

Dear Sir  
Philadelphia 26 March 1776

Our Express has returned and brought me your favours of the 3<sup>d</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> instant, I am very glad to find the Regulators of Highlanders have been put to the Rout, I hope they will not be able to appear again in the field, I wrote to you some time ago that Congress had divided the Colonies into districts that Virg<sup>a</sup> North & South Carolina and Georgia composed the Southern district, that Major General Lee was to command the forces there, we sent Five Tons of Powder a few days ago by land to Virg<sup>a</sup> for the use of that district you must apply there for what you may want, we cannot get any Small Arms, many are expected, and a considerable quantity are manufactured but the call for them has been so great as to put it out of our power to get any, hope soon to be able to furnish you, I had purchased 12 very pretty double fortified four pounders and had got them well fitted

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fitted, they would have done for a Vessel or for Field pieces  
I wanted only for an opportunity to send them, but Congress  
being informed that two or three Cutters were cruising on  
this Coast and had taken several Vessels, and being  
apprehensive if they were suffered to stay there they would  
fall in with some of our Vessels returning with powder &  
Arms, purchased a fine Bermudian Brig which they fitted  
out with 16 Guns & 90 Men and she sailed in a Week,  
they took my Guns for this Vessel not having it in their  
power to get any others suitable, I am endeavoring  
to get more, they are now become very scarce, if I find  
any good ones shall have them properly fitted & sent, this  
is now become doubtfull, no Vessel can be had to carry  
them should they be procured unless I will ensure her against  
Captures, they ask me 33 1/3 [percent] for insurance to [Benton]  
this will not do, I might as well purchase a Vessel at once,  
I have not the means, shall I purchase a small one on  
the province Account, will you not suffer greatly for want  
of salt and will not that cause insurrections, I wish my salt  
that was thrown into the River had been stored and given  
to the poor, you must make salt or you will be undone,

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you must also make Salt Petre & powder if you  
mean to defend your liberties to the last extremity,  
if you mean to have your province represented in  
Congress you must add one or two more delegates so that  
they may take it by turns, no man can attend constantly,  
you know my Constitution and how it is affected by  
a constant attention to business, we sit till four, some  
times five o'clock and I attend some Committee every  
night and frequently in the morning before Congress  
meets, I find myself declining, I am willing to spend  
the last remains of life in Our Cause in any way I  
can be most usefully employed, the expense of living  
here is very great our allowance will not bring about  
the year, I must suffer greatly in my private concerns,  
by being so long absent, if it should be thought proper to  
~~increase~~ the pay of your delegates I hope it will have  
retrospect, don't let the New hands be on a better footing  
than your old Servants, the last convention put our  
friend Penn on a much better than their former Servants  
had received, I cannot think it was right,

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made out & sent to them, you should enlist your Soldiers during the War or at least for three years, subject to be discharged at any time by Congress on giving them a months pay, you must take up some kind of Government, otherwise your people will get too licentious, I send you a short sketch of the Government of Connecticut. I have heard you speak much of it, I hate republicks and would almost prefer the Government of Turkey to live under, however I expect I must submit to it for I see no prospect of a reconciliation, if the people can be made happy I shall endeavor to be content, I will get the shoes you mention soon as possible, my Compliments to all friends, adieu & believe me to be with great Sincerity

Dear Sir

Your mo. Obed<sup>t</sup> humb. Serv.

Joseph Hewes

Sam. Johnston Esq<sup>r</sup>

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