

cerns. If by the permission granted me the Committee have exceeded the power delegated to them by the convention, which it is my opinion they have not, to that body only I apprehend they are amenable, but that their determinations are no way subject to any controlling orders of the General; so that unless the military power is authorized to supersede that of the civil, the General cannot possibly have any right to give the least obstruction to my intended embarkation. I therefore beg you will desire him well to consider the consequences of such a step as well with regard to the rights which every freeman in this province is entitled to, as the danger of that Resentment which may possibly be expressed against innocent persons here from a detention of an officer in His Majesty's service, without the least charge of any crime whatever against him.

I am far from disputing the General's authority to receive or not to receive the Flag, but I do deny that the military power hath any right to control that of the civil. If it has the people of this province are as compleat slaves as any in Turkey.

As a friend therefore to the rights and privileges of a freeman of Maryland, I do expect and demand that no hindrance or molestation whatever be given to my departure for Great Britain in any vessel I please, provided that it is the General's Pleasure the Flag of Truce should not be received. Doct^r Veyman, who is so kind as to promise me the delivery of this letter, will at the same time furnish you with the passport granted me by the committee in order to be shewn to Genl Dent, which after his perusal of it, I must beg you will be pleased to return him; Should its authority be still disputed, I shall be under the indisputable necessity of appealing to that power, which, as in the case of His Excellency Governor Eden and Mr Purviance, I flatter myself, will support the rights of freemen against every due invasion whatever.

To Col Richard Barnes
at St. George's.

I am very respectfully, Sir
Your very Hble Serv^t

[no signature]

c. s. c.

[Wolstenholme to Commander at St. George's.]

Sir.

St. Mary's 17th July 1776.

Doct^r Veyman is so kind as to waite on you in order to acquaint you of the danger my house and family were in this morning from a covered vessel, or galley in his Majesty's service, the commanding officer not knowing who was the proprietor.