

To the hon^{ble} the Council & house of Representatives
of the Colony of New Hampshire
Gentlemen. The Congress taking into consideration the
urgent importance to the safety freedom & wealth of the
united Colonies, that the manufacture of saltpetre & gunpowder
should be established in all of them, in addition to their former
resolves on that subject, have passed those herewith inclosed
& appointed the Committee therein mentioned;

in persuance of this trust the Committee trans-
-mitt you the resolves, & being deeply impressed with
their importance to our common cause, think them-
-selves in duty bound to urge upon you the imme-
-diate & vigorous execution of them.

The erecting public works as mentio-
-ned in the resolves, will be the first step to promote
this useful business, if prosecuted with skill and
diligence in will ensure the making saltpetre in
large quantities, & will also afford the best method
for suitable persons to learn the process, & from thence
be sent abroad to teach those who have not opportunity
of learning from these public works: for it is
thought an object of the greatest concern that private
family should be induced to make it; the inconsidera-
-ble expence attending the making it in family, when
the method is once understood, & the quantity that each fa-
-mily may make, should remove all objections to their putting
it in immediate practice.

when we consider the great consumption
of saltpetre, used as medicine, in preserving meat, and
in gunpowder, even in times of peace, it should seem
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& practice this art; but most of all, when so large
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quantities are wanted for our necessary defense, and when it will in a great measure supply the want of Salt which the rage of our Enemies may render scarce, it should not reasonably be supposed that any true American will neglect it.

as there can be no doubt but that every Colony may produce saltpetre enough at least for their own Consumption, it is necessary that powder mills be erected, & skillful persons provided to manufacture gunpowder, and proper regulations established for preventing their explosion.

it is supposed that sulphur may be found in many Colonies, & it is necessary that it should be collected, tryals may be made at places supposed to contain it at no great expence.

it must afford great pleasure to find that some Colonies have already in a measure anticipated the design of these resolves from the good effects of which it is clearly visible that we can never want the most abundant supply of ammunition from our own manufacture but through inattention and neglect.

We doubt not you will consider these proceedings as designed to promote the best welfare of the colonies, and that you will as soon as may be & from time to time inform the Congress of the state of these manufactures in your Colony, of the quantity of saltpetre already made
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the preparation for + prospects of increasing it, what quantity of gunpowder is already made, & the state of your powder mills, & also what discoveries are made of sulphur mines & the progress in working them

We suppose you already have the most approved method of making saltpetre among you, but the laying together suitable composts either in fences or beds in order to collect nitrous matter, seems necessary to be immediately attended to, as the earth from under old buildings may soon be exhausted.

We hope this effort of the Congress will have the desired effect, without which, we have reason to fear it will ere long be said of us, that we are become slaves because we are not industrious enough to be free

by order of said Committee I subscribe my self
with great respect your honour's most humble
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Robt Treat Paine

Philad^a. March 16th. 1776

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