

By John Burgoyne, Esq.

Lieut. Gen. of his Majesty's Armies in America, Colonel of the Queens RegT. of Light
Dragoons, Gov. of Fort Williams in North Britain one of the Representatives of the Commons of Gt.
Britain in Parliament Commanding an Army & Fleet employed on an Expedition from Canada.

The forces intrusted to my command are designed to act in concert & upon a common principle with the numerous armies & fleets, which is already display in every Quarter of America, the Power, the Justice & when properly sought the mercy of the King. The causes in which the British Arms are thus exerted applies to which the most affecting interests of the human heart; & the military servants of the Crown at first called forth for the sole purpose of restoring the rights of the Constitution; now combine the love of their country & duty to their Sovereign, the other extensive Incitements which spring from a ___ sense of the General Privileges of Mankind. To the Eyes and Ears of the temperate part of the public & Breasts of suffering thousands of Provinces, Be the Melancholy appeal, whether the present unnatural Rebellion has not been made a foundation for your completest system of Tyranny, that ever God in his Displeasure suffered for a time to be exercised over a forward & stubborn generation. Arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of Property, Persecution & Torture, unprecedented in (the) Inquisition of the Romish Church, are among the palpable enormities that verify that affirmative. These are inflicted by Assemblies & Committees, who dare to profess friends of liberty, upon the most quiet subjects, without distinction of age or sex, for the sole crimes, often for the suspicion of having adhered in principle to the government under which the (they) were born, & to which by every tie divine & human they owe allegiance. To consummate these shocking proceedings the profanation of religion is added to the most profligate prostitution of common reason; the consciences of men are set at naught & multitudes are compelled not only to bear arms, but also to swear subjection to an usurpation the abhor. Animated by these considerations; at the head of troops in full power of health; discipline & valour determined to strike when necessary & anxious to spare when possible; I by these presents invite & exhort all persons in all places where the progress of this army may point & by the blessing of God i will extend it far to maintain such a conduct as may justify me in protecting their lands, habitation and families. The intention of this address is to hold forth security not depreddation the country. To those whom spirit & principle may induce to partake in the glorious task of redeeming their countrymen from dungeon and reestablishing the

blessings of a legal government, I offer encouragement and employment and upon the first intelligence of their associations I will find means to assist their undertakings. The domestic, the industrious, the infirm and even the timid inhabitant. I am desirous to protect, provide they remain quietly at their own houses, that they do not suffer their cattle to be moved, or their corn or forage to be secreted or destroyed; that they do not break up their bridges or roads nor by any other acts directly or indirectly endeavor to obstruct the operations of the Kings Troops or supply or assist those of the enemy.

Every species of provision brought to my camp will be paid for at an equitable rate in solid coins. In consciousness of Christianity, my Royal Master clemency and honor of soldiership, I have dwelt upon this invitation and wished for more persuasive terms to give it impression: let not people be led to disregard it by considering their distance from the immediate situation of my camp -- I have but to give any stretch of the Indiana forces under my direction and the amount to thousands to overtake the hardened enemies of Gt. Britain.

Great Britain & America, I consider them the same wherever they may lurk. If not withstanding those endeavors and sincere inclinations to assist them, the _____zy of nobility should remain I trust I shall stand acquitted in the eyes of God and man denouncing and executing the vengeance of state against the willful outcasts – The messengers of Justice and of Wrath await them in the Field of Devastation, Famine & every concomitant horror that a reluctant but indispensable Prosecution of Military Duty must occasion will bar the way of their return.

(Signed)

J. BURGOYNE

Camp at the River Barngett June 22, 1777

By order of his excellency the Lieut. General

Robt. Kingston, Secy