

c. s. c. several companies of Militia in this county, requesting them to call their respective companies at convenient times and places in those letters ascertained, in order to know who would voluntarily engage to reinforce Gen^l Washington gloriously supporting the cause of liberty and his country. The Committee pursuant to those letters attended the meeting of the Companies of the 20th Battalion on Saturday the 1st Inst. to whom the recommendation of Congress and the requisition of the Council of Safety were published when only sixteen men offered themselves for the Service. And on Tuesday the 4th Inst. the Committee (pursuant to their appointment) attended the meeting of the companies of the fifth Battalion to whom the recommendation and requisition afs^d were likewise published, and enforced by an animating and pathetic exhortation from the Rev. M^r Keener when forty six men offered themselves for the Service. That no endeavors of ours may be wanting to promote this service we have requested other meetings of the Companies at their respective places of exercise, and that returns may be made by the several Captains to the Committee on Thursday next. We lament the backwardness which has generally appeared on this occasion. The raging of the Small Pox to the northward which has been brought here by the Soldiers of the Flying Camp, and is now spreading fast in this county we have good reason to think has discouraged many, who would otherwise have offered themselves for this service. To this we must add that at the meeting of the twentieth Battalion, The backwardness of men of property was assigned by many as the reason for their declining the present service, who declared that if such men would set the example they would most cheerfully follow it. What has been the effect of the meeting on Kent Island we are not informed. M^r James Kent will on his way to Annapolis know the result and communicate to your honours. In full assurance that you will direct such further measures on this occasion as the exigence of affairs may require,

We are with respect, Your Honour

Most obedient Serv^{ts} (per order)

The Hon^{ble} The Council of Safety Sol^o Wright chairman.
of the State of Maryland

Thursday noon.

c. s. j.

Thursday February 6th 1777.

Council met. Present as on yesterday.

Commissions issued to Michael Kraner appointed 1st Lieutenant

Henry Rutter 2^d Lieutenant &