Boston 12 July 1775

When you read in the papers an account of the late battle on Charleston Heights, it will give you satisfaction to get intelligence that I am in the land of the living. I could not escape quite safe, but being obliged to advance in the very front of the works, I had a hair-breadth escape of being shot there. The thigh, luckily for me, the ball struck on a large bunch of keys that I had that day contrary to custom, put into my breeches pocket, which changed the line of direction; one of the keys was almost buried in my thigh, and occasions a great confusion that makes me very lame; yet I quitted not the field nor missed any part of my duty. I doubt not but my sister Jutkey has given you and the rest of my friends a particular account of the action, to whom I wrote immediately after; but I erred very largely in my list of the killed and wounded on our side, as I only made it from my own conjecture and observation, and no returns had then been given in to the Commander in Chief of the losses of the several Regiments; I mentioned our having lost in killed and wounded five hundred men, sorry am I to contradict that report, for on a minute examination I find our numbers are more than double. General Howe who commanded that day had about two thousand men and six pieces of cannon; the rebels had upwards of six on their Redoubt and Breast works; all the houses of Charleston were lined with men, and
Hitherto, my informations have fell on the menaces, fury, and hostile manoeuvres in the Massachusetts Bay, but by the tenor of the King's speech, which is just arrived, the tempest, big with terror and thunder from Great Britain, seems ready to burst on the heads of this seditious crew. This an undoubted truth that they have long determined and been preparing to shake off obedience to England by rebelling; and they are stimulated thereto by the discontents and disunion of our Parliament, and by a confidence in their own riches and numbers. In their common discourses and publications they call England an exhausted nation irretrievably sunk in profusion and luxury, an old matron in her dotage, and the Ministers tyrants and traitors to its people.

Mr. Samuel Adams, the head and director of their affairs here, on hearing the speech read, allowed his sentiments by declaring the King could not have made the more satisfactory had he stood at his elbow to dictate it, for now he should have the much wished for opportunity of proving the virtue of his countrymen. Paul Long ere this the decisions of the Grand Continental Congress must have reached home, which will enable the nation to judge for themselves; we on this side the water think their resolves are direct treason. How were all moderate men disappointed and disgrac'd at the votes and proceedings of that Assembly! for it was
expected, they would weigh matters with cool deliberation, south and oppose the fury of the deluded people, and with reason and judgement strive to heal & conciliate the differences between the mother country & America. This was what was expected from them, instead of which by their seditious, violent proceedings they have incited the people to rebel, have widened the breach of misunderstandings, and by their highly increased demands have rendered an accommodation impossible. But there are a few secrets relative to the Congress not known in England. They settled, previous to their doing in any business, that no votes of dissentients should appear in their books; that whatever was discussed and carried by the majority, every member should set his name to, and this design was to impose on the world that in every vote all were unanimous and approving. The first motion that was agitated was a proposal to bid defiance to the King and Parliament and to set up two republics, one at Philadelphia, and the other in the Massachusetts Bay; but this was so strongly opposed by the New York delegates, who threatened to withdraw and expose the proceeding, that the point was dropped for the present. It is likewise known beyond contradiction that the evening they paused the Association. List of grievances, Bill of Rights, and the Suffolk Resolves, they were all excessively drunk each man having swallowed thirty-two bumpyers of Madeira besides other liquors. This was a plan expressly laid by the above Adams, who shifted the bottle himself.
to get the rest to sign when their reason had forsaken them; and least they should rescind their votes when sober, he had them sent off for Boston that very night. For this trick they then resolved to do no more business after dinner. Indeed this was the man that managed the whole Congress, for they say he is another Oliver Cromwell and his crafty genius is superior to any one on this continent. There is another Resolute just published forbidding the people of these provinces under the penalty of death, to remain ruin and being treated as inveterate enemies if they furnish the troops quartered in Boston with any of the following articles to enable them to take the field in the spring, namely, straw, timber, boards, spars, intrenching tools, pickets, tent-poles, cannon, brick, iron, canvas, wagons, carriages, with horses or oxen, for draught, or any materials for field equipage, as for the article of straw, they never have allowed the regiments to be furnished with it, and the men lie on hay, but now they allege that the straw will be wanting for their own troops. In my last letter to my aunt of Jan. 25, I mentioned an account of a riot that happened between some Officers and the town which the former were examined before the mock justices, and no many witnesses swore that the townsmen were the aggressors by their insulting and beginning the attack, yet the officers were loaded by the court with the highest censure and reproach, and were ordered to prison, but that they escaped by giving in bail for their appearance at the next assizes. I have the happiness to tell you that my Hope and our little Betty are perfectly recovered, you will find Hope and our little Betty are perfectly recovered, so wishing you all health, I remain with duty to love to my friend and so: Robert, dear Madam. Your most obt. humble servant. A. F.