

Arms, if to be spared, we have hired a Carriage to bring what the Governor and Council may be pleased to send.

April 11
Red Book
No. 28
Letter 68

We are just informed that Benedict was burnt last night by the enemy, and that they were proceeding up the River, but of this there is no authentic acco^t.

[W. Bordley, Chester Town, Kent Co'ty, to The hon^{ble} Mathew Tilghman, Esq. President of the Eastern Shore Council] April 12

Agreeable to request I have ordered the arms to be distributed among the militia who could be most depended on & whose situation was most exposed to the depredations of the Enemy.

Since which I sent a row boat over to Annapolis for such Arms &c as were to be lodged at this Town & have received the articles as to list. The two Field peices & the Iron Shott Cap^t Tilden could not bring. The arms are mostly old & partly worn out—these kind of arms if they contract the least particle of rust will not fire. I am persuaded the Council will give us our proportion of the new arms allotted for the defence of the eastern Shore & they may depend on having all their orders strictly observed & punctually executed, Major Dean has come to this Town in order to take charge of the recruits, he wants about 120 Musketts to put into the hands of our recruits & those he expects from other Counties; this scheme I think advisable, as the recruits may be easily train'd the most of which having been already on duty & should Baltimore Town be attacked, as we have reason to expect, our county will be greatly exposed. I can furnish him with 78 Musketts which I receiv'd from Baltimore, the other fifteen being sent the other night on an alarm to Quaker Neck. M^r Sturges is making canteens & promises to be expeditious about them, Slings will be wanting for those he makes, as well as a considerable number in our armoury, I will endeavour to have Cartridges made & shall want Lead, ours being nearly exhausted having lately run a good many bullets & have been making for our use. I have just spoke to M^r Harragan about the baggage Waggon he tells me that he has laid aside other work & will make the waggon with all possible dispatch. I saw Col^o Graves yesterday who informs me that he has been over to Baltimore that they are preparing Barges generally on the western shore that he has made every necessary enquiry & will finish our Barge completely with all possible expedition. I have this day receiv'd 18 Muskett Locks from Annapolis, we have forty Barrells at least & could we be supplied with mounting they might be stocked here very soon we have this morning received a Letter from Cap^t James Nicholson dated 11th instant head of Elk. who informs that the detachment under the Marquis are under marching orders for Baltimore Town. Gen^l Foreman from the Jerseys writes congress that he has intelligence from N York which he can depend on; That a large embarkation was going from thence