

March 24
Liber No. 78
p. 97

[Council to Capt. John Pitt.]

We think it proper that a fast sailing Vessel be immediately dispatched down the Bay to reconnoitre and watch the Movements of the British Ships late of this Harbour, and as your Vessel answers that Description better than any other in the Fleet, we request of you to remove the Provisions from on Board your schooner to some place of Safety first, advising the Commandant of our Directions, and if you want an additional Number of Men, we have no Doubt you will be furnished upon your Application to Col Vose. You are to communicate to us with the utmost Dispatch whatever occurs of Importance during your Cruise.

Ibid.

[Council to Capt. Gilbert Middleton.]

The Departure of the British Ships from before this Harbour and as we apprehend they are gone down the Bay gives an opportunity of reconnoitering the Bay and Rivers between this place and Elk, to see if there are any of their Cruisers remaining. You will therefore proceed the Boat Plater from hence to Baltimore Town and keep a careful look out on your Passage, when you arrive at Baltimore Town apply to Commodore Nicholson for further Instructions. If he desires you to proceed up the Bay to Elk or perform any other Service you are to follow his Directions. Should any Thing material occur in your passage you will give us as speedy Notice of it as you possibly can.

Ibid.

[Council to Mr. Thomas Donnellan.]

We wrote you the 22^d Instant to send down six Waggons with Flour or Bread, which were to be furnished by M^r Poe, if you have not already sent off these waggons, you will apply to Commodore Nicholson to be acquainted with the Situation of the Bay and if it can be done with Safety, to send the Bread and Flour down by water and discharge the waggons, this Post is entirely without Bread you will therefore send a Supply without Delay.

Ibid.

[Council to Commodore Nicholson.]

We have just received the enclosed from Governor Jefferson. We are informed by M^r Green who has been at the Mouth of South River that the two Ships that lay off this Harbour are now lying at the Mouth of Choptank River and that the two Schooners are up that River.

March 25
Liber No. 78
p. 99

[Council to Mr. Donallson Yeates.]

One of the British Ships of war has just returned and come to an Anchor off this Harbour but far over on the Eastern Shore. We give you this Notice that the People may be put on their Guard and prevent any that may be prepared to come down by water