

C. C.
Original. Dr Sir

[W. Paca to Gov. Johnson.]

Yours by Cap^t Campbell was just now delivered me the Cap^t & his men were encamp'd upon the Heights above the Town and will march to morrow with two field Pieces for the Head of Sassafras Wednesday morning Major Smyth came here from Camp in Sussex & brought me a Letter from Col. Richardson who informs me of his getting ready with all Expedition to march for our Head Quarters The militia here will march next Tuesday. This Delay was unavoidable & not owing to any want of Zeal or Spirit. Ever since my Arrival I have seen every Exertion that could be made We have had a number constantly employ'd in making of Cartridges and have had every Tradesman at work Winters has repaired the Guns we shall be able spare Queen Ann's about 200 we have had made 500 Canteens Our Commissary is laying in Provision The Cecil Militia I hear have turn'd out to a Man except three Sam^l Chew Charles Gordon & Alex. Williamson; Sam^l Heath I hear is not taken a very spirited and active Part in our Cause. The Cecil Militia on this side of Elk I am told will be at the Head of Sassafras to morrow to collect in a Body I saw M^r Hemsley the Day before yesterday the Militia there were just officered and were closing The last of next week they will march and not possibly sooner I do not hear what they are about in Talbot I had a letter last Sunday from M^r Tilghman in Answer to mine who says he will do what he can and thinks the People will exert themselves I have had no answer to my Express to Robert Goldsborough

This morning we shall dispatch some Waggon to Talbot for Cannon Powder & I shall again write to M^r Tilghman.

Yesterday Gen Cadwalader rec^d orders from Gen^l Washington to take the Command of the Militia here Our People will most chearfully submit The Gen^l was with me and has accepted the appointment I shall endeavour to reconcile Richardson to it I am sure he has too great a Regard for his Country to take Exceptions to any Irregularity in this Proceeding The General set off this morning for the Head of Sassafras a few Days ago he wrote me the enclosed Letter Pray, as far as you can, give a Sanction to the Appointment; I read General Washington's Letter and it is in the most pressing Terms to take the Command of the Militia he says that Smallwood nor Gist have yet pass'd his Camp. The General's Letter is dated at Christiana Bridge 28th Aug. 12 °Clock at night the Enemy he says are about 2 miles above the Head of Elk and that we have taken between thirty and forty Prisoners. Deserters are coming over every Day. By the enclosed Letter from Carson you'll have a more particular