

At a time when there is so much to be done as I think would employ every zealous man I wonder to see so little stirring hereabouts and my own busy head & fingers without a task. it is a very happy circumstance for me at this time and I rejoice that matters are in other and abler hands. My good wishes and endeavours shall never be wanting on any occasion with the greatest esteem and respect I am Honorable Gentlemen Your most faithful & obed^t serv^t.

Stephen West.

M^r. Crawford this day examined the Powder & saw the lead weighed of which he has given me a certificate - annexed to this order of the Committee of security my son will wait on you & receive the money & take in my obligation of delivery if necessary.

S. W.

To The Hon^{ble} Council of Safety.

Woodyard 30th January 1776.

Sir. I wrote to you pretty fully from Frederick Town to the care of M^r. Sprigg and M^r. Hall and wrote also to those gentlemen - I hope you and your spouse and family have been happily situated this winter. I have just received a letter from your Brother in law Capt^m. Robinson who is gone out lieutenant in an armed vessel in the service of the Province - I shall give you his words -

"I have another request to make you about a matter I'm very anxious for viz^t. that you'd please to countenance my Brother in Law M^r. Burgess, he is comes at an unlucky time for himself as to what he Primarily intended, but he is remarkably ingenious and well versed in drawing and in military matters, he may be a very useful hand at this time, should there occur any thing in which he could be employed I'm confident his conduct would give satisfaction. -

So far your Brother - Now Sir in conformity to his letter I have wrote to the Honorable Council of safety at Annapolis. If you have any desire of being employed it will be your best way I think to wait upon them and offer your services - and if you have interest enough with M^r. Hall either to go with you or unto the Council of safety in your behalf. I think it might be of service. the small acquaintance between us prevents my saying further my respect for Isaiah and all his friends is sincere and I am with very good Regards. Sir

Your friend & servant. Stephen West.

If you come this way I shall be glad to see you.

To M^r. Burgess at Hagers Town.

Woodyard 30th Jan'y 1776.

My Good Sir.

Having occasion for some money this week I have sent up my son with the agreement, order & certificate relative to my powder & Lead - with the amount - I shall be much obliged to for your favour - in despatching him as he proposes to return the same day - I have wrote to The Hon^{ble} Council of safety upon this & other matters - from my agreement with the Council of safety the treasurer I think ought to pay me at once but you know best whether you or your Clk must first give an order. What is the highest exchange you give
(for)