

C. C. had been innoculated. This the present posture of our affairs absolutely forbids. The campaign will soon open; and with all the diligence practicable, it is to be feared the reinforcements will not arrive in time to enable the commander in chief to take measures the most necessary and advantageous, before the enemy get reinforced. General Washington has received intelligence that they are embarking troops at New York and Rhode Island; destined (it is said) for Philadelphia; and he is to the last degree anxious to have the reinforcements speedily join him; in the first place that he may be prepared for defence; in the second to take advantage of any favourable circumstance which may happen to injure the enemy.

The recommendation to provide cartridge boxes and tin cannisters for cartridges is given, because of the almost total want of them in the public stores, and the impossibility of making a number in any degree equal to the demands of the army, in the public manufactories, where the workmen are few, and it is impossible to encrease them: agreeable to the direction of congress, the board give the following description of the tin cannisters.

They are to be six inches and an half deep, or long; three inches and three quarters of an inch broad (this breadth receiving the cartridges lengthways, as they lie in a horizontal position) and two inches and seven eighths of an inch thick; (this thickness admitting four cartridges, to lay side by side) a box of these dimensions, in the clear, will well contain thirty six cartridges with ounce balls. A wire is to be fixed in all the edges at the top, and then each side turned down (outwards) a full half inch, and soldered. The cover is to be a full half inch deep, so that when fixed on the cannister the edges shall come close down to the ledge formed by the inclosed wire. This cover at one end turns on a hinge an inch and a quarter long, the wire (fixed as above mentioned) being laid naked, that space, for the purpose; and a piece of tin is run underneath this wire, doubled together, and soldered on the inside of one end of the cover. The soldier carries a cannister by a shoulder belt, as he does a cartridge box: and for this reason the cannister has fixed to it three loops of tin, each half an inch wide, with the edges turned back, to be smooth and strong; one of them is placed underneath the middle of the bottom, and one on each of the narrowest sides, the latter at four inches distance from the bottom to their lower edges. The loops are to be sent down at each end and very well soldered, leaving a space to admit a leathern belt full one inch and a half wide, and nearly an eighth of an inch thick. The cover opens against one part of the belt, which causes it to fall down, after a cartridge is taken out, by w^h means the rest