

proper to send his Tender with an Officer & some men to Annapolis, observing to him, that if the Governor had made his Escape from Annapolis, she would be the properest Vessel to pursue after him, as she could both row & sail. Cap^t Nicholson agreeing with me in the Propriety of the measure he consented at my Request to get his Boat ready for the Purpose, and to send one of his Officers in her. As I could not attend the Committee that day, I spoke to most of the Gentlemen, who had been at my House the Evening before, and to Gen^l Buchanan, and told them, I had spoke to Cap^t Nicholson for his Tender, which measure they all approved of. I accordingly applied to Major Gist, to whom the Dispatches from Virg^a had been shewn, and obtained his Consent to let Cap^t Sam^l Smith with a few Men of his Company go in the Tender to Annapolis.

Cap^t Sam^l Smith accordingly met me in the street just at Dinner Time, told me he was ready to go, and waited for Orders. I had not thought before on the Propriety of Orders. The Committee was then broke up for Dinner, and consequently I had no opportunity of consulting them immediately; and for the Sake of Secrecy which so important a Business required, I thought it improper to communicate the matter to any others, than the Gentlemen who had seen the Papers already, of whom three were gone off to Ann^s to wait on the Council, M^r W^m Buchanan had rode out of Town, & M^r W^m Lux & M^r Harrison, with whom I had engaged to dine that day, were gone out of Town. In these Circumstances I sat down & without the Concurrence or Advice of any Person wrote very hastily those Orders, which I delivered to Major Gist, & which I signed as Chairman of the Committee.

I do candidly acknowledge to you, I had my own Doubts whether I was to consider Gen^l Lee's Letter directed to me as Chairⁿ of the Com. as a private Letter to myself, or as a Letter to the Committee: Yet the Contents of it together with the Dispatches reced from the Council of Virg^a I considered as a sufficient Call upon me & every Person well affected to the Interests of America to use the best Endeavours to sieze Persons, of whom there were such strong Reasons to believe their being inimical.

I hope, Gentlemen, the Circumstances I have mentioned, which are all strictly true, and the extreme Importance of the Occasion will at least palliate my offence in taking (what may be deemed by some) a very rash Step; but which I hope the Necessity of the Case will justify me in to you & the Publick.

I am Gentlemen y^r most Obed^t Serv^t
Sam Purviance Jun^r

To the Committee of Observation for
Baltimore County