

decade of this century by the family of the father of Admiral John Lorimer Worden when he was a boy. Neglected and weather-stained, the plainly fashioned building, once exteriorly clad with heavy shingles, is now curiously viewed as a quaint architectural relic of colonial times.

Writing to Gouverneur Morris, from his Fishkill head-quarters, on Sunday, October 4, 1778, Washington reveals his thoughts regarding the financial perils threatening the existence of the infant republic:

"Can *we* carry on the war much longer? Certainly No, unless some measures can be devised and speedily executed to restore the credit of our currency, restrain extortion, and punish forestallers. Without these can be effected, what funds can stand the present expenses of the army? And what officer can bear the weight of the prices that every necessary article is now got to? A rat in the shape of a horse is not to be bought at this time for less than £200; a saddle under thirty or forty; boots twenty,—and shoes and other articles in the like proportion."¹

Continental money became so depreciated that a dollar of the currency had no greater value than three or four cents. Congress was compelled, in 1779, to authorize the issue of two hundred millions of paper money. "The first six months of 1779 was a severe test of the endurance of the bankrupt republic, and an equally severe test of the patriotism of the southern states, which began to feel the pressure from rapidly augmenting hostile forces, while the general government was powerless to render them adequate aid for defence. Thus far the campaign had been exhaustive without many critical issues to arouse the people to a passionate resistance.

"One single demonstration was made by General Clinton, which seemed to have in view the reduction of the Highland posts, and this confirmed the policy of Washington in retaining his army in such a position that he could quickly reach the Hudson River. On the thirteenth of May, General Clinton ascended the river, accompanied by General Vaughan, under convoy of the fleet of Sir George Collier, and took possession of Verplanck's Point and Stony Point. The latter post was being fortified, but by a very small force, entirely inadequate to resist a naval attack. It really had little defensive value, but the two posts taken together formed the lower passage to the Highlands, and their occupation by the British would be a standing menace to West Point. * * * *

an agreeable neighborhood, three miles and a half from Fish-kill town, on the main road to Poughkeepsie; consisting of 188½ acres of choice land. * * * * WILLIAM SMITH.

"January 21, 1782."

The New York Packet and the American Advertiser. Thursday, January 24, 1782. Fishkill: Printed by Samuel Loudon.

¹Itinerary of General Washington from June 15, 1775, to December 23, 1783. By William S. Baker. 1892, p. 141.