

Ever since the commencement of the unnatural war waged c. s. c. by a wicked ministry against this Country I have considered it as my indispensable duty to exert my feeble abilities in its defence and entering early into the service have had the good fortune to be so far recommended to the Honorable the Continental Congress as to obtain a commission as Major of a Battalion of Riflemen to serve the United States three years, and being diffident of my abilities to discharge the duties of a more exalted station at present beg leave to decline the very honorable appointment by which you gentlemen have confer'd an obligation on me ever to be most gratefully remembered and acknowledged, I beg leave in a particular manner to profess my gratitude to those worthy gentlemen by whose recommendations I obtained so respectable an appointment their favourable opinion I trust will always be maintained by a propriety of conduct in Gentlemen

Y^r mo obligd & obed^t Hb^{le} Serv^t
The Honb^{le} The Provincial Congress O. Williams
of Maryland.

[Maryland Deputies to Council.]

Original.

Philadelphia July 23rd 1776.

Gentlemen. Yesterday's Post brought us your Letter of the 19th Inst. The copies of the Letters from Colonels Barnes and Jordan you omitted to inclose. We hope the necessity of recalling the Captains Thomas and Hindman will soon be removed, and that they will be permitted to march to the flying camp as soon as possible. It is of the last Consequence to collect a sufficient force to oppose the british Army which may be hourly expected at Staten Island. General Washington has not above 15,000 Troops. Two Battalions of the Virginia Regulars are ordered to N. York, four Battalions in this province and two more in New Jersey are ordered to reinforce the flying Camp.

We agree with you that it will be useless to send Men without arms. We have had no opportunity to consult Congress relative to the subsistence of the Men during the Time they are collecting. We doubt not the expence will be continental. If they should be employed on your Works it would contribute to their Health & defray the expence of provisions.

A Man who professes to be an adept in the Refining Sulphur has applied to us & enclosed are his terms. We are ignorant whether any Quantity of Sulphur has been discovered in our Colony, & do not know whether you want such a Man.