

c. s. c. and at their Disappointment in accomplishing their Design of taking the Ship Defence, which by all Accounts they made sure of effecting and was their grand Object. Just before they weighed Anchor, a Flag came on shore with some Prisoners, who said they had been treated with great Humanity and in Return it was thought proper to compliment the Officer with two Quarters of Beef. As soon as they can get a Reinforcement, which we imagine they have gone after, we expect to have another and more important Visit and are making the best Preparations in our Power to receive them.

13 March 1776

[Kent Committee to Council.]

Chester Town March 13th 1776.

Sir. It appears from the best information that can be obtained that a return of the Ship of War with reinforcements, may be soon expected & their Business being avowedly to get fresh provisions they will probably make the attempt on the most defenceless shore. on the last alarm a very commendable spirit was manifested by every Company in the County but spirited as they are their resistance must be very ineffectual without the proper means. Most of the small number of good arms in the County were supplied to the minute company now under duty in Virginia and on an examination into the arms at present in the County scarcely any company of Militia have above thirty guns of any kind and most of these are unfit for any service. The two companies of this town cannot produce above twenty good arms.

In this truly defenceless state of this County and we believe of this shore in general, The Committee for Kent County humbly submit it to the consideration of your board whether it will not be adviseable for you to order the arms imported in Cap' Tippet to this place for the use of Cap' Veazeys & the other Independent Companies on this shore & to order back our Minute Companies from Virginia. The Committee having delivered out to the orders of the Convention & of your board most of the public powder under their care & the whole being but a very small quantity for the use of this shore think a supply of that article necessary: The Committee presume you will hardly think it adviseable to trust the arms & ammunition on the water after the late alarm & as they can conveniently have such part as you may think proper to order here brought by land without any trouble to your board, they would only wish to have an order for the delivery in Philadelphia. The Committee beg leave further to represent to you as their