

c. s. c. present occasion ; we think their service will not be wanting, for altho' there are many of the Enemy's Ships in Potowmack, yet there are but few men in them ; those sickley and die fast.

The Fowey and Otter with about fifty sail of Vessels are still at Saint Georges. The Roebuck with three Ships and a few small Vessels are as high up Potowmack as Mattawoman, where it is said they are watering. We have already contracted for a large number of Camp Kettles of Iron and Copper, and expect to procure some of Tin.

If your Brother's Iron is suitable for casting Guns we could contract with you for fifty three pounders, fifty four-pounders, and seventy five Swivels to Carry one pound Ball. Captain Nicholson informs us that the length of the Swivels is not material, the three and four pounders ought to be somewhat shorter than the common standard. Should we find it necessary we will hereafter give orders for the march of a Battalion from Frederick County.

July 22, 1776

No. 73.

[Council to Price.]

To Major Thomas Price

Sir.

You will make use of all or part of the Cannon as you see cause, taking care not to waste Powder in vain.

Enclosed you have an order, which you must do every thing in your power to enforce.

You should be particularly cautious in taking care to secure Deserters, some of them you may depend upon it, are Spies: the Negro you mention that escaped from the Guard may have been sent on purpose to seduce the Slaves in the Neighbourhood.

Be pleased to inform us from time to time of material occurrences as they happen. We have paid the express.

25 July 1776

No. 74.

[Council to Dorchester and Somerset Committees.]

To the Committees of Observation of Dorchester and Somerset Gentlemen. We have ordered Cap^t John Gunby's Company to march to Cambridge in your County, and to be stationed where you may direct. We hope that Company will be sufficient to protect you against Tenders who may attempt to plunder.

25 July 1776