

a stinging blow that he expected Washington would soon move on toward Philadelphia and retake the city. Writing to John McClure, a Baltimore merchant, on October 10, Gist stated: "We are now on our march to gain them a second time. Our troops are in good spirits and make no doubt of carrying the point. I shall take possession of the City Tavern, dance a minuet with Miss Footman, and in the interem if I hear from you will furnish you with particulars."

No one questioned Washington's complex plan to capture Howe's army at Germantown, and the commander in chief's reputation was even enhanced by the defeat. On October 8 Congress resolved unanimously, "That the thanks of Congress be given to General Washington, for his wise and well concerted attack upon the enemy's army near Germantown...and to the officers and soldiers of the army, for their brave exertions on that occasion...." The following day, James Dean wrote to Philip Schuyler that "General Washington most certainly has no Leisure at present. This last Affair [Germantown] has rais'd his Reputation very much indeed; and I think very deservedly...."

If Washington and his men, and Congress as well, were pleased with the outcome of the Battle of Germantown, they were soon to receive news that would make them ecstatic. On October 16 Washington received a dispatch from General Putnam, which Putnam had received from General Clinton the night before. The letter read (See Document of the Month):

Albany 15th Oct. 1777

Last Night, at 8 oclock, the Capitulation whereby General Burgoyne and the whole Army, surrendered themselves Prisoners of War was signed; and this Morning, they were to march out towards the River above Fishers Creek with the Honours of War (and there ground their arms). They are from thence to be marched to Massachusett's Bay. We congratulate you on this happy Event

Wednesday Evening
10 oclock

George Clinton

According to one observer, although "the particulars had not yet been received," the account was considered "so well authenticated, that Gen. Washington on receiving the intelligence ordered 13 Cannon to be fired, and the Bells in this Town rang for hours." Washington forwarded the note from Clinton on to Congress, where it was received on Sunday,