

and your Commission making it, in a Particular Manner your C. C.
Duty to afford the Subjects of this State Protection against all
Violence or Injury within your County, to their Persons or
Properties. I have the utmost Confidence that you will give
Mr Goddard every Protection, warranted by Law, in your
Power.

Worshipfull Justices }
of Baltimore County }

I am Gent.

Y^r most obed^t Serv^t

[Gov. Johnson to Hancock.]

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Annapolis 23^d Ap^l 1777.

Sir

I had prepared the inclosed Letters and intended to have sent them off this Evening or in the Morning by Express. Our Assembly broke up on Sunday; your Letter of the 2 Ins^t and its Inclosure makes the Consideration of that Part of mine relative to a Battalion being stationed in Somerset County, unnecessary, though it must give the Gentlemen of the Congress Pleasure to see that they have anticipated the Request of the General Assembly and made a Provision fully adequate, as we judge, for the Occasion. A good many who were in the late daring Practices, did not take the Benefit of the Proclamation; 50 or 60 have been sent up hither as such, most of them ignorant miserable People, and some who seemed rather to have been Spectators than concurring; those of any Influence are kept in Confinement, but the wretched we have discharged, on taking the Oath of Fidelity, and, in all Instances where required by the Field Officers, delivering up their Arms. There is still a small Force of Militia kept up and we have lately had Letters from the Officers, from whence it seems they are not apprehensive, but on the Event of a Force being sent by our Enemies. The Governor and Council are intrusted by the Legislature with a Power of seizing, imprisoning or ordering to any Part of the State, those who they may suspect to be inimically disposed. The Legislature have also passed a Tory Bill, giving the Magistrates pretty extensive Powers. I make no Doubt but that every Thing recommended in the Resolution will be executed by the executive Power, except inventorying the Estates of the Disaffected and taking the Profits of their Lands, that, as the Resolution supposes, being only to be done by the Assembly, who will, I expect, defray the Expences of Imprisonment out of the Delinquents' Estates. Several Circumstances, amongst others the Small Pox being rife here, makes an immediate Meeting of the Assembly almost impracticable, but if the Battalions should not fill up, under the Provision made, id est,