

to Philadelphia, if cloathes cannot be provided for them where they are which
would be much the best, as clathing of all sorts is extremely difficult to be had
at Philadelphia & Blankets are not to be procured at any rate. They might
be armed and accounted, but might lie here a very considerable time before
cloathes and blankets could be furnished. I will therefore be pleased to endeavour
at supplying them with blankets and whatever other necessities can
be had you may as this State is much drained of all articles required
by the Army. If muskets were given them instead of rifles the service would
be more benefitted, as there is a superabundance of riflemen in the Army.
Here it is in the power of the Congress to supply muskets they would speedily
reduce the number of rifles and replace them with the former, as they are more
easily kept in order, can be fired ~~afterwards~~ and have the advantage of bayonets.

To the Honourable

Council of Safety of Maryland.

I have the honour to be your very obed^t Serv^t

Richard Peters - Secy.

Head of Elk 26th October 1776.

Dear Sir

Yours of the 11th yesterday, received and not before, having
been from home at Philadelphia this twelve days endeavouring to settle my
accounts for provisions, carriage &c of the 4, 5th and part of the sixth Regiment of
Virginia from Elk to Chester, the men being near half sick has made their
carriage very tedious and expensive and has taken up my whole time since
the 20th of September. You are a judge how much my time is wasted with
the delays and fares before that date, so that for the last two months I have been
prevented from taking proper care of my business, otherwise I should have been at
Annapolis before this day, could wish a Commissary was appointed, as I am
now while I am negotiating applied to by Capt Johnson of the sixth Virginia
Regiment to provide barracks, waggon & provisions for his company to pass
them on to Philadelphia, and that there is 800 Carolina men in the river
which must be provided as above, you see, as is the Honourable Council
of Safety, better judges how necessary it is to forward those troops than my-
self, and you also know that no person here will forward them but myself.
(in your absence I must therefore beg the indulgence of the Honourable Council
if the arrival of these troops, and transporting them over, should delay my
coming to Annapolis longer than they may expect, as I assure you and them as
the honour of a gentleman that nothing else shall delay my company one day,
when I hope to satisfy their Honours, that every thing has been done by me
that could, by a man so circumstanced. As to the ^{first} 90 bayonets sent Mr Winters
they are not so good as they ought, as most of them were made by young hands
in the business and many of the best of what was there made, picked out for
the marching companies going to Flying Camp, the steel not good, though
the best I could then get, the want of experienced hands in the mill, all
plead for their Honour Indulgence - I have sent Mr Winters some since
much better and have now by me about 200 which I blather myself
will merit their approbation, which with some musket barrels
and