

49. Q. The instructions are dated on the 14th & the Let^r c. s. J. also. how account for it.

A. It was a mistake they ought to have been dated on Monday the 15th

50. Q. By your letter to the Gen^t of Baltimore the tender was to be under their direction did you expect they were to mix with the Council :

A. My letter to the Gentlemen of Baltimore will shew that was not my intention, I imagined that on so important an affair they would confer with them on the subject :

51. Q. Why was Cap^t Smith to consult with the Gen^t of Baltimore

A. I refered him to those gentlemen, expecting they would carry him to the Council under whose direction I expected he would be after his arrival at Annapolis.

52. Q. You say you wrote to your friends that the council behaved with spirit on the late alarm.

A. I am certain I did to several & observed the happy effects of it in rousing the whole province.

53. Q. M^r Carroll. the instructions were got by Chance to my certain knowledge.

A. I neither gave Captⁿ Smith directions to shew his orders nor forbid him to do it.

54. Q. Did you inclose the Packet to Phil^a in a letter of yours.

A. No.

55. Q. Why was so much respect shewn to the Council of Safety of Virginia & not to the President of the Congress.

A. A single Gentleman was very sufficient to carry a packet to the congress & bring back their dispatches. It was thought probable the Council of Safety would choose to confer with the members of the Baltimore committee on so interesting a subject as that contained in the papers which they carried. And it was to them, not the Council of Virginia the respect was intended.

56. Q. did you not cover the letter from the congress :

A. I did, & my reason was, that the packet from congress being endors'd with M^r Hancocks name & the public curiosity being at that time great to know what was in agitation I feared the express or some other person who might see the packet would be tempted by curiosity to open it ; therefore put it under a new cover, directed to the Council, expecting it would pass as an ordinary Packet from the Committee. To obviate all suspicions of my having opened it, which I presume is implied in y^r question, I could have no temptation to do so base an action. The dispatch from congress to our committee informed us, they had sent orders to the Council