

hand, cant yet tell what their intentions is the headmost c. c.  
Ship, which from her Carrying a Flagg at her maintopmast  
head, Suppose to be the Admiral has come too in the mouth  
of the Channel comming to this place a few minutes ago, the  
wind now at S. W. a Small Breese dont imagine they will be  
up this night. General Buchanan is doing all he can to git  
the Militia together hope they will turn out well. Cap' Nich-  
olson is down here with all his men which has nearly man'd  
Our Lower Battery. I am not so well prepared as I coud  
wish but shant give up the Fort, without giving them some  
trouble

I am Sir

Your M<sup>o</sup> Obliged Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Nath<sup>l</sup> Smith

P. S. Since wrihting the  
Above observe the whole  
Fleet is Comming too off the  
mouth of the River

Yours &c. N Smith.

[N. Smith to Gov. Johnson.]

Original.

Fort at Whetstone Aug<sup>t</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1777.

Sir.

The last of the enemies Ships weighed Anchor yesterday  
morning at half after eight oClock & stood up the Bay, and  
informed this day by two Gentlemen, from the head of the  
Bay that they have bonded up 200 men on Prefuse Island,  
supos'd for Stock. M<sup>r</sup> Garthes of this place cros'd Susque-  
hannah at 5 °Clock last evening, says one Devission of the  
Fleet were standing for the Head Elk the other for Susque-  
hannah or Charles Town. its probable after landing their  
men, they may Attempt our Fort, if it should be the Case will  
give them as warm a Reception as in my power. have been  
informed that its the General oppinion of the pepole at Anna-  
polis that they cant hold that place against so large a Fleet  
as is above us. if thats the case, woud it not be best to try to  
save this, by sending some of the 18<sup>th</sup> guns by land here, we  
have much the Advantage as nothing Larger than a Frigate  
can get up, if the Galleys had their guns they woud in my  
Oppinion be able to prevent the enemie landing in the Ferry  
Branch above us & wou'd be in a very safe place as the Water  
is very Shoale. Up towards Elk Ridge & the Channel Crooked.  
Youl see by my last Return I am very week as to guns  
having only 6 18 pounders. think if the Gallies had their  
Guns & I had Ten 18 pounders more with the Assistance of  
the Frigate & Defence we cou'd prevent them from taking