

Philadelphia 17th Oct^r 1780 -

Sir,

Permit me thro' your Excellency to remind Congress about the Supplies of our Army, which gives me much real concern and uneasiness - They are now fed from day to day, and scarcely a week has passed this three months, that they have not been one or two days wanting either Bread or beef -

Your Magazines are now destitute of flour, Bread, Beef, pork, Fish, Salt, Rum and none upon the Continent to my knowledge, can furnish one days Supply - The States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts bay are our principal dependence for Beef - the French being stationed at Rhode island has deprived the Agent of that State from giving any assistance; indeed he is hard put to it, to find the Continental troops on that Station, if the State Officers of Connecticut told his Excellency Gen^l Washington at Hartford that little could be expected from that State - I have no relief from the State of New York for the main Army - they have not been able to furnish their frontier posts with beef - I have had frequent applications for Supplies and they have actually had two or three hundred head of cattle from the Committee of Massachusetts bay - Jersey can furnish but little beef and not a large quantity of Flour - their quota of Supplies must be furnished between this and the first of January, I believe there is not above one quarter of their Supply of Meat due - Pennsylvania as yet have delivered very little flour, no Salt nor do I know of their buying any cattle - Sickness prevented
(my)

my going to the State of Delaware & Maryland
therefore can't inform you what is done in those
places—The enclosed copies of letters will shew
you the Situation of the Southern department—
Major Forsyth, my deputy, I expect here every mo-
ment who will give you further information—

All the garrisons and posts in the middle department
are destitute of provisions and no means in my power of
relieving them—The Season is now advanced & passing in
which quantities of beef ought to be procured and laid in
at those places, otherwise the troops must disband for want
of substance. —

I am distressed to think how the army is to be
kept together thro' the winter—It will be impossible with-
out large quantities of beef laid in upon the North
river contiguous to West point and at the magazines in
Jenny—There is a very poor prospect at present as the daily
Support of the army leaves none for that purpose—The
Supplies of fresh meat must undoubtedly fail in the
winter, and without large magazines of salt meat &
procured in due time the army cannot be fed—those
are matters which require immediate consideration &
if delayed may be attended with the most serious consequen-
ces, which cannot be remedied. —

There are large demands against me since
last Spring and early in the Summer—part for the
Seizure of rum by order of his Excellency Gen. Washington
at the time when our army marched from Mornistown
against

166
against the Enemy when in Jersey which he gave
me express orders to settle and pay for - All the persons
receivers of battle & Butchers, who are in my employ with
the army have received no pay since my entering upon
the business of the department - those with the former
sums will amt. to two hundred thousand pounds, which
I beg and request Congress to enable me to pay without
which it will be impossible for me to stay in Camp.

Since the month of July and last of September
in the vicinity of the army, and Garrison of Fort Mifflin
there has been seized from sundry persons above twelve
thousand gallons of rum and orders and certificates
given upon me for payment - the People are very im-
=fortunate for their money and give me great trouble
~~What I can do with them under present circumstances~~
The want of rum in the army causes great uneasi-
=ness among the soldiery, more particularly when there
is the least scarcity of provisions, and the consequence
of not having a regular supply causes seizures & those
generally at 50 or 40 percent above the price it might
be procured at. -

I have the honor to be
with much respect

Your Excellency's very
Humble Serv^t

Eph: Blaine

His Excellency
Genl. Huntington Esq