

inlisted in the Continental Marine Service. If you have any ^{c. c.} Person under Colour of his being impressed, we require you, instantly to discharge him, and to forbear from a further Exercise of such an unwarrantable Power. It is the Office of Government to protect every Subject in his Liberty and his Property, nor shall we, who are honored by our Country with the highest Department, be idle Spectators of the Oppression of any Man in it.

To Cap^t James Nicholson }
of the Virginia }

We are &^{ca}

[Gov. Johnson to Gov. Henry.]

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Annapolis 24th Ap^l 1777.

Sir.

Immediately on my Receipt of your Letter of the 12th of March; I laid it before the General Assembly. Agreeing in Opinion with you that unless we had a Force previously established on the Eastern Shore, in Case of a Descent, you could with great Difficulty at best, afford Assistance from the Western Shore, and persuaded the like Obstructions might equally disable us from transporting Men across the Bay, I thought it adviseable a small Regular Force should be established in the upper Part of Somerset County, to which the well affected from all Parts might occasionally resort; That such a Force would prevent a Junction of the Tories in Sussex, Somerset and Worcester, and in some Sort their Intercourse, and that small Parties, in light Boats, might well take favourable Opportunities to cross the Bay, when they were sure of joining a Body, as soon as they landed. I communicated my Idea to some Gentlemen of the Congress, and suggested the Propriety of having one of the Continental Battalions, raised in this State, stationed on the Eastern Shore. Our Assembly viewed the Matter in much the same Light, and made Application for a Battalion but before their Resolution reached Congress, that Honorable Body took up the Subject, and came to the inclosed Resolution, which I received yesterday, in Consequence of which, Orders are gone to Col^o Richardson, who is judged equal, in every Respect, to this Service, and Measures will soon be taken to embody the 300 Militia as well as to render the Militia at large eventually serviceable.

I join in Sentiment with you, as to the Utility of stationing Gallies on the Eastern Shore; some of ours are designed for that Service, but our utmost Efforts have not yet been effectual to get any one completely fitted. We have three in the Water, partly manned, and three others ready, or very nearly ready, to launch, but have not been able, as yet, to get a Suffi-