

to request you will pay the utmost Attention to and give c. c. orders for removing the same as soon as possible

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest respect Sir,

Your most obed^t & very hble. Serv^t

John Hancock, Presid^t

The Honble. Thomas Johnson Esq.

Gov^r of the State of Maryland.

[Washington to Hancock?]

Copy.

Head Qrs. Morris-town Mar. 31 1777

Sir: Captain Deshield of Mr. Buchanans ship from Baltimore who was taken by the Enemy and carried into York made his Escape from thence on Saturday Evening. He informs that three thousand troops British & Hessian embarked about ten days ago from the city of Staten-island on board Transports which were laying at the latter when he came away, he added that the Enemy have built and are building a number of light flat-bottomed boats almost seventy of which were finished. Capt. Deshield says it seemed to be the general opinion & conversation that this embarkation was for Chesapeake bay with a view of making a descent on the Eastern Shore, or that the troops were to proceed to the head of Elk, taking Annapolis & Baltimore in their way, there were some who thought it probable they were to go up the north river and attempt the Highland fortifications. I have written to general M^dDougal & Clinton desiring them to make the best preparation the circumstances will admit of for their reception, in case the latter should be their object.

Capt. Deshield being in Company with the Capt. of the Packet but unknown to him, heard him say that a war with France was much expected when he left England which was about the beginning of February.

I have the honour to be, with great respect

Sir, your most Obed^t Serv^t

G. Washington

April 3rd 1777.

C. B.

The Petitions of Whittey Turpin, Angelo Atkinson, Levi Langford, Daniel Melson, Stoughton Maddox, and Josephus Beall, Insurgents from Somerset and Worcester Counties, praying to be discharged from their Confinement, were referred by the General Assembly to the Governor and Council, with full power to take such order therein, as they think proper.