

waiting on you as soon as the business of the Post will permit and
 am in no doubt of giving full satisfaction for my past conduct if I
 can obtain an enquiry

[Ben Stoddert, By order, War Office to Gov. Lee]

November

Sir It is recommended in the resolution of Congress of the 25th
 of Feb^{ry} last, "That the several States cause monthly returns to be
 made to the board of war, of all such commodities as shall be pro-
 cured for the use of the United States, specifying the quantities
 issued (the board suppose the quantities delivered by the State Com-
 missioners) in each preceeding month "

¹⁵
 Red Book
 No. 7
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For want of such returns, the board are extremely embarrassed
 in forming a Judgement of the prospects the Army have of being
 supplied, nor will it ever be in their power, if not furnished with
 them, to check the accounts of the issuing Commissaries, by know-
 ing the quantities rec^d from the States. It is also extremely difficult
 to direct the march of Troops without information of the Supplies
 obtained, & places of deposit.

They therefore take the liberty to request that your Excellency
 will be pleased to order the person in your State whose business it is,
 to make them, to be punctual in transmitting the returns agreeable
 to the resolution above recited.

[Edw'd Giles, Petersburg to Gov. Lee]

November

Sir By Colonel Smith's Directions, I agreeable to your Excel-
 lency's request, I take the Liberty of transcribing for your Perusal
 a History of our march from Annapolis to this Place, which tho
 marked with no Interesting Events may serve to account for the
 length of Time employed in gaining such little ground. At Alexan-
 dria we were detained three Days in paying off the Men & allowing
 them an opportunity of laying out their money, which farther to
 the South would be of no Service. At Colchester which is but one
 short Day's march from Alex:: we were delayed near two Days at
 the Ferry, the wind blowing in such a manner, as to render a Passage
 impracticable at Fredericksburgh new Difficulties arose. From some
 of our Horses being jaded & being under the Necessity of carrying
 four Day's Provision, we could not proceed without fresh one's.
 So clogged are the Wheels of the Quarter Master's Department, that
 with all our Industry, we consumed three Days on this Business &
 were at last obliged to march without a full Supply. The Provision
 too was not provided till the last moment. From Freder^r to Rich-
 mond we proceeded without any Obstruction, reaching it on the
 fourth Day. Here the Commissary could not furnish us with Provi-
 sion to carry us two Day's March, unless we halted a Day, till he
 went in the Country to purchase it. Necessity compelled us to do
 it & the next Day was spent in crossing the Ferry, which from its

¹⁵
 Brown Book
 No. 5
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