

Sir.

Philadelphia 13th Nov. 1776.

Congress have this day given an answer to the Resolutions of our State, which being an entire new one, we have dispatched to the proper place to be considered, They resolve that the Troops may be enlisted for three years, and a Bounty of twenty Dollars only be given, or during the war, and one hundred acres of land be added to the Bounty, they will not specify where the lands lies belonging to the United States.

Our instructions run that they are to be enlisted during the war, of course when our State accedes to it we can proceed. — Congress has got rid of the difficulty with respect to the Land and has not closed in with either of the propositions made by our State, nor receded entirely from their own Resolutions.

But if they have escaped they embarrass us — What can we do with our Regulars? — they are enlisted during the war; Must we enlist them again in the service of the State for three years? I imagine our State will not incline to do so if they do we ought to have instructions on that Head.

Being brought only one of the Bundles of Minutemen's arms, there are not more than enough for four Battalions — There are five of the Flying Camp, and two of the Regulars the German and Rifle Companies will make the eighth, surely then you have not sent Minutemen enough — I should be obliged to you to send up a Copy also of the Resolves of Congress relative to the raising the eighty eight Battalions as we have not got it, and would be as little troublesome as possible to the Congress.

Four thousand of our Troops under General Putnam have crossed the North River to reinforce Genl Green who has six thousand under his Command to prevent the Enemy's plundering the Berseys or penetrating to this place and I suppose they will be followed by a more considerable Number if the Enemy cross that River.

Very little of the Transactions of Conventions have transpired here. You are exceedingly concise on that head, you tell me they are still engaged about the Constitution, I should naturally have concluded they were so, but pray what sort of a Constitution have they framed? how far monarchical aristocratic or democratick, how far a mixture, how balanced each power? It is a matter of great Importance to a Subject of a State that Power should be well and equally balanced =

If we stay here much longer the flying Camp will come near us or to us

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant
Benjamin Rumsey

The Honble

Samuel of St Thomas Knapen Esq
Annapolis