

could our officers be brought to a proper sense of their duty and dignity and the weight of the army, the enemy might be checked in their course; for this you may rely on however their parade may indicate the contrary, yet it is a fact, they are as much afraid and cautious of us, as we can be any of us of them, their officers alone give the superiority, and in this instance I have greater hopes of our officers and mens fighting than ever, for here is no hopes of running away left; Fight or starve and surrender at discretion has almost become the word, which event might have proved favorable to the common interest, had they reduced us to this dilemma before, at least it would have prevented much disgrace and brought our army to think of fighting. Our northern Generals have introduced a new system for conducting this war, which subverts every principle in the art of war adopted by other States, for instead of instructing their troops in the principles of military discipline, preparing and encouraging to meet their enemies in the fields and woods, they train them to run away and to make them believe they never can be safe unless under cover of an intrenchment, which they would rather extend from the North to the South pole than risque an engagement. Discipline here is totally neglected and yet after all it is the only bulwark in war; had our troops been trained better, and worried less with the pickaxe and spade, by this time our army would have been in a condition to have sought for their enemy in town. I am pretty sure this cannot be the case soon under our present system.

The Enemy's army has been said to amount to 20,000 effective men but I dont believe it exceeds 17,000. Ours on this side the North river amount to about 17,000 effective, but great numbers of the sick are recovering fast. Agreeable to your orders I directed Cap^t Hindman to get me a stamp made in Philad^a and the arms shall be stampd &^c Being often interrupted and hurried you'll excuse this scrawl and believe that I remain

With sincerity and real regard Gentlemen

Your very obed^t & Hble Serv^t

W Smallwood.

P. S. M^r D. Jenifer mate to the Independants has applied to resign and have permitted him. We have now four mates and no head Surgeon which are very sufficient as we have little medicine.

[Garrett to Jenifer.]

Original.

Sir.

I wrote you the 14th by Cap^t Smith, the same day got three gentlemen of our County to assist me in the collection of