

George Washington to Samuel H. Parsons, March 29, 1777, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

***To BRIGADIER GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS**

Morris Town, March 29, 1777.

Sir: The Situation of our Affairs again compells me to call upon you in express, and positive terms, to hasten the Troops of your State (those Inlisted for the Continent I mean) to Peekskill, or head Quarters, without one moments loss of time. I do not mean by this to interrupt the Inoculation of them; but, that nothing which can facilitate the March of the whole, or part (under proper Officers) may be left unattempted. I also mean that the Conduct of the Recruiting Officers should be closely attended to, as I have but too much reason to believe that Idleness and dissipation engrosses too much of their time for the Public Weal; Characters of this kind will be mark'd.

I shall expect to hear from you by the Post, every Week, and am, etc.¹

¹ notation on this letter says, "The same to Maj. Gen. William Heath directing the Massachusetts troops to Peekskill and Ticonderoga agreeable to former orders." (The letter sent to Heath, however, varied considerably from this. See following letter.) "The same to Brig. Gen. James Mitchell Varnum, directing the Rhode Island troops to Peekskill or Headquarters."