

C. C. The state of our Army is critical. Four months pay, if not more are due them, and no money in the Treasury to satisfy their just and reasonable Demands. The press is at work, and attended with all vigilance and care, and has been for some time past & near a million a week is now made, and yet our Demands are greater then we can answer. They come in from all parts of the Continent. The Avarice of our people and the extravagant prices of all commodities, joined with the imperfect management of our Affairs, would expend the mines of Chili and Peru.

For the want of pay, of Cloths, and provisions our Army is decreasing every hour, not by one or two at a time, but from seven to twelve. By a Letter from Col. Smith he tells me some of the troops have been eight Days at different times without meat, and only a bare allowance of flour. The State of Pennsylvania has passed a Law appointing certain commissioners in every county of the State, with full power to purchase or to seize at stated prices all provisions necessary for the Army. These men are subject to the orders of Congress as to the quantity of each article of provisions to be purchased or seized. Besides this the Board of War have Authority from Congress to purchase twenty thousand Barrels of flour and other provisions necessary for the spring. From these resources I expect fifty thousand Barrels of flour, and quantities of other provisions, but to what amount is uncertain. Our commissary Gen^l does not at this time as I am informed, know that he has five thousand Barrels of pork or Beef. Upon such foundations the existance of our army depends. At whose door this prospect of ruin lies, time will discover.

What think you of D^r Franklins assassination; with some Gentlemen here, the tale has the appearance of probability, with others it is esteemed a fact. I hope both opinions are groundless. His death will stagnate our system in France and probably shatter some of the Doctors flattering hopes of serving his country through the sides of France.

Will the Test go down? will the Law for recruiting our quota of Troops succeed. The Committee at camp I understand will recommend measures for filling the Army, which I expect will not be very agreeable to our people.

N. Carolina has agreed only to part of the Confederation the other States I believe have done nothing with it as yet.

Virginia New York and Massachusetts Bay is unrepresented.

I am Sir your obedient and very h^{ble}

Serv^t J. Henry Jun^r