

12
Council Annapolis 20th Ap. 1777.

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We have received repeated Accounts of your having impressed and
No. 34. detained a Number of Seafaring Men and others who either resided in, or
were occasionally at Baltimore Town, and that, besides the Wrong to the
Individuals, its Consequences have been injurious to the Town, in deterring
People from going to Market there, for fear of being treated in the same Manner.

We do not know that you can have any Authority under which to justify
such Violence, or to interfere in any Manner with any Person who has not
voluntarily enlisted in the Continental Marine Service. If you have
any Person under Colour of his being impressed, we require you, instantly
to discharge him, and to forbear from a further Exercise of such an unwar-
ratable Power. It is the Office of Government to protect every Subject
in his Liberty and his Property, nor shall we, who are honored by
our Country with the highest Department, be idle Spectators of the
Oppression of any Man in it.

Capt. James Nicholson
of the Virginia

We are &c.

Sir

Annapolis 25th Ap. 1777

35. Immediately on my Receipt of your Letter of the 12th of March, I laid it
before the General Assembly: Agreeing in Opinion with you, that, unless we had a
Force previously established on the Eastern Shore, in Case of a Descent, you could
with great Difficulty at best, afford Assistance from the Western Shore and persuaded
the like Obstructions might equally disable us from transporting Men across the
Bay, I thought it advisable a small Regular Force should be established in the
upper Part of Somerset County, to which the well affected from all Parts might
occasionally resort; that such a Force would prevent a Junction of the Forces
in Sussex, Somerset and Worcester, and in some Part their Intercourse, and that
small Parties, in light Boats, might well take favourable Opportunities to
cross the Bay, when they were sure of joining a Body, as soon as they landed.
I communicated my Idea to some Gentlemen of the Congress, and suggested
the Propriety of having one of the Continental Battalions, raised in this
State, stationed on the Eastern Shore - Our Assembly viewed the Matter
in much the same Light, and made Application ^{for a Battalion} but before their Resolution
reached Congress, that Honorable Body took up the Subject, and came to the
inclosed Resolutions, which I received Yesterday, in consequence of which,
Orders are gone to Col^o Richardson, who is judged equal, in every Respect, to
this Service, and Measures will soon be taken to embody the 500 Militia,
as well as to render the Militia at large eventually serviceable.

I join in Sentiment with you, as to the Utility of Stationing Gallies on
the Eastern Shore; some of ours are designed for that Service, but our utmost
Efforts have not yet been effectual to get any one completely fitted - We
have three in the Water, partly manned, and three others ready, or very
nearly ready, to launch, but have not been able, as yet, to get a Sufficiency