

c. s. c. Day delivered to us: we were furnished with the intercepted Letters some Time before the Receipt of your's, and had taken such Measures, as in our Judgment were competent to the Occasion. To dissolve the Government and subvert the Constitution by the Seisure and Imprisonment of the Governour, we conceived to be a Measure of too much Delicacy and Magnitude to be adopted without calling and consulting the Convention of this Province: we saw no Necessity urging us to such an Extreme, and were therefore determined not to expose the Province to immedate Anarchy and Convulsion, if an Assurance could be obtained from the Governor, that he would not depart before our Convention met to decide upon this important Business. He cheerfully gave us this Assurance and that we feel no Apprehensions of Danger from him. Under these Circumstances we cannot comply with the Request of Congress in any other Manner than we have done, and flatter ourselves they will rest satisfied and consider us excusable.

We have apprehended M^r Ross and shall keep him in Custody and examine him fully.

Permit us, Sir, to assure you that we are determined to maintain the Rights and Liberties of this Country at every Hazard of life and Property, and will vigorously procure every Measure which the defence of America shall require.

To J. Hancock Esq^r
Presd^t of Congress.

Original.

[A. Beall to Council.]

Bladensburgh 18th April 1776.

Gentlemen. It is with reluctance I take up my pen to address you on a matter I would wish to be silent on, was I not urged to do it by the strongest entreaties of a Company inferiour to none in the province, whom I respect, and who I have the highest satisfaction in obliging. My resigning has thrown the Company into great confusion and concern for fear M^r William Hamilton, my first Lieutenant, should take place as Captain, who they look upon not to be worthy, or in any respect proper for that office; but perhaps may be recommended by the Colonel through prejudice to me, as I would not condescend to serve under him; if it so happens that he should be appointed Captain, it will be the utter destruction of the Company, as they are determined not to serve under him. I would not willingly interfere with this Gentlemans private character, therefore shall only relate the matter to your Honours how he came to be appointed Lieutenant, which was,