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the wise and prudent rulers of the States (whom he will honour and esteem) not to be an officer worthy of promotion, or the most flagrant injustice is done him -

This being the case, your petitioner thinks himself compelled by every principle of justice to himself and to all his brethren, who may continue in the service of their country (which has his best wishes, and which service he has no desire to leave so long as the cause of his country shall require his assistance on any other principle, except those before noted, there being but little expected from a degraded officer) to beg your excellency to grant him liberty to resign his command -

And your excellency's petitioner, as in duty bound shall ever pray &c -

Wm Shepard Lt. Col.

Bergen Sept. 28. 1776.

Head q^r York Island 21st Sept 1776.

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enclosed in
Genl. Washing-
ton's Letter
Sept 25.
See page 266.

Sir,

I have the favor of your letters of the 6th and 19th current; in consequence of the latter, directions are given for Major Gen Sullivan being conveyed to Elizabeth town on the earliest day, and I conclude Major Gen Prescott will return in the same boat -

The exchange you propose of Brigad^r General Alexander, commonly called Lord Stirling for Mr. McDonald cannot take place, as he has only the rank

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rank of major by my commission, but I shall readily send any major in the enclosed lists of prisoners that you will be pleased to name in exchange for him and that Lord Stirling may not be detained, I would propose to exchange him for Governor Montfort Brown, altho the latter is no longer in the military line —

Enclosed you have a list of officers belonging to the army under my command who are your prisoners; it is not so correct as I could wish, having received no regular return of the officers of the 42^d & 71th regiments taken this year, but beg leave to refer you to Lieut. Colonel Campbell of the 71st to rectify any omissions that may be, and am to desire you will put opposite to their names, such of your officers of equal rank as you would have in exchange for them. The names of the non commissioned and private prisoners with you, are not sent, being unnecessary, but the return herewith enclosed specifies the number of I shall redeem them by a like number ^{of those} in my possession, for which purpose I shall send Mr. Joshua Soung my commissary to Elizabeth town as a proper place for the exchange of prisoners, on any day you may appoint, wishing it to be an early one, wherein I presume you will concur, as it is proposed for the more speedy relief of the distressed.

As it may be some time before Mr. Lovell arrives

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here from Halifax, tho I took the first opportunity of sending for him after your agreement to exchange him for Gov^r.
Shute. I am willing to believe, upon my assurances of Mr Lovells being sent to you immediately on his arrival that you will not have any objections to granting the governor his liberty without delay and am induced to make the proposal for your compliance neither of the persons being connected with military service.

Gen^l Carleton has sent from Canada, a number of Officers and privates as per return enclosed, to whom he has given liberty ^{in pursuance of his desire} upon their paroles, & their engagements to him I shall send them to Elizabeth town on the earliest day. — It is nevertheless the Gen^ls expectation, that the exchange of prisoners as settled by Capt Foster in Canada, will be duly complied with, and I presume you are sufficiently sensible of the sacred regard that is ever paid to engagements of this kind, to suffer any infringement upon the plighted faith of Col^l Arnold —

It is with much concern that I cannot close this letter without representing the ill treatment, which I am too well informed the Kings officers now suffer in common goals, throughout the province of New England. —

I apply to your feelings alone for redress having no idea of committing myself by an act of ^{retribution}

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retaliation upon those in my power.

My aid de camp charged with the delivery of this letter will present to you a ball cut and fixed to the ends of a nail, taken from a number of the same kind, found in the encampment, quitted by your troops on the 15th instant. - I do not make any comment upon such unwarrantable practices, being well assured the contrivance has not come to your knowledge.

I am with due regard

Sir
your most obed^t serv^t

Genl George Washington
Dear Genl,

W. Howe -

Head q^{rs} Heights of Harlem Sept 21st 1776.

Sir I yesterday evening received the favor of your letter of the 21st by your aid de camp Capt^r Montfort in consequence of which I this morning dispatched an express to Elizabeth town with orders that Major Genl^t Prescott should be permitted to return in the boat that carried Genl^t Sullivan over to that Place -

I most readily concur in the proposition you are pleased to make for the exchange of Brig^{de} Genl^t Lord Stirling for Gov^r Montford Brown and have sent for him accordingly. I should hope that Lord Stirling will be immediately set at liberty, on my promise that Governor Brown shall be sent to you as soon as he arrives. I had no doubt but Mr. M^r Donald's title would have been acknowledged having
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understood that he had received his commission from the hands of Gov. Martin; nor can I consent to rank him as a major, till I have proper authority from Congress, to whom I shall state the matter upon your representation -

I agreeable to your request I shall transmit to Lieut. Col. Campbell, a copy of the list of officers of the 4th & 5th regiments, taken by us last spring, that it may be rectified in the instances in which it may be wrong, & will then place opposite to their names, the officers I would wish in return for them. The exchange of privates I shall take the earliest opportunity in my power to carry into execution, but they being greatly dispersed through the New-England governments in order to their better accommodation will prevent it for some time.

Having the fullest confidence in your assurance that Mr. Lovell will be released when he arrives from Halifax, I have wrote for Gov. Shene to come to head quarters that he may proceed immediately to you.

As to the exchange of prisoners settled between Capt. Foster and Gen. Arnold, I beg leave to inform you, that it was a transaction, in which I had not the smallest concern, nor have I authority to give directions in any degree respecting the

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the matter--

The information you have received concerning the ill treatment of your officers I would pain hope is not generally ~~well~~ well founded. The letters from them which have passed through my hands, hold forth a different language; -- In particular instances, 'tis true, there are some who have been restricted to a closer confinement and severer treatment, than they otherwise would have been, for breaking or refusing to give their paroles. Such I am confident will not be countenanced by your excellency & I am persuaded by a closer investigation of the enquiry, you will discover, that there have been no other persons whatever who have experienced the smallest harshness from us --

I shall however obtain all the information on the subject in my power, that every ground of complaint if any exists, may be entirely removed, it being my most earnest wish, that during this unhappy contest, there be every exercise of humanity which the nature of the case will possibly admit of.

Your Aid de camp delivered me the ball you mention, which was the first of the kind I ever saw or heard of; you may depend the contrivance is highly abhorred by me & every measure shall be taken to prevent so wicked & infamous a practice being adopted in this army --

I have the honor to be with due regard, Sir,

Yr^h Excellency
(or) Genl. Howe --

your most Obedt Serv^t
G. Washington.