

In Council Annapolis 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1777. —

148. We have received Intelligence that a Fleet of the Enemy's Ships appeared on Thursday last off our Capes and that some of them came within. We think it necessary that the Chester Galley should be brought to Annapolis, and therefore request that you proceed with her to this Place with all Speed. We are &c.

To the Com<sup>dr</sup> of the  
Chester Galley

In Council Ann<sup>d</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1777. —

Sir,

149. We have issued the Commissions for the Officers of your Company small as it is, under the Staps. Mr Chalmers has given us that, as soon as it is seen you are to join Col<sup>o</sup> Richardson, a good many others will enroll and have sent them by Mr Chalmers. We would have what Men have already enrolled, join Col<sup>o</sup> Richardson under two Officers as soon as may be & the Officers left to be assiduous to increase the Company. We are &c.

Capt<sup>r</sup> Edward Noel Jun<sup>r</sup> }  
Dorchester County }

In Council Annapolis 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1777. —

Circular

150. Sir. Yesterday Morning one Capt<sup>r</sup> Thomas Simson came up from Virginia and informed that on Thursday Evening last, a Fleet of the Enemy's Ships coming within the Capes, that he distinctly saw Sixty Sail, some of them two or three Miles within and a number following, which, because of the Distance and the Night coming on, he could not see distinctly. We have an Express to Day from Virginia confirming the Information. Whether they have Land Troops on Board or what is their Destination or Design, we are not informed, but we think it advisable that you give Orders to the Militia under your Command to prepare themselves, as well as they can, for Service, and hold themselves in readiness to march instantly on further Orders. We are &c.

To the Lieut<sup>ts</sup> of the  
different Counties

of St. Mary's County Annapolis Aug<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1777. —

I have directed Ignatius Crayeraff to purchase a Number of Black Cattle for the Public Use, they will be wanted for the Support of the Militia who are to march. Our Treasury now being removed I cannot supply him with Cash, but what he purchases shall be honestly paid for. W<sup>ch</sup> Ignatius Crayeraff.

151. You are to purchase what Beef Cattle you can in St. Mary's County and on the Way for the Use of the Militia which is embodying to support General Washington. As you purchase on the Water Side, have