

In Council 17th June 1777.

Sir.

In answer to yours of the 13th by Cap^t Emory we expected you would make Use of our Provisions, as we supposed you could not be otherwise furnished. A Commissary will be immediately wanted. Cap^t Emory tells us you had some Thoughts of employing your Quarter Master in that Department; we have no Objection to him or any Body you may approve, but imagine the Congress will not approve both Trusts being in the same Person. If you have not a Man more to your Mind, John Draine has been mentioned as a proper Person, he, last year, acted for Cummings on the Eastern Shore and perhaps, some of your Officers may be able to inform you how he acquitted himself. If you can go to Philadelphia we think it the most likely Way of getting Arms to your Satisfaction and other Articles you stand in Need of, such as we can supply, we send by Cap^t Emory with a List; we have been disappointed in the Tents we are sorry they are no better, they are all alike. We have reminded our Delegates of the Arms from Time to Time but hitherto, without Success, yet we think your personal Application would obtain them for your Battalion and probably, as we wish, for the 300 Militia. If they should be ordered, unless some Body is on the Spot to receive and attend to them; they may be half the Summer in getting down. We shall send you more Tents as we get them; if you get better at Philadelphia, these may be returned. There is Powder & Lead in the Magazine in Talbot, take thence, what may be immediately necessary; perhaps you may get the Cartridges you want in Philadelphia; we have but few Cartridges and those of uncertain Sizes. We apprehend the £10 for Servants is to be discounted out of the Bounty and first Month's Pay; if a Servant enlisted dies within the month, this State ought to loose the 50/, or what of it is not due from the Continent. As to the Manner of drawing the Pay, we should have no Objection to its being done here, if our Treasury could bear it, but it really will not, unless the Congress will supply it. We do not know how the Money is drawn where Troops are stationed without a Gen^l Officer to sign the Warr^t or the Colonel's Abstract, but we imagine if an Abstract was made of the Pay now due there might, well enough, be an Advance of another Month's Pay, and at the End of two Months an Abstract for that Time, the Money due to be drawn and an Advance again of another Month's Pay and so an Advance of a Month beforehand for the Supply of Provisions, Quarter Master's Acc^t &^{ca} We think it would be well, if it cannot be done otherwise, to apply to Congress for