

[Rd. Hooe, Alex^a, to Gov. Lee.]

February 21
Red Book
No. 28
Letter 40

Yesterday Morning we had the agreeable report of a french fleet arriving in Hampton road—afterwards we had the mortification to hear it was a British fleet & what favor'd that disagreeable account was an express from the Governor about 3 o'Clock in the afternoon ordering $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the Militia of this County to be Marched instantly to Williamsburgh without assigning any cause. However this days Post clears up our fears & doubts by handing us the agreeable intelligence contain'd in the Papers w^{ch} I have the Honor to enclose Your Excellency.

These Papers might perhaps have reached Annapolis Tomorrow but the News is so very interesting & important that I conceive it to be my indispensable Duty to forward it to you by express. I have the pleasure to add that by information brought by two Gent from the Southward the Militia of this State are turning out with uncommon alacrity. Those of our County meet Tomorrow and from the present Spirit, I am of opinion the whole instead $\frac{1}{4}$ might be Marched as Volunteers if that number had been demanded. The Gent above mention'd tell us 'tis the prevailing opinion that Cornwallis cannot come much farther forward & that both he and Arnold must with their Armies fall into our hands.

Virginia has now an opportunity and I trust there is still virtue and Spirit enough in her to Stroke a happy stroke & in favor of all confederated America. That I may shortly be able to hand you a still more pleasing account of this Business is Sir, the most Ardent wish of Your Excellency's most ob^t Serv^t

The Travellers above mention'd say there is 4 Ships of the Line & 6 frigates

[James Mercer, St. James's, to Col. Robert F. Hooe, Alexandria.
(By Post)]

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Letter 45

The inclosed hand Bill arrived here yesterday noon and with it such a variety of accounts that I thought it adviseable to decline sending you a special messenger there, hoping that this Days Post private Letters, or Travellers might enable me to give you such a Detail as might authorize the executive of Maryland to act upon. It is now one o'Clock & I am confident that I am now master of the best Intelligence to be had & such as I can venture to relate as fact—to wit—Lord Cornwallis is at the Moravian Town in North Carolina (about 25 miles from the Virginia Line) his force about 2500. General Green arrivd on the 10th at Guilford Court house in North Carolina (about 60 miles S^o East of Hillsborough where he was joined by General Morgan, the number of General Greens Army not mentioned but said to be 2700 men. It is certain that Green was retreating his Reasons so political that we are not to suppose him in danger from his movements he says he will not fight, as he must