

the Company, as it has no other fifer and if he does not, the c. s. c. company can have no business with him after the Flying Camp is discharged; The council will please signify whether they gave such indulgence, and whether the boy was returned in the muster roll of the company and this matter shall soon be set right between the General and the Captⁿ I wish their acc^{ts} may be as easily adjusted. There are many other charges exclusive of what articles are and will be enumerated in the returns, which the Continent is charged with, particularly medicine necessaries supplied the troops, arms repaired &c for often on our march and since the Commissaries cou'd not supply nor would the public armourers work, at all events, soldiers must be fed and have their arms repaired, or else it cant be expected they will fight, an account of which can't at this time be rendered, for the retreating and flying disposition which has so much prevailed in our army latterly, made it most safe to send my books, papers &c to Philadelphia lest they should be lost, but be assured a true and particular acc^t shall be rendered, doubt not the province shall not be injured.

This precaution was necessary, for hitherto we have been generally drawn from our station and Baggage, to cover the retreat and defend the baggage of others, which has subjected us to much loss, upon the retreat or rather flight from New York. I have scarce an officer (myself included) or soldier who did [not] lose more or less of their baggage, pillaged by the runaways, indeed I believe many of them never had other views, than flight and plunder, both which they are extremely dexterous at. General Washington was so kind after he left the common where we were posted, to stop waggons himself and made one of his aid de Camps attend the sending of our baggage, but as I had left but four soldiers as a camp guard, being desirous the Reg^t upon this occasion shou'd be as full as possible, these cou'd not guard the Waggon and thus we lost part of our baggage. have since stripped from these poltroons several of our soldiers coats and had them severely scourged. Have purchased from the Continental Store Cloaths for such of the Independant Companies as their Captains inform me have received none before and I think upon good terms, accounts of which shall be transmitted. I think Thomas's company were paid for finding themselves, or at least he prefered this one day when I was present at the Council, you'll inform how this matter is, and whether you supplied him with money to purchase cloaths at Philadelphia, his company being as bare as those who have never had. I have dispatched Cap^t Hindman's to Philadelphia after his Company's cloaths which he tells me are ready made there, by whom Thomas has sent for his. I have sent