

Governor Johnson from Baltimore:

Mr. Thomas Plunket...came last night from Lancaster, and says he saw the Capitulation with General Burgoyne, there was 1 Lieut. General, 2 Major Generals, 7 Brigadiers, 3 English & 1 Irish Lord[s], 5000 Rank & File, 2500 Stand of Arms, & 40 pieces Brass Cannon. I suppose we shall get it tomorrow or next day from Congress. Nothing from our army later than Mr. Jones Letter.

One of the most anxious and increasingly annoyed members of Congress was John Adams, who, on October 28 reported to Mrs. Adams:

We have been three days soaking and poaching in the heaviest rain that has been known for several years, and what adds to the gloom is, the uncertainty in which we remain to this moment, concerning the fate of Gates and Burgoyne. We are out of patience. It is impossible to bear this suspense with any temper.

Bearing witness to his own loss of patience, Adams concluded his letter by noting:

I am in comfortable lodgings, which is a felicity that has fallen to the lot of a very few of our members. Yet the house where I am is so thronged, that I cannot enjoy such accommodations as I wish. I cannot have a room as I used [to have], and therefore cannot find opportunities to write as I once did.

Gate's long awaited account of the events at Saratoga finally arrived on October 31, as a jubilant Samuel Adams reported to James Warren: "We have just now received a satisfactory Account of the great Success of our Arms on the 14th Inst. under General Gates. The express is expected every Hour....Congress will, I suppose recommend the setting apart one Day of public Thanksgiving to be observed throughout the united States."

What had happened at Saratoga, and why had Gates been so slow in forwarding detailed information to Congress? The facts concerning Saratoga, in brief, were nearly the same as the first reports received by General Washington and Congress