

that our mountains contain every where such caverns full of salt petre as to furnish the Colonies with that desirable article to the fullest extent at reasonable rates.

I attempted a trial to make some salt petre out of the mud, and took 2 bushels thereof from which I extracted between 2 and 3 pounds, but am sure that it would have produced considerable more, if I had the use of any utensils on the spot, a sample of the nitre I have brought to the Council of Safety. This salt petre was exceeding strong and in very large cristales.

The people in the State now make salt petre and make use of it partly in gun powder, and partly for salting meat, that being a scarce article there, and no doubt squander away great quantities, not being sufficiently skilled to make it to advantage.

Baltimore Town Octob-12th 1776.

To Matthew Wightman Esq.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obed^t & Hble Serv^t

As to ice, with all.

Pres^t of the Convention. Tell our friends.

Honorable gentlemen:

On receiving a line from my brother informing me that he had procured arms and some blankets for me in Philadelphia, I thought it advisable to march with all the dispatch I could; therefore have taken ten of the muskets I put in the hands of Mr. Elisha Winters into me, and have left in custody of Mr. Winters 51 more which will be repaired soon and ready to deliver to your order.

I am with due regards, gentlemen,

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Jo Richardson

Philad^a Octob^r 11th 1776.

Esteemed Friend

Yours I received a few days ago by post. I could not get as much of the drugs as was mentioned; but have got all I possibly could in time to send by Hideous Bares who sat off by water soon after the receipt of the letter. I waited on the post begging him to take a part of the Bark, but he could not, saying he had more business to carry for the Council of Safety than he at present could take with him.

As to the white lead I cannot at present find any, if I should hence will send it by the first stage.

Mrs Stewards silk will go down by Double Hopkins who is now in town.

I am with respect

M^r Stephen Steward

Y^{rs} &c

R^o Roberts.

West River.

Ship of Warr. Defence at Sea Octob^r 4th 1776.

Lieut^{ant}

I have the pleasure to inform you by Capt. Brown whom I've sent Prize master of a snow belonging to Glasgow from the bay of Honduras loaded with Mahogany and some logs wood bound to Cork which we this morning made a prize of, at the same time took a sloop from St. Augustine bound to Liverpool - she has no cargo on board except a little indigo. Their papers with a large packet of letters belonging to the sloop you'll receive from Mr. Walker who I've made Prize master.

J^m