

**WASHINGTON IN PHILADELPHIA.**

[Two Original Letters from Washington, Contributed to Our Daily Fare.]

BY BENSON J. LOSSING.

EDITOR OF OUR DAILY FARE:

I send you two unpublished letters of Gen. WASHINGTON to Gen. SCHUYLER, now lying before me. They respectively, have a local interest for us both, one having been written at Poughkeepsie, and the other at Philadelphia.

The first of the subjoined letters was written ten days before the British evacuated the city of New York, at the close of the Revolution. WASHINGTON had received a verbal message from SIR GUY CARLETON, on the 6th of November, at Rocky Hill, New Jersey, announcing his intention to withdraw his army from New York, as early as possible. At that time, a part of the Continental Army was at West Point, on the Hudson, under General KNOX, and WASHINGTON proceeded to that post to make preparations for the evacuation. On the 14th of November he went from West Point to Poughkeepsie, twenty-four miles further up the Hudson, where GEORGE CLINTON, the Governor of New York, had his official residence; and in consequence of the interview between these public officers on the evening of the 14th, CLINTON, on the following day issued a proclamation, giving notice of the intended departure of the British. On the same day, WASHINGTON wrote the subjoined letter:

The second letter was written while WASHINGTON was on a visit to Philadelphia, a year before his death. At that time, war with France was expected, and WASHINGTON had accepted the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Provisional Army then raised or about to be raised for the occasion, on the condition that General ALEXANDER HAMILTON (alluded to in the letter) should be the acting general-in-chief in the field. At the time when he wrote the subjoined letter, he was in consultation with General HAMILTON, PINCKNEY, and others, concerning the organization of the army.

*Poughkeepsie, June, 1864.*

B. J. L.

[COPY.]

"POUGHKEEPSIE, 15th Nov., 1783.

DEAR SIR:—It gives me great pleasure to inform you that SIR GUY CARLETON has announced to me his intention to relinquish the forts he holds on York Island from Kingsbridge to McGavan's Pass inclusive, on the 21st inst.; Herrick and Hampstead, with all to the eastward on Long Island on the same day, and, if possible, to give up the city, with Brooklyn, on the day following; and Paulus' Hook, Denyces and Staten Island as soon afterward as practicable.

"From this disposition I have great hopes that in case no accident should happen, I shall have it in my power to congratulate you on

the full possession of this state by its Government before the close of the present month.

"With the greatest esteem, I am, dear sir,  
Your most obe't, humble servant,  
GEO. WASHINGTON.

The best respects to Mrs. SCHUYLER and your fireside.

Major-General SCHUYLER."

[COPY.]

PHILADELPHIA, 4th Dec., 1798.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have been honored with your letter of the 20th ult., and congratulate you, very sincerely, on the favorable change you have lately experienced (as I have been informed) in your health.

"I wish it may be perfectly restored.

"I persuade myself, that it is unnecessary for me to add that, if health and other circumstances had enabled you and Mrs. SCHUYLER to have visited Mrs. WASHINGTON and myself, at Mount Vernon, it would have been considered as a most pleasing and flattering evidence of your regard; and the more so, as neither she nor I, ever expects to be more than twenty-five miles from that retreat, during the remnant of our lives.

"But, strange to relate, here I am! buried in scenes far removed and foreign from any I had contemplated when I quitted the chair of Government.

"Your grandson, Mr. CHURCH, has all the exterior of a fine young man, and, from what I have heard of his intellects and principles, will do justice to and reward the precepts he has received from yourself, his parents, and Uncle HAMILTON. So far, then, as my attentions to him will go, consistent with my other duties, he may surely count upon me.

"I pray you to present me (and I am sure Mrs. WASHINGTON would unite in them if she was here) to Mrs. SCHUYLER, in the most respectful terms, and let me pray you to be assured of the sincere esteem, regard, and wishes of the most affectionate kind, of

"Dear, sir, your most obedient and

"Very humble servant,

"G. WASHINGTON.

"PHILIP SCHUYLER, Esq."

**A NOBLE TESTIMONIAL.**

The following letter from a soldier tells "briefly and bravely" what the Sanitary is doing:

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 4, 1864.

Miss \_\_\_\_\_, Member of Ladies Executive Committee of Central Fair of Sanitary Commission:

For the past two months on arduous duty, and often compelled to seek shelter in the tents of the Sanitary Commission, I have often intended to acknowledge my obligations to that organization through the press, but want of time, together with other causes, has as often

prevented my doing so. And, to-day, accident, rather than anything else, prompts my acknowledgments, and to you. On duty at Alexandria, Va., engaged in distributing recruits to the several armies now in the field, I have often found myself with detachments of men, when night was falling around me, with no place of shelter, and never yet have I applied to the Sanitary Commission in vain. The accommodations they provide are not—cannot be—excelled in the army, while those in charge are always kind and obliging. Until the last bed is full, until the last blanket is exhausted, and the last vacant space on the floor is occupied, no soldier, either sick or well, is turned away. The amount of expense incurred is necessarily great, but the good done is more than proportionate. In no possible way can money for the alleviation of misery and suffering in the army be so well applied. I speak from my own experience, better than that of many others, from the fact that I have been, in the discharge of my duties, to every corps, and to nearly every division and brigade in the Army of the Potomac. More than the foregoing is deserved, less I could not say and be just.

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM AUSTIN,  
1st Lt. Co. G, 107th N. Y. Vols.

**THE ART GALLERY.**

Among the most remarkable features of the Fair, the Art Gallery deserves special mention. A single room, four hundred feet in length, is of itself a wonder; but when we think of it as lined at the distance of from three to ten feet from the ground with excellent pictures, it will be readily admitted that no exhibition of the kind was ever before witnessed in America. And these pictures are truly excellent, having been, notwithstanding their vast number, carefully selected. Had the Committee on Art taken *all* which were available, they might have filled a gallery of twice the size of the present one. The best private collections from Boston to the Border have contributed their treasures, thanks to the Committee, aided by the indefatigable exertions of Messrs. JOSEPH HARRISON and JAMES L. CLAGHORN, who did all in their power to ascertain where the choicest pictures were to be found. This part of the Fair alone is in reality well worth far more than the price of admission.

**OUR HISTORY OF THE SANITARY FAIRS.**

We give on our leading page the first of a series of articles by Mr. Charles Stillé, devoted to a history of the Sanitary Fairs which have been held in this country. We believe that we are guilty of no idle vaunt when we venture to commend these papers to our readers as one of the most valuable records of the *domestic* history of our war ever written.