

Batteries of two eighteen Pounders erected on each Side of the Mouth of Robert's Creek would effectually cover and protect. We have dispatched a fast sailing Boat to the Commodore for the purpose of reconnoitering and gaining Intelligence.

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If any Militia should be necessary to cooperate with your Troops they shall be ordered out as soon as we have such an Information

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[Council to Mr. Donaldson Yeates.]

Ibid.

Last Night all the Transports from Elk got into this Harbour and this Morning at Day light two Ships appeared off here and are at Anchor. Measures are taking by mounting Cannon and landing the Troops to oppose any Designs of the Enemy, if they should prove such and securing the Transports and Stores. Commodore Nicholson is gone off to reconnoitre, we expect him to return in an Hour, the Marquis had Intelligence of these Ships and is perhaps pursuing his Journey by Land. Vessels coming down the Bay should be on their Guard since writing the above Commodore Nicholson is returned and informs that they are British Ships, the smallest of eighteen Guns and the largest of twenty eight Guns, they are now under an easy Sail, the smallest Ship is run up the Bay out of Sight, the other following. Their Designs seem to have been to intercept our Transports and Troops, and more perhaps to continue in the Neighbourhood to ravage the Shores and keep the Troops confined in the Harbour.

[Council to His Excellency Samuel Huntington Esqr.]

Ibid.

We have the Honor to inform your Excellency that the transport Vessels from the Head of Elk with Troops on Board commanded by the Marquis De la Fayette arrived yesterday Evening in this Harbour, by Day light two ships appeared at Anchor off the Mouth of the River supposed to be the Enemy and their Intention to intercept the Transports. Effectual Measures are taken for their Security. The Vessels supposed to be the Enemy are under way and stretching up the Bay of Chesepeak, we thought it necessary to communicate this Intelligence, and if any Thing material occurs shall immediately transmit it. Since writing the above Commodore Nicholson has returned from reconnoitering the Ships and discovers one of them to be a Sloop of eighteen Guns and the other to be a Frigate of twenty eight, the Commodore supposes they will either continue to block up the Harbour or being disappointed in their original Designs will return to their Stations down the Bay.

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[Council to Major Meriken.]

Ibid.

This Day about one a Clock two British Ships of about eighteen and twenty eight Guns passed by this Place, and we are apprehensive