

not to be the Death as to all of them; besides threatening the Sergeant and the Party to have them whipt out of town.

About a fortnight since Mr. Joseph Watkins with a Number of Men arrived with Clubs received another Recruit from my Sergeant in his way from Joppa to this town.

I applied to Mr. Bradley the Attorney General who I imagined I should find very ready to join with me in a public Resentment of this Method of proceeding by procuring the Parties concerned, but by what I could gather from my Conversation with him he makes light not to very justifiable Attempts of this sort - he put a Case not very much to their Honour of these Recruiting Services; suppose a Man steals a Horse &c.

If through Mistake, or in a disputable point as this seems to be among the Inhabitants, whether the King has not a prior Right to the Service of his Subjects to any other Obligation they may lay themselves under, especially in Cases of great Necessity, any Mans legal Property is invaded, are not the Steps of the Law to be pursued without Violence that Justice may be done? besides I cannot possibly know who are, or are not Servants till their indentures are produced - Pardon my suggesting these Things which is with no other View than to apologize for my own Conduct.

I hope your Excellency will give such Directions and order a prosecution against the parties whom have been culpable, against whom I am ready to furnish the necessary Proofs, as may deter others from such a barefaced Opposition to his Majesty's Service!

I am with great Respect your Excellency's most
Obedient humble Servant

Sam. Gardner

Mr. 1

Baltimore Aug. 15th 1756

Captain in his Majesty's 47th Regiment

Since the above by the Indagation as I am credibly informed
word of the better sort at the Church in the Forest last Sunday there
was an Agreement made to raise a Body of about 200 Men, and take
all my Recruits from me; this I took to be their Rendezvous, on Monday
Captain Birch who commands a Company of Militia in the County
came on Sunday Evening with about twenty Horse the Men armed with
Clubs