

C. S. J.

Cap^t Sam^l Smiths Narrative.

On Monday the 15th April I was on the field exercising the three companies stationed in Baltimore when M^r Samuel Purviance (Chairman of the Committee) came out to me & beg^d I would immediately attend the Committee: That an affair of the greatest consequence demanded my attendance; That there would be occasion for eight or ten of my men under my own comm^d to go in Cap^t Nicholsons Tender. He then found it necessary to inform me of the business, & enjoined the strictest secrecy. I kept the troops about a quarter of an hour longer on duty, and discharged them all except my own company, out of which I chose ten good men & a sargeant and ordered them to be in readiness at half past one. I waited at M^r Purviances (on the Committee as I thought) but found only the Chairman there, He shewed me the different letters respecting the Business I was to go on, and I agreed with him that too much dispatch could not be made. I then went in quest of Major Gist, but could not find him About one oClock M^r S. Purviance passed by the barracks, I spoke to, & told him that I was ready & waited but for orders. He said I should have them immediately. I again went in search of the Major & found him at dinner. I told him my men were ready. As soon as he had finished dining, he went to M^r Purviances, where I followed him in about ten minutes, & found him reading my instructions (†M^r Purviance mentioned that if the Governor was still at Annapolis I should have nothing to do, as he supposed the Council of Safety would put him under guard before I should get down†). I received my instructions from the Major, & with my men went immediately to the point, where I went on board the defence's tender commanded by Lieu^t Nicholson, after taking proper stores from the Defence we proceeded down, arrived & came to Anchor off the Harbour of Annapolis at ab['] 3 oClock on Tuesday morning. at day break I went ashore & delivered a letter to Mess^{rs} John Smith, Benjamin Nicholson & John Sterrit. They told me what had passed between them & the Honb^l Council. I asked them whether I might not inform the Col^l of my business. They said the Council had enjoined the strictest secrecy, and advised me not to mention it till I had their (the Council's) leave. (I shewed them my orders, they advised me not to shew them to any other person, as it was their opinion they were in some degree improper. They said they were to wait on Major Jenifer after breakfast & would let me know when they returned how I was to act. on their return to the coffee House they told me he highly approved of the tender's being sent down; and that they were to meet the Council at 10 oClock who would give me orders.) About 11 oClock I