

pardon for those convicted of subversive activities who would enlist, and guaranteed each man a pair of shoes and stockings in addition to what was allowed by Congress. The act also promised to care for the families of men whose absence in the army would prove detrimental to their fortunes. The second bill, entitled "An Act for the better security of the government," was intended to identify those persons inimical to the American cause by requiring each free male over eighteen years of age to subscribe to a loyalty oath. Those who refused to take the oath were to be treble taxed, they would be ineligible to practice law, medicine, or to preach, teach, or hold public office, and if a person fled Maryland to avoid taking the oath he was to be outlawed and have his estate seized for the use of the state. Slowly and cautiously the leaders of Maryland were gradually approaching the time when open confiscation of the property of disaffected citizens would be condoned and articulated discontent of any kind would be banned as treason.

SUMMARY

"[December] 25th. we have Not so mery a Crismus as I have seen--the weather warm & Rayny.

28th. Snowey Last night & to Day--

29th. the weather is very Cold & we have not Done building Huts yet--

30th. I think the weather is as Cold here as it is in New England--"

These cryptic entries in the diary of Maj. Henry Dearborn in a way speak as eloquently as any to the suffering of the American Army two hundred years ago at Valley Forge. By the end of the month no food whatsoever was coming into camp, and the men lay at night on the cold bare ground in the same tattered garments that clothed them during the days of arduous work attempting to erect shelters from the elements. The promises of relief from Congress proved in vain; food enough for thousands rotted in granaries and on wharves because of mismanagement in the Commissary Department and difficult or impassible transportation routes. Worst of all, the American soldiers were virtually naked--not only those with Washington at Valley Forge, but also the men captured by the enemy confined in rat-infested and disease-ridden prisons, either on land or on ships converted to accomodate them. His pleas for relief unheeded, General Washington could not refrain on the last day