

of my march to this place. I shall write you from Philadelphia by the first opportunity, and should we be call'd to action I have not the least doubt but we shall support that Honor that our Province already have gained. I am,

Honor^d Gent.

Your very Humble Serv^t
Geo. Cook.

P. S. Since I wrote the above I find myself disappointed in a vessell, so that I intend immediately to set off for New Castle.

Original.

[Johnson to Council.]

Frederick Town 19th Dec. 1776.

Gent.

This evening an Express came to town from Baltimore with the Resolution of Congress of the 9th Instant requesting the militia of Balt. Harford, Cecil and Fred. counties to march to reinforce Gen^l Washington. I do not know what could have delayed the messenger between Phil^a and Balt. the Resolution was inclosed to the Comm^{ee} of this county they have resolved the militia ought to march and I believe a very great proportion will though as you must imagine many of them are very illy provided for a winters campain. it is intended if possible to get some in motion on Monday. I do not know whether it is intended that I should command the whole Militia or any part of them or not. if it is I think some special authority for that purpose will be necessary and I shall cheerfully execute it as well as I can, but in a matter of so much consequence I shall frankly give my opinion at every hazard that it is best not to let our militia go out under any provincial Brigadier. Gen^l Beall's commission I suppose has expired and if not many of the Flying Camp speak of him so far from respectfully that you may be assured that many from here would but half obey him, and so far with all ill will. None of the rest of us have seen service and I fear we are not so competent nor will the men have the same confidence in either of us, as in one who has had experience. Gen^l Smallwood and several others I believe have but very small Brigades, but if any Gent. goes from here as Brigadier he must have a great stock of philosophy to give up his brigade to another tho' superior in abilities, and having nothing to do when he foresees the general however unjust imputations which will be thrown upon him. if these reasons appear to you in the same strength they do to me, I imagine our militia might be put under the immediate command of Smallwood by a request to the Congress, or General Washington. I have seen a good