

C. S. C.
No. 105.

[Council to Hooper.]

Brig^r Gen^l Hooper
Sir

Since our last we have had advice from Major Price our Commanding officer in Saint Mary's, that the British Fleet lay near the mouth of Smiths creek in Potowmack, that they were very weak in Land-forces not exceeding 300 men, that they were so sickly that 50 dead bodies had appeared on the shores, chiefly negroes, and that having gone up the River Potowmack to take in water & returned, he imagined they would soon sail from that Quarter.

Their Forces appear so inconsiderable and contemptible to him that he has dismissed all the militia and keeps only two independent Companies to oppose them, one of which, Cap^t Thomas's, we have this day ordered to march to the Northward, and Captⁿ Mantz of the Fred^k Battalion marches to supply his place.

Captⁿ Dean's Company is stationed at Kent Island, and Cap^t Goldsborough's is to supply the place of Captⁿ Hindman's, if the latter can get arms (which we cannot doubt the Militia will lend him for their defence, until the Province can supply them) These with the three independent Companies will make a body of near 500 men; we therefore think three fourths of the militia under your command may return to their habitations, and keep themselves in readiness to march in case of an attack, as the above force will be more than sufficient to repel any invasion from the Fleet.

We do not expect from their weak state that any attempt will be made, except to plunder, and we think the 500 regular Troops together with the 200 militia a sufficient force to protect your shore until the fleet sails, which we daily expect to hear of, and if some of them go to sea, & only a few remain at our Capes, and in Virginia to destroy our Trade, as is suggested to us will be the case, the remainder of the militia also may be discharged.

If the Schooner you have taken would answer to make an armed Boat or vessel for the Defence of this Colony, we should be glad you would send her over that she may be put in repair & fitted for the service, if she is unfit on Acc^t of her size, value and stores will be agreeable to us.

We are of opinion that a Court-martial ought to be held on the conduct and opinions of the two military Gentlemen you mention, and a representation made from it to our board, as a Foundation for their being deprived of their Commissions.

The spirit and ardor with which your Brigade has acted on this occasion has been exceedingly agreeable to us, and we