

A Conference had with M^r [Alcock] and [Mr. Maussen- C. S. J. baugh] on the Subject of Fortifications.

The Council called on Mess^{rs} Keener, Messersmith and Riddick to know what Quantity of Musquets they had made for the use of this Province in Consequence of their Contracts with M^r Alexander. M^r Keener reported that he had made thirty. M^r Messersmith that he had made twenty seven, and repaired fifty eight for the Ship Defence.

M^r Riddick that he had made seventy.

Ordered, That Major Gist and Captain Ewing or either of them be requested to employ a skilful person to prove the said Muskets or any others that may be hereafter made by the said Keener, Messersmith and Riddick or either of them under their aforesaid Contracts; and that the said Major Gist and Captain Ewing or either of them be empowered to draw on the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, for powder sufficient for that purpose.

Council adjourns till Tomorrow morning 10 o'Clock.

[Mason and Galton to Jenifer.]

C. S. C.

Fairfax County Jan^y 31st 1776.

Sir. Being empowered & directed, by the Committee of Safety for this Colony, to build two row gallies, one to carry a 24 & the other an 18 pounder, & provide three armd cutters for the protection of Potomac River, we think it proper to inform your board that this measure will be carryed into execution with all possible expedition, & that we hope to have your co-operation, in adopting some similar plan, for the same purpose, we beg the favour of an answer by the first opportunity; and are, with the greatest respect,

Sir y^r most obd^t Hble Sert^s

G. Mason

John Galton.

Thursday 1st February 1776.

C. S. J.

Council met. Present the same Members as yesterday.

Copy of Letter N^o 7 sent to the Deputies of this province in Congress.

Ordered, That the Company of Light Infantry in the regular Forces of this Province be armed with Rifles.

Ordered That Mess^{rs} John Hanson Jun^r Charles Beatty and James Johnson or any two of them be requested to provide and furnish the said Company with good substantial and serviceable Rifles, necessary Bullet-Moulds and powder Horns