

The Congress have resolved to encrease their navy. two frigates of 36 Guns are to be built in our State.

Many of the Congress, some true friends, are uneasy at the Powers to the Delegates of Maryland. they are apprehensive, if made known, they will reach Lord Howe, and encourage him, and if the courts of Europe should see them, it would prevent a foreign alliance. Some Reasons are given to countenance this opinion. I do not see why they should be published in the Journall, the Powers relate to Peace and War, and can be of no service to the public. I wish you would consider this subject.

In eight days the enlistment of the far greater part of our army expires. I greatly doubt if we shall be able to prevail upon the Troops to enter into the service. I have some hopes of obtaining our wish from Congress, our commissioners will proceed on Tomorrow I believe, however whether they do or not is a secret.

I am, Gent.

With respect & regard

Your obed^t Serv^t

Sam^l Chase

Original.

[B. Rumsey to Jenifer.]

Sir.

We have continued in this Place untill this day in w^{ch} we shall set off for the Camp not being able to proceed before neither under the Letter nor Spirit of our Commission.

Our Convention had certainly two capital objects in view that as the Congress had engaged the faith of the United States to furnish the Soldiery with the Bounty of Lands which they were to purchase, it followed by Implication that the United States had none belonging to them in common but must purchase of particular States who claimed a monopoly in them and of course might ruin those States who had none. Her view then was to have those lands declared a common stock as being purchased (if ever purchased) by the joint Blood and Treasure of the confederacy or find no Land to her Ruin.

The first Satisfaction she received on this Head was that she might inlist for three year and give the 20 Doll^s Bounty, but must give the Soldiers the alternative to inlist during the war on the first conditions. Opening two Rolls for the Purpose.

This not pleasing they Resolve again that the Commissioners may proceed to inlist for three years upon one Roll alone keeping it always in view that it was better to inlist during the war, if it did not retard the Service.

This Resolution keeping up the first Bone of Contention