

C. B. the Watering place. Saw a vast number of Light Horse on board and that the Fleet was very full of men that their destination was a secret, the officers appeared anxious to know—that their Conjectures were various about it. Some talked of Georgia—some of Maryland, and others of Rhode Island.

From these several Accounts and the particularity with which they are related, there can be no doubt but that a body of Troops have embarked and Sailed. What their number is cannot be ascertained, but were [it] according to the lowest estimate, which from a consideration of the Fleet & many other circumstances I should suppose to be as high as it possibly can be, and to exceed their real account, it is formidable. I wish the W Ind^s may be their object, but from their having Horse & other considerations, it is to be feared their operations will be on our Southern Continent.

Original

[Delegates in Congress to Gov. Johnson.]

Philadel^a May 11th 1779.

Sir

We should have sent by Co^l Hyde a larger Sum than five hundred Thousand Dollars had not the Demands on the Treasury been so pressing and of such a nature as to render it impossible. We have now a Warrant for the further Sum of eight hundred Thousand Dollars, the greater part of which if not the whole, we expect to send forward to you in the course of this week. This supply we hope will enable your Excellency to prosecute with success, the purchase of above & for the Army.

General Washington at this time stands in need of heavy Cannon, for the further Defence of the North River and the necessity of being immediately supplied with at least five pieces, has induced Congress to apply to our State, for such Cannon as can be spared either on Loan or purchase, at the Election of the General Assembly. Under the circumstances of this case, and knowing the necessity, we cannot suppose the General Assembly (if you have not power already) can have any objection against granting the request of Congress. If you should lend the Cannon, M^r Hughes who has now contracted with Congress for a considerable number, will be directed to send to Annapolis or such place as you may direct, the like number and weight of metal, with those that shall be lent by the state.

Your letter of the 30th Ap^l does not clearly express in what way the Emissions of May and Ap^l came into the State Treasuries. If by Taxes for the Continent, there can be no doubt