

March 21
Red Book
No. 5
Letter 54
[copy]

I must inform your Excellency from him till more regular applications can reach you that they are in Extreme want of lead Cartridge paper and thread. I think it improper, however it might urge an instenious supply to repeat to you his state of the extent of their stock of those articles. In a former letter I mentioned to you the failure of the Vein of our lead mines which has left the Army here in a state of equal distress and danger

Look out Boats have been ordered from the Sea Board of the E. Shore to apprize the Commander of the french fleet on its approach of the British being in Chesapeake

Ibid. [James Barron, Hampton, to His Excellency Thos Jefferson.]

Yesterday morning twelve large ships came within the Capes and anchored sent up one Frigate this morning under English Colours which proves them to be a British fleet. The frigate lies now in Hampton Road, with Arnolds Ships, the other Ships are still in the Bay at Anchor. I take them all to be men of War, and no transports among them.

March 21 [Rich'd Dallam, Harford County, to Gov. Lee.]

On Thursday the 15th Inst. I received Intelligence that two British Ships & some small Vessels lay off Pools Island that they had then land'd some Men & were taking off the Stock, I immediately orderd out two Companies of Militia nearest the shores to oppose their landing. On Saturday I was informed that they had gone off after robing Pools Island of 14 head of Cattle all the hoggs & Corn & the Overseer of his Bacon knives & Spoons and Capturing some small Vessels amounghts which unfortunately was a small schooner on board which was 100 Barrels flour I had forwarded, & to the Comm^r of Issues at Elk & also another with nearly the same Quantity belong^g to M^r Tho^s Hall which he was sending up the Bay. On Sunday two Top sail Schooners & some Smaller Vessels returned & stood up towards the mouth Elk & since they are constantly Passing & repassing & have taken allmost all the small craft & I am just inform'd that last night they went up Susquehanah & took out a Vessel with 50 Barrels flour & as many of Bear belonging to W^m Cox. I have order'd out parties of Militia to different Posts the most likely for their landing tho they have never attempted landing or coming on Shore except at Pools Island

The Greatest force above Pools Island from my best Intelligence are the 2 Schooners above which have a Number of Tenders & Barges, Its said a Ship & a Brigg lay below Pools Island as this was the whole force of the Enemy I have not ordered out many of the Militia on this occation. I conjectured their great object in coming up was the Capture of the Transports with the Troops going down which happily escaped, I am sorry to inform your Excell^{cy} that