



The Army correspondence of Colonel John Laurens in the years 1777-8 (Eyewitness accounts of the American Revolution)

John Laurens

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Book may have numerous typos, missing text, images, or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1867. Excerpt: ... when a 64 gun ship came up and put an end to the contest; but not before he had given two or three such fires as Barry's situation, relatively to the British frigate, allowed. Our brave captain then avoided violating his oath by running his ship on shoar at Seal island, and keeping up a fire from four guns which he brought to bear in his stern, 'till he got out his boats and some baggage. He made his escape with eighty hands; the rest were to shift for themselves by landing. Ten who concealed themselves have escaped since; one, an Englishman, remained on board and extinguished the fire which Barry put to the ship in order to destroy her, by which means she was saved, and the enemy got her off. If the Marquis de Lafayette goes to Europe, it is probable that he will take a great many of his countrymen with him. It is almost certain that many of them will be very troublesome to Congress for certificates. Duplessis applied to me the other day to obtain him a furlough for Philadelphia, and to give him a certificate of his having behaved well at the battle of Monmouth, that he might go and signify his design to Congress of retiring from service. I replied that he had no need of an introduction to the President if he had any business with Congress, that he already had a most honourable certificate from them, and that if he wanted a final certificate at going away, the Commander in chief was the proper person to apply to. The commissions which Congress have applied so liberally have destroyed the value of rank which is the ostensible reward of merit, and have done great injustice to many brave and experienced officers who have found themselves on a par with, or but one remove from some of their countrymen who had no pretensions to rank of any kind. The only reparation that can be made, and ...

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