

C. S. C.  
No. 16.

[Council to Dorchester Committee.]

Gentlemen.

We received yours of the 15<sup>th</sup>, and would gladly send you a company or two of Regulars, to assist in suppressing the Riots in your Country and Caroline, if we had them to spare, there are no troops here now, but two companies of matrosses which are necessary to mount guard and do duty in Annapolis. Should the Fleet that have sailed from Sandy Hook come into this Bay, we shall be obliged to call in the militia to assist us. We think it best to wait a little before any thing further is done about the Salt. When Brigadier General Chamberlaine returns, we will give instructions to him to assist in bringing the mutineers to justice. They have some field pieces in Talbot, which may be of use, but Everything of this kind ought to be kept to yourselves. We are greatly concerned to hear of the mutinous spirit of some of your people, and wish it was in our power to gratify those who are peaceably disposed, by sending a quantity of Salt—there is none here to be had that we know of—the people in general on the Western Shore want salt, and can get no supplies; we had orders from the Convention to purchase a considerable quantity of Beef and Pork for the Troops, and cannot proceed for the want of Salt. The vessels that went up the Bay, except Captain Martin were private Adventurers from S<sup>t</sup> Eustatia, and sold their Salt at Baltimore to individuals at a very extravagant price. Should we receive any soon, you may depend we shall not forget your application, and should think ourselves happy in quieting the minds of the people by furnishing them with that necessary article. Perhaps some may be imported but this is very uncertain. We must all expect to suffer in the great Struggle for Liberty. We send Col<sup>o</sup> Murray an order on the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore for £40 to be applied towards defraying the expence of taking the number of Inhabitants in your county. Since printing our hand bills which no doubt you have e'er this received, Congress have sent down another express to inform us that Lord Dunmore has the Command of the Fleet, the destination of which is either to South Carolina, or this Bay, as they hear from General Greene. Sould you hear of them at the mouth of this Bay or Delaware, be pleased to communicate the intelligence by express.

Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1776The Committee of Observation for Dorch<sup>r</sup> County.