

them, so soon at this busy season of the year. As I apprehend the Council have not been able to provide Tents for the Militia that this Province has resolved to send to the flying Camp, I make them a tender of my best endeavours to get as many made as will be sufficient for my Sons Company & perhaps Capt. Perkins's, if they will order over to me one of those made at Baltimore with the Poles, the Linning & Twine or thread to make them, the Cruger would do much better than none, perhaps some of the Sail Duck which is ordered up from Chingoteague might do better. It will certainly kill all our men to be exposed to the open Air in the months of August & September when such heavy dews fall. I have two or three men in my Service that have been used to making Sailes & a Taylor, whom I think would make, in a few days as many as will be sufficient for those two Companies. If the Council should determine to accept of my offer the sooner they send every thing over the better, and I dare say I can soon get the Tents made especially if they are to be made of Cruger; many women can be employed in sewing such Linning—If the Council have not provided Baggage Waggons enough I can furnish them with one very sutable for the purpose that is almost new & in very good order. I wrote you some time last week that a Robert Blake a Saddler in Chester town would undertake to furnish the Province with a Q^{ty} of Cart-ridge Boxes, Gun Slings, Bayonet Belts &c. at the same price which the saddlers at Baltimore had done, & requested an answer, but have not heard from the Council on that subject. Blake waites your determination. A Report prevails here that some of the Companies of militia which are ordered to be raised for the flying Camp are to be stationed in this Province. My Son earnestly requests that he may not be one of those Companies & that he may be permitted to march to the Camp as first was intended, & I hope the Council will indulge him in his request.

You will please to remember that the hire of the Waggons sent to Chingoteague will amount to a pretty large Sum. It will be some time before I can attend the Council as I am much engaged in forwarding the building of the Row Galley which I have undertaken and am anxious to have her done very compleat. Any thing which the Council may have to do in the mean time in this quarter they will command me. What has been done towards sending for the Goods from Chingoteague, M^r Nicholson has no doubt informed you.

I am Gentlemen with much respect
Your most Obedient hble. Serv^t
Tho^s Smyth.