

but seeing the cases not near as full as I expected to find them I was induced to have the salt measured by a careful hand. I also staid by myself and found I had only 38 3/4 Bushels in the place of 50. Capt Patterson came up here by land before his vessel arrived and returned again to Oxford before her, nor was he on board while here, neither the mate nor any of the hands came on shore after the delivery to get a receipt, which I promised Capt. Patterson to give them: had they done this I should on seeing the bulk so small have refused it all, I had seen it measured. I think it my duty to inform you of these circumstances that you may enquire whence this deficiency arises as there has certainly been a very great mistake or some foul play on the occasion, being very clear a greater quantity than 38 3/4 bushels was never delivered to my people and if you think it necessary I will send you my own deposition, and that of an indifferent person respecting this matter. I am Sir,
 The humble The Council of Safety
 in Annapolis } Your most Obedt Servt,
 Robt Harrison.

Lyons.

Philadelphia 4th February 1777.

I this minute received yours of the 26th last. All this time has been spent in getting about 1000 men, officers included, fitted out for the Camp. I have not more than 180 yet to send forward except Smith's Battalion from Washington, which I hear is on the road. The delay has been as prejudicial as muniting us, many of our people, some whole companies have returned. I believe could we have got arms in a day or two we should have raised upwards of 1500 men. I have understood the Congress have some arms at Baltimore or Chester, and I think you had best set as many of them as you can to those of the Militia who may march under the last requisition for you may depend if they stay here any time the same answer will prevail with them as with the Frederick Militia - While I am writing this some of your officers call on me to let me know another company to a about 6 or 8 privates have broken off. As many Militia as possible ought to avoid calling here at all. The Small Pox is very ripe and every thing is prodigious dear. There can be no great dependance on equipments or supplies here, if those who come are partly fitted I think they had best proceed, for Genl Washington to prevent a continuance of the shameful embeggement of arms, has lately stopped all that belongs to the Public, on the discharge of the Militia, so that he can, as he says, partly supply those who go in. Some of our people have been 6 weeks and some 4 from home already not only inclined, but necessity will urge their return. I shall have difficulties on that head, for whatever you may hear of the great numbers with Genl Washington he ought to be strengthened. We have nothing very material from Camp. I am afraid we can expect no great things from New York. The Enemy are kept pretty close in the Jerseys. The war is carried on pretty much by small scouting parties on our side, and they often take some prisoners. 16 British were brought here on Sunday, taken within about a mile of Brunswick, as they were going out without arms to plunder. I am told the duty of the regulars is very severe from very frequent attacks on their brackets &c. Genl Gates

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