

January 15. 1818

Mr Monk

use of a rifle, by Colonel Ferguson who fell at King's Mountain, which could be loaded at the breach without using the rammer or turning the muzzle away from the enemy, and with such quickness as to fire seven times in a minute.

With very great and faithful respect, I am your obedient servant

Richard Rush.

James Monroe.

President of the U. States.

London January 15. 1810. —

Dear Sir.

An individual of this town, of the name of Hough, who represents himself to have been formerly in service in India, has made known to me, through the secretary of the legation, that he has found out an improvement in ordnance.

The principle of his supposed improvement, contemplates the use of the spherico-cylindrical, in place of round shot, and a reduction in the weight of the great gun, whilst it is to retain all its capacity to throw with safety and effect, a heavy ball. He offers to demonstrate by experiments,

the superior destruction capable of being produced by the spherico-cylindrical shot, over the round, when employed in close action, or at different distances not exceeding fifteen hundred yards. He also imagines, that a considerable improvement may be effected in defensive artillery by the use of the spherico-cylindrical shell, on the plan of Colonel Thrapnell's, as they could be made to contain many more carbine balls, than the common spherical case-shot.

This Mr Hough, of whom I can say nothing but barely that he writes the note of an educated man, wants encouragement from our government, which I of course am not authorised to hold out to him. It may be, that his plan does not deserve it. But I have deemed it worth while to allude to it. Better that a thou-

thousand of these hints should be transmitted to no purpose, than that one should be passed by which may prove useful. When Mr Jefferson was in Paris in 1785, he mentioned in one of his letters, now on file in the department of state, an improvement in the manufacture of muskets, which consisted in making every part so exactly alike, that what belonged to any one, might be used for every other. If I mistake not, this advantage is now known to our service. How far the above letter may have led to it, I cannot say.

While upon this subject I will add, that, reading Bissett's reign of Geo: III for amusement on my passage, I observed, in volume 2 page 306, (Philadelphia edition) mention made of what was new to me:—viz, the invention and practical