

5/ then 7/6 and lately 10/ a pound for what powder I have it is selling currently at the South Branch at 2 dollars. I have refused parting with any because I think we shall very soon stand in great need of it here in Maryland. When the Convention of December desired all Men to enrol themselves into Companys, to provide a good firelock, Cartridge Box, half a pound of powder & 2^{lb} of lead, & to be ready to march upon any emergency I exerted myself greatly, put myself to a considerable expence, formed a company purchased a Lock Smith & Cutler at a great price on purpose, got 100 cartridge boxes made and woud soon have had the Company in tolerable order; but I presently found my zeal gave offence and every rub and Mortification was thrown in the way, to destroy the Company, so that I threw up in disgust; from what Quarters and factions it is needless to say; but I am extremely sorry to see that very little regard has been since paid to the directions of the Convention as to Arms and Ammunition. a few officers and Privates have tolerable Pieces but for the rest some have none, some without locks or even ramrods nor are there 5 Cartridge Boxes in the Company and all the expostulations as a private man that I can make avails nothing. a fatal backwardness prevails and I lay a considerable part of it to the Account of the officers not obliging the Men to put their Arms into better order which I think they certainly might do.

In December last there was a good deal of powder and lead in the store: instead of the People providing themselves with some & keeping it ready, or in store, it has most shamefully been wasted in Xmas Guns, fired away at birds and squirrels so that now I fear there is very little in the County and that little growing less every day. Our Committee a few days ago applied to me for what I had to dispose among the People which I refused to part with, well knowing that it will go like the rest fired away at Ducks &c. What I have I intend to keep, till it is wanted, to defend us against the Enemy, and I make no doubt the Honorable Council of safety will make me full Amends for my Zeal & Care in the preservation of it. I have some powder, some lead, some Arms, 7 good light Iron Cannon that would carry Balls of 1½^{lb} there are four other new ones at Pigg Point that will carry 3^{lb} balls. if these were put on travelling Carriages they might be of service to defend the Sides of the Rivers against the Tenders, and I suppose some arms and ammunition might be collected and procured, if a proper officer in each County was appointed for that purpose, and otherwise, I think there will not. My Opinion is that there should be a Commissary General of Stores appointed by the Council of Safety in each County, who, might employ proper deputys to every Company & Battalion and collect all