

3^d Nov 1776.

Gentlemen.

On Wednesday last and not before I recd your favor of the 10th of October. I observe the contents. as to the eighty five Bayonets mentioned I had no expectation that they would all do, but supposed some of them would. I have not been able yet to finde out but one Smith that can forge a Bayonet properly, but on receiving your letter of the 12th of July in which you request very pressingly that 400 Bayonets be made of different sizes for the flying Camp Militia, I sett several workmen to work at forging Bayonets, who at first made them very deficient, some of the worst of which I kept hear as not fit for use, at any rate, and sent many on which were of the best with the flying camp militia, receipts for which I have now with me, the remainder such as they are I sent to Mr Winters desiring him at the same time to send those that were not fit for use back, as also all Barrels that proved not good or unfit for use, to be sent back with his objection to them in writing, by which I hoped in a short time to be compleat in our Business, but to my disappointment have never recd one, though frequent opportunities, had the Large Barrels mentioned been sent back they might have been long since made small as they were sent to Mr Winters the 10th September, and were made as near as I could to his Directions, as he wrote me some I had sent before, had not stood proof for want of substance, and your Honours will pleas to recollect that I never had a pattern sent me, but I am of opinion that Mr Winters hands did not long stand for want of work, for I finde by my Books that on the 30th of the same Month, he had 50 Barrels more, which I hear of no fault to, and had the others been sent back, they could have been made small in three days, tis said the Bayonets are too soft which I doubt not, as they are all steeld with American steel (or at least the Smiths had steel of me for them) some of which I found after to be raw Iron, not at all converted into steel, which at that time I was a Stranger too, as it was sold me for good steel — an imposition I hope to prevent in future, as I had (now) when last in Philadelphia contracted with Messrs Shewmaker & Humphris to take 2 Tun a year, and to have it in the flat Barr Blistered, in which order tis easily known, whether tis Steel or not, as Mr Joseph Gilpin was good enough to acquaint me that you had censured me, and I had recd nothing from your Honours, I wrote him last week, partly to the same effect of this scrawl, which together I flatter myself may serve to satisfy your Honours, that I am not altogether so culpable as it first might appear, I have through the course of this week been busied in sending on three Companies to flying Camp, and am waiting now for the Carolina hands, which I expect every hour, which when I have forwarded shall immediately wait on your Honours, when I doubt not of rendering full satisfaction, the large and small Blis & Bayonets are going on as usual, shall bring a parcell of each sort into one, or send them by first opportunity, and am, Gentlemen, your most Obedt. Humblt Servt.

H. Hollingsworth