

Original.

[Baltimore Committee to Council.]

In Committee of observation for Balt. County 6<sup>th</sup> May 1776

Gentlemen: We received your Letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Young had liberty to take the Schooner Ninety two at our last meeting:

We have the pleasure to inform you that our Boom is now laid down and so far secured, that we judge the Vessells that are sunk at Whetstone may be removed, you will therefore please to give orders for that purpose, as soon as you think proper.

We are Gent<sup>n</sup> Your most hum<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>  
 p order. Sam<sup>l</sup> Purviance Jun<sup>r</sup> chair<sup>m</sup>  
 Will<sup>m</sup> Lux V Ch<sup>n</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Calhoun  
 W<sup>m</sup> Buchanan John Boyd  
 Jn<sup>o</sup> Sterett Will<sup>m</sup> Aisquith  
 B. Griffith

c. s. c.

[Charles Lee to Jenifer.]

Williamsburg May the 6<sup>th</sup> 1776.

D<sup>r</sup> Sir. I find that I am extremely censured not only by your board but by a multitude of others for my letter to M<sup>r</sup> Purviance with respect to the seizure of M<sup>r</sup> Edens person and papers, but I really think when the circumstances are explained, that the censure will appear unjust, and that I was neither violent assuming nor precipitate. When the Secretary of States letter to your Governor was put into my hands, I naturally concluded that could we possess ourselves of all M<sup>r</sup> Edens papers, the whole machinations of the ministry might be discovered, that this discovery might enable us to prevent their effects, and perhaps defeat the whole plan. the possession of these papers could not be hoped for without previously securing his person and to accomplish this the utmost secrecy and expedition were necessary, now sir, as I imagined you had no troops at Annapolis to execute the purpose (but in this I find I was mistaken) and as I knew there were troops in readiness at Baltimore, and as there was no continental General or other officer in Maryland, M<sup>r</sup> Purviance chairman of the committee on the spot where I had conceived troops alone to be stationed, occurred to me as the only person to whom I could with propriety and effect make application. had I known Sir, that a Regiment or any troops were stationed at Annapolis, I should undoubtedly, Sir, have addressed myself to you as President of the Council of Safety:

It is said Sir, that Maryland was out of the district of my command that consequently to intrude myself into the busi-