethren.

But stand as this people are of the Restoration of that Harmony  
 which they added Riches & Strength to the power of Britain. yet  
 so tenacious are we of the Birth Rights of Nature & the fair  
 possession of freedom which no power on Earth has a Right to  
 Curtail. that we shall never give up the invaluable Claim,  
 But with the Warm Current which plays round the Heart (and  
 stimulates the Breast to Resist the arm of tyranny. My desire  
 to Welcome the Bright Image of peace if at the same time that the

our Good friends Mr. Adams & Mr. G. will  
 My very Good Myself please you would accept their Respectful Compliments,  
 the Respectful  
 please

24 Aug. 1795. W. Warren

Handwritten notes on the left margin: "Handwritten notes" and "Aug 24 1795".

appears with the Olive Branch in the one hand. the other holds forth a Radical Redress of Grievances. Stamped with such a signet that as they may not be Broken either by the <sup>conduct</sup> practices of openly abandoned men. or the Machinations of perfidious Traitors. Who propose the Heavenly Name of Virtue. by putting on the Guize that they may more securely perpetrate Every species of Iniquity.

I fear notwithstanding the Efforts of a Virtuous & sensible Minority. the Ministerial Schemers will prosper their Mad projects. till the sceptre Drops from the Hands of Royalty. & the Liberty of the People falls solitary & alone. till she becomes the Derision of Nations, & the Contempt of her Enemies.

But will not their Confusion be inexorable when disappointed in every visionary scheme. when perhaps Ere long they may see the ports of America thrown open to Every foreign power. & the Heart of the whole World be fixed in the Western Region. What were the united provinces when the Contest began with Spain in Comparison with the united Colonies of this Wide Extended Continent.

Although I have already detained you longer than I designed. I cannot Close without observing to you Dear Madam that the protest of the Dissenting Lords and the Conduct of several Members of Both Houses with regard to American affairs is never mentioned but with every Expression of approbation & applause. The Noble Example of Lord Effingham will be Remembered in the History page. but at the same time that it transmits his Name with Honour to posterity it will evince to future ages the Corruption of the times that such an Instance of Disinterested Merit should stand Recorded almost alone. one who has hitherto been honoured with your Correspondence prefers by with the highest Esteem of Daughter of America.

1800.02

Cherry Warren

## Transcript

Plimouth N E August 24 1775

At A time when all Europe is Interested in the state of America you will forgive me Dear Madam, if I Lay Aside the Ceremony usually observed when there is no Attachment that Arises Either from Affection or Esteem, & again, Call at your Attention when I have Not been Assured of the Welcome Reception of my Last, in that I hinted that the sword was half Drawn from the scabbard, soon after which this people were obliged to unsheath it to Repel the Violence offered to Individuals, & the Insolence of an Attempt to seize the private property of the subjects of the king of England. And thereby put it out of their power to Defend themselves against the Corrupt Ministers of His Court.

You have Doubtless, Madam been Apprized of the Consequences of this Hostile Movement which compiled the Americans to fly to arms in Defence of all that is held dear & sacred among Mankind. And the public papers as well as private accounts have Witnessed to the Bravery of the Peasants of Lexington, & the spirit of Freedom Breath'd from the Inhabitants of the surrounding Villaiges. You have been told of the Distresses of the people of Boston, And the shameful Violation of faith which will leave a stain on the Memory of A Certain General Officer so long as the obligations of Honour & Truth are held sacred among Men. He after sporting with the Miseries of the Wretched Suffers [2] till Famine & pestilence began to Rage in the City, permitted the Most of them to Depart Leaving Their Effects behind, & to quit Their Elegant & Convenient Habitations in the Capital & fly Naked into the Hospitable arms of their Brethren in the Country.

And the Conflagration of Charlestown will undoubtedly Reach Each British Ear before this comes to your Hand. Such Instances of Wanton Barbarity have been seldom practiced Even among the Most Rude & uncivilized Nations, the ties of Gratitude which were Broken through by the kings troops in this Base translation Greatly Enhances their Guilt. it was the Inhabitants of that town who prompted by Humanity Generously opened their doors to the Routed Corps on the Ninteenth of April, & poured Balm into the Wound; of the Exhausted & dying Soldiers after their precipitant Retreat. Had they observed a Different Conduct on that Memorable day, Had they assisted in cutting [inserted: off] Ld percys Retreat it Might not have been in the power of General Gage to have Wraped that town in Flames & Driven out the Miserable Inhabitants the prey of poverty & Despair. But A particular Detail of [inserted: the] sufferings of the Massachusets you will have from other Hands. I shall therefore only Give a short Account of the present situation of American affairs in the Environs of Boston. We have a well Appointed Brave & High spirited Continental army, Consisting of About twenty-two thousand Men, Commanded by the Accomplished George Washington Eqr. A Gentleman of one of the first fortunes in America. A man whose Military Abilities, & public & private Virtues place Him in the first Class of the Good & Brave & are Really of so High a stamp as to do Honour to Human Nature this army is to be occasionally Reunited & to be supported & paid at the Expenche of the United Colonies of America. And were Britain [3] powerful & Infatuated Enough to send out a force sufficiant to cut of to A Man this little Resolute army. Less than the Compass of A week would Exhibit in the Field thrice their Numbers Ready to Avenge the stroke & to call down the justice of Heaven on the Destroyers of the peace, Liberty & Happiness of Mankind.

In Compliance with the Recommendation of the Continental Congress, the Massachusetts have at Last Reassumed the power of Government. the provincial Congress sent out A writ for Calling a House of Representatives & Agreeable to the Charter of Wm & Mary they proceeded to Elect 28 Counselers. And Considering the Govr & Liet as Absent the supreme Authority of of [sic] the province was Vested in any sixteen of the Number.

Thus after living without Government without Law and Without any Regular Administration of justice for more than 12 Months we are just Returning from a state of Nature to the subordinations of Civil Society.

The Grand Counsel of America have once more petitioned His Majesty to Revise some Methods of Reconciliation this is A final proof with what Reluctance the progeny at Britain Draw forth the sword against their unnatural parent. Both the Ministerial & the American armies seem at present to be Rather on the Defensive as if Each were wishing for some Benign Hand to Interpass & heal the Dreadful Contest without letting out the Blood from the Bosom of their Brethren.

But fond as this people are of the Restoration of that Harmony which Has Added Riches & Strength to the power of Britain, yet so tenacious are we of the Birth Rights of Nature & the fair possession of freedom which no power on Earth has a Right to Curtail, that we shall Never give up the Invaluable Claim. But with the Warm Currant which plays round the Heart & eluminates the Breast to Resist the arm of Tyranny. This disposed to Welcome the Bright Images of peace if at the same time that she [4] Appears with the Olive Branch in the one Hand. The Other holds forth A Radical Redress of Grievances Stamped with such a signet [strikeout: that] as May not be Broken Either by the [insert: Corrupt] practices of openly Abandoned Men or the Machinations of persidious Trayters, Who profane the Heavenly Name of Virtue, by puting on the Guize that they may more securly perpetrate Every species of Iniquity.

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Esteem A Daughter of America Mercy Warren

[written on the margin of page 3:]

Our Good Friend Mr Adams Has just left us to Return to philadelphia & with My very Good Husband  
Desire you would accept their Respectful Complements And Highest Esteem.

Mercy Warren Aug 24: 1775

24 Augt. 1775 Mrs. Warren