

I have only prorogued them to the ¹² of Jan^y but if Your L^{dy} should be obliged to defer Your Journey to Annapolis beyond that time or not be desirous of meeting them at all You will be pleased to favour me with timely Notice that I may prorogue the Assembly to a longer Day, for it is my Opinion that It would answer no End for one to meet them again after what hath pass'd, at least for some time untill Your L^{dy} can be present.

In behalfe & at the earnest Request of the Inhabitants of this small Place I take the Liberty to represent to Your L^{dy} the great Inconveniencies to which they are subjected by having so great a Number as five ~~companies~~ Companies of Soldiers quartered on them whom they are obliged to furnish with Lodging & Necessaries at their own private Expence. They made frequent Application to the Assembly for Assistance both before & after the Bill of which I send Your L^{dy} a Copy was rejected but could obtain no Relief. In fact many of the Gentlemen of the Town are obnoxious to the Lower House of Assembly on account of their holding Offices under the Govern^t having Connections with me & therefore the Burgeses were not displeas'd at seeing them distressed; especially as they themselves were thereby exempted from bearing the least Share of the Burthen. The Number of Families that reside in this Place are far short of a hundred & as ^{scarcely} many of these are scarcely able to maintain themselves many of the Gentlemen are oblig'd to receive or provide Lodging Fire & Necessaries for 15 or 20 Men each. This being the case I hope Your L^{dy} will permit Col^l Maldiman to send some of them to the neighbouring Towns or if he ^{shall} think proper to quarter them on the Gent^l that reside at a ^{small} distance from Annapolis & can easily accommodate them. Among the Papers that I send Your L^{dy} is one which contains the ^{names} List of a French Deserter & of a Prisoner who were brought hither a few Days ago from Fort Cumberland - They were examined by S^r J^o S^r Clair by M^r Maldiman & myself - The Custod^r I have committed to the Custody of the Sheriff till I can be honour'd with Your L^{dy}'s Orders concerning him.