

Sir,

Providence April 27th 1779

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Captain Touquet and his Son, who will deliver this Letter to you, have constructed Powder Mills in several States, in consequence of a Contract made between them and the Board of War, with the Approbation of Congress. The Time stipulated for their Service, is to expire the 17th of November next; and the King of France recalls the Father, who is in the French Service, and whose Leave of Absence is to expire about the same Time.

The Merit and Usefulness of those Men have not been sufficiently attended to, where they have been employed; and it cannot be remembered without blushing, that some Persons, who are indebted to them for the Means of acquiring future Wealth, have treated them in the most forced and ungrateful Manner.

Their Credentials render it unnecessary to explain the immense Benefit which the United States at large, and those in particular, where Captain Touquet may erect Gun Powder Mills, shall receive from him, but it may not be improper to observe that Major General DuRoi, who was drowned in the Skuytkill, a few Days after the Battle at Brandywine, was severely reprimanded by the French Ministry, for having abused his Authority, as Adjutant General to the Artillery of France, in carrying out of that Kingdom so useful a Man as Captain Touquet. Belanion, Metz, and Rouen have Gun Powder Mills erected on his Plan, but the Contractors for Gun Powder in that Kingdom have, for a long Time, evaded the Orders for constructing all the French Mills on the same Plan. Things are very different under this Reign of Lewis the Sixteenth.

I beg Leave, Sir, to recommend Captain Touquet and his Son to the Countenance of your State, and doubt not, that Gratitude and sound Policy will inspire You to treat those very valuable Men as they deserve.

I have the Honour to be with great Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most humble,
and
most obedient Servant,

Horatio Gates,
Major General

His Excellency the President of
the State of New-Hampshire }

Letter from Gen. Gates 1779
respecting Mass. of Forquet
April 27. 1779

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