

March 19  
Liber No. 78  
p. 431

Island, under Pretext, as it is said, that the Owners were carrying on a Clandestine Trade with the Enemy. Capt<sup>n</sup> Reed, it is represented, after plundering the Vessel of such Articles as he thought proper, seized her and sent her to New Port as a Prize.

These Proceedings of Capt<sup>n</sup> Reed, we consider highly reprehensible and injurious to the Honor and Dignity of this State. If the Flags and Passports granted by either of the States to its Subjects, are to be disregarded by our American armed Vessels, the general Interest and Happiness of the States must suffer from Want of those Modes of safe Communication, which the Events and Casualties of War render absolutely necessary. When the Object of the Flag in Question is considered, and the Principles which directed it, Capt<sup>n</sup> Reed must appear to have paid as little Regard to the Rights of Humanity, as to the National Rights appertaining to the Sovereignty and Independence of the State of Maryland.

The Intention Sir, of this Address is to possess your Executive with a Knowledge of this Transaction, and to vindicate it from the Imputation of an improper Commerce with the Enemy, and we must beg your Interposition, so far as to make it Request to your Attorney General to attend your Admiralty Court on this Business, and support this State in common with the States in Union, to grant a Flag for the Purposes we granted one to Capt<sup>n</sup> Geddis. We hope our Citizens will never act so rashly as to disregard the Flags of your State; but if any such Outrage should be committed by them, we beg you to be assured every Step shall be taken that our Law and Constitution authorizes, to vindicate your National Rights.

Ibid. [Wm Paca in Council to Capt<sup>n</sup> George P. Keepports.]

Some Time ago, we sent you an Order to Capt<sup>n</sup> DeBarrass of the Sloop Tarleton, of which the enclosed is a Copy, to deliver to you a Parcel of Arms which he borrowed of the State, but we have not heard from you on the Subject. We request you will let us know immediately, the Steps you have taken in this Business, and, if you have not already received the Arms, you will be pleased to apply for them immediately, and forward them as soon as possible, as we have Occasion for them. Should you meet with any Difficulty, you will apply to Commodore De la Ville Brune

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Friday 21. March 1783

Present His Excellency the Governor

Benj<sup>a</sup> Stoddert, Jer. T. Chase & James Brice Esquires

Ordered That the western shore Treasurer issue to Francis Plowden a Certificate agreeable to the "Act proposing to the Citizens of this State, Creditors of Congress on Loan Office Cert<sup>s</sup> &<sup>ca</sup>" for eight