

I have not replied before, because I have desired to obtain information upon which to predicate the application contained in this letter.

This State has some four or five hundred muskets, in serviceable condition, but to which the volunteer troops object, because they are flint locked. If percussion locks could be substituted, they would answer every purpose, and would enable me to qualify the call for arms so plainly made by new volunteer companies.

I desire to ascertain, first, whether or not the General Government would consent to have these arms percussioned, and charge the cost to the next quota; secondly, the cost; thirdly, the terms; and fourthly, should the whole quota be not consumed by this arrangement, whether or not the Government would furnish the balance of the quota in small sized muskets or similar arms, suited to academic use. The arms first above referred to would be amply sufficient for the present demands of the volunteer troops, and out of the balance of the quota, as stated, we desire to supply military companies organized in several of our colleges and Academies.

I sincerely hope that this arrangement can be made, as it will be of immense service to our military organization.

I am, with very great respect,
Your Obedt Servt
E. Louis Lowe.

Ordnance Office,
Washington, March 29th 1853.

Hon: E. Louis Lowe

Gov: of Maryland
Annapolis, Md.
Sir:

I have the honor to inform you, in answer to your letter of the 26th inst., that the flint-lock arms you mention can be altered to percussion, at a charge to the State against its quota of the actual cost of doing the work, which will be about 65 cents per arm. The arms to be altered must be sent to the U. S. Arsenal, where the work is to be done, and taken back to the State Arsenal, at the expense of the State. The alteration will be made at the nearest Arsenal, where there are the