

Ins^t I am sorry, that I cannot see the necessity of the inter-^{Copy}view which you propose. If you or Lord Howe have any dispatches for Congress and think fit to transmit them to my care, they shall be forwarded by the earliest opportunity. If you have any of a Military nature for me, for none other can come properly under my consideration, I wish them to be communicated in writing and in the usual way. This will prevent any trouble on the part of Col^o Patterson and must answer, I should suppose, all the purposes you may have in view.

I have the honor to be
Sir Your most obed^t Servant
Geo. Washington

Sir Henry Clinton.

[Secretary Peters to Gov. Johnson.]

Original

War Office June 1st 1778

Sir,

The Board have been favored with yours of the 29th Ult^o & are concerned at the Information contained in it concerning the disarmed State of the Maryland Troops. We can however hardly credit the Report of so many being destitute of Arms, because if this was the case we should have heard of it before. But how to have remedied the Complaint we should have been at a Loss to determine as our Stock of Arms, as it ever has been at the opening of every Campaign, is lamentably low. No Importations of Consequence have been made tho' we had Reason to expect large Arrivals which the numerous Captures by the Enemy have prevented. We have not been able to repair the Wrecks of the last Campaign in the Article of Arms altho every Effort has been made. Of Course there are Numbers in Camp without Arms as we are informed, but not in so great Proportions by any Means to the Numbers of their respective Divisions as those of General Smalwoods. if your Information is received from Persons acquainted with the Fact. The Board approve of your Excellency's ordering the 15 chests of Arms to General Smallwood; but hope no Jealousy will arise there from among the Officers at Camp commanding Men equally destitute of Arms. There were 700 Hands on the Eastern Shore. Those in the 15 Chests amount to no more according to our Calculation than 375. We thank you for your Exertions in ordering the Stores forward & hope for a Continuance of your Attention to the Stores Tents &c yet behind. The Residue of the Arms & Tents should be sent to Camp to be