

the ammunition & arms into their hands and distribute them as wanted for Actual Service—that every man should be obliged to provide a good firelock and keep it in repair at his own expence and also the Accoutrements named by the Convention—such as are poor to be provided by the County or Publick & lodged with the Commissary—those who are able & do not every day of Mustering appear with their Arms & in good order to be soundly fined, and the officers fined for suffering such Neglect or degraded. The Commissarys to make a report every field day to the field officers of such Neglects. I am convinced that the Business of Commissarys & Quarter masters are necessary and may very properly be executed by the same persons and without them no Company, Battalion or Detachment will ever be equipped or enabled to March. the Captains & officers depend at present entirely on the Adjutant and the Adjutant teaches only the Exercise, so that the Arms & Ammunition, Accoutrements &c are totally neglected, and if we were to be called out just now we are 9/10^{ths} of us totally unprepared. This is a melancholy situation and surely requires a remedy immediately. The Council of Safety I apprehend might cure the evil by Instructions to the officers either in their Commissions or separate and by appointing such officers as I have named to see to the Execution, viz^t the Commissarys of stores and Quarter masters. these would be a Check and also Assistant to the officers. all the old Arms shou^d be collected and repaired without delay and new ones as fast as Possible provided. there are a great many good Arms in the Province if all were Collected and repaired &c put into proper hands & places, all which I apprehend would be the duty of the Commissarys & Quarter masters if properly authorized & Commissioned by the Council of Safety. Upon the whole my Zeal for the Cause induces me to offer my service as Commissary General of stores & Quarter Master General for Prince Georges County, and if the Honorable Council of Safety thinks proper to grant me those Commissions with such Orders and Instructions as are absolutely necessary to obtain the desired effect, viz^t to arm & discipline the County for its safety and Defence, I will exert every Nerve to put Matters on a regular and good footing. I will draw up a sett of Orders & Instructions which I shall submit to the Honorable Council with all Speed. we meet with daily Alarms which frightens for the present & Immediately blows over and we remain in the same defenceless and supine state as if no danger was at hand or expected.

I am with all imaginable respect,

Honourable Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant
Stephen West.