

tarrying therein only wanting to be with my father, and hopes c. s. c. Gentlemen, that you will grant me the favour:

Rich<sup>d</sup> Smith.

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Council of Safety of M<sup>d</sup>

[Smallwood to Jenifer.]

Original.

Princess Ann March 3<sup>d</sup> 1777.

Sir

Having an opportunity by M<sup>r</sup> Crocket embrace it to acquaint, that agreeable to your last Requisition, the second Virginia Regem<sup>t</sup> & the Continental Regular Companies, under Command of Deams & Godman were discharged on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>, but by contrary Winds have understood they were detained some Days at Cambridge, our small Party arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Salisbury and on the 23<sup>d</sup> here, at those Posts and on our march we found People generally quiet, and Peaceable, tho' much alarmed particularly such who were under Guard upon Accusations who seemed disposed to accept the Terms offered in the Proclamation which induced me to discharge all the Militia and procure twenty light Horsemen, who have rendered essential Services upon detached Duty, under Regular Officers; having all the excepted Persons under Guard except Callalo, and Moore, after whom I have had three Parties for sometime out & directed Cap<sup>t</sup> Campbell to cruise in the sound, hang out British Colours, and hover about the mouths of the Rivers in order to meet & intercept them, shou'd an escape be attempted that Way, but am apprehensive they have escaped, having this Day received a Letter from Campbell, informing that several Tories escaped thro' the sound three Days before he arrived at his Station. I deferred distributing and publishing the Proclamation, 'till every exertion had been used to apprehend the Persons excepted, & upon supposition that the whole wou'd be secured, have hitherto declined sending to Annapolis such as have been in custody, with a Standard & Drum taken from the Insurgents, and shou'd be glad to know the Pleasure of the Assembly respecting their being sent up immediately, or longer detained till further Testimony might be aduced against them, and other Steps taken to apprehend the two others, shou'd they not have escaped to the British Ships; I find myself under some difficulty respecting the Proclamation, the Terms of which in some degree appear repugnant to my Instructions, in rendering it Optional in the Offenders to comply with them within the 40 Days limited for that purpose when the latter part of the first Requisition in my