

with me—but the directions were not particular enough as to the latter, & all the paper was not to be engag'd until further orders. Please to let me know what is to be done, & no time shall be lost

April 10  
Red Book  
No. 5  
Letter 55

[S. West, Woodyard, to Gov. Lee.]

I imagine you may have been informed that the intelligence from Co<sup>l</sup> Beall was exaggerated—an express which I sent to Col. Lyles yesterday brought me an Account that the Enemy were at Lower Cedar Point 2 Schooners & a Pilot Boat, they had not burned Col Barnes's or the Priest, Matthew's Houses—they had taken some plunder from the latter & from M<sup>r</sup> Walter Hanson; they also took a Son of his, an officer in the extra Regiment, Prisoner. Col<sup>l</sup> Lyles informs me that there is a very good Spirit among the People round him to defend their Coasts but that they want Arms Accoutrements &c. I have delivered to your order, transmitted by Col<sup>l</sup> Beall, 118 Stand of Arms—there are a few more ready & we are preparing the rest; the People about Marlbro intended to have taken them without an order, they were so much alarmed, all the Arms are at present there, I informed the People they might have more Arms & also Cartridge Boxes from Annapolis, they are in great want of the latter. I sent with the Arms 800 very good flints. I am well informed that on Saturday, when it was so foggy 1 or 2 barges came all the way up Patuxent to Lower Marlbro manned mostly by Negroes in the night landed & Plundered the Town, burned Cap<sup>t</sup> John Davids House & a Traveler who was asleep in it. They took Prisoners Col<sup>l</sup> Fitzhugh & Will<sup>m</sup> Allein & carried them some distance but afterwards released them on Some Conditions: They took all the Vessells at Lower Marlbro and I hear one with Provisions from Patrick Smith—(probably intended for Marlbro) they loaded the vessells with Tobacco out of the Warehouse and carried all off down the River on Sunday Morning with a strong wind at Noth West; most of Fitzhughs Negroes went with them.

April 10  
Tuesday  
Morning  
Red Book  
No. 28  
Letter 8

Every Hours Experience shews the necessity of having some Armed Vessells in the great Rivers especially Patuxent & Potowmack and some Cannon & Men stationed at such points where the vessells may occasionally retire to & assist in repelling the Enemy. I am surprised the Gentlemen at Alexandria who have Vessells & Cannon do not adopt the Idea—the Militia from on this Side Potowmack I believe would chearfully assist in manning the vessells.

I saw M<sup>r</sup> John Smith Brookes yesterday who informed me he had 30 good Beeves ready for moving. As Annapolis is without Provisions & meant to be garrisoned I told him that I believed they would be very acceptable to you at this time—the 3 Recruits are also ordered; the Salt Provisions wait your order; but surely some will be wanted for the Militia & other purposes in this County during the Summer.