

to us yesterday we are informed the mate or midshipman of the Roe Buck was killed in the action. By the best information the Enemy have not more than 50 Regulars of the 14th Regiment, about 150 Tories and 100 negroes that bare arms: all of whom are landed every morning and embarked in the evening under cover of the Fleet, which continues in the mouth of St. Mary's River opposite the lower end of St. George's Island. Our strength at present is about 400 Militia exclusive of the Independant and Cap^t Forrest's company. I made bold immediately on my arrival (the strength of the Enemy being much magnified) to order to our assistance three full companies of Militia from Col Hawkins Battalion, to be selected from the interior part of the County, which I expect will arrive about to morrow evening, when, I shall discharge an equal number of the most necessitous of those now on duty. The Fleet (which at first consisted of eighty sail) is now reduced to little more than half that number, many of the Tenders and Square Rigged vessels having gone to Virginia opposite the mouth of Potowmack where a pretty constant Cannonade has been kept up ever since I have been here. We are told by the Deserters (two more of which have come over since I began to write) that the fleet intend only to wood and water on the Island, burn all, or most of their small craft and proceed to Sea. Had we a few great guns at a place called Cherry Fields Point, well planted and served, we might annoy the Fleet so as to oblige them to quit their Station. Cap^t Forrest's Company has relieved an equal number of the militia who readily parted with their arms, such as they were.

I shall as often as any thing of consequence happens communicate it to you with the utmost dispatch, 'til when I am your most obedient Serv^t

Jno. Dent.

C. S. J.

Saturday 20 July 1776.

Council met. Present the same members as on yesterday.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Patrick Burk twenty three Shillings and nine pence for Cartage.

That the said Treasurer pay to James Hodges three pounds fifteen Shillings for Expresses.

Ordered That the Commissary of Stores deliver to Cap^t James Hindman as much Osnaburgs as will make Spatterdashes for his Company: Also some Cutteau Knives and Cartridges to fill his Cartouch Boxes.

Ordered that Isaac Harris deliver the public Arms in his Possession to Capt. James Disney to be used by said Disney's