

(Circular) Head Quarters, Monroeville

16th Dec 1779.

in 25

The situation of the army with respect to supplies is beyond description alarming. It has been five or six weeks past on half allowance, and we have not more than three days bread at a third allowance on hand, nor any where within reach. When this is exhausted we must depend on the precarious gleanings of the neighbouring country. Our magazines are absolutely empty every where, and our commissaries entirely destitute of money or credit to replenish them. We have never experienced a like extremity at any period of the war. We have often felt temporary want from accidental delays in forwarding supplies, but we always had something in our magazines and the means of procuring more. - Neither one nor the other is at present the case.

This

This representation is the result of
a minute examination of our re-
sources. Unless some extraordinary
and immediate exertions are made
by the States, from which we draw
our supplies, there is every appa-
rance that the army will infa-
libly disband in a fortnight. I
think it my duty to lay this candid
view of our situation before your
Excellency, and to intreat the vigo-
rous interposition of the State to
rescue us from the danger of an event
which if it did not prove the total
ruin of our affairs, would at least
give them a shock from which they
would not easily recover, and plunge
us into a train of new and still
more perplexing embarrassments
than any we have hitherto felt.

I have the honor to be
with the most perfect regard

Your Excellency's most ob. ser-
vant

Wm. M. W. W.

Thos. J. Lee

G. Washington