

prisoners taken by Morgan were out of danger of being retaken. He had pick'd up ab^t 100 more since the action. This movement of Cornwallis's esteemed exceeding rash by the Southern Gentlemen here but I believe if he advances General Green will be forc'd to evacuate North Carolina, or to engage on very unequal terms. Col. Marian has distroyed some of the Enemies Magazines at Wandow Landing, & Dorchester, within 20 Miles of Charles Town, & taken 30 British prisoners besides some officers. I shall add no more on this Subject as it is probable before this reaches you, some important events have been communicated to you from that quarter. The troops Landed at Cape Fear, consist of a detachment from Charles Town, & have taken possession of Wilmington, ab^t 500

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The confederation will be subscribed (M^r Hanson being here) on next Thursday & Congress having postpond it to that day in order to announce it properly

[E. Hall, Lt 1st Mary'd Regt, M^t Welcome Cecil County to
Gov. Lee]

February 24

I take the liberty of enclosing your excellency a letter for M^{rs} Marbury from her unfortunate husband who is still a prisoner with the enemy on Long Island, it came under cover to me with directions from Col. Marbury to forward it by way of Annapolis to some gentlemen there that woud procure it an immediate conveyance, and having heard the Col^l speak in a manner that gave me reason to believe he was acquainted with your excellency induces me to take this liberty.

The peculiarly disagreeable situation of this unfortunate gentleman is truly distressing as the Continent having no officer in their possession that wou'd apply to him in an exchange in point of rank he humbly conceives that your excellency and council might fall upon some method to enlarge him, one in particular he mentioned to me previous to my exchange Viz. That if the State had not officers in their immediate possession that might exchange him by composition, he apprehends they might be borrowed from a neighboring or the United States. I hope your Excellency will pardon me for this intrusion, the very great friendship & esteem which I have for Col. Marbury obliges me to try every method that in my opinion might tend to his speedy enlargement.

[Thos. Smyth, Eastern Neck, Kent County, to Gov. Lee.]
(Via Rock Hall)

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Letter 25

Having been informed that this State had determined to fitt out immediately some armed Vessels for the defence & protection of the Trade of this Bay, I beg leave to make your Excell^{cy} an offer of a fine large Ship which I have on the Stocks at my Shipyard on Langford bay, she was intended for a compleat 20 Gun Ship and will I