

Jarboe & others who I have ordered to Carry them to you to be dis- April 27
posed off as you think Proper.

The Chaps had with them a Pretty deal of very good wearing Apparel, such as shirts, Breeches, Waiscoats &c Summer Ware, and which they say partly belonged to the Marques La Fayette, which I imagine is truth, they (the Privateer) took Middleton's Boat in which the Marques's baggage was shiped. I have taken the Liberty of telling those who took them to leave them a Shipt, & divide the rest amongst them, as an incouragement, which in future will be to our Advantage their being a great many Strolers who ought to be detected & who the Common People are to apt to let pass unnoticed. Should be glad the Comm^{try} of Purch^s could be down as I expect to have some of the Militia at the Place of Rendez. to-morrow.

[Sam. Huntington, President, Philadelphia, to The Honorable
Matthew Tilghman Esq.]

April 27
Red Book
No. 8
Letter 31

Your Favour of the 21st Instant I have had the Honor to communicate to the United States in Congress Assembled. I am directed to inform you that it was by no Means their Intention in the Recommendation therein referred to, to hold up your Situation as desperate, much less to preclude the Idea of Resistance. The Intelligence they had received led them to apprehend that it was in Contemplation with the Enemy to take Post at New Castle, for the Purpose of a grand Forage on the Peninsula between Delaware & Chesapeake Bays.

The Attention due to the general Interest required that immediate & effectual Precautions should be taken to disappoint such an Expedition of its object. With this View it was recommended to remove from the Reach of the Enemy all Provisions & Forage which would not be necessary for the Consumption of the Inhabitants, a Precaution pointed out by the very Nature of the Case, which was the more eligible as it tended to prevent the Invasion as well as to render it abortive, and which had been adopted in Similar Instances without objection or Complaint.

The Intelligence since received by Congress of the Designs of the Enemy has been so far from rendering the first Plan inexpedient or unnecessary, that it has determined them to give it greater Promptitude & Efficacy by their Resolution of the 23^d Instant, of which a Copy is enclosed. The Extent & strictness of its Execution, as well as of the preceding Act, must no Doubt be governed by Circumstances, and by the Discretion of the Executives & the Board of War. Whatever Respect may be paid to these Recommendations, or whatever may be the Event, Congress will have done their Duty.

Your Determination to exert yourselves to the utmost for your Defence, and your Confidence in the Bravery & Affection of your Citizens afford Congress the highest Satisfaction, and they perswade