

Original.

[Shirley to Sharpe.]

Hartford in Connecticut April 24th 1756.

Sir

In your last, you mention'd that you was in want of small Arms.

I am now upon my Journey to New York, and have only time to inform your Honour that the 10,000 stands of Arms, & proportion of Ammunition sent by his Majesty to Boston for the use of the Colonies, according to the Discretion of the Commander in Chief of his Forces in North America, are now arriv'd, & are under the Care of the Comptroller of Ordnance settled by the Board at that place.

Of these Arms I have order'd the Comptroller to deliver 300 Stands with a proper proportion of Ammunition to any person, who shall be authoriz'd by your Honour's Government to receive and indent for the same on the behalf of the Province; viz^t to return the Arms at the End of the present Service, for w^{ch} they are lent to the Province, into his Majesty's Stores at Boston, pursuant to the Directions of the Board of Ordnance there to be kept by their Officers, as a Magazine for the use of the Colonies, which shall want them.

The Rule, I have observ'd in the present Distribution of these Arms, with respect to my own & all the other Governments, except Virginia & Connecticut, is to deliver to each of them Arms for four sevenths of the Men, they now raise: I am oblig'd to furnish his Majesty's four Regiments of Regulars immediately with 1200 Stands; and the 10,000 stands will hold out for no larger a proportion, leaving only 800 stands in the Stores for Extraordinary Contingencies; you will be pleas'd, Sir, in case your Government shall raise 500 Men for the Expedition to send for the Arms, when you think proper, to M^r Turner Comptroller of his Majesty's Ordnance at Boston.

Inclos'd is a Copy of the Vote of the Massachusetts Assembly upon this Occasion, which your Honour may follow so far as you like it.

Wishing you Success in all your undertakings for the present Service, I am with great Regard & Esteem—

Sir

Your Honour's most Humble,
and most Obedient Servant
W Shirley.

Hon^{ble} Horatio Sharpe Esq^r