

C. S. C.
No. 24.

[Council to Maryland Deputies.]

To the Deputies for Maryland in Congress.

Gentⁿ

Your favour of the 11th inst we rec^d at 10 o'Clock this morning—we have already complied with almost every thing you request^d, and we wish we had time to collect the fair and uninfluenced sense of our people on the most important point of Independence before the meeting of the Convention; but as the assembling of that body is already fixed on the 20th of this month, it will be impossible to [send express to the Delegates who are distant so that they could] make the necessary enquiry before that time. We presume the first business of the Convention will be regulating the movement of the militia, and that if necessary in the mean time the several committees of observation may be directed fairly to collect the sense of the Province on the subject of Independence, and make report thereof to the Convention. Any mode their Representatives may think proper to point out would be better relished by the people, than for us to put them into a violent ferment in a way that might not be approved of—'tis a point of great magnitude, and we think it's best, the shortness of time considered, to leave it untouched until the meeting of the Convention on thursday next. M^r Paca no doubt is with you before now, Mess^{rs} Johnson & Goldsborough still with their families we hear—we wish to have you all down when the grand question is decided, we leave it however to yourselves to judge whether you can be spared from Congress, and hope whatever is done will be generally agreed to.—from the Virginia paper we learn that Clinton left Cape Fear with his Troops on the 29th of May, this comes to that colony by express in a letter from General Lee to their Convention. General Howe's house was burnt and some of his domestics illtreated, no other damage of consequence, say the papers; and Clinton published a proclamation warning the people of N^o Carolina to flee from the wrath that was hereafter to come upon them, and exhorting them to return to duty; where he is gone is not ascertained, the paper says that the prevailing opinion is that they are gone to the Southward, Gen^l Lee writes he thinks they are coming round to Virginia. If they are coming this way we shall soon hear of them and will let you know.

14th June 1776