

c. c. an Interview with Col^o Richardson as soon as you can. You can fully explain to him the Circumstances we are in on the Western Shore and the Views we entertain. You may assure the Gentlemen and People in General that we are persuaded, if our Countrymen will but turn out, we shall soon get rid of our Enemies, and that every Nerve will be exerted to support General Washington with a good Body of Western Shore Militia, some of whom, I expect, are on their March and many preparing. I am &^{ca}
 Cap^t Thomas.

Original.

[W. Paca to Gov. Johnson.]

D^r Sir

I came here last friday Evening to take up my family to Philadelphia Since my arrival the Enemy have reached as far as Cecil Court House, and began yesterday about four o'Clock to land in that neighborhood Apprehending that I cannot with safety venture to Philad^a I am determined to remain in this Quarter and share the Fate of my Country This Letter we hope will get to your Hands. The several Lieutenants of the Counties are exerting themselves and the People I am told are willing to turn out and are equipping themselves as well as possible. In this county we meet with a difficulty which obliges us to send an Express to you requesting your immediate Consideration of it: not an officer is appointed to command the militia: what is to be done? I know of no other method but your enclosing a number of blank Commissions to the Lieutenant of the County leaving it in his Discretion to fill them up I shall be on the Spot and will assist him in it I suppose other Counties may be in the like situation Pray either adopt this Plan or think of some other mode by which the difficulty may be avoided

As to money we must have it as soon as possible or we must take measures for supplies such as necessity will warrant.

I need not mention our want of Arms & Ammunition: I know you can't assist us but if you can send us a thousand or two of flints we will make what shift we can with our old muskets.

I wish we could establish a Communication: let me know your Sentiments as to the Plan. I intend to write circular Letters to the several Counties requesting a meeting of the principal Gentlemen at Talbot Court House to consult on proper measures of Defence. I shall write to M^r Goldsborough & Tilghman particularly. The Lieu^{ts} of the several Counties are so engaged in classing the Militia we have not yet been able to establish a regular Line of Correspondence or to fix on any Place for Head Quarters.