No. 128.

We have appointed Lieut. Indah to the Office mentioned in your Letter of the 7th Inst. and make no Doubt of his discharging the Trust reposed in him with Fidelity. There is a small Quantity of Steel Iron belonging to this State, which we expect will answer Mr Darsy's present purpose, and which we shall continue to him by the first Opportunity. It does not seem to us that the late Law respecting the additional Bounty of Thirty Dollars exclusive of the Continental Allowance, will justify our adapting the Mode you propose to promote the recruiting Service, in as much as the Law has pointed out a different Plan, and does not allow of any Deviation from it. We have had before us, in Consequence of your Complaint respecting Capt. Cooke, the two Officers of the Ship Defence who were immediately employed by the Capt. in executing the Business we had sent him upon; the one his Lt. who informs us that upon the Captain's Arrival in Baltimore Town, he, the Lieut. went at the Captain's Desire, to request your Assistance for a Guard over a Vessel which had Salt on board, as represented, with Design of removing the Same out of this State, contrary to the Law lately passed against forestalling, That he endeavoured to find you, but not being able to meet with you readily, he then went to the Guard House, enquired for the Officer of the Guard, and finding no commanding Officer there, he requested the Sergeant who, he was told, commanded the Guard, to aid Capt. Cooke with two File of Men, which was chearfully complyed with and that the Men were, in a very short Time, discharged. The other Person (the Second Mate) informed us that he went, by the Captain's Order by Water to the Fort Wharf in Execution of the Business before mentioned and that tho' he desired, as a Favour, a Sergeant who happened upon the Wharf and with whom he had then made some Slight Acquaintance, to do some small Service for him; he never asked or demanded, or had Occasion to ask or demand, or received any Aid from the Fort, and that he refused to shew his Instructions in pursuance of his Capt. Orders which were designed, as the Capt. alledges, to obviate the Inconvenience of of his being obliged to shew them to Masters of Vessels who might, perhaps be too curious. We also are informed by Capt. Cooke, that he wrote to the Commanding Officer of the Fort to lend his Assistance to his Officer, if it should be necessary, and which corresponds with the written Instructions produced by the Officer. Upon the Whole we apprehend the Information you have had, respecting the Conduct of Capt. Cooke & his Officers as mentioned in your Letter, has not been well founded, and, from the best Judgment we are able to form upon the Examination we have made, there was no Intention, on the Part of Capt. Cooke, to treat you with any Slight in the Management of the Affairs he had been intrusted with. —