Augusta Octob'r 13 1781

Sir,

My indisposition has prevented me the pleasure of writing to you for some times. You know with a draft of one half of the militia is posted in Burke County about forty miles from this on the road to Savannah; our light parties have down near the enemy's line. They keep the clear, but by every account seem to be meditating a blow at us as soon as their cavalry are in order which will be very soon as they now have the advantage of the field. Their number is about five hundred. Our number in the fields are about three hundred the remainder of the militia are so scattered that it is not possible to collect them on
on any emergency she have not arms for more than two thirds of our men and these are very indifferent ones I find it a difficult task to keep up any order among the people. Would you suppose us but a small body of Continental if it were but one hundred or even fifty it would give stability to our body and confidence and two hundred stands of arms we add so much to our strength. Our ammunition is almost expended though I have used every means to preserve it shall be obliged make another application soon when I hope it will be in your power to give us a more ample supply. For the above requirement and supply I am instructed by the Executive Council of this State to make application to you.
fully persuaded you will use every aid in your power consistent with the general good. I have sent under guard to you four British soldiers who have fallen into our hands at different times, as our situation renders it extremely difficult to keep prisoners, especially those we have attacked here. I have been induced to take this step hoping you will receive them for an exchange you will let us have them again or an equal number. Governor Bulloch in one of his letters to me says that you recommend it to me to attempt taking Cherokee, the situation & strength of that post is such that to carry it by a direct attack on it
would require a much larger force than I am able to collect without aid and an offer of forces, holding that post very little if at all affects this State to my 
North Carolina I have offered to cooperate with any forces sent from 
that purpose by Governor Ashby at the same time an insuble foe we meet 
are repulsced it must endanger this State much — we are extremely dis 
talented for want of all salt — have 
not had a single barrel for some 
times not even for the troops on duty, neither have we had sugar, coffee, 
tea or spirits of any kind for either 
Sick or well since I came into the State now you may have it in 
your power to relieve us neither 
can I at present ver any way for 
immediate relief but thro your munifence