

April 10
Liber No. 78
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[Council to Special Council.]

The enclosed Copies of Letters this Moment received will inform you of the Designs of Gen^l Clinton to take Post at new Castle on Delaware If that Event takes place and the Enemy maintain their Superiority in our Bay all Communication between us both by Land and Water must cease; the Situation of your Shore will be truly alarming, the plundering Parties of the Enemy assisted by the disaffected among you (who are always ready to demonstrate their Enmity to our Government) will rob the Inhabitants of their property and practise every Species of Cruelty and Barbarity; being under this Impression and feeling the Distresses in which the Inhabitants of your Shore may be involved, we are anxiously solicitous that Measures should be taken to prevent those Evils and suggest to your Consideration the Necessity of immediately disarming and Securing all those Persons whose Conduct induce you to Suspect them of Disaffection to the State and the Propriety of removing immediately all the public Stores which will not be wanted on such Emergency to some place of Safety on this Shore, and the driving all the Stock which may be in Danger of falling into the Possession of the Enemy to Places of Security on the western Shore. If any further Measures can be devised that will be in any Manner Serviceable to the Inhabitants of the Eastern Shore we will most chearfully adopt them and do our utmost to carry them into Execution and request you would communicate whatever you are of opinion will contribute to our Defence and Security.

Ibid.

[Council to Col. Richard Barnes.]

We have given John Allen Thomas Esq^r orders to receive one hundred Stand of Arms with Accoutrements compleate, all the small Cartridge Boxes, two quarter Casks of Musquet Powder five hundred Gun Flints and five Quires of Cartridge Paper, which is every thing that can possibly be spared and which is your full proportion. You will remove all the Horses, Stock and Provisions from any Neck, Shore or Island within your County where [you] think there is any Probability of their falling into the Hands of the Enemy and if the Inhabitants of St. Georges Island should refuse to remove and you should think their Continuance there prejudicial to the State, you will also have them removed to the main. We hereby empower you [to] take such Vessels with their Hands, Carriage Horses and other Draft Cattle, Geers and Drivers as you may judge necessary, and proper for the Service of the State to perform Carriage mount the Militia to go on Expresses. Every Person who comes from the Enemy should be secured and should be sent under Guard to this Board with such Evidence as you may be able to procure against them to be given in on oath.