

[Council to Chamberlaine.]

C. S. C.
No. 59.

To Brigadier Gen^l Chamberlaine
(Circular)

Sir. We have certain information that Lord Howe has joined Lord Cornwallis, and that the main army of the Enemy is near the City of Philadelphia with intention to attack that important place. They are still on the East Side of Delaware. Assistance will be most wanted, and we request you will give the necessary orders to your Brigade to hold themselves in Readiness to march to Philadelphia. Col. Ewing tells us that a requisition has passed Congress for the militia of Baltimore Harford, Frederick and Cecil, Counties to march, and that he was desired by the President of that honorable Body to give us notice thereof, we wish not to loose a moment's Time. As soon as we hear further Intelligence, we will write you by express.

14th Dec^r 1776

[Purviance to Council.]

Original.

Baltimore Dec^r 14th 1776.

Gentlemen.

In consequence of letters to our Committee and myself rec^d by Thursd^s Post, Captⁿ Nicholson went off yesterday evening with about 30 or 40 of his best Hands & some of his officers with near 20 sail of Small Craft for the Head of Elk to assist in bringing down the Public Stores & sick that might be moved from Philad^a. About an hour after his departure I received the inclosed letter for him which I dispatched after him by a Barge. He returned it to me, late last night, and agreeable to his desire I now forward it to you by Express for your consideration. Should you think fit to order the Defence's men to follow after Capt. Nicholson, I w^d beg leave to suggest whether it wou^d not be adviseable to take a few of the nine Pounders from the Fort, & send up along with the Defences Guns, to put on board the Frigates shoud they attempt sending them around to this Bay. We have plenty of Craft here to carry up the Defences People &c to Elk. Our Comm^{ee} agreeable to M^r Chase's requisition wrote the Comm^{ee} of your City to send up to Elk what Craft were at Annapolis. I have since learned that there is no Committee. There will be no necessity of sending any more craft, as we can get plenty here. Our Comm^{ee} are preparing the Court House in the best manner the time will admit for the reception of the Congress shoud they be obliged to leave Philad^a, in which case M Chase writes it is intended to come.

I am, Gentlemen, your most hbl Serv^t

Sam^l Purviance Jun^r