

c. s. c. (whither I should most undoubtedly have gone without orders, so soon as I was apprised of the arrival of the Enemy) but also for sending Major Price to the Command. I never entertained the most distant thought that you had any intention of giving me offence, and am happy to find you have had no insinuations to my prejudice. What I complain of is your very concise order whereby I was superceded without a line from your Honors signifying what part I was to act, or whether I was to remain there a cipher, where I stayed with impatience twenty four hours, expecting further orders. I never attended to the Rank between Officers of the Militia & Regulars, as adjusted by the Convention, or should not have accepted off the Commission I held, for that and the reason already given, did enclose you my commission for the flying Camp. Having tendered my service to the Publick in a different line of duty, (viz. the Civil Department) w<sup>h</sup> requires my presence 'till my Offer is accepted or rejected, prevents my complying with your repeated request of giving you a Personal conference, until Monday next, when I have reason to believe I shall have the pleasure of conferring with your Honors on the subject.

I am Gentlemen  
Your Most Obedient hble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Dent.

[Smyth to Tilghman.]

Chester Town July the 5<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Dear Sir

I have been applied to by Thomas Blake of this Town to be employed by the Province in making Cartridge Boxes, Gun Slings &c He is a very good Workman and may be depended on for what he engages, and says he will furnish these articles at the price the Council give the Baltimore Saddlers, he could supply the two companies of Militia that are to be raised in this County for the flying Camp by the time they will be ready to march; youll be pleased to mention this matter to the Council and if they incline to empower me to contract with Blake, they will please to write by the first opportunity and mention the price of each article, I would not have left the Council when I did but I knew my Stay was not necessary & my engagement to Build a Roe Gally made my return home absolutely necessary. please to make my compliments to the Council, and am D Sir.

James Tilghman Esq<sup>r</sup>  
in Annapolis

Your Most Obd<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Smyth