

[Council to Marquis La Fayette.]

March 9  
Liber No. 78  
p. 86

We have authentic Information from one of our Delegates in Congress that the French Ships which were in Chesapeake Bay arrived at New Port Rhode Island on the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult. of which we make no Doubt you have been apprised. We think it necessary to communicate to you the Intelligence we have received of the Force of the Enemies Privateers in the Bay, we are informed and from Authority we cannot Doubt that there is a Brigg of 16 Guns a Schooner of 12 Guns and two Sloops of 8 Guns each cruising together on the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant in Annemessex River in our Bay.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 1781.

March 10  
Liber C. B.  
No. 24  
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Ordered that the Commissary of Stores deliver to Gabriel Williams of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment and Serj<sup>t</sup> Fenwick of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regim<sup>t</sup> each a suit of Cloaths and also to Ensign Robert Halkerston of the 3<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> one suit of Cloaths and two shirts for the year 1781.

That the Armourer deliver to Doct<sup>r</sup> James Murray two quire Cartridge paper to secure the Medecine in the State Shop and also to Capt. William Middleton of the Dolphin in the service of the Continent Transporting the Detachment of Troops under the Command of the Marquis La Fayette thirty pound Cannon & six pound Musk<sup>t</sup> Powder

[Council to Colonel George Dashiell.]

March 11  
Liber No. 78  
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The Arrival of the Marquis de la Fayette at this Place, at the same Time the Messenger and your letter arrived, has necessarily occasioned his being detained, and as the Information you gave materially concerned the Marquis's Expedition down the Bay your Letter was given to him to copy out that Information and unfortunately he has taken it with him, so that we cannot particularly answer it. The Assembly ordered a Proportion of Canon Arms and Ammunition for the Eastern Shore, your Part of which has accordingly been sent to Cambridge. Your Messenger mentions some Pieces of Cannon lately found in a Marsh in your County, if those could be procured and fitted they might we think be of Service in your Defence; and if you want Shott or Powder it is probable you may be supplied out of the Proportion sent to Cambridge. We approve of your drawing out your Militia to oppose the Enemy and make no Doubt you will pursue the most effectual Measures for opposing them.

We have some Reason to expect that Circumstances may soon happen that may greatly contribute to free you from the Enemy's Depredations; but in the mean Time you should relax nothing in your Preparations.