

**George Washington to Louis le Beque du Portail,
Chevalier Derford, August 27, 1778, The Writings of
George Washington from the Original Manuscript
Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈEQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, White Plains, August 27, 1778.

Sir: You will proceed as speedily as convenient to the Highlands and examine the several fortifications carrying on there for the defence of the North River. When you have done this, you will make me a full report of their state and progress, with your opinion of any alterations or additions which may appear to you necessary in improvement of the present plan. In doing this, you will of course consider the labor and expence which have been already incurred, the advanced season of the year and the resources of the Country for carrying any plan which may be formed into execution.

It is my wish you should also take measures without delay for executing the instructions given you the of June last relative to a plan for the defence of the River Delaware and the City of Philadelphia; in performing which, you will also view the subject in a maritime point of light, in order, as far as natural circumstances will permit, to provide a secure Port, capable of excluding the enemy's vessels and receiving and protecting our own or those of our allies. To this end you will make such arrangements as the state of your department and the good of the service will best warrant. I am &ca.¹

¹The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. Capt. Samuel Colston, of the Fifth Virginia Regiment, dangerously wounded a civilian in an altercation. French Highman wrote to General Muhlenberg on August 27, by direction of Washington, that Colston should be put in safe custody, befitting his rank, to await the issue, as the

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civil authorities would doubtless demand a trial should the injured man die. Milghman's letter is in the Washington Papers. (See Washington's letter to Gov. George Clinton, Sept. 1, 1778, post.)