

- C. B. Pence for the use of the Part of his Battalion who were in Service due to them per Account passed the Board of Accounts
James Claypoole, Edward Warrell and John Bolton of Kent County or any two of them are appointed to enquire estimate and make return according to the Resolution of the General Assembly on the Memorial of Robert Anderson of Kent County respecting the Seizure of the Sails from his Vessel.

C. C.
Original.

[Washington to Gov. Johnson.]

Head Quarters Valley Forge, 20th December 1777

Sir: Gen^l Smallwood will, by this Conveyance, transmit you a Return of Seven of the Maryland Regiments. The eighth, which was composed of part of the German Battalion, and part of Rawlins's Regiment, is in the same situation in point of numbers. By this you will discover how deficient—how exceedingly short they are of the complement of Men, which of right, according to the establishment, they ought to have.

This information I have thought it my duty to lay before you, that it may have that attention which its importance demands, and in full hope, that the most early and vigorous measures will be adopted, not only to make the Regiments more respectable, but compleat. The expediency and necessity of this procedure are too obvious to need argument. Should we have a respectable force, to commence an early Campaign, before the Enemy are reinforced, I trust we shall have an opportunity of striking a favorable and happy stroke. But if we should be obliged to defer it, it will not be easy to describe, with any degree of precision, what disagreeable consequences may result from it. We may rest assured, that Britain will strain every nerve to send, from home and abroad, as early as possible, all the Troops it shall be in her power to raise or procure. Her views and schemes for subjugating these States, and bringing them under her despotic Rule, will be unceasing and unremitted. Nor should we, in my opinion, turn our expectations to, or have the least dependance on the intervention of a foreign War. Our wishes on this Head have been disappointed hitherto, and I do not know that we have a right to promise ourselves, from any intelligence that has been received, bearing the marks of authority, that there is any certain prospect of one. However, be this as it may, our reliance should be wholly upon our own Strength and exertions. If, in addition to these, there should be aid derived from a War between the Enemy and any of the European powers, our situation will be so much the better. If not, our efforts and exertions will have been