

February 27 with, if any disappointment should happen on his part in that Article I am in hopes that it will lay in my power to Comply therewith. As to Difficulties I labour under many for the want of that proper instruction which persons generally are who are appointed to Offices that they are not very Conversant in—but are in hopes with due attention and Industry I shall yet make my services acceptable. I wrote you from this place some time ago informing you of my necessities, requesting an order on the Collector of this County for such a sum as would have Enabled me to Comply with my orders, but through some miscarriage I presume it did not reach you.

I now shall [be] making what purchases which may lay in my power & I hope I shall be Justified by Yourself & Council as I have not lately received orders for this Especial purpose. Provisions are high, Money Scarce, I shall do all that lays in my power with the Assistance of Col<sup>o</sup> Hollingsworth who has gave all the aide that he could possibly do.

February 27 [Don'l Yeates, D. Q. M., Elk, to the Governor and Council]

The bearer M<sup>r</sup> Wright a Gent<sup>n</sup> who does bussiness with me in the Quarter Masters department, waits on you to communicate some measures of Public concern, he will produce to you Colonel Pickering's instructions to me, Annapolis I apprehend is the properest place to procure the express Boat to go of with the letters, there is no Craft here suitable, all the Craft that can be procured and sent here for the reception of troops I presume will be wanted, I hope to meet your aid and Authority in geting the Vessels at your place & Baltimore Town, I am badly of in not haveing provisions necessary on this movement of troops, Col<sup>o</sup> Hollingsworth has wrote you on the occasion, you know my situation that of not being supplied with money, as many teams will be wanted for the space of two or three days in geting the heavy Cannon and Stores suddenly across from Xteen, it will require the sanction of the Civil Authority to assist me in procuring them your Advice and Assistance in this circumstance will be much acknowledged.

February 26  
1 o'clock in  
the morning

[Tim. Pickering, Q. M. G'l, Philadelphia to Donaldson  
Yeates Esq<sup>r</sup>, D. Q. M.]

You will have been informed of the arrival of a detachment of Ships in the Chesapeak from the fleet of our Allies at Rhode Island, and their object will at once seem to you—the Capture of Arnold & the troops & Vessells under his command. To Cooperate with those Ships a detachment of American troops, amounting to fifteen hundred men, are now on their march from the main Army; and a letter from the Marquis de la Fayette, who commands them, received this moment, informs me that this Detachment of troops will be at the Head of Elk by the third or fourth of March at farthest.