

upon order up to this place in his way to the camp to the Northward. He may leave his Potts to Capt<sup>n</sup> Mantz's Company to cook with and may be supplied here with Camp Kettles or Potts more portable than those he has now in possession. Capt<sup>n</sup> Mantz will occupy the posts and places, where Capt<sup>n</sup> Thomas's Company were stationed until further orders. c. s. c.

The officers dispatched by you to give Capt<sup>n</sup> Nicholson notice not being able to overtake him had very near occasioned a loss of the Defence, she was becalmed & obliged to come to an anchor, Tide ag<sup>t</sup> her; the english Fleet had a wind, which brought them down Potowmack within three miles of her, where she lay becalmed, when fortunately a Breese sprung up, which enabled her to escape; they heard no firing at your camp.

We are glad to hear the Cannon proves good, as it will be advantageous to the Province, and a greater encouragement to those, who use them in Time of Engagement, as they will put the more confidence in the rest; we are also well pleased on the account of M<sup>r</sup> Hughs's succeeding in the way to satisfaction.

We received Copies of M<sup>r</sup> Eden's, Wolstenholme's and M<sup>r</sup> Forrest's letters, and still retain the opinion communicated to you in our last, and of which we informed Col<sup>o</sup> Barnes, in answer to his packett, that it is unsafe at this period of Time to permit M<sup>r</sup> Wolstenholme to depart this Province, and the more especially, as he would not engage secrecy with respect to our movements, and present situation and his Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Eden of the 20<sup>th</sup> July, so far from removing, has impressed it more forcibly on our minds.

We are sorry for the fatigue, and hard Fare you have met with, and would alleviate it, as much as lies in our Power. it is only the fortune de la Guerre. another Time, we hope, you will have quarters more agreeable. we doubt not your humanity will interest you so far in favour of the sick, as to have all the care taken of them you can. we have heretofore wrote you about the Cannon coming up by water, after the Departure of the enemy.

P. S. We have some Powder and small arms arrived at Wiccomico on Virg<sup>a</sup> as you will see by the inclosed receipt, & should be glad of y<sup>r</sup> opinion how we could contrive it across in the safest manner to the Maryland Side of Potowmack

31<sup>st</sup> July 1776.