our past errors, and, if rightly improved, to put ourselves in such a situation, that we need not be apprehensive of the force which Great Britain has remaining upon the Continent, or which she can probably hereafter bring. But the greatest encouragement to a vigorous preparation is, that it will be the most likely method of gaining new Allies, and forcing Great Britain into a negociation, which we have every reason to suppose would end in a peace honorable to the interests and views of America.

I will take the liberty of recommending a matter to your Excellency, which I must solicit you to urge to the Legislatures as absolutely necessary to the filling your Regiments with proper Men, more especially of the mode of drafting should be adopted — It is stationing Continental Officers, of the Rank of Field Officers at least, at the different places of rendezvous who shall judge of the ability of the Recruits and