

ness and concerns of that province was assuming and arrogant. I really conceive Sir, that when the safety or very being of the whole community appears at stake, the part I have acted in this affair cannot with justice be esteemed arrogance. I did not presume authoritatively to order but as one servant of the Public earnestly to entreat and consider another servant who alone appeared to me to have the means in his hands, to take a certain step of the best importance to the public cause. I must repeat sir, that my reason for addressing myself to Mr Purviance at Baltimore proceeded entirely from my ignorance of there being any troops at Annapolis, and not (as I have been told has been thrown out) from any diffidence in your virtue and decision. I suppose the Committee of Safety here viewed it in the same light, for I read my letter to them and it was approved of. In times like these Sir, I conceive, that when we have received sufficient evidences of any treasonable practices being carried on, and that when it appears to us that the immediate seizure of a particular traitors person may lead to discoveries on which the salvation of the state may depend that when the utmost secrecy and expedition are necessary to the seizure of his person, it is the duty of a good citizen not to delay a single instant, if a single instants delay may prevent the execution. this was the manner I thought it my duty to proceed in the case of Mr Wormley. On the discovery of his correspondence with the Enemy, I gave orders for the security of his person and papers and then refered the affair to the proper tribunal, the Committee of Safety. the measure was so far from giving umbrage or creating jealousy that it met with their unanimous approbation if this method is proscribed, at a juncture like the present, the great check on dangerous correspondence and conspiracies will be taken off if councils are to be held previously to the seizure of any traitors person or papers, notwithstanding the strongest evidences against him I am much mistaken if every traitor does not slip through your hands. I must now, Sir, conclude with assuring you, and the respectable Body over which you preside, that if they suppose me capable of aiming or wishing to extend the military authority, or trespass on the civil, They do me the most cruel injustice, altho I was bred in the army I thank God, the spirit and principles of the citizen were ever predominant, and I solemnly declare that if I thought it possible I should ever be so far intoxicated by military command, as to harbour a wish injurious to the civil supremacy in all things, I would now whilst I retain my senses beg leave to divest myself of my present office and serve as a volunteer in the glorious cause in which I have embarked my person fortune and reputation. What I did in this affair, I did

C. S. C.