

Original.

[R. Morris to Council.]

In Secret Committee.

Philad^a Oct^r 1st 1776.

Gentⁿ Publick Bodys shou'd be equally cautious of taking offence as of giving it, because mischiefs are very apt to arise therefrom & generally before a remedy can be applied. You have taken amiss the refusal of fourteen p^s canvass wanted for your colonial vessells & had information that 2000 p^s had been imported in one vessell here. These are your premises & the Facts are as follow. It was not this Committee that refused you the canvass for we had agreable to orders of Congress delivered the whole to the Marine Committee & that whole consisted of about 600 p^s instead of 2000, but it was not possible the Marine Committee cou'd spare you a single Bolt, because the Congress had but a day or two before your application ordered all the light Duck and other stuff, then in the Publick stores or that could be bought in the City to be made up into Tents and sent immediately to Gen^l Washington, the Marine Committee remonstrated against this measure alledging that none of the Continental Vessells cou'd be sent out if this canvass was taken from them, no matter they were told the soldiers should have Tents if they stripped the yards of those Continental Frigates and Cruizers that had sails made up, & in consequence of this measure which nothing but the extream necessity of our army cou'd justify, we have now a parcell of fine vessells lying here useless at a time they might have been most advantageously employed. Therefore Judge you, whether that Committee or the Congress itself cou'd have justified sparing you the Canvass you wanted. You may depend Gentⁿ that no just grounds are ever meant to be given by Congress or any of its committees for complaints like yours. We are all embarked in a cause that requires our utmost united exertions to carry us through, and be assured you can always command our utmost aid and assistance, when it can possibly be extended, consistent with the general welfare.

I have the honor to be GentⁿYour most obed^t & very Hble ServantRob^t Morris.

Original.

[Wiesenthal to Tilghman.]

Sir.

I was by the former Convention ordered to examine the salt petre earth on the South branch of Potowmack of which I produced a sample. The Convention having adjourned before my return I now take the liberty to make a report thereof. The place is on Patterson's Creek about 12 or 14