

P. S. Had I not been much indisposed I would have done c. s. c. myself the Honour to have attended you myself.

[Graham to Steward.]

Lower Marlbro 21<sup>t</sup> Nov. 1776.

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

M<sup>r</sup> Forbes was at Court. He says he can engage 10 to 20.000 pounds of Beef at the prices you mention 3<sup>d</sup> to 3½ but it must be sent for next week, as the people who have it will not feed it and without feeding the Beef will fall away now. He cannot engage to cure it. You must send salt and casks to take it away. There is a good deal of Pork in that neighbourhood, some ask 3/. others say they will take market price. If you will give Directions he will engage that too. He has no one to assist in looking after the curing of meat and therefore any comm. on the purchase will not make it worth his while to undertake that part of the Business.

T. King carried your letter and the cash to Kinsey on Tuesday night. M<sup>r</sup> Forbes had no Inclination to go to Virginia. I shall be glad to hear from you, and you must give M<sup>r</sup> Forbes notice to engage the Beef.

M<sup>r</sup> Stephen Steward }  
West River }

D<sup>r</sup> Sir  
Your ready Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Charles Graham.

[Chase to Council.]

Original.

Philad<sup>a</sup> Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1776.  
Thursday Evening

Gentlemen.

Congress have not received any further particulars of the Loss of fort Washington, than the account published Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Capt. Ramsey arrived here this afternoon. I am informed by D<sup>r</sup> Rush, that he relates the affair in this manner (from Colonel Cadwallader, who is released by the Enemy without any Parole, on the Request of General Prescott, for the civilities & attendance of his father, the Doctor, on the General when a prisoner in this city) That fort Washington could not contain any thing near the number of our Troops ordered for its Defence. That there were two lines thrown up, the first at a considerable distance from the Fort, the second (and by far the strongest and capable of holding all the Garrison) much nearer to the fort. Our Troops were posted chiefly in the first Lines and were there attacked by the british Troops, at this time a large Body of Hessians crossed Harlem River, and landed within the second lines, there not being