

c. c. supplied. Stokings are most wanted, & I fear will be most difficult to procure, which induces me to recommend (if they can't be had) Woolen Overalls with Socks, these for Winter, and Linnen for Summer provided the Soldiery could have two pair, I have ever thought a good Substitute for Breeches and Stokings, indeed in most Instances they are preferable for Soldiers. The Troops in general are bare, but the two Maryland Brigades are more so perhaps than any in the Army, their Suffering arises from the want of Gen^l Officers at their Head, to provide and draw their Proportions of public Stores, without a strict attention to this, the Cloathing often fall into a partial distribution, notwithstanding general Orders to the contrary. my Removal & Debow's incapacity and Inattention, may account for this Distress, & may serve to revive an old maxim, that every Government is best served by its own Natives, this Observation our Countrymen have not sufficiently adverted to, nor will they I am afraid, till fatal Experience has verified it in more Instances. I refer you to Col^o Adams respecting our Military operations. Nothing has occurred worthy of Recital, since the fortunate Events of Burgoyne's Surrender, the Repulse at red Bank, and the destruction of two of the Enemy's Ships off Fort Mifflin.

Howes situation is critical, he might soon be reduced to Burgoyne's Fate, cou'd a small Effort of that boasted Valour, public Spirit & Patriotism, (which were so conspicuous in the mouth of every man at the commencement of this contest) be exerted, but Professions are made, and Wars carried on, with more facility in a warm Room, than in the Field. Amidst all this boasted Patriotism the burthen has & must hang on a handful of worn out worried continentals.

I remain with much Esteem

Y^{rs} Sincerely

W Smallwood

Cap^t Craig wth his Troops has just brought in 7 British Dragoons & 7 foot Soldiers wth their Horses Arms and instruments taken by the Enemy's Lines to Day 35 large Transports with 2000 Men New York on the 7th Inst. supposed to be destined up the Delaware.