

Copy

Head Quarters New Windsor

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Sir

July 19th 1791.

I think it my duty to inform Congress of every circumstance which concerns the Supplies of our Army and my uneasiness respecting them. I fear none of the States will come up to their expectations and that many will fall exceedingly short. Inclosed I send you a copy of a letter which I received from Col. Champion it will inform you the expectations I have from that State and from many other similar information these failures of Supplies will one day or other be attended with the most fatal consequences to prevent which I beg Congress to write the most pressing letters to each of the States to use every possible exertion in procuring the provisions required with punctuality. I expect shortly to have returns of all State Supplies furnished last year and shall transmit them to Congress the moment I have it in my power.

The Troops at West Point and those
Canton'd in this neighbourhood have been
/ Some

Some time on scant allowance of bread and the
present appearances give me little hope of a season-
able supply of beef cattle: we have no fresh meat
upon hand, and the troops are now fed upon what
little corned & salted beef I had laid up for spring
use which is not more than twenty days support.

If our situation is such ~~as~~ in the most
plentiful season of the year & when our magazines
ought to be filled with salt provisions I leave
your excellency to judge what it must be next
campaign when three times the number
of men are in the field the consequences must
undoubtedly be their dissolution for want of
subsistence without the states use four fold
exertions in facilitating their respective purchases
in due time. I find a very great loss will
arise ^{upon} ~~from~~ all the cattle which are received
at the army & altho' I have taken every precaution
and adopted every judicious measure to have
proper estimates they are all laid much too
high - those which I had slaughtered under
the direction of baseful people have lost one
/ fifth

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fifth upon the estimated weight the Drivers
had it not in their power to make proper pro-
-vision of forage for the battle upon the com-
-munication will add some to the loss of beef
upon the battle which have been drove late in
the season. —

The troops have been destitute of rum
ever since they came into winter quarters. —
There is about seventy hog heads at Springfield
but I have not the least hope of getting it brought
forward before the spring —

I have the honor to be with
great respect your excellency's
very humble Serv^t

J. W. Blaine
Cong^d Gen^l Purch^d

His Excellency The President of Congress —

Copy of letter from Helene
Conybeare. Received at Longue
Jan 19th 1781.

Richampton

Dec. 1781