
LETTER

FROM

MR. HORNBLOWER

TO

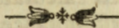
MR. KITCHELL,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

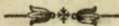
SCHUYLER'S COPPER MINE,

IN

NEW-JERSEY.



April 18th, 1800.



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BELLEVILLE, *April 16th*, 1800.

SIR,

IN answer to yours of the fourteenth instant, permit me to give you the following information and opinions, which is not done without consideration and much diffidence, as the enquiries you make are of great importance and delicate in their nature, as you have justly observed.

The quantity of ore that may be obtained from Schuyler's mine, if conducted under the sanction of government, with a sufficient capital and prosecuted with vigour, will probably be from 100 to 120 tons annually, which ore, when smelted, will produce about 60 per cent. of fine copper. But as this quantity may be very inadequate to the necessities of government, it may be proper to explore such other mines, as those at Bound-brook, Pluckemin, Rocky-hill, Brunswick, Woodbridge, &c. which, if worked with œconomy, will encrease the supplies at a moderate expense, besides the chance of making new discoveries which is considerable. As to the smelting, refining and manufacturing of the copper, in such manner as may be most useful to government, I have no doubt it may be done with success in this country, at a cheaper rate than it can be imported, especially considering the present scarcity of copper in Europe, provided proper workmen and artists are employed. It is, Sir, well known from repeated trials and long experience, that by mixing various qualities of ore together, from different mines, they will produce in the aggregate, a much larger proportion of fine copper than they would do if smelted separately. These observations, Sir, are all that occur to me at present, I shall be happy, however, to furnish you with any

other information in my power, that may be necessary or useful.

In the mean time, Sir, I assure you I consider it at least an object, deserving the attention of Congress, to encourage the exploring and working of mines, by which we may probably obtain, from the bosom of our own country, those supplies of copper which we cannot at present procure from Europe, owing to the increased demand for it there, and the prohibition of the exportation of that article from Great Britain, in consequence of the failure of one of the principle mines in that country, which information I have from Mr. Dayton, to whom I have written on the subject of this letter, at his request.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

Your humble servant,

JOSIAH HORNBLOWER.

Hon. AARON KITCHELL.

P. S. It is perhaps, worthy of notice, that in several places, in the neighbourhood of Schuyler's mine, there has been found small quantities of copper ore, and such appearances as to induce a more particular examination, than has hitherto been made.

J. H.