

c. s. c. Instructions, requires me to Publish, distribute and enforce the same without any Limitation, and the last Requisition therein requires (if I apprehend right) that I shou'd give the necessary Orders for securing the Arms of the Insurgents in Somerset & Worcester Counties in the like unlimited manner. however 'tho my Instructions & the Proclamation bear the same Date, and I conceive the former shou'd determine my Conduct, yet the Public Faith being Plighted in the latter, has induced me to wave exercising Force, or complying with the abovementioned Requisitions, 'till the Limitation In the Proclamation expires, or 'till I know the Pleasure of the general Assembly, and receive their further Direction on that head tho I must confess I have exercised a Power not clearly derived from either, in summoning & bringing under guard here, such Persons whose conduct has been most exceptionable, & whose Testimony might ascertain the Original causes of this Insurrection, and set in a clear light the conduct of those, who have been most active against their Country, in which if I have erred I must beg it may be imputed to generous Motives, in being anxious to check such conduct in future, & promote the Public good, which shall be discontinued if disapproved. however those Persons have been treated with Lenity & suffered no other Inconvenience but their Attendance here. I am sorry to observe that some of the Except^{ns} are extended against Persons who are objects of Pity, rather than Resentment, & it wou'd appear have been deluded, whilst others better enabled, and whose Offences have been more artfully concealed, will avail themselves of the Benefit of the Proclamation, nor can it be expected that their Designs and Views will terminate here, unless they are brought into Public light, and made Examples of. I wou'd not be understood to shew a disposition to disparage any mans conduct, but I submit to superior Judgment if it wou'd not have answer'd better purposes, had the commanding officers proceeded to disarm (which I am well assured might have been effected without Bloodshed) rather than treat with those Insurgents, which was dishonoring not only their Commissions, but the Power that conferred them, and if I may presume to judge, this transaction I am afraid has prevented such a finishing Stroke being put to this Affair, as otherwise might have been, and at the same Time equal Lenity & Mercy might have been extended, and it does not appear to me from the complexion of the People (tho I sincerely wish it) that the Proclamation will have the desired Effect, any longer than 'till a more favorable opportunity offers.

This Business is irksome, because Time is pressing & I find myself inadequate to it, and am apprehensive as its a new