

Perhaps a representation on this subject from your Excellency to Gen. Washington would induce him to adopt the measure. The increased danger brought upon them by the Marquiss's expedition, which has drawn into their ports almost the whole shipping of the Chesapeak, must have some weight in determining him. He will also be sensible that these troops, can be as easily supported and supplied at these two posts, till in sufficient numbers to commence their march as where they now are and at the same time be so much nearer to General Green.

Should the Marquiss be yet with you, I think you may contrive to make him facilitate the business by a letter accompanying yours— But be good enough to keep me from his sight.

[George Dashiell, Som^t Co^{ty}, to The Honble Matthew Tilghman, April 5
Esq^r Talbot Co.]

Your favours of the 29th & 30th of March with an Inclosed order relative to the distribution of the public arms I rec^d on the 2nd Inst and beg lieve to inform you that the frequent depredations made on Sundry of the inhabitants of this county have obliged me to keep as many men as I could conveniently arm on duty since the 1st of March last. I have consulted the field officers of this county on the Expediency of removing the stock and provision from the several parts of this county exposed to the enemies vessels And also the removal of small boats & Canoes the former of which they apprehend will be attended with so much difficulty (and loss of stock from the scarcity of food for their support) that they have declined attempting to execute it at Present. The latter they have advised and I have appointed a day for that purpose.

I have no reason to expect any vessels of force from Portsmouth before Sunday week being the time (I am inform'd) that they have appointed to visit their friends in Annemessix we have procured Three six pounders and are preparing carriages for them ball I expect to get from Accomack Grape shott I am afraid are not to be had there nor cannon powder, I hope it will be convenient for you to furnish me from above as my brother informs me that you rec^d some cannon powder from the Western Shore I have sent a cart & request the fav^r of you to supply me with such Q^{ty} as you may Judge Necessary, I have consulted the field officers on the Draught we are unanimously of opinion that if it could with propriety be suspended in this County it would of public utility from the great disaffection which prevails among the inhabitants we are of opinion that should the Act for procuring recruits be executed at this time that a great many of the disaffected will go to the Enemy. Should you be so fortunate as to procure ammunition for the cannon I should wish to erect some small fortifications on the rivers in different parts of the county, this cannot be done without men and Intrenching tools should your