

Brown Book No. 2
Letter 75

necessary dispositions to prevent the Enemy from crossing the Catawaw but so few Militia came in & the fords were so numerous it was impossible to effect it—they cross'd at McCowan ford where Gen^l Davidson was Posted with the greatest part of the Militia. The opposition was inconsiderable owing to the General's being kill'd, as it is said in the begining of the Action, The greatest part of the Militia were dispersed soon after the Enemy cross'd nor can I hear of their collecting since in any considerable numbers. I waited on one of the plans of Rendezvous that night after the Enemy cross'd until past 12 o'Clock & not a man came to our assistance—we are now endeavouring to form a junction of our Continental troops at this place, the Enemy were within about twenty five miles of us last night. We have hitherto removed all the stores out of the Enemy's way, but if they pursue us & we are not able to make an effectual stand, which their is little prospect of, unless the Militia will come to our aid we shall lose our stores & what serves to render our situation still more distressing is, I have just got intelligence that the fleet that left Virg^a is arrived at Wilmington & that the forces have landed there.

The Southern States are in such a defenceless condition that they must fall under the dominion of the Enemy, unless reinforcements are immediately sent from the northward. You know I have always considered the incursions, in Virginia as of no consequence if we could prevent their penetrating this way. Pray send us all the men you can equip.

In moving the stores from Salisbury I found upwards of 1700 stand of Continental Arms in one store kept for the use of the militia in the most miserable order you can imagine. Such destruction of Public Stores is enough to ruin a nation these are some of the happy effects of defending the Country with Militia from which good Lord deliver us!

Since my last Col Lee has surprised George town, he writes me that many were kill'd but few taken, one field Officer was kill'd & several made Prisoners you shall have the particulars when I have more time to relate them

If the Enemy distress us in this State I am not without hopes of giving them trouble in their rear & shall take measures for that purpose with Gen^l Sumpter, Marion & Pickens. O! that we had in the field, as Harry the 5th said some few of the many thousands that are idle at home.

[David Poe, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee.]

February 27
Red Book
No. 28
Letter 91

I am satisfied that before this Time your Excellency has had information, that there has been some unnecessary Delays, in forwarding the Dispatches by the Line of Express's. I think it my duty to inform your Excellency, that matters has been of late Conducted