

October 6
Red Book
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Letter 17

Tarlton two nights ago like to have been taken, 50 of his men kild & wounded, himself dangerously in the Back. Great desertion from the English, Cornwallis has doubled his Rations; which is lookt on as a favourable Matter on our side His Men has anything they ask for.

October 6 [Geo. Lux, Baltimore, to His Exc^y Governor Lee In Council]

In compliance (as I conceive) with my duty as a Citizen, and the Oath I have taken to support our present happy Constitution to the utmost of my power, I have the honour to inform your Exc^y & the Hon^{ble} Executive Council of this State, that on the late Alarm Col. Isaac Hammond of the Soldiers Delight Battalion of Militia of this County appeared to misbehave in such a manner as at any rate to require a trial—the Company of Militia, in which I am an Officer, particularly clamoured for a Court Martial upon him & as no other Person would step forth, I thought it my duty to take an active part upon the occasion—I therefore drew up 3 pointed charges against Col. Hammond, mentioned the evidences I wished to summon in order to prove them, and handed them in to the Lieutenant of our County, demanding a Court Martial—Gen^l Buchanan knew appearances were against Col^l Hammond, and would have been glad to have given him an opportunity (if innocent) to evince it, or to make an example of him, if guilty, but he thought he had no power to arrest an Officer in order to bring him to trial, except when on duty, & the Militia were discharged, before I reported Col. Hammond—

The purport therefore of this letter is to require the opinion of the Hon^{ble} Council, whether Gen^l Buchanan has a power or not to call a Court Martial in the present instance, and I have the firmest confidence in the rectitude of their determination—I arraigned Col. Hammond upon the 3 following charges

1st Disobedience of Gen^l Buchanan's positive orders in not forming his Battalion in Brigade.

2^{dly} Drunkenness, when on duty

3^{dly} Ungentlemanly Behaviour unbecoming an officer—

I hardly know Col. Hammond even by sight, and have & can have no private motives, pique or resentment to gratify, for I belong not to his Battalion.

October 6 [David Poe, D. Q. M., Baltimore, to Gov. Lee.] (P^r Capt. Handy)

The bearer Cap^t James Handy have Charge of 500 Bb^{ls} flour for the use of the Army in Virginia.

You will please to give him Directions what River to sail for to Discharge his Cargo.