

Roxbury, May 22. 1781.

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Sir,

The objects of my commission to the eastern states at this time, are to present the address of his Excellency General Washington, representing the alarming situation of the army on account of the want of provisions - to entreat immediate temporary relief - and endeavour the establishment of some more permanent and effectual mode of supply in future. To obtain the first, which cannot admit of any the least delay, without the inevitable evacuation of Fort Schuyler, and exposing the army to dissolution, Beef cattle fully equal to the late demand of M^r. Commissary Stevens must be immediately sent on. - In the second place, a regular and effectual mode must be adopted and uniformly carried into execution for supplying the army during the campaign - Without this, the same perplexing wants, irregularities and distresses will continue which have existed in times

past.

past. The quantity of fresh beef which will be wanted from the state of New Hampshire, from the first of June next, and during the campaign, is specified in the Commisary-general's estimate, copy of which I have the honor to present herewith. — The best method for ensuring this supply, and whether it may not be best for the Legislatures of the New England States, by Committees appointed for that purpose, to confer thereon, can be best determined by your honorable Assembly: but I most earnestly request that it may be accomplished in ~~some~~ way as may be thought best, without a moment's loss of time, and on the most certain basis; and that the beef-cattle may be put in motion on a fixed day in each week, which alone can ensure a regular supply.

As it may be impracticable at present to transport the salted meat from the state of New Hampshire, I request to be informed by an official return, what quantities have been procured, where, and under whose charge it actually is — if any part of the salted provisions

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provisions have not yet been collected, that it may without a moment's loss of time be ordered to the place, or places pointed out for its deposit, repacked and safely stored.

A supply of rum is also essentially necessary for the troops. When I left the army, men on the severest fatigue had nothing but water to drink. — I am instructed to enquire what quantity of rum is in store in your state, and at what place, or places; and in what manner it may be forwarded. The arrangements of transportation should be so made as to have the articles carried entirely through to the army, without leaving them on the road. — I am also instructed to urge the forwarding the summer-clothing, and request to ^{be} informed in what readiness it is at present.

As the completion of this important business will require my return to Boston before your arrangements may be fully made, I request your honor will be pleased to inform me by letter of the final determination of your state, and of each particular, that I may make a report to the Com-
mander

Commander in chief, conformable to my instructions.

As the continuance of the army in the field and its being of any real service, after the great expence which has been incurred in raising and recruiting it, rest entirely on the supplies being seasonably and amply furnished, I flatter myself that notwithstanding all the embarrassments under which your State labor, that zeal for the public service, which on every emergency has been so apparent, will now prompt to those exertions which alone can retain the army in existence.

I have the honor to be
With the greatest respect

Your honor's

Most obedient servant

Wheat

General

From Genl
Wheat of Albany
22. 1791 request
ing supplies for
the Army
the 2 May 2nd

P.S. The Commissary's estimate of
Rum, is one hundred and twenty
hogheads per month. — The D. L. M.
at Boston informs me no person
is yet appointed to receive the stores
at N. A. and request you will be
pleased to appoint one.

Honorable Meshech Weare Esquire.