

[H. Hollingsworth to Council.]

C. S. C.

3^d Nov 1776.

Gentlemen.

On Wednesday last and not before I Rec^d your favor of the 10th of October. I observe the contents. As to the eighty fore Bayonetts mentioned I had no expectation that they would all do, but sposed some of them would, I have not been able yet to finde out but one Smith that can forge a Bayonett properly, but on receiving your letter of the 12th of July in which you request very pressingly that 400 Bayonetts be made of different sises for the flying Camp Militia, I sett several workmen to work at forging Bayonetts, who at first made them very deficiant, some of the worst of which I kept hear as not fit for use, at any rate, and sent many on which were of the best with the flying camp militia, recceipts for which I have now with me, the remainder such as they are I sent to M^r Winters desiering him at the same time to send those that were not fit for use Back, as also all Barells that proved not good or unfit for use, to be sent back with his objection to them in wrighting, by which I hoped in a short time to be compleat in our Buisenis, but to my disappointment have never rec^d one, though frequent opportunityes, had the Large Barells mentioned been sent back they might have been long since made small as they were sent to M^r Winters the 10th September, and were made as near as I could to his Directions, as he wrote me some I had sent before, had not stood proof for want of substance, and your Honnours will pleas to recollect that I never had a pattern sent me, but I am of opinion that M^r Winters hands did not long stand for want of work, for I finde by my Books that on the 30th of the same month, he had 50 Barrells more, which I hear of no fault to, and had the others been sent back, they could have been made smalle in three days, tis said the Bayonetts are too soft which I doubt not, as they are all steeld with American steel (or at least the Smiths had steel of me for them) some of which I found after to be raw Iron, not at all converted into steel, which at that time I was a Strangure too, as it was sold me for good steel—an imposition I hope to prevent in futar, as I have (now) when Last in Philadelphia contracted with Mess^{rs} Shewmaker & Humphris to take 2 Tun a year, and to have it in the flatt Barr Blistered, in which order tis easily known, whither tis Steel or not, as M^r Joseph Gilpin was good enough to acquaint me that you had censured me, and I had Rec^d nothing from your Honnours, I wrote him last week, partly to the same effect of this scrawl, which together I flatter myselve may serve to satisfy your Honnours, that I am not altogether so