

**THE JOURNAL OF
MARTHA
PINTARD BAYARD:
LONDON, 1794-1797**

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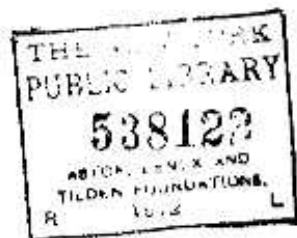
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1894

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PREFACE

MARTHA PENTARD BAYARD, the writer of this journal, was the daughter of Lewis Pintard, of New York, whose father, a French Huguenot, emigrated from France some years previous to the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

General Washington, in a letter to Lieutenant-General Howe, the British Commander-in-Chief, says :

“HEADQUARTERS, MORRISTOWN,

“Jan. 20, 1777.

“Sir: I take the liberty to propose the establishment of an officer to reside in New York, under parole,—to transmit no intelligence but what belongs to his office,—whose business it shall be to provide such necessaries for such prisoners as fall into your hands. Perhaps the establishment of such an officer with proper credit may put a stop to the many complaints which I am daily under the necessity of hearing, some of them probably without foundation and others from the want of many

things you are not obliged to furnish the prisoners.

"The gentleman whom I would beg leave to recommend as a proper agent is Mr. Lewis Pintard, the bearer, a person well known in New York and of long established reputation as a considerable merchant."

Mrs. Bayard was the wife of Samuel Bayard, and he too was of Huguenot descent. He was the son of Colonel John Bayard, who was prominent in Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. The Pennsylvania Legislature in 1775-76 were not in favour of independence, but the people were resolved upon it.

"On the twenty-fourth of May, a town-meeting of more than four thousand men was held in the State-House yard, to confront the instruction of the assembly against independence, with the vote of the Continental Congress, against 'oaths of allegiance, and the exercise of any kind of authority under the Crown.' It was called to order by John Bayard, chairman of the inspection committee for the county of Philadelphia; a patriot of singular purity of character and disinterestedness, personally brave, pensive, earnest and devout."¹

¹ Bancroft, Vol. III, p. 385.