

up for building the town hall, to assist him in recruiting. W^m Ford will be a very proper hand to bring up what money you may think proper to send & Stricker I imagine the 250^l. he applies for is not too much as well as what you may think proper for Capt. Barrett many of whose company I expect will be very good Riflemen, if collected in his neighbourhood from where I think they may be best spared. Major Price tells me a good many public arms some of which have been repaired at the expence of those who have them may be collected with industry I should be glad you^d send up an order for the committee to collect all they can and if you think as I do to allow the people the reasonable expence of necessary repairs where the muskets came to their hands out of order. I understand about 100 gunlocks fit for Rifles and that would do well enough to put to repaired muskets are to be had in town I wish you^d send up about 60^l to purchase them W^m Beatty my Brother or myself will do it if you please. Price tells me he gained an acquaintance with one Royston, at the camp of the Artillery, who was a very clever young man & desires to come to the south and from Prices account of him he would be very serviceable in our second artillery Company & he would be well satisfied with a first Lieutenancy I wish if there's still room that he may be preferred to it, a trifling circumstance prevented his coming with Price and he even talked of following him. Maj^r Price writes to him that troops are raising in this province & that it is likely he will be employed which he says he dare say will bring him with a strong recommendation from Gen^l Gates to whom he is well known.

I am Gent. Y^r most ob^t

Th^o Johnson Jun^r

January 23^d 1776.

Gentlemen.

I have been honoured by the Convention, with the enclosed Commission which I now returns to you, with a Prayer to be excused from accepting of it. The precarious and declining state of my Health renders me incapable of executing the office, either with Benefit to my country, or reputation to myself, and therefore, I think it my duty to refuse it.

I am Gentlemen with the greatest Respects.

Y^r most ob^t Able Servant.

Addison Murdock.

To the Hon^{ble} Council of Safety Annapolis.

Cambridge January 26th 1776.

Gentlemen.

I observe by a Resolve of the State Convention, that the minute Company of Dorchester County, which I have the Honour to command, is ordered to march down into Virginia. and as the gentleman who was my First Lieutenant has thought proper to resign his Commission, I have herewith inclosed it to you. Least you should be unacquainted with a person suitable to fill that station, have in some measure thought it my duty to inform, that with your approbation could wish it supplied by the appointment of (him)