

further is necessary, I must pray the favour of the Honourable Council of Safety to grant it the Powder & lead upon producing my receipt and their order will be instantly delivered. mean time it is under the care & eye of the Committee, the quantity 575^l powder, 1600^l of lead & shot. As to gun locks, I was desired when I was at Annapolis to keep what I had & what cuttoe knives also. I sent up an account of both viz^t 92 gun locks, price from 7/6 to 16/6 the avera. 13/3, which I believe you'll find among the secret committee papers. the qualities are various some plain, some S. bridle, some double, but all pretty good as those prices can afford. We have some locks hereabouts that cost 18/ stg. at London and I have seen some at 37/6 stg. those I have will I believe do pretty well. I could have sold them to better advantage to the Virginia Agents but as I suppose some time or other our people would prepare for defence and my Smiths repairing fire arms & wanting locks I kept them. I am very indifferent about selling them but if the Honourable Council of Safety desire it to have them they are at their service. I believe I may have 100. I bought most of them in the South Branch of Virginia. As to cuttoes, I have 231 as you'll see by the account My brimstone unhappily cost me more then the Publick offers. [I lost] not a moment in communicating the letter directed to T. C. S. W & W. T. W. and setting engines to work, and I believe we shall succeed but we want money to exchange—of this more hereafter. My best respects attend the Honourable Council and I am Sir,

Your very hble. servant,
Stephen West.

To M^r Gabriel Duvall clk of the Council of Safety.

Original.

[Contee and others to Council.]

Upper Marlbro Feb^y 12th 1776.

Gentlemen. We received yours of the second Instant with the appointment, and have immediately set about the business. We find it may be necessary to have Cash in hand to give exchange for Specie as we shall get small sums in many hands and people will prefer having the money at the time they give up their gold & Silver, this mode wou^d save us much trouble and we presume that it wou^d forward the business. If you was to send us down fifteen hundred pounds common money immediately by some safe hand and each of us wou^d be accountable for five hundred pounds. We wish it may be in our power to collect a much larger sum in this County, If so we shall apply for more when we return the former sum in specie.

We are Gentlemen with great respect your most

Obedient Servants. Tho^s Contee
Stephen West.
W^m T. Wootton.