

Letter from Philip Schuyler to James Duane, November 27, 1776

Saratoga Nov 27th, 1776.

Dr Sir

I am greatly obliged by your favor which was delivered me yesterday –

After having been under the necessity of quitting York Island and found that our Cheaveaux-du-frize did not prevent the enemy's ships from coming up the north river, I could not conceive what Induced us to risk so many men and such a considerable quantity of cannon & military stores in a fortress which it was easy to foresee must be taken whenever seriously attacked, especially as there was not the least probability that our army would be able to come to its relief. It is easy to make such [*illegible*] when Events have Justified them, and it would Also be ungenerous. If I had not made the same observations to Several gentlemen some time before we experienced this misfortune,- I wish Gen: Washington had adhered to his own opinion and rejected the intemperate advice of people of more prowess than Wisdom. - In such a situation: of ours it is more Eligible slowly to follow Fabius than precipitately want out of any troops raised [*illegible*] for the purpose of quelling internal disorders, of who which first [Kill] by the 100th of Decemb [*text loss*] on my way to Philadelphia; but if you Mr Livingston Mr Jay do not go [do them] I would rather postpone my journey a few days pray make my compliments to these 2 Gentlemen I have not had a line from the former since his of the 24th October I hope mine [to] answer to it satisfied him that I would not take a stop prejudicial to the Common cause.

Gen: Gates is gone down I fear he brought himself into trouble with the state of N Jersey by ordering Colo: Wymes to be dummed only, or rather by taking upon himself to justify those who were at the bottom of it.

Adieu, fair Dear Sir

Very Sincerely
Your much obliged [*illegible*] Serv
Ph: Schulyer

To: Mr: James Duane Esqr

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