

Original.

[T. Johnson to Council.]

Fred. Town 22nd July 1776.

Gent. In conversation with M^r Ringgold as he past through he told me that Genl Dent was collecting the Militia below to attack Lord Dunmore. I am apprehensive they will want arms for the purpose and that a good many of the men notwithstanding their Desire to go on the service may reluctantly leave their own neighbourhoods unhappily full of negroes who might it is likely on any misfortune to our militia, become very dangerous. I have spoke with several here and it seems to be a general sentim^t that we ought to assist & I believe though our Exertions are already as great as we can well make that for a short Expedition on this very interesting occasion we might soon collect a Battalion and borrow the Arms which would be wanting. If you who are acquainted with all circumstances think it necessary to have men from hence I shall most gladly execute any orders you may think proper to give for that purpose.

M^r Ringgold gave me your letter for my Brother James our furnace is not now in Blast. I went out to him as soon as I got the Letter. We have now by us a few potts of about the size you describe, a few Kettles & a few Dutch ovens of much the same contents, the covers we could lay by and of all sorts, make up perhaps 60 or upwards. We shall have Bales made to them, and unless you have an opportunity of supplying the men with others more to your satisfaction, send them to Balt as soon as we can: the prices must depend on their sizes and the whole shall be so reasonable as to give Satisfaction. But if you can be better provided please to advise me of it. My Brother is getting his furnace into Blast with all Diligence and hopes to effect it within a fortnight. You may then have any number of pots and Kettles that you please within a short time. We shall also attempt to cast such guns as are wanted but cannot contract for them in all Events because the metal may not suit, though we have every Reason to expect it will. If we succeed in making good Guns the Public may have them del^d at Baltimore at 40£ a Ton the Guns being proved at the works at the public Expence, the swivels at their common price, but I should be glad if you would ascertain the length & other Descriptions as the make of cannon carrying the same shot vary very much. If any Body also will contract for a Certainty, I wish he should be preferred even at a greater price.

I am Gen^t with great respect Your very obed^t Serv^t
Th. Johnson, Jun^r