

(C I R C U L A R.)

To the Officers of the 5th and 6th Brigades
of the Militia of North-Carolina.

GENTLEMEN,

A CONTINUED system of tyranny, injustice and depredation on the part of the French nation, has at length produced a crisis which demands the serious attention of every friend to the honour and safety of our country. Every measure has been attempted by the Executive to preserve peace, that could be considered consistent with those duties, which as President of the United States, he owed to the rights and character of a free and independent people: These overtures, pressed with sincerity on the part of government, and supported by the wishes of the people of America, have been rejected with contempt and answered with insult and outrage. You must now therefore be convinced, that nothing can protect us from the rapacious ambition of France but "energy & arms," and that the period has arrived, when the interest, the character and sovereignty of the United States must be again staked on the spirit of the people; and no American will surely balance a moment between war even with all its evils, and a base dastardly surrender of our national honour and independence.

The humiliating system of "suffering" and concession has already disgraced our councils, and debased our national character; and that high rank which we lately held in the estimation of nations, is not to be recovered but by an active display of the spirit and energy of the people. In our present situation all disputes on speculative points, should be laid aside, harmony of sentiment and mutual deference of opinion should be assiduously cultivated; and when the question is between our *own government* and that of a *foreign nation*, the decision of that authority which has been made the constitutional organ of the public will, should be obeyed with alacrity and executed with zeal: The pride of individual opinion, the obliquity of minorities, and the gloomy spirit of party, are the engines used by the diplomatic skill of our enemy to disseminate jealousies, destroy official confidence, and create domestic factions—the avenues through which foreign influence, that destroying angel of republics, never fails to enter.

The American unites in his character the duties and attributes of the soldier and citizen, and we are all equally bound by the ties of nature and social duty to support the government, at a crisis like the present, with our lives and fortunes; but the laws have more particularly consigned to the officers the sacred trust of avenging the injuries, and defending the honour of their country; and it is only by a faithful and punctilious discharge of that duty, an officer can render himself worthy of commanding his fellow citizens, either in the tranquility of peace or amidst the dangers of war.

As the government of our country has been compelled to abandon all hopes of peace with the French nation upon honourable terms, and has thought proper to announce the necessity of preparing for war, it is therefore incumbent upon me to call your attention to the active and vigilant discharge of those duties which belong to your respective stations, and I rely with confidence upon that ardent and enlightened patriotism, which I so often witnessed during the late war, to evince to the world that the exertions of the militia will always be commensurate with the exigencies of their country, and that the spirit which established our *national independence*, will be adequate to the protection of our *national rights*.

W. R. DAVIE,

Major General of the 3d division.

Halifax, June 25th, 1798.

DIVISION ORDERS.

THE General relies upon the zeal and patriotism of the officers and men under his command to supply at this momentous period the defects of our militia law, and to ensure a prompt and punctual execution of the following orders.

The days of muster and exercise should be increased and strictly observed, and the men required to be early on the ground; and when a regiment or battalion parades for exercise, they will perform the usual firings and wheelings by divisions and platoons, that the commanding officer may see whether the Captains do their duty; but his attention is expressly required to the important object of instructing and exercising the regiment or battalion in the formation and displaying of columns. At the muster of a company, the officers are hereby particularly required, in addition to the manual exercise and firings, to exercise their companies in marching to the front, in marching by files, and in wheeling enure, and by platoons.

The General depending upon the spirit and activity of the officers of the cavalry, expects that the utmost exertions will be made to complete their respective corps; that the Captains will consider themselves bound in duty to have their companies instructed and exercised in the various movements which such a body is capable of performing, such as marching in front—filing—inclining—wheeling—breaking and forming squadron.

The commanding officers of the cavalry are required to assemble their regiments as often as possible, and to take effectual measures to have them instructed and trained in the movements of a regiment, particularly in forming open and close column—deploying into line—changing position, by the march of the line to front, and the schellon march. The want of attention to these duties heretofore was not a matter of much consequence, but some knowledge of these first elements of the military science, is indispensable in our present situation.

It is expected the officers will hereafter always appear properly armed and equipped, either from a principle of public spirit or a sense of legal duty; and they are hereby required to put the law rigorously in force with respect to arms, having a due regard to the situation of the person, and the means of procuring them at present.

The state of the arms and equipments are to be accurately ascertained and reported, particularly distinguishing the muskets and rifles; and the annual return must be made by the Brigadier-Generals before the first day of October.

It is to be considered as a standing order, that when an officer commanding a regiment or a battalion is obliged to be absent from his usual residence more than fifteen days, that he shall give the officer commanding the brigade timely notice of it; so that as little difficulty as possible may occur in the distribution and execution of orders: And when a Brigadier-General has occasion to be absent for that length of time, he will take care to inform the General of it, the with name and place of residence of the officer entitled to the command of the brigade in his absence.

The attention of the Field-Officers is requested to the organization of their regiments, the companies should be equalised as near as possible in point of strength; and all vacancies of commissioned officers should be immediately filled with men of known patriotism and determined bravery.

The various duties of the soldier and the officer cannot be prescribed or detailed by law; but it is always presumed that the spirit and intelligence of the officer will be adequate to the emergency, and the public safety must often be his guide—thus at this moment, our safety requires the most vigilant attention to the manoeuvres of the agents and emissaries of our enemy, and makes it a duty with you to repel with promptitude every insinuation that might tend to divide the sentiment or damp the ardour of the people; and your incessant attention is demanded to diffuse that confidence which is every where the essence of bravery, and upon which you must rely on the day of battle.

A true copy from the Orders issued by Major-General

DAVIE the 25th of June, 1798
Wm. E. JOHNSTON, Aid-de-Camp.