

the more necessary and indispensable. For my own part, I c. c. should be happy, if the Idea of a foreign rupture should be thrown entirely out of the scale of politics, that it may not have the least weight in our public measures. No bad effects could flow from it, but on the contrary, many of a salutary nature. At the same time, I do not mean that such an Idea ought to be discouraged among the people at large.

There is one thing more to which I would take the liberty of soliciting your most serious and constant attention, to wit, the Cloathing of your Troops, and the procuring of every possible supply in your power for that end. If the several States exert themselves in future in this instance, and I trust they will, I hope that the supplies they will be able to furnish, in aid of those which Congress may immediately import themselves, will be equal and competent to every demand. If they do not, I fear — I am satisfied that the troops will never be in a situation to answer the public expectation, and perform the duties required of them. No pains—no efforts on the part of the States can be too great for this purpose. It is not easy to give you a just and accurate Idea of the sufferings of the Army at large, and of the loss of Men on this account. Were they to be minutely detailed, your feelings would be wounded, and the relation would not be probably received without a degree of doubt and discredit. We had in Camp, on the 23^d instant, by a Field Return then taken, not less than 2898 men unfit for duty, by reason of their being bare footed and otherwise naked. Besides this number, there are many others detained in hospitals, and crowded in farmers Houses for the same cause. I flatter myself the care and attention of the States will be directed in a most particular manner, to the supply of Shoes, Stockings and Blankets, as their expenditure, from the common operations and accidents of War, is far greater than that of any other article. In a word, the united and respective exertions of the States can not be too great—too vigorous in this interesting work, and we shall never have a fair and just prospect for success, till our Troops (Officers and Men) are better provided for than they are or have been.

We have taken post here for the Winter, as a place best calculated to cover the Country from the Ravages of the Enemy, and are busily employed in erecting Huts for the Troops. This circumstance renders it the more material, that the supplies should be greater and more immediate than if the men were in warm comfortable Houses.

Before I conclude, I would also add, that it will be essential to inoculate the Troops or Levies as fast as they are raised, that their earliest services may be had. Should this be postponed, the work will be to do, most probably, at an interest-