

A Plan

for reducing the Colonies in the most expeditious
Manner and at the least expence

Facts

1st... Great Britain is already possessed of Quebeck, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, Long Island, New York, Staten Island and the Floridas, and were the Peninsula of New Jersey and that between the Delaware and Chesapeake added, she would be in the possession of the Sea Coast of all North America, with a Tract of Inland Country capable of supplying her Fleet and Army with every necessary, save Military Stores. These possessions would not only enable her to save the Expence of Transporting over Sea a great part of the Supplies but to command by a few Frigates only, all the Sea ports and Harbours, the avenues of the Rebel Foreign Supplies, from Rhode Island to North Carolina; and enable Government to apply a great part of the Naval Force in America to other Services.

Note. These Possessions would not only
 of all the Popularity of the five Middle Colonies of N. York, N. Jersey,
 Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia from procuring any
 foreign Supplies.

2^d... The Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Counties, Maryland, and Virginia, North and South Carolina are by far the most valuable and important to Great Britain. It is from thence she procures Skins and Furs, Tobacco, Wheat, Flour, Indigo, Rice, Tar, Pitch, Turpentine and Iron; it is also from thence that the Eastern Colonies obtain provisions, such as wheat, and flour, without which they could not subsist and carry on their Commerce or maintain an Army.

3^d... The Middle and Southern Colonies are by far the weakest in Military Force, and of course the easiest to conquer. In four of them the Labouring Sort of People from whence the Soldiery can only be procured is chiefly composed of Negroes, whom the New States justly esteem so many intestine enemies, and therefore will not Trust them in arms. And in the other four the people in general are better affected towards Government than in any of the rest of the Colonies. Besides in these the Settlements are new and ---

And disciplined, and not being inured to Military Discipline as --
in the Eastern they are prevailed on to turn out with more --
Difficulty, and are much less expert in the field.

4th ----- From the Attachment of the People in General of the Middle
Colonies many insurrections in favour of Government have taken
place, as well as from the excessive Tyranny and Oppression of the
New States, which exceeds by far those of the Eastern Colonies;
and it is known in America that the ~~the~~ Rebel Army has
been formed, and recruited from Time to Time, more by the English
Scotch and Irish emigrants, than the Natives of America --
many of the latter submitting to the most enormous Fines --
and even imprisonment rather than enlist in the rebel --
Service.

5th ----- The Middle Colonies are more accessible in every part
by water up their numerous Rivers which afford the best
Navigation and are ~~very~~ defenceless - Their vessels of force
and Merchant, ^{Men,} and of course their Trade may be destroyed, and
their foreign Supplies effectually cut off by a small Force, and the
Country may more easily be penetrated by Land than the Eastern;
not only for the Reasons before mentioned but because they have
no Stone walls and fences and the ground not so mountainous
and Strong.

6 ----- The Eastern Governments are more Numerous and
very few Slaves. Their Inhabitants live more compact and
thicker settled, and are more disaffected and may be, easier and
in much less time, collected in opposition to the British force.

7 ----- The Eastern Colonies have never yet been able to Supply
the ~~the~~ Rebel Army with Provisions, carriages and other necessaries --
for any length of Time. At the Siege of Fort Mifflin and New York in 1776 --
all their Carriages and Provisions were drawn from New Jersey --
and Pennsylvania; and in 1778 they were procured from the same
places Maryland and Virginia, and sent even to Rhode Island during
the Siege, nor could the Eastern Governments supply the French Fleet at
Boston in all the Country east of the North River, but were obliged to transport
a great part of the flour from the Middle Colonies.

8th

If the Middle Colonies, which may be Justly considered as the Heart of America, as it is from thence every thing necessary for any army is drawn, be once reduced to the peace of the brason, which, it appears from the foregoing facts, may be done in less time and at less expence of blood and Treasure than the Eastern, the two extremes the Southern and Eastern Governments must fall off course. Because ^{by} the possession of the former all manner of connection and intercourse between the latter must be destroyed, the Union of force of the Confederacy be entirely Broken and their only resource for the supply of an Army with Provisions be lost.

9. The Indians are from Interest the faithful Allies of Great Britain and the Natural Enemies of the Americans, whose rapid Settlements made in their Country and the late proofs the latter have given of a determined Resolution to disregard the Royal Proclamation by their Encroachments upon the Lands over the Ohio, have convinced the Natives that Success in the present contest on the part of the Americans must terminate in their utter extirpation. A diminution of the Number of the Americans and a repulsion of them towards the Sea Coast is their true Interest. Besides these unhappy people yet retain a reliance on the protection of the Crown. Under this Confidence and upon these principles they have with great firmness refused, tho' warmly and repeatedly Solicited, to take up Arms for, or to join with, the American Confederacy, and adhered faithfully to their alliance with the Crown, and many of them are ready to Cooperate in reducing the Colonies to their former Obedience.

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The Rebel Army has diminished every Campaign since the war owing to a failure in their resources of Men arising from two principal causes, the Numbers of Men lost in the field and the increasing disaffection of the Country. In the year 1776, when an enthusiastic Spirit for Liberty prevailed, and ^{the} people were under the strongest Delusions the Congress sent into the field upwards of 30,000 Men, and giving

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but very small Bounties. In 1777 altho the Congress resolved to raise 87000, yet with all their Exertions and those of the new States, who became now more firmly established in their power, and by extravagant Bounties and excessive fines they were not able to form two armies of Regulars acting in Different parts to the amount of more than 16000. In 1778 by still more severe fines and extravagant Bounties they have not procured sufficient to make up their Number of Regulars more than 12000. In November 1776 by the Battles on Long Island and the White Plains and the March of the British Army to Trenton the Ground and only Army of the Rebels was reduced to 3300 and its whole force which at Morris Town in New Jersey during the winter did not amount to 6000 with the addition of the Jersey Militia, and some times much less; and when Washington Passed thro Philadelphia in August 1777 he had but 9500. 2500 after joining him from the Eastward, with which and all the Militia he could procure from New Jersey Pennsylvania Maryland and Virginia and the Delaware Counties, he could not muster at the Battle of Brandywine more than 15000 effective Men. and in the winter while they lay at the Valley Forge, this Number was reduced to less than 4000 effective Men.

11. . . . The meer penetrating into a Country with a Military Force, and afterwards retiring from it before a new establishment of Defence is formed in it, never yet finally Conquered it. as soon as it is deserted the disaffected in it will again unite in force, and resume their power over it, This was the late case of New Jersey. The Military or some of them as may be necessary must stay to retain it or a new Establishment of power must be formed within it for that purpose, One of these measures ever has been and must be adopted in the final and permanent Conquest of any Country . . .

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12 It is certainly no wise policy in the attempt to conquer any country especially one so extended as America and void of Garrison, and when a Military force cannot be spared by the invaders to defend them, to make use of the force within it if not to conquer to retain it, if such Force, well affected, may be found. Because by this Means every province or District of Territory may be secured and protected and the Main Army without much Diminution spared, to reduce the principal force of the Enemy and proceed in its other Conquests. Indeed no Country can with propriety be said to be effectually conquered until a Military force necessary to defend it and a Civil establishment to preserve its internal Peace be established within it.

Upon the foregoing Facts & principles it is
 Proposed

1st

That the Middle Colonies be the first and great Object of the Military Operations and Conquest. Because they are the most important, the weakest in regard to a Military force, the best affected to Government, the Source from whence the Enemy draw all their Supplies of provisions, and more capable of furnishing those Supplies to the British Army than any of the others; and because by a firm possession of them or any two of them the Union of the force of the Confederacy will be broke and the power of the other Colonies to maintain an Army Destroyed.

2^d

That there be an Army of ten or Twelve thousand Men as lightly accounted as possible to carry with them no more Baggage and Artillery than is absolutely Necessary. More than this Number of men cannot operate in America at one time in one place and this Number ever has been and will continue to be, considering the Difference in the Discipline of the British and American Troops, superior to any force the Americans have been, since the first Campaign, or will be able to collect, and the immense Baggage he has seen the same of the British Operations, and are not only unnecessary in a Country full of Provisions, but a great Obstruction to sudden and Quick Movements and Pursuits, without which nothing can ever be done with an Enemy as lightly accounted as possible and who perhaps ^{never} means to come to a decisive Action if they can avoid it.

With this Army Open the Campaign as early as possible in the Spring. At this Season the Enemy ever has been and will be the weakest. They cannot collect their force from the Distant Colonies to recruit their Army until the Beginning of Summer, and their Army ever has been wasted by sickness, hard Duty and Desertions. at the end and in the winter after, every Campaign. — Let this Army enter the Colony intended to be reduced and if the enemy be there, as he undoubtedly will give him Battle and pursue a victory with the light Troops until he is either effectually Destroyed or drove out of the Colony. This done do not Desert the Colony. The whole Army should remain in it if Necessary until it is done, ~~but~~ this will scarcely ever be the case. A few Troops to assist the Governor in performing the Duties pointed out in the next proposal will only be necessary. — The Deserting a Colony once entered before it is effectually reduced, the Officers both Civil and Military seized, the disaffected disarmed, the powers of

the New Government finally destroyed, and the Authority of the Crown firmly established for the Protection of the People, is doing nothing and worse than Nothing. It gives the Rebel State an opportunity of Recovering itself, of Collecting again its Force and leading it to Action. It encourages the disaffected and throws the well affected into Despondency.

3^o

In order to execute what is recommended in the last proposal. Let a Governor be appointed vested with all the powers of Government Civil and Military with Orders to enter the Province with the Army, having to attend and Assist him and under his sole command a party of the Military, 800 or 1000 Men will be sufficient in any of the Middle or Southern Colonies while the main Army of the Rebel is opposed by the British. Upon his first entry into the Colony he should issue a proclamation, inviting and declaring it lawful for all his Majesty's well affected Subjects to take up arms and to join & assist him in seizing upon and bringing in the Officers of the new States, and Disarming the disaffected to Government, with a reward offered for the apprehending the most important and Mischievous among them. A pardon should be promised to all the disaffected who should bring in their Arms and submit to the Crown, with or without exceptions, as prudence and reason shall dictate, with a declaration that all those who should decline to do so should be considered as guilty of High Treason and treated accordingly. The proclamation should also contain an assurance that the Province should not be deserted nor the Friends to Government left without Protection untill the Colony be fully secured and restored to Order and the Peace of the Crown. The desertion of New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the great number of

Friends to Government, who were active in its behalf, and
fell a cruel sacrifice to their Enemies, renders this assurance
absolutely Necessary to recover their lost confidence.

With the beforementioned party of Regulars and the great
Number of the well affected to government who now grow
tired of, and Desperate under, the intolerable Tyranny of the
New States, ^{will} join them, the Powers of the new States would
be soon Destroyed, the Officers seized, the Peace of the Crown
restored and the Colony put into a proper and secure State of
Defence against every thing but the enemies Main Army.

More effectually to quiet the Minds of the people and
to reconcile them to the Crown, another proclamation should be
Issued by the Governor containing a plan of the intended civil
Government, at least the general principles thereof, founded
in all respects on those principles of Freedom which form the
Basis of the British Government. This is what all the well
affected Gentlemen of Weight and influence in the Colonies
wish for and expect; and if done it will induce them with
Cheerfulness and firmness to exert their influence in favour
of Government, and that establishment which will be so
much to be preferred to the one under which they now suffer
every Species of Oppression.

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To Aid and facilitate the foregoing Operations, to keep
the Militias in the Eastern Colonies at home and make a
Diversion in favour of the Main Design. A Corps of Troops
from two to 4000 as shall be the ^{thought} most expedient, in
Transports under the Convoy of a few Frigates should be employed
in making continual Raids on the new England Coasts,
seizing or destroying their Ships of war and Merchantmen in

their Harbours, and reducing their sea port Towns, taking Hostages for their Future good Conduct. The Destruction of their naval Force and Trade with their sea port Towns in case they should not submit to Government will prevent their sending assistance to the Middle Colonies, keep their Militia in constant alarm and at Home, and contribute greatly to make them tired of the War, if not induce them to submit in the end to the British Government.

Another party of 1000 men under the Conduct of the vigilant Man of War, one Frigate and two or three Gallies can with ease penetrate into the Heart of Virginia and Maryland, up all their Rivers and Bays which are for the most part without Defence of any consequence and destroy every Vessel either Building or fit for Sea - Seize on their Towns and take Hostages for their Submission to Government.

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Besides the beforementioned Measures, another of the first consequence to the easy and expeditious reduction of the Colonies should accompany them, which altogether would render it impossible for them in their present reduced State, to hold out more than one Campaign, Provided they are not too late in the Execution and care be taken that they are carried into Execution at the same time.

Let Bells of Wampum with proper Messages be immediately sent to all the Western and Northern Indians, assuring them of his Majesty's protection and firm adherence to the Treaties subsisting between them, and more especially that of 1763 respecting the establishment of their ^{Boundaries;} that every encroachment on their Lands shall be given up and inviting them to furnish a Number of fighting Men to act with a few of the British

troops, under the command of British Officers against the
Frontiers of the Middle Colonies, while the Main Army is --
operating in their internal parts, in the same manner as was
done under Col: Butler and Cap^o Brent in the last Summer

It is conceived and indeed it is the opinion of all
men of Sense in America who are Friends to the British
Government with whom I have conversed that the Spirits of
the Colonists, already worn down by the Distress of War and
the Oppression of the New States, could not withstand such
Attacks from every quarter but would soon submit to the
British Government.

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