

as the Militia Reg^{ts} were to meet, I shou'd keep their Fifer & Drummer, who wou'd contribute much (by the musick) in procuring Recruits, & promoting that Service, which he not only very politely agreed to, but order'd the Fifer and Drummer to continue, the Drummer then applied to me to go to Baltimore, which I expressly refused, urging the Reason of his being detained, & that as soon as the musters were over, he shou'd be discharged, however they went down to the Companys Boat, about seven miles below Princess Ann. I then ordered Lt Campbell who was also going in this Boat, to take with him a File of men well armed to take the Drummer and Fifer, & send them back to me under this guard, which from the Inclosed Lt of Cap^t Steretts you'll observe he was prevented by some of the Company from doing. I shou'd not have taken up your Attention with this Circumstance, but to point out that I am sorry your Independants had not a stronger sense of their Duty, both as Soldiers, & as Gentlemen well affected to the general Good, and to acquaint you that unless proper Notice is taken of it, I shall decline in future the command of your Independants as Militia, unless under better Regulations, I wish Campbell may have acquitted himself on this occasion becoming a regular Officer. I have wrote to Cap^t Starett for the names of those who refused to let him comply with his orders.

No Persons as yet have brought in their Arms, or claimed the Benefit of the Proclamation, except such who have been under examination, & some of those have refused swearing Allegiance to this State; nor do I think they will generally come in 'till towards the last Day. I shall not presume to judge, or draw conclusions, but I am often shocked and concerned for the manner in which this class of men conduct themselves under Oath, & I sincerely wish it may not be productive of many Perjuries. the excepted Persons are still under Guard, Callelo & Moore not yet taken. 15 Deserters some Gunby's but mostly of Longs company, & two of Flemings Virginia Reg^t have been taken, and I have now Detachments out after near 30 more who have deserted from the Navy and Army, and are Sculking among these People. Cap^t Shockby an officer of Spirit, & one who on this occasion has rendered many Services, being the other night in quest of Deserters, was fired on & rec^d one drop Shott in his Leg and his Horse was wounded with seven, but the Party being in the Woods & it being dark, escaped upon our Men's returning the fire. inclosed is 26 Copies of Depositions & have taken upwards of 100 which shall hereafter be transmitted.

with Respect

I have the Honor to be

Your very Obedient H^{ble} Serv^t

W. Smallwood Brig^r General