LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS FROM THE "CLYMER PAPERS."

[During the Revolution Daniel Clymer served as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth Battalion Philadelphia Associators, Colonel Timothy Matlack, 1775; Lieutenant-Colonel of the Rifle Battalion Philadelphia Associators, 1776, at the Flying Camp, Perth Amboy, N. J., and in 1777 his battalion was attached to the Philadelphia Brigade, General John Cadwalader. In 1778 he was appointed Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners. Some of the letters and documents relative to these positions are in the Manuscript Department of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

SIR.

Your favor of yesterday, I received in the afternoon and was much obliged by the contents. The 27–24 pounders are an important acquisition, and may be made extremely useful. If the Field pieces were thrown into Timber Creek, I should suppose, they may be found by care & pains. They will be of great value if they can be got, and are worth a diligent search.

From the accounts I have had, the Enemy certainly left some behind in their retreat.

I am Sir

Yr Most Obed. Ser.

G* WASHINGTON.

Head Qr
October 27th 1777
To Col. D. Clymer.

HEAD QUARTERS 11th November 1777.

SIR.

I have received your Letter of the 4th containing an apology for sending an agreeable piece of Intelligence which you have since discovered to be false—mistakes of this kind are not uncommon and most frequently happen to those whose zeal and sanguineness allow no room for
Scepticism when anything favorable to their Country is plausibly related— I beg you to be persuaded that my good opinion of you is not at all impaired by this circumstance and that I am as before

Your most obed' Serv'

G° Washington.

Daniel Clymer Esq'

Daniel Clymer Esq' Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners has permission to pass to Philadelphia with Twelve Head of Cattle, Thirty two Barrels of Flour and a parcel of Baggage for the Use of the American prisoners there.

Given at Head Quarters at the Valley Forge the 2d day of January 1778.

G° Washington.

To save the trouble of repeated orders, Gen° Irvine will be so obliging as to furnish Mr. Clymer D° Commissary of Prisoners with necessary guards to escort prisoners of war, whenever he shall need them, of such men whose times of service is near expiring.

Head Quarters }

Nov' 25 1777  }

TIM. PICKERING Adj° Genl.

N. York April 11° 1783

SIR

To the Best of my Belief my Brother Charles James Fox, was born in the Month of March 1749.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant,

Fox.

— Ogden Esq'

The Rifle Battalion of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia during their stay at Perth and South Amboy under
the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Clymer, having behaved well and as good Soldiers are hereby discharged and ordered to return home—they having furnished their Quota of the Flying Camp—they have at the same Time my hearty Thanks for their Services whilst under my Command, and are dismissed with Honor.

Hugh Mercer
Br. Genl
Perth Amboy Augst 24 1776.

To all Continental Officers & others whom it may Concern.
Permit Daniel Clymer Esq' to Pass and Repass without any hindrance or Interruptions.
Given under my Hand
at Philadelphia this Twenty eighth
Day of August 1777
John Hancock Presd'.

Old Friend

Philadelphia Sep' 1786.

I enclose you a publication of mine on the Affairs of the State. It was my intention at the conclusion of the War to have laid down the Pen and satisfied myself with silently beholding the prosperity of a Country, in whose difficulties I had borne my share, and in the raising of which, to an Independant Empire, I had added my mite. But it is easier to wish than to obtain the object wished for, and we readily resolve on what is afterwards difficult to execute.

Instead of that tranquility which the Country required and might have enjoyed, and instead of that internal prosperity which her independant situation put her in the power to possess, she has suffered herself to be rent into Factions, and sacrificed her interest to gratify her passions.

The proceedings of the Legislature for these two years past are marked with such vehemence of party spirit and rancarous prejudice, that it is impossible any country can thrive or flourish under such manifest misconduct.
I have often been at a loss to account for the conduct of the people where no visible interest appeared to direct them, and where it has been evident to me that the consequences of their own conduct would operate against themselves.

I can easily account for a great part of the conduct of several of the distant Back county Members. They are not affected by matters which operate within the old settled parts of the State. They are not only beyond the reach and circle of that commercial intercourse which takes place between all the Counties on this side the Susquehanna and Philadelphia, but they are entirely within the circle commerce belonging to another State, that of Baltimore. Some of them may probably think that it would be no disadvantage to their situations if the Delaware, through which all the produce of the counties east of Susquehanna must be exported, were shut up. Some parts of their conduct cannot be fully accounted for without taking this envious disposition into the calculation. By attacking the Bank they have caused a considerable part of its Cash to be drawn out and removed to Baltimore by the holders of Bank Notes at that place; and if they could affect a total dissolution of it at Philadelphia, and see one established at Baltimore, it would then be all very well. You would hear no more of their complaints against Banks.

On this Ground their conduct in this Affair is easily accounted for. But on what ground the members of your County could join them in the business is very difficult to determine. Berks County can have no other channel through which her produce can be exported than thro' the Delaware, and no other market to draw hard money from than from Philadelphia. She cannot go to Baltimore. I have often been surprised that your Members should not have discernment enough to perceive this. It is one of those matters you should see yourselves rather than be told of. It is a misfortune to the State that her commerce is subject to this division, but since it is so and cannot be otherwise, it is but fair that one part should see what the other is doing.
I have an aversion to touch on matters which have in themselves the nature of discord and division. But in this case it can be no otherwise than it is, and the best remedy is that you be on your guard.

I wish [torn] to see all the Counties of the State in full Prosperity; But I have a dislike to see one part privately and enviously working against the other and I would as readily do the same part towards them as I do now towards you did I see the same occasion.

I hope the ensuing elections will put an end to these matters, and if there can be no way found to reconcile parties, let them at least stand on fair ground with each other.

I am with
Respect and Comps to yourself & Friends

Dan' Clymer Esq' Your Ob' Hble Servant

THOMAS PAIN.