

from Annapolis. Mr. Read the Gun Smith has found Ammunition
 by the name of Campbell left Annapolis a few Days ago, with thirty
 Soldiers including Officers, with Orders to join the Eastern Shore
 Militia at Chester. From the latest Accounts we have, our Van
 papers Iron Hill, the Enemy Gray's Hill about two Miles east
 from the Head of Elk. Every Day is big with great Events. —
 We shall send over, with Orders to lodge at Chester, Musquet Powder
 Lead, Cartridge Paper & Flint, the Quantity will depend on the
 conveyance we may get; if a sufficient Boat can be had, we shall
 send a Plenty: our Stores are a good Deal dispersed by the hasty
 Removal of them. We are of Opinion that strictly we cannot
 give to others a discretionary Power to draw out the Public
 Money; but surely when every Thing is at Stake, the Treasurer
 will not be particular or ceremonious, he and we must rely
 on the Equity of the Legislature, however if we have a Power
 or may be thought to have it, the inclosed may satisfy the
 Treasurer. — We are Gent. Yrs.

Mathew Tilghman, and
 Robt. Goldsborough Esqrs. }

In Council 1st Sep^r 1777.

155. We are informed that several of the Militia of Capt. John Hammonds
 who are of the first Class & to march in Capt. Owens's Company, have
 not only refused to join the Company to march, but have entered into
 a confederacy to oppose by Force any compulsory Measures which
 may be made use of to compel them to do their Duty. We shall
 reluctantly and only from Necessity exert the Authority entrusted
 to us to the extent of it, but shall certainly not suffer such a
 Conduct, if persisted in, to go unpunished. We therefore wish you to
 endeavour to convince these Men of their Error and to let them know
 that if necessary, we shall set in Motion an ample Force to compel
 them to obey the Law and defend their Country; but if Persuasion has
 not the desired Effect, you are hereby authorized to make Use of Force
 and for this Purpose you are to call on any Persons you please for
 Assistance, or if you think proper, acquaint us and you shall immedi-
 ately have what Force you may think necessary. If in any Instance
 a Man who cannot, is ordered to march, let him make known his
 Circumstances to Col. Worthington in a peaceable Way; we wish
 not to inflict extremum Hardships, but the Laws must not be braved.
 We are also informed that Richard Gray and Samuel Philips, who
 were not of the first Class of the Militia, not only advised, but
 prompted this Opposition by meeting and joining those who had