

November 23
Red Book
No. 29
Letter 48

[Timothy Pickering, Q. M. G., Alexandria, to Gov. Lee.]

Inclosed is a copy of a letter from L^t Col^o Carrington deputy quarter master to the southern army, which shews the propriety & necessity of my making this application to your Excellency, agreeably to his request. Destitute as M^r Yeates is of money, I know that a requisition to him must be fruitless; and that the State alone can furnish to him or its own agents the means of procuring the supply of horses demanded by Col^o Carrington, & which I am convinced will be essentially necessary for the southern army. While the enemy were scattered over that country, the frequent captures of horses from them kept up a tolerable supply for the small number of continental troops usually commanded by General Greene: But this resource is entirely at an end. And the exhausted state of the Carolinas forbids the hope of obtaining horses in that country. Virginia too, by the supplies it has sent to the southward, but mostly more by the incursions of the enemy during the year past & the great numbers furnished to our own army in the state, is very much drained of horses; so that it would be extremely difficult to procure horses there, & such as could be obtained would cost very extravagant prices.

Under these circumstances, Col^o Carrington's demand is very naturally pointed to Maryland a state which tho' its exertions on many occasions deserve the highest praise, has never suffered by the devastations of the war, And unless that demand be complied with, at least in a very principal degree, I do not conceive that the Southern army can operate. In times past it has moved with the utmost difficulty; and has saved itself from starving by divesting itself of every convenience & even of necessary equipage, that the waggons might be employed in transporting provisions. These difficulties will be increased by the considerable reinforcement of Pennsylvania & Maryland troops now on their march to the southward. There will be a proportionably greater destruction of horses & render a supply from Maryland still more essentially necessary These considerations, as they appear to me important, so I doubt not they will receive due attention and that by the exertions of your Excellency and the State of Maryland such a supply of horses will be furnished to the army commanded by General Greene, as will enable him to continue to act with that vigour & efficacy which have hitherto so remarkably distinguished all his operations, from whence such immense advantages have been derived to the United States.

November 15
Brown Book
No. 8
Letter 25
[copy]

[Edw'd Carrington, D. Q. M. to Colo. Pickering, Q. M. Gl.]

The States Southward of Maryland are from the ravages of the Enemy & Continued drafts of the Service so exhausted of Horses that few or none can be obtained in them. I have repeatedly called