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"The man has a great heart in him. He is every great man great," he wrote to his father. "I am beginning to love him. I can see that there is something in him. I think he is bound to be a family man affection like that of a son or a father. With men like Washington and Franklin to lead us, how can we fail?"

On the night of Sir Henry Clinton to surround the Americans and turned their hit back. Smallwood's command and that of Colonel Jack Irons were almost destroyed. Twenty-five men were killed or wounded. Jack had his left arm shot through and escaped only by the swift and effective use of his pistols and having a good luck, his horse having been killed, he was able to escape. The American line gave way. Its unseasoned troops led into Brooklyn. There was the end of the island. They could go no farther without swimming. The British were led by the young Admiral Lord Howe, the situation was desperate. Sir Henry had only to follow and pen them in and annihilate his guns. The surrender of more than 15,000 men was a foregone conclusion to follow. At headquarters, the most discerning minds said that only a miracle could prevent it.

The miracle arrived. Next day a storm of rain and a fog so thick and cloudy, night enveloped the island and lay upon the face of the waters. Calmly, quickly Washington got ready to move his troops. That night, under the cover of the fog, the British were quietly taken across the East river, with a regiment of Marblehead sea dogs, under Colonel Glover, manning the boats. Fortunately, the British army had halted, waiting for clear weather to move on.

For nearly two weeks Jack was nursing his wound in Washington's army hospital, which consisted of a cabin, a tent, a number of cow stables and a barn. The cabin was the headquarters. Hardest Jack had laid in a stable. Toward the end of his confinement, John Adams came to see him.

"Were you badly hurt?" the great man asked.

"Scratched a little, but I'll be back in the service tomorrow," Jack replied.

"You do not look like yourself yet," he thought. "I will ask the commander in chief to let you visit me to Philadelphia." It gave me some business there and later Franklin and I are going to Staten Island to confer with Admiral Lord Howe. We are a pair of simple old dogs, and we are a pair of simple old dogs, and we are a pair of simple old dogs. You had only to keep out of our quarrels, attended to our luggage and make some notes in the conference."

So it happened that Jack went to Philadelphia with Adams and after two days at the house of Doctor Franklin, set out with the two great men for the conference on Staten Island. He went in high hope that he was to witness the last scene of the American Revolution.

In Ambly he sent a letter to his father, which said:

"Mr. Adams is a blunt, outspoken man. It things do not go to his head. He is a simple man. Doctor Franklin is humorous and polite, but firm as a God-placed mountain. You may put your shoulder against the mountain and push it over. He is established. He has found his proper bearings and is done with moving. These two great men differ in little matters. They had a curious quarrel over the evening of the 22nd of November. New Brunswick on your way north. The two eveners were crowded. I ran from one to another trying to find entertainment for my distinguished friends and the two great men were with you and in it and it was a long time. The bed nearly filled the room. No better accommodation was to be had. I had left them sitting on a bench with the luggage near them. When I returned they were having a hot argument over the origin of northeast storms, the doctor asserting that he had learned by experience that the wind was from the north and proceeded in a northeasterly direction. I had only ten minutes for a chance to speak to them. Mr. Adams was not faced the doctor calm and smiling. I said: 'God of Israel! Mr. Adams exclaimed. 'Is it not enough that I have to agree with you? Must I also sleep with you?' 'I hope that you must not, but if you must, I beg that you will sleep more quietly than you talk,' said Franklin. 'I went then to their quarters carrying the luggage. On the way Mr. Adams complained that he had picked up a hen somewhere."

"The fleet air, is a small animal, but it is a very little more than a hen. It is a hen. Two large men and a hen will be apt to crowd 'our quarters'."

"In the room they argued with depth of feeling which astonished as to whether the one window should be open or closed. Mr. Adams closed it."

"The window do not close the window," said Franklin. "We shall suffocate."

"Sir, I am an invalid and afraid to stir the air," said Adams patently, testily.

"The air of this room will be more worse for you than that out-of-door," Franklin retorted. He was then between the covers. "I beg of you open the window and get into bed," said Franklin. "I will consent to its being closed."

"I lay down on a straw-mattress outside their door. I heard Adams say to the doctor: 'I am not a cold in the room would be summed in an hour. He went on and long before he had finished his argument, Mr. Adams was snoring. The doctor then turned to the cogeny of the reasoning, and the two great men, whose fame made said to fill the earth, were asleep. The same bed in that little box was crowded with the two great men, gestured loud contention. I had to listen. Mr. Adams would say to have been defeated, for, by and by, I heard him muttering as he walked away:

Howe's large met the party at the boy and conveyed them to the land near his headquarters. It was, however, a fruitless journey. The doctor asserted that the great general was a shonander. The people of America had spoken for independence a new, irrevocable fact not to be aside by ambassadors. The colors were lost. His concessions which would have been a disgrace to the government or England. Howe seemed now inclined to do but they could not be entertained.

"Then my government can maintain its dignity by fighting," Howe said.

"That is a mistaken notion," Franklin answered. "It will be much more dignified for your government to acknowledge its error than to persist in its error."

"We shall fight," Howe declared.

"And you will have more fighting than you can anticipate," said Franklin. "Nature is our friend and ally. The Lord prepared our defenses. We are the sea, the mountains, the hills and the character of our people. Consider what you have accomplished an expense of eight million pounds. You have lost your hundred and thousands. They have cost you ten thousand pounds a head. Meanwhile at least a hundred thousand children have been born in America. There are more soldiers in your army than there are in the British. You will require the job of killing all of us?"

The British admiral ignored the query.

"Our powers are limited," said Franklin.

"But I am authorized to grant pardon and in every way to exercise the paternal solicitude."

"Such an offer shows that you proud nations have no sense of honor," said Franklin severely. "We are the injured parties. You have no baseness to entertain it. You will give me for reminding you thinking of your paternal solicitude has been a great deal of time. The senseless towns in midwinter; it incited the savages to massacre farmers in the back country; it driven us to a declaration of war. There are now two distinct states. Peace can be considered only on that basis. I wish to prevent our trade from falling into foreign hands. Let me know what you will give for the trade can ever be equal to the sense of holding it with fleets and armies."

"On such a basis I am not empowered to give an answer," said Franklin. "We shall immediately against your army."

The conference ended. The ambassadors and their secretary, who had been waiting outside, were now in the room. "Mr. Irons, I have heard my mind," said the latter as he held his hand. "You are deeply attached to young ladies I admire and wish to have a chance to leave this troubled land to go to London and marry and live peaceable Christian life. You keep your principles, if you wish, but I am not a man and you will sympathizers in England."

"Lord Howe, your kindness to me," the young man answered, "you propose is a great temptation. I am a man of peace and I am happy to be in peace and more than ever."

### A Serious Case

A notoriously absent-minded man was observed walking down the street one day with a very peculiar expression on his face, and with one hand on the pavement. A friend passing him called out to him, "How are you?" "Good, evenings!" he answered. "What's the matter with you?" "I've been thinking about the absent-minded man," he said. "I thought I was very well when I left home, but now I don't know what the matter with me." "I've been thinking about the last half hour," he replied.

### Passing the Buck

The new cook gave some pepper chips to a relative who called while the lady of the house was out paying a few calls. "What the missus will miss them," remarked the parlor maid. "Oh, I'll blame that on the cat." "We have no cat," said the lady. "That's just what the missus will miss them," said the parlor maid. "That girl," urged the new cook earnestly, "and let the owner take care of her case."

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A detailed illustration of a shoe polish tin and a brush. The tin is rectangular with a label that includes the word 'HOLA' and some smaller text. A brush with a wooden handle and bristles is shown next to the tin, as if applying the polish.