

Receipt

Exeter January 21st 1777

I have Received yours of the 2^d Ult^o Together with 2 Wagons Containing
19 Barrels of Powder which I have stored in a secure place. - I have had
three Carpenters 8 Days at Work on our Bark and was this day
Obliged to discharge them; they not being able to work for the Ice
there is now here, as soon as ever the Weather permits they are to
Return & finish their Comptrolly, at which time I will give Mr.
Shinn word when to come down & you may find the sailor
you mentioned at the same time, from the present prospect
of Ice I am afraid it will be some time before we are able to do
any thing, however I am determined not to leave one moment in
getting the Neptune Ready. - my sleep is not yet Rest^d &
our Affairs will not seem if the frost continues.

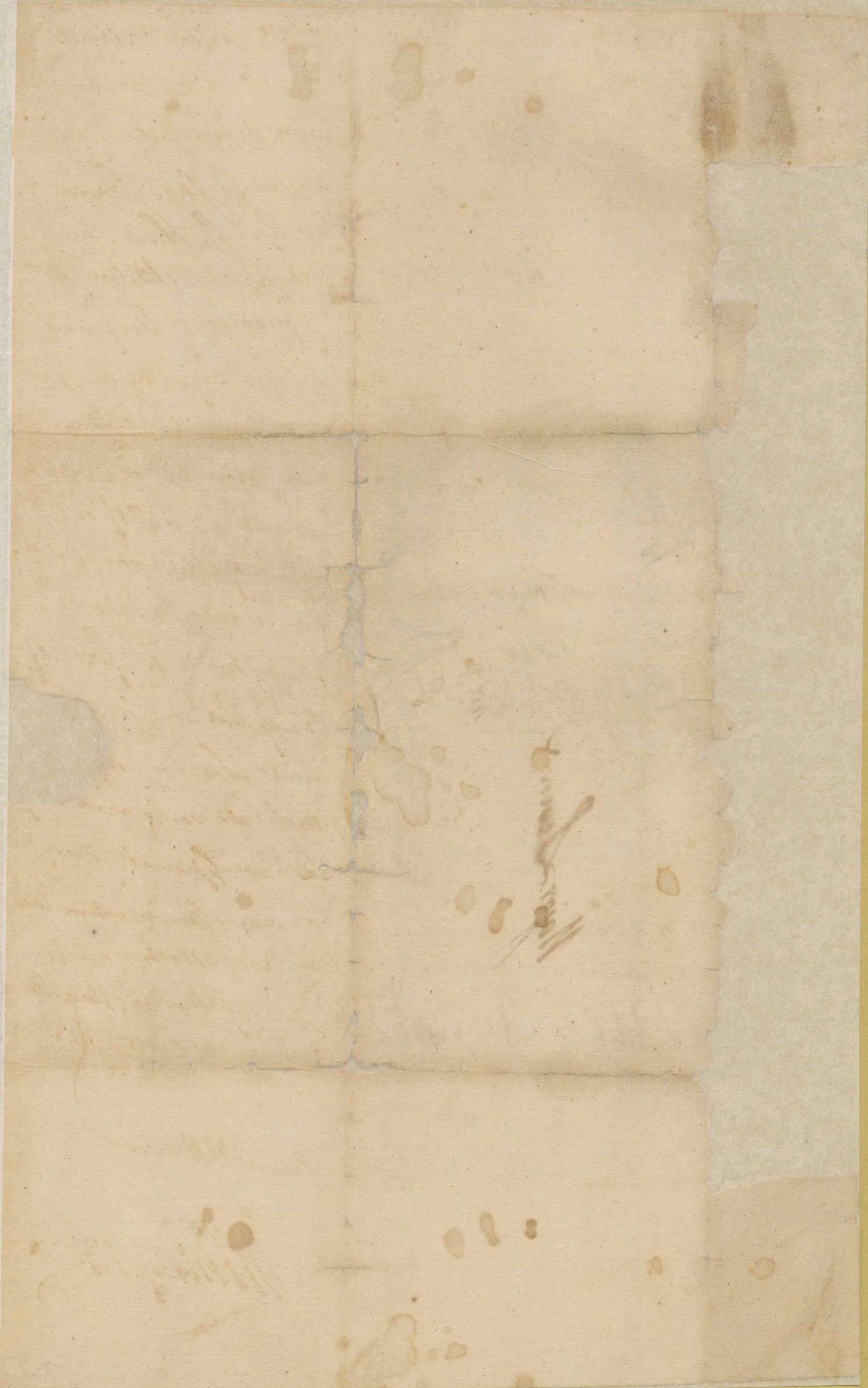
You mention your having purchased 150 Barrels of Powder, I have
not said what any for one or two, which I hope you have not,
as it is now selling currently in Alexandria at 9^{cts}. I have promised
not to interrupt you any more respecting the price of Powder if
you have not agreed on a positive price for what you have bought
for me, pray let it be the Market sooner than give
above 10^{cts}. & Order is given as far as I can as I have storage
for you & myself secured. - you must have heard of
General Washington having taken about 900 Hessians &
killed about 20 in an engagement that happened the day after
Christmas when he headed the Army himself & was the attack
& you have this day heard an account of his having given God's
Grace every fatal blow which he has done double the
Damage to the Enemy as in the former. God grant him
the like success in every engagement; he has now greater
power & is in town, than ever was in any one manner
this -

the Continent, that is he is made Dictator to the 13 United
States you may now expect something clever will be done,
as to their going into Winter Quarters its an entire joke,
Neither Army have any such Nation so says several
Gentlemen immediately from the Camp so that the
Fear of every man that intends Marching the Better for
we really are but weak; the Last Squadron of Virginia
Light Horse went through here this day, I assure you
they cut no formidable figure.

if you can conveniently engage me about 50 or 60 lbs or
of good Tobacco to be delivered at this Warehouse at 2M. or 6C.
more if Occasion may require you will infinitely oblige me, it will
be necessary if any person wants to sell a Quantity to take their
account Deliverable any time between this & the first of
May next to me or my Assign, pray let me hear from
you on this head as soon as convenient together with other
matters. — I have for you 2 Bushels of Salt being about half
I have given with all my heart I could have spared you
more. my Gun & Accoutrements are at your service when ever
you require them — tho I assure you I am not worth a
Shilling a Captain now my self, Mr Pulcrum having resigned
his Commission — I wish you a happy new year &
am

Dear your friend & Ally

W. Thompson



Jan 7 1777

Major Genl Smith

H

and

James O'Brien

Received
of the
Genl