

Chester 15th July 1778

1785

The hon^{ble} the President of Committee of Safety for
the State of New Hampshire

Gentlemen

The difficulties I meet with in procuring the supply of Flesh, so much wanted at this juncture for use of the armies of the United States, obliges me to request your interposition that some mode be adopted to enable me to furnish the supplies, reasonably expected from this quarter.

The purchaser returns yesterday & informs of the disposition of the people, that they withhold their cattle, expecting a greater price will be given in some future day, arguing that the Money is little worth and they know not what sum to ask; yet what cattle are purchas'd come at so high a price, I am almost perswaded not to purchase; but what can the Army do. I am forced to give higher prices than are given in any quarter that I know of; tho' Beef is not worth as much here, as nearer the Army the distance being so great from thence. There are also Private Persons engrossing cattle to themselves with a view of selling them to me supposing the demand to be so great (by my coming here to purchase) that I am oblig'd to buy on any terms, & others are driving out of the State, all which tends to raise the price of cattle & make them more difficult to be obtain'd. I meet with difficulty in getting persons to drive even when the Proce is ready to go forward, whereby Bills of Expence

are highly augmented by detention. Time would
fail me to particularize every circumstance of
difficulty that attends my business. the Bearer
hereof. Esg. Clough, is intelligible, to him I would
refer your Honors for further particulars. I would
humbly suggest, that I conceive it to be absolutely
necessary, proclamation be made to the people
that I am properly Authoriz'd and sent here to pur-
chase for public use, that Cattle are not to be
driven out of the State from me, that no other
person has a right to purchase but myself &
those appointed by me. that myself & purchasers
have your Warrants to seize or take any Cattle
that are driving out of this State, for the limits
assigned me) for public use & that I have Autho-
rity to impress persons to drive Cattle when gather-
ed, to the place of destination (when I cannot hire
them) & the like Authority to provide pastures for
such Cattle - tis with the utmost difficulty I obtain
pastures, nobody has any to spare & the Cows may
lie in the Streets — There is a certain Jonathon
Banker of Lippin, whom I call'd on to purchase
Cattle of, he has 20 head fit for the Knife, I cannot
obtain them under under the unreasonable price of
100 £ & 40 sh. this person I think by his conversati-
on is unfriendly to the cause we contend for —
there is a certain M. Robins (I am inform'd) now
purchasing to drive out of the State. a Drove
Cattle cross'd the River at Flaverel yesterday
all gathered out of this State, by such conduct the
minds of the people are infatuated — to mor-
row I shall set out for Grafton County, where I

hope Little may be procured on better Terms - on
my return shall wait on your Honors, but could
wish the purchasers may be furnished with the
afres^d Warrants soon as without doubt they will
be wanted - I rest wholly on the Committee for their
Success & Assistance, without which I quickly
fall to pieces - I am Gentlemen with all
deference & due respect

your most Obed^t & hum^l Serv^t
Thos^d J^r Douglass

Purchasers Names
John Stribner
Zachary Clough
Ben^d Hale
Jno^d M^r Hansen -

Amount of Purchases for
Northⁿ Department

P.S. Esq^r Clough will inform
of my progress in purchasing
& what no^s called are forwarded to
the Highlands -

A Letter from
Thos. J. Douglass Esq
July. 78.

To
The Honble the Chairman of the Committee
of Safety for the State of New Hampshire

at Exeter

Thos. J. Douglass
Letter July 45. 1878