

enemy up Potomack. I took the liberty last week to mention the want of more powder to Piscattaway &c As you said nothing on the subject in your letter, permit me to mention the matter again, as there's uneasiness from the apprehensions of the people, on acc^t of the small quantity we have. I hope your hble board will consider the matter, and order for the best. I have the satisfaction to say our people have shewn a manly disposition, (on Monday last, when from the alarm guns from the Virg^a Vessels, fired in their way up to Alex^a, the enemy were expected every hour up) they marched to the shore with great firmness. I was with them all the day, and from their behaviour make no doubt they would have behaved well had the enemy appeared and tryed them. I much wish they were provided better if it can be done. I am this morning so unwell with the cholic, that sitting to write is uneasy and prevents adding further than that I am with real esteem for your hble board

D^r Sir, Your most obed^t Serv^t
Josia Beall.

[Dent to Council.]

Original.

Charles County 24th July 1776.

Gentⁿ On the evening of my return home from the Camp at St. George's yours of the 22nd inst. came to hand; wherein you say, you dont doubt of my doing every thing necessary to repel the Invaders; and likewise that you've ordered Major Price with three Field Pieces, and one nine pounder &c These you say will enable the Major and myself to speak more properly with the Row Gally than I hitherto could do. You likewise request I will (as I hitherto have done) continue to watch their Motions, and from time to time inform you thereof, with several other requests equally irreconcilable to me, after having by a short order given me nothing to do. I have the highest opinions of the Major's abilities and attachment to the Cause, and doubt not but he is equal to the Task; all that I request is, to be informed whether you've any reason (from the disposition of the Troops while under my command) to believe, that I was wanting, either in military Knowledge, Assiduity or personal Courage; for the first of which I would beg leave to refer you to Major Price, and for the two latter, to the officers of the several Corps while under the command of

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Jno Dent