

[Matthew Tilghman's Petition.]

C. S. C.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety of Maryland:—

The petition of Matthew Tilghman humbly shews, That immediately on rec^t of your order of the 13th instant he directed Tho^s Smith his overseer to move all the stock except the Milch cattle from Choptank Island. That the said Smith, tho in the midst of his harvest, did immediately move off about seventy head of Cattle. That he then applied to your petitioner for directions how to dispose of the said cattle & remonstrated on the certain loss of most of the other kinds of stock should they be moved off, on consideration whereof your petitioner has ordered that all the sheep be got to the north end of the Island next to the narrows and that they and the hogs and the remaining part of the cattle kept on for the subsistence of the people be immediately moved off on the appearance of the Enemy. Your petitioner begs leave further to represent, that the Communication from the Island to the main land is very easy the narrows at the usual place of passing being not more than forty yards wide. That he has a fence across a narrow pass on the s^d Island, erected for the purpose, before your order came to hand, between two plantations, by which means, upon any appearance of danger he can have all the stock speedily moved to & retained on the north end, from whence they may on the shortest notice be immediately removed off. That the hogs are now in the stubble fields, & must inevitably perish, or be lost, if carried off: That there is no part of the Bay side between your Petr^s House and his Island, a distance of about ten miles, but what is equally exposed, and from whence, there is the same reason to move the stock. The Island being so situated, as to be as easily defended by the militia as any other part of the neighbourhood, except the little difficulty in passing the narrows. That if an armed boat was ordered to ply constantly between Jame's Island and Kent point all Choptank, Miles, & Wye Rivers, would in a great measure be protected, there would then be no occasion for the removal of Stock, & this would not be so expensive to the publick as payment for what would undoubtedly be lost by removal. That your petitioners cattle now moved off, being pent up in small inclosures, or kept at the expence of Pasturage on grounds not abounding with food, must either all perish soon, or be reduced to such a state of poverty as will render it impossible to keep them alive the next winter. Your petitioner therefore in consideration of the certain loss which must attend the removal of his stock and the consequent expence as he apprehends to the public humbly prays that he may be permitted to order what is already