

c. s. c. cial as mutinying, many of our people, some whole companies have returned. I believe could we have got arms in a day or two we should have raised upwards of 1500 men. I have understood the Congress have some arms at Baltimore or Chester, and I think you had best get as many of them as you can for those of the militia who may march under the last requisition for you may depend if they stay here any time the same answer will prevail with them as with the Frederick militia. While I am writing this some officers call on me to let me know another company to about 6 or 8 privates have broken off. As many militia as possible ought to avoid calling here at all. The small Pox is very rife and every thing is prodigious dear. There can be no great dependance on equipments or supplies here, if those who come are partly fitted I think they had best proceed, for Gen^l Washington to prevent a continuance of the shameful embezzlement of arms, has lately stopped all that belong to the Public, on the discharge of the Militia, so that he can as he says, partly supply those who go in. Some of our people have been 6 weeks and some 4 from home already not only inclined, but necessity will urge their return. I shall have difficulties on that head, for whatever you may hear of the great numbers with Gen^l. Washington he ought to be strengthened. We have nothing very material from Camp. I am afraid we can expect no great things from New York. The Enemy are kept pretty close in the Jerseys. The war is carried on pretty much by small scouting parties on our side, and they often take some prisoners, 16 British were brought here on Sunday, taken within about a mile of Brunswick, as they were going out without arms to plunder. I am told the duty of the regulars is very severe from very frequent attacks on their pickets &c. Gen^l Gates has sent off a fine regular Battalion (M^cCoys) this morning. Tomorrow he and I set out for the Camp.

I am Gent, Your most obedient humble Serv^t

Th. Johnson Jun^r

The Honble Council of Safety of Maryland

[Cecil Co. Committee to Council.]

Gentlemen. Committee of Cecil County Feb^y 4th 1777.

This committee acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you of the 26th ult. inclosing a resolve of Congress of the 21st. This committee will do every thing in their power to expedite the marching of the militia of this county to reinforce Gen^l Washington, but are of opinion that a sum of money must be sent us for the Support of the militia on the road and to advance some poor men who may want necessarys before