

[M. Gist, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee.]

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I did myself the Honor when last at Annapolis to lay before Your Excellency and Council a plan for establishing six places of rendezvous for the quota of Troops to be raised by this State, which I flattered myself would meet your Approbation; but not hearing from you since on that Subject I take the liberty of repeating the proposition, and beg the favor of your determination thereon. The situation of the Enemy in our Bay, as well as the advantage arising from the appointment of Officers to discipline the Troops at these places, and the difference of expence in the Commissaries, and clothing departments, will on examination display the utility of the measure.

The Officers under my command in this State were sent from Camp for the express purpose of assisting in raising equipping and disciplining the Recruits, these services cannot be rendered by them, if the mode prescribed by the letter of the recruiting Act should be adopted, in that case the Officers can have no military duty to engage their attention; The Recruits raised will lose the advantage of order, regularity, and discipline and in case of an Invasion of the State, neither of them will be capable of rendering immediate or effectual Services; as a considerable time must elapse before they can be drawn to a point to operate against any force of the enemy.

While the British Fleet continue in Command of our Bay, they can obtain the best intelligence of our situation from whence any posts of consequence, left in our undefensible State, may probably become objects of their attention. This place in its present situation (if attacked) would fall an easy conquest to a small Body of Troops as the whole system of defence is totally deranged; even to the want of Musket Cartridges; the Commissary of Military Stores having no more on hand than would be sufficient to complete 200 Men with 20 Pounds.

The Detachment preparing at this place for Camp are much in want of Clothing I have directed Mr Denny to forward such Articles as are ready at Annapolis by the provision Waggon, and to wait on Your Excellency & Council for an Order on Mr Keepports for shoes

[Joseph Wilkinson, Calvert County, to Gov. Lee.]

March 27

In consequence of five of the enemys Vessels laying of the Cliffs—I have ordered the Militia on Guard, And directed them to secure all Craft on the Bay & River,

The enemy has been several times in the mouth Patuxent, they landed last Wednesday night in St Marys and plundered several Gentlemen of the whole of their furniture, wearing apparel, corn meat &c If my proceeding in ordering out the Militia should meet with your Excellencys approbation. I hope you will give directions about supplying them with provisions.