

[Beatty to Gates.]

C. C.
Copy.

Frederick town Feb^y 5th 1778.

Sir.

I take the Liberty to enclose M^r James Hepburns Letter to your Secretary, and a Petition to your Honorable Board. Since M^r Hepburn's arrival, he has been much afflicted with a Rhumatic Disorder, and in my opinion, will not be able to travel for some time. He has behaved himself during the time he has been under my direction very well. The Prisoners of War now under my direction at this place, are very bare of Cloathing, part of them have behaved well. if the hon^{ble} Board would permit me to let them, who, have behaved well, out to work they could get themselves some little necessaries, & be of great use in the neighbourhood of this place; Then, I could manage the turbulent, much better. I have had a great deal of trouble with the last party of Prisoners that came to this place.

The Militia of this County refuse to stand guard any longer, knowing, there is no power to compel them, except the Assembly. I cannot blame the whole of the Militia for part have served several times with alacrity, but finding the whole duty, must lay on a few, they have resolved to do no more than their share, which has put me under the disagreeable necessity of being turnkee, & Guard, myself.

Except, a Continental Quarter Master, is appointed for this place, in order to provide Forage & Waggon, the marching of Troops through, will be much impeded.

I have done the Duty of Town Major, Quarter Master, & Waggon Master at this place without fee or reward, but my slender fortune will not admit the Continuation thereof. the glorious Cause which we are struggling in, has prompt me on, to greater lengths than I ought in Justice to my little Family

I hope you will excuse my urging the necessity of a Quarter Master, at this place for experience has taught me, the Troops will be much impeded in their march for want of Forage and Waggon. I have a further reason for urging it, I intend to leave this place early in the spring, & well know the majority of the people are desirous of being paid for what they do.

I have the honor to be

Your very humble Serv^t
Charles Beatty

Pres^t of the Board of War.