

Battalion may be given out to the Col. or commanding officer of the Battalion where it has not been already done by the Commissioners. This will be attended with some trouble and occasion frequent application to Congress: we are therefore of opinion that the easiest and best method would be for Congress to supply the Board with the whole bounty money for eight Battalions not already delivered out to the commissioners or officers and we will then distribute to the field officers and take the receipts and transmit them to Congress.

Should they not choose to deliver it out to us in that manner, then request the Bounty money may be given to the Col. or commanding officer of each Battalion as they may severally apply & take their receipts for the same. We should be obliged to you and the other Gentlemen Delegates for this State to apply to Congress from time to time as may be necessary. We have been deliberating about calling the Assembly & are not yet determined upon that point. We doubt the severity of the weather will make it exceedingly disagreeable in crossing the Bay and attending the Assembly in the very dead of Winter, and therefore do not think of calling the Houses together unless the necessity should be very urgent, or the Delegates of Congress from this State from their knowledge of public affairs should recommend the calling them before the day of their adjournment. It is very little more than thirty days before the meeting of Assembly in course; were we to send express immediately they could not be called together sooner than the first of February: and if we have any better weather it will be probably about that time. We have wrote the several Committees of observation, to encourage the new Levies all in their power and where there are no committees, to the Colonels and other principal field officers. The post has not yet come in, we are waiting with impatience for a confirmation of good news.

To Samuel Chase Esquire.

We are, Sir, &c

11th January 1777

Sir, We received your favour of yesterday informing us that you can get the ship for four thousands and four hundred pounds, which we agree to with willingness and pleasure and beg you will take her for this State.

To Mr. Jesse Hoelingsworth.

We are, Sir &c.

January 11th 1777

Sir, We are favoured with yours of the 10th and observe what you say regarding the prisoners at Philadelphia or Lancaster who may assist you in your Gun Lock Factory. They being