

Payment of the five Pound Tax. Our Treasury is empty and, unless the Collectors exert themselves and pay in the Money as soon as received it will not be in our Power to conduct the Public Business for without Money nothing can be effected. The Necessity of obtaining a large Sum for the Officers to enable them to bear their Expences on their March to the Southward, we are satisfied, is sufficient to prompt you to use the utmost Diligence in Collecting.

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[Council to the Commissioners of Baltimore Town.]

Gentlemen One Half of the Maryland Division are now at this City, on their March to the Southward, the other is daily expected. Before they can proceed, it is absolutely necessary that two hundred thousand Pounds should be distributed among the Officers, to enable them to defray their Expences on their March. Congress have resolved that the Officers be indemnified in the Loss they have sustained by the Depreciation of the Money, but cannot comply with their Resolution at this Time, being destitute of Money. The General Assembly impressed with the Necessity of Supplying the Officers with a Sum adequate to the above Purpose, and revolving in their Minds the exhausted State of the Treasury and the Want of other Means to procure Money, found themselves constrained to have recourse to the Expedient of Borrowing and have authorized and requested us to make Application to the Inhabitants of Baltimore Town for a Loan of two hundred thousand Pounds. If the Expedient should fail, we cannot say what will be the Result, but the most dreadful Consequences are to be apprehended, from detaining the Troops here, and the Officers cannot march without Money. The Inhabitants of Baltimore must receive the highest Satisfaction from the Idea Suggested by the Resolve that the Treasury is exhausted and all other Resources to procure Money fail the Virtue, Magnanimity and patriotism of Baltimore may be depended on, to extricate the State from its Embarrasments and Difficulties at the most critical Conjuncture. We have candidly represented our Situation without Colouring or Exaggeration and flatter ourselves that will be a Sufficient Inducement with them to render the Assistance required. The Money lent is to be repaid within three Weeks. We request you to convene the Inhabitants of the Town immediately and to lay this Letter and the enclosed Resolves before them. If you think the Money will be lent keep the Express and send it down by him.

Tuesday 9th May 1780.

Present as yesterday.

Commission of Letters of Marque and Reprisal issued to William Waud Commander of the Schooner Laurens, 50 Tons Burthen, navi-

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