

escorting 150 Prisoners of the Maryland Division; he took the Party, and released the Prisoners, who are now, upon their march to Cross Creek where I sent Lieut. Colonel Ford, and proper Officers to conduct them Hither when these join; our Loss in Continentals, will be few; in Comparison of what from their once hopeless Situation might have been expected. Certain Persons have been extremely anxious that I should remove the Whole Force and take Post with them immediately in Mechlenburgh and Roan Counties, on the Western Border of the State. As this does not correspond with my own judgement, nor with that of many others whom I esteem very good Officers; I shall defer doing it, until I am convinced by some Movement of the Enemy, which way they point; and what is the real Object they have in View.

September 9
Brown Book
No. 8
Letter
No. 16

Should Willmington in this State, and Portsmouth in yours be the Posts they intend to take, I conceive the Southern Army would be entirely misplaced, at Charlotte, Salisbury, and the Ford upon the Yadkin; consequently I shall halt all the Continental Troops here until the Designs of the Enemy become so apparent, there can be no mistaking them. General Stevens who is posted near Guilford Court House acquaints me in his Letter the 6th Instant, that his Command, is by Desertion, reduced to 130 Men. I have directed him to Officer that Number, in a proper Manner; and come himself with the supernumerary Officers, to Hillsborough, in his Way to Richmond, where he can receive the Orders of the Executive for his future Conduct. I am astonished at Colonel Buford's Command, arriving here this Day; without Tents. Sickness, Death, and Desertion, must certainly be the dire Result, of sending Troops into the Field at the Autumnal Equinox, unfurnished with so essential an Article. Cost what they will, or get them how we may, they must be supplied, or ruin will ensue. I request your Excellency will send an exact Copy of this Letter, with your First Dispatch to Congress, and desire the President to order one to be sent immediately to His Excellency Gen^l Washington

[Fran's Ware, Port Tobacco to Gov. Lee.]

September 9

May it please your Excellency Enclosed you have a Return of the Public Armes ammunition and accoutriments now in Charles County. the Greatest Part of the Powder is so bad in Quality that I could not Require men to go to Action with it. and there are 16 of the Muskets Render^d in a most Shattered Condition by Capt Joseph Marburys Recruiting party Last Spring. Who had the use of them to apprehend and Guarde deserters, and We have no person in this County Sufficiently Qualified to Repair them. therefore should be Glad to be instructed What I am to do with them and the bad Powder. I have agreeable to instructions notified to those Classes Who Have not furnished Recruits that Wheat Would be