

[J. A. Thomas to Council.]

C. S. C.

Leonard Town 8th March 1776.

Gen^t On Tuesday last in the afternoon I received advice that three armed vessels were in and near the mouth of Patuxent, that one of them had taken a vessel laden with Flour bound to Casco Bay. On the above notice (as soon as it was possible) we marched down to the mouth of Patuxent but before we could do any thing we were obliged to borrow all the arms from one Company of the militia and those but very indifferent indeed so bad that twould be cruel to set men to work with them the company from whom I borrowed the arms are at this moment in the greatest want of them, as we have certain intelligence of a man of War a large armed sloop being at this time riding in Potomac. The militia are thro this county in a most defenceless state, and my Company if possible in a much worse one. I have therefore sent M^r Steward up to you requesting to have the arms allotted for us, if you have them not, M^r Steward says he can purchase them, besides the arms we want more ammuniton, and it is impossible to do any thing without them, This County being so particularly circumstanced I intreat you to allow M^r Steward to look out for arms for us, under the exigency of affairs I submit it whether twould not be better to form my company into two and make them sixty eight non Com^d officers, privates, with the proper Com^d officers. If you should approve of this arrangement, I would take the Liberty to recommend to your notice, two young Gen^t who have entered Cadets in my Company and who will fill (in my opinion) it very well the stations of third Lieutenants. I have stationed half my Company at the mouth of Patuxent, and half (as soon as quarters can be got) will be stationed at the mouth of Potomac this will put it out of the power of M^r Ford, to provide for them. I have therefore contracted for a considerable quantity of Pork and Bread which will serve the men on Patuxent a month or more, and M^r Neal goes off directly to the mouth of Potomac to get Provisions and quarters for the troops there. As the exigency of affairs would not permit me to consult you I have in every step that I have yet taken consulted the principal Gen^t of the place who have unanimously agreed to the steps that I have taken, but if they are judged by you to be improper I beg to be immediately advised and you may rely that every order from you shall be strictly complied with: I mentioned in my last the necessity of having a horse for expresses and any other uses, I now see the necessity more than ever, the hiring of horses is attended with great delay, and frequently not to be got, I therefore request that you will let me purchase one I know the public will be advantaged by it. I also mentioned