

ports were to sail from Gravesend to Ireland the first of November, to bring over two Regiments; & that M^r Shirley & S^r W^m Pepperell were to raise two Regiments in New England the officers all nominated for these Regiments, which I presume is to make a Diversion against the French to the Northward. The Forces from Ireland may be expected here the End of this Month, or early in Feb^y

The providing Provisions is what I have greatly in my Thoughts. I have sent the Comissaries to the Camp with Money to purchase Flour & Pork in the frontier Counties; & I am endeavouring to purchase a Quantity of Pork here to be sent to the Camp. I have found here two Mortars & forty shells fit for Service, with the two pair of Wheels you desired to be made. I desire your Advice whether to order them to Fredericksburg, Alexandria, or to Rock Creek; if to the last Place, pray write me the Person's Name I am to recommended them to be forwarded by, and if you think that the best Conveyance. I must send the barrel'd Pork to that Place. I shall earnestly endeavour to provide a large Quantity. I have had pretty good Success in recruiting, I believe our Forces from this Government are now about 500, & hope by the Middle of next Month to make them at least 800, the Charges of recruiting run very high. Pray have you ordered the Purchase of Twenty Waggons & Horses? let me know if I shall send you Bills of Exch^a to pay for them. You desired the Guns from Cap^t Arburthnott to be charged to you, & the Hh^d of Rum, they are sent up to Alexandria & enclosed you have the Account thereof, if you desire me to pay it, it shall be done. As you wrote me you intended to order the Forces at Alex^a to march to the Camp, I have sent Money to pay them to the last of Dec^r & have desired them to march immediately if they have your orders so to do, it's a Pity they have been so long idle as they might have been serviceable at the Camp. There are 200 at Fredericksburg, which have ordered to Winchester to join those from Alexandria & there will be Provisions for them there. And I ordered the Comissaries to endeavour to purchase four Waggons, if possible to reduce the monstrous hire of Waggons, in which Article we have been greatly impos'd on, by an extravagant Charge. Pray write me when you intend for the Camp. I have been endeavouring to procure Carpenters & Coopers, but as yet have had no Success. I I sent to Fredericksburg two Smiths with Bellows, Anvil & Tools, with orders to proceed directly for Wills's Creek—As I expect a Supply of ordnance Stores, I suspend purchasing any for the present. Let me know what is immediately wanted that I can purchase here.

The Assembly of N^o Carolina is now sitting, but what they