

February 7 curing Forage, both Long and Short for this post, so that wee have a
 Red Book clever Little supply for the present, the demand being not very great,
 No. 30 Corn may be had delivered here at twelve Pounds, ten shillings Con-
 Letter 120 tinentall Hay at about five Hundred £ p^r Ton for Cash, I have Reced
 no wheat, Flower, or Forage Lately save the Forage from M^r
 Williams

[M. Gist, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee.]

February 8
 Brown Book
 No. 3
 Letter 25

I am favored with your letter of the 6 Ins^t concerning a resolution of the General Assembly requesting the Council to direct Captain Browns Company of matrosses, and part of the German Regiments to march to Frederick Town to serve as a Guard to the British convention Troops

I could have wish'd the Assembly had considered my situation previous to their resolution as it would have relieved me from the pain I must feel in doing any thing that may wear the appearance of contravening their instructions, they must in that case, have seen that as an Officer of the United States I am only subject to the orders of Congress—the Commander in chief or such superior Officer with whom I may serve; that I cannot act against their Instructions and can receive orders only from them, consequently I am answerable for the disposition of any Troops which may be placed under my command, who can receive no orders but such as are Issued thro' me. However what the Assembly should have known then, must now serve as an explanation of my Duty and conduct. Your Excellency The Council must be aware, that a disposal of the Continental Troops either passing through a State or Stationary in it, by any other Authority but a Military one, must be productive of much evil and embarrassment, and might defeat enterprizes of co-operation and destroy a competency of power in the Commander in Chief or the Delegates without which no Army can operate to effect.

Captain Brown with the detachment under his command are therefore on their march with Artillery & Stores for the Southern Army, by order of the Commander in chief thro' the channel of General Knox; and it is my instructions to forward them with all possible dispatch; I cannot therefore do any thing less, and have given him orders accordingly.

I had the Honor to inform the Council of the situation of the German Regiment when I was left at Annapolis who were pleased to concur with my orders for their march to Baltimore, these orders were Issued the 20th last month & forwarded to Colonel Weltner and I have found no reason since for an alteration, but as Col^o Weltner is sick and the officers of that regiment upon the point of retiring upon the half pay establishment I have sent Captain Lansdale to take command of them and March them to this place in order to equip and forward them to the Southern Army.