

August 6 for a more favorable moment. You are on the spot, and acquainted
 Brown Book with its strength, and of course know best what measures should be
 No. 3 taken, In all Cases you will take care of the public stores.
 Letter 21
 [Copy]

August 6
 [Copy]

[James McHenry New Castle to His Exc^y Gov^r Lee]

Maryland is relieved by the Enemy's establishing themselves in York river: But as this is a movement, not of choice there is no saying how long you will be safe. The measure there is good reason to believe is in consequence of advice of a superior naval power expected on this coast—So you see upon what you have to depend

Under these circumstances your military preparations are as necessary as ever. You will either want them for your own defence or to assist us. Believe one who is not apt to judge rashly; who has long since told you of what has been so near taking place, that relaxation may involve evils to the State of the most permanent nature. There was a time when we could blunder with impunity; but a blunder now may prove fatal. I need not be more explicit to your Excellency. You must be aware of the very critical situation of affairs both in America and Europe

You are filling up the Continental line; but something might also be attempted for internal security. The enemy do not lose sight of Baltimore; and this place may not be unworthy a little attention. I will give you my sentiments in a few words—If the works for the defence of the Harbour cannot be repaired, they should be levelled—If, at least, one galley and a boom cannot be provided, nothing of value should remain in the town. But if the works can be put in a state of Defence; a galley completed, and a boom established with a proper militia garrison, the place will be secure from any small detachment; and with an equal army in their neighbourhood, the enemy will not venture, to send a large one. At this moment measures of this nature would have the most happy effect—

With the sincerest regard & the most perfect respect and Attachment—

August 6
 [copy]

[James McHenry, New Castle, to His Excy Gov^r Lee]

I had not time in the morning to send you what I now *enclose. As it is not a public letter I beg you will not suffer any Copies to be made—(see page 395)

By authentic accounts from Europe England has refused the mediation of Russia for a separate peace between her and Holland. A restoration of what she had taken from the Dutch was the basis which she did not chuse to comply with Her idea was, to take the Dutch Islands, which were easy conquests, in the expectation that the French in order to recover them for the Dutch, would give up,