

and in Answer to yours be assur'd whatever Doubts I have Reason to entertain to the contrary, my utmost Endeavours shall be exerted to have this Post in such a Situation as may ensure Peace and Quietnes in Future, which I trust will be the case, should the Intercourse with the British Navy be broke, and no British Troops get foothold here. Little further Testimony has appear'd against the excepted persons, but I should judge that which gave Rise to the Exception, being extended against them must be conclusive.. We have nearly finish'd taking Depositions, after which the Excepted Persons shall be sent up, but our Force is really too small to admit of more Drafts or Detachments. Five of the Annapolis Artillery, added to those mentioned in my Last, are Hand-cuff'd and under Guard for Desertion and House breaking, which leads me to suppose, as they value themselves (and refuse Duty) upon being stiled *your* Troops, that you have been bad Disciplinaryans. The men have really been used too well, and done too little Duty; they have become licentious. I have more Trouble with this Handful than I formerly had with my late Reg<sup>t</sup> and the Independent Companies. The Proclamation was publish'd before I wrote on the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst., it was only withheld a few days till the excepted Persons could be taken. The arms of all shall be secured immediately. Should any of the crimes mentioned in mine of the 14 Inst. appear to you to preclude the Perpetrators from the benefit of the Proclamation, you'll please signify it; also direct what's to be done with Persons refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance to the State; with persons who persuade, countenance, and harbour Soldiers under Desertion; with Mr. Bacon, who from the Depositions you'll observe was active in advising the signing Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe's Proclamation, and refuses to take the oath, &c.; with persons who upon Examination appear to have misled and corrupted the minds of ignorant People; and lastly direct what you will have done generally with all such who within the Limitation do not comply with the terms of the Proclamation, particularly in not taking the oath, and delivering up their arms, a number of which I think are and will be secreted. I remain &c. &c.

The Honble Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Y<sup>rs</sup>

Pres<sup>t</sup> of the Council of Safety. W. Smallwood, B<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>

Monday March 17. 1777.

C. S. J.

Council met. Present as on Saturday.

Ordered That the Western Shore Treasurer pay to George Gordon four Pounds for a Gun.

That the said Treasurer pay to Thomas Howard twenty dollars for 1 Months Pay.