

Military

1777

Letter from Messrs.
Phaine Penet & Co.
dtd y. 21st Oct: 1776.
from Nantes
Recd y. 21st Feb: 1777.

Gen. Ref
#65

The Respectable Members
of the Secret Committee
of the Counties of New Castle &c.^a

Gent^l^m

Nantes 21st October 1776

Although we have not the pleasure of your acquaintance we nevertheless shall take the liberty to assure you of our Respects and make our offers of service to you in Europe and for your assurance of what we have the honour of offering, will refer you to the Hon^{ble}. Continental Congress and Secret Committee of Philadelphia, to whom our names are well known and with whom we passed a contract in february last for the furnish^g. of Amunitions and other necessary articles in your present Situation. And further you may inform yourselves of Governour Cook at Providence, and Mess^{rs}. Rich^d. & John Brown of the same place, for which we have dispatched two Vessells since the establishment of our house in this place

We hope after your informations concerning us, be it from the Congress or the Generals of the Army, and in particular from Doctor Franklin, that you will be satisfied in order to put confidence enough in us to consign all Vessells you send for this part to our house. And we flatter ourselves to find the best sale possible for your Merchandise, and send in returns, what goods you will think proper to order, if they are to be had in France

We are able to furnish you at demand with Cannon & Gun powder Salt-petre, Sulphre, Lead, Iron & Brass Cannons of all Sizes, Muskets, such as we have sent the Congress, being of the last mode for the Infantry of France, proved, well finished and perfectioned, with double bride locks

We have muskets at all proof from 12 to 22 livers of piece wth bayonets and steel ram rods, and bores suitable for ball of 14 or 16 to the lb; all the muskets are uniform of the same size and same modell; we have also handsome and good Gun locks, which are well finished and Conditioned

We have the honour of observing that there is only our house able to furnish you with the foregoing Articles, and that we shall

take upon us the Risk and dangers of putting them on board, and to let your Vessells go out of our port freely; there are powers that we are trusted with and which we have in hands. not any other house in France, shall be able to give you the like advantages, and furnish you with such Ammunition which we receive directly from the Manufactories of the King

We are able to furnish you also with all kinds of Broad Cloths, fit for Cloathing of Soldiers, (we have sent a quantity to Mess^r. Browns of Providence) We have them of all Colours, good quality and well assorted for the price of 5. 4. 5. 6 & 7 Livres $\frac{1}{2}$ Ell, but the following Colours of the same quality, will be somewhat higher, such as Scarlet, Prussian blue, yellow & Green; And we are further able to furnish you with such Cloths as will be desired, likewise with all kinds of Blankets from 3. 4. 5. 6 & 7 Livres $\frac{1}{2}$ piece, also Linens for Shirting the Troops from 30 to 50 Souce $\frac{1}{2}$ Ell. We shall be able Gentlemen to furnish you in general with every kind of Merchandize of the first quality and at the most reasonable rates; And you may assure yourselves, that we shall dispatch immediately every Vessel you shall think proper to address us, whether the Cargo is sold or not

We have established our house in this place, thinking it the safest and most convenient port in France for the American ^{Trade}, and we have entered in Partnership with one of the richest and first houses for business in Nantes, the name is J. Gruel, Merchant upon Isle Fey deau, therefore in addressing your Vessells to that house, by giving us immediate notice, will be the same as if addressed directly to us, making but one and the same house for all the Trade we have with North America,

In case you should think of sending a Vessel to Bordeaux, we take the liberty of recommending to you the house of Mess^r. Reculei de Bamarain & Raimbeaux, being one of the most principal houses there, and who we think will do your business better than any other can do

We have in our house and at the head of our affaires that we transact with North America, M^r. Will, a young man from Philadelphia, who wholds our correspondance in English, therefore if you should have any affaires particular or

secret to transact or negotiate, you may be assured of the order and
discretion that reigns in our house.

We have the honour to be in the mean time with
our most sincere Respects Gentle

Your most Obedt^t &
most H^l Serv^t
J. Pierre Benet & Co.