

New Ark. (December. 23. 1777)

Sir

I arrivd at this place last night. and this morning. intended. for Wilmington. but recd a letter express. from General Smallwood. a copy of which. I here enclose you for your perusal and wrote him that there was no horse in this State but yours. and made no doubt but your approbation for them will be given

I have sent orders out for our whole militia to turn out and march forthwith to Wilmington. The success as yet cannot say. but am afraid. of their spirits being somewhat flat. in cold weather.

as to the head or Cartidges. as yet must be silent till I see General Smallwood personal. nothing new here, except at Wmgs 2500 Continentall

I am Sir with much Esteem
your most Wth Lth
Sam. Patterson

General. Rodney