

In Council Annapolis 29th April 1777

Sir

N<sup>o</sup>. 50. We are informed that several Gentlemen who have had recruiting <sup>Money</sup> granted by the Committee or the Council of Safety and most of them <sup>been supplied with</sup> Money to recruit Men in the seven Battalions to be raised as the Quota of this State, not having been gratified in their Appointments to the Height of their Expectations, have attempted to transfer their Recruits to the fifteen Battalions. If any such Attempt should be made by any Person on your Share, you are to take the Recruits into your Regiment and inform us of the Fact with its Circumstances; for we are determined that every Man, if it is in our Power, who has been raised towards the Quota of this State, shall be so applied

Col<sup>o</sup> Richardson. } We are Sir Y<sup>rs</sup>

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Annapolis 29th April 1777.

This Morning Commodore Brooke delivered me your Letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst. I immediately laid it before the Council and sent for the Capt. of our Ship Defence to consult on the Subject; we have had a very free Conversation with him and Commodore Brooke. I wrote you the 28<sup>th</sup>, giving you an Account of the Condition of our Row Gallies, it is not much mended, the forwardest of them is on the lower Part of our Eastern Shore with Intention to exercise the Hands she has and endeavour to get more. The Defence is lying here, merely for Want of Hands, she has now about 60 and wants at least as many more, we are using our utmost Endeavours to get them, but the Privateers and the high Wages given by Merchants make it very difficult to get Men of any Sort. We have for some Time expected Capt. Nicholson down, in the Virginia, though all we know is from Report, having little Correspondence with him. From some late Instances of his Conduct, there is no great Probability of our Wishes or Advice influencing him in any Degree; yet, if there was any Hope of clearing the Bay with his Assistance, the Council and I would instantly request it, and, if necessary apply to Congress, for Orders to him; but Commodore Brooke and Capt. Looke, <sup>in Opinion</sup> concurring with us, that our Force collected, would be too much inferior to that of a forty Gun Ship and Frigate, in a Situation where the Row Gallies could not probably act with Effect, any Application to Capt. Nicholson or the Congress would, it is thought, be useless. We have no Doubt but the Congress would, if it was in their Power, order a Frigate or two round from Delaware, but, from what we are informed, it is impracticable to get them out, there being, according to the last Accounts from Philadelphia, <sup>nine Men of War</sup> within, or about the Sapes of that Bay, they have been too successful in their Depredations on the American Trade. As soon as we can get any of our Row Gallies ready they will be ordered down, in such a Situation, that they may be easily collected, to take the Advantage of a Alarm and with Orders to act in concert with yours; it is our Idea that, in a Alarm, an Attack might be decisive against a Man of War, and that if the Row Gallies should be worsted, they might, almost certainly, retreat. We have only the Number of eighteen Cannons, appropriated by our Legislature, to our Boats, some of our Gallies would well carry twenty four or <sup>perhaps</sup>