

Note: this letter was originally damaged, which is why there are some words in parenthesis. Question marks mean that a specific word or phrase was most likely written in the text, but there is little way of knowing.

1 Dear Sir,
2 Lest the Enemy should in some degree avail themselves of the Knowledge (for I do not doubt but
3 that they are well informed of every thing we do) I did not care to be so particular in the General
4 orders of this day, as I mean to be in this Letter to You.

5 As much time then would be lost (in Case the Enemy should attempt [?] crossing the River at
6 any pass within your guard of [?] it) in first sending [?] you notice, and the [troops to] wait for
7 Orders what to do, I would advise you to examine the whole River, from the upper to the lower
8 Guard of your district [?], and after forming an Opinion of the most probable Crossing places,
9 have those well watch'd, and direct the Regiments or Companies most Convenient to repair as
10 they Can be formed, immediately to the point of attack, and give the Enemy [?] all the Opposition
11 they possibly Can. Every thing in a manner depends upon the [defense at Water's] Edge, in like
12 Manner one Brigade is to support one another without loss of time, or waiting orders from me—I
13 would also have You fix upon some Central Spot convenient to your Brigade, but in the rear a
14 little, and on some Road leading to Philadelphia for your unnecessary Baggage, [Waggons] &
15 Stores, that in case your opposition should prove ineffectual [?], these things may [not fall], but
16 be got off [?] & proceed over Nehsameny F?erry, or Bridge, towards? Germain town agreeable to
17 the determination of the? Board of Officers the other day. [Let me intreat you] to Cast about to
18 find out [some person who can be] engaged to Cross the River as a [Spy,] that we may if
19 possible, obtain some knowledge of the Enemy's situation, movements, & intention; particular
20 [inquiry to] be made by the person sent, if any preperations are [?] makeing to Cross the River,
21 whether any Boats are building, & where, Whether any are coming across Land from
22 Brunswick [?] Whether any great Collection of Horses are made, and for what purpose &c.
23 Expençe must not be Spared in procuring such Inteligence, and will [readily][?] be paid by me—
24 We are in a neighbourhood of very disaffected people; equal Care should therefore be taken that

25 one of these persons do not undertake the business in order to betray us.

26 As your [numbers] are rather small endeavour [?] to shew them, now & then; to the best
27 advantage. an appearance might be made with those you have as if fresh Troops were coming in,
28 and if you stop all Intercourse but such as is carried on [?] to the other side by your own permit
29 [?], it will take a little time to discover the deception [?] and every hour gain'd is of service in our
30 present Situation.

31 If possible get some person into Trenton—& let Him be satisfied if any Boats are Building at that
32 place and on Croswicks Creek.

33 I am with respect Sir Yr Most Obt Servt

34 Go: Washington

Transcript courtesy of Founders Online