

permit. I have had to encounter Difficulties arising from the ^{existing} Inefficiency of our Militia Law and the unfinished State of arrangement and organization under it. and in many Instances to go beyond the strict Boundaries of my authority. If I have not been able to accomplish the Force required by the President the Fault is not mine. Every Expedient conciliatory and compulsory has been resorted to for the purpose of procuring the Complement of Infantry and Artillery and I know of no mode by which Horse could be brought into the Service but by an Invitation to come forward. and my General orders will show that this has not been omitted.

The Quarter Master now acting in Frederick is the best I could obtain after Charlton's Resignation. and I presume that with a little Instruction he will be fully competent to his Duty. a man of Experience in that Department was not to be found. or he would have been preferred. I have had no Directions from the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint the other officers mentioned in your letter. The Appointment of a person in Capacity of Quarter Master and Commissary of Military Stores has alone been authorised. and that has been done. I take it for granted that the General Government will make or have made all such necessary appointments in the Staff as were not entrusted to me; and it is probable that the Detachment will in its Progress or on its arrival at the Place of Rendezvous be supplied with such officers as are now deficient. In the mean Time the Duties of these several Departments will be performed as far as practicable by the Quarter Master and Commissary and where he is incompetent from the Variety of Objects, by persons to be temporarily appointed out of the Detachment by you.

I have been misapprehended if it is supposed I meant to furnish the Troops with only under waistcoats. I intended that they should have short Coats with Sleeves. and if they are not sufficient the General Government alone can direct any additional Clothing. I could not give orders for forwarding the Blankets to Baltimore. because I did not doubt that they were distributed among the Men before their March. but I now dispatched Directives to Messrs Prutter and Etting for sending them on immediately. I have recommended it to Mr Gale to furnish a supply of medium and to get it forwarded with the Blankets. altho it is certainly to be presumed that this Article is in readiness at Fort Cumberland.