

New York Dec. 23^d 1777.

Sir

Yours of yesterday came to hand, and observes the contents; for answer, am to acquaint you that last night I arrived at this place, from our general assembly at Dover, At which place I rec^d orders from our commander in chief, to assemble forthwith the whole militia of this country & march to your place & to be under your command, in consequence of which I wrote to Coll Duff last night & sent off by break of day this morning. to march forthwith to Wilmington & as his troops are in the vicinage, make no doubt but he will march some comp^s immediately, as to Light Horse, we have none in this county, but I shall send off to Gen.^l Rodney at Dover for his if can be got there is about 20 well found.

Am sorry to acquaint you that the times of the militia at this place which was raised for two months is out some & the whole in about three days, as usual such at the day went off, so that very few remain here, and am sorry to say that the spirit that used to appear is languishing much. - no part of this business shall be left undone by me to forward the troops to you - Before I rec^d your favour I intended this day to have waited on you - I shall acquaint you of my success from time to time in this business.

abt 1422

I am with great respect,

Your obedient hum^e ser^t

Sam^l Patterson

Gen.^l Smallwood