

Annapolis 20th Nov^r 1777.

The Accounts which we have from Camp of the distressed Situation of our Troops for want of Cloathing, are very alarming. I hear there are some Goods at Alexandria and I know of no Body in the Public Service who I can, with Propriety, send to make a Purchase. Supposing you have Time and not doubting your Inclination to serve the Public, I beg the Favour of you to go to Alexandria and, if you can, purchase coarse Woollens sufficient for 1000 Suits of Cloaths, any Number of Blanketts, 1000 Pair of Shoes & Stockings and Hats. It is impossible to say what will be the greatest Price of the Cloth or Blanketts; if to be had, do not be over nice about the Price, the Hats too, stand in the same Predicament. For good Shoes and warm Country Stockings, I would have you go as far as 27/6 per Pair our Money. If you get any Thing, pray have it sent forward immediately to me; the Money shall be sent to Alexandria as soon as I know the Sum.

I am &c

David Bradford Esq^r

Annapolis 22^d Nov^r 1777.

Capt. Cook

By the general Order of this Day, the three Gallies Conqueror, Baltimore and Independence are to be under your Command as chief or Principal Officer, and you are to proceed with them to the Sound between the Islands and the Main, of the Eastern Shore and there check, or distress the Enemy, all you can. If you think it may be done with Success or without hazarding too much, you are to attack the Enemy's main Force in the Sound, but in this or any other Matter of Consequence, you are to have a Meeting of your principal Officers and advise with them and to have Regard to their Advice, for, though it is expected that a ready and chearful Obedience will be paid to your Orders, yet, in Things of Consequence, when Time and Opportunity favours, the Advice of the Officers ought to be had and attended to. When the Service no longer requires your Stay, you will proceed back with the Conqueror and Independence, leaving the Baltimore as a Guard below, but no Hands are to be left in her but those who properly belong to her. If the British Ships change their Station to any other Place within this State, you are to go with the three Gallies, into their Neighbourhood and choose the best Situation you can for the Safety of the Gallies and to cut off the Sunders. If you find any Persons carrying on a Correspondence with the Enemy, secure such and their Vessels if you can, and assist the Operations of the Militia all in your Power, against the Enemy or in securing those who may be suspected of corresponding with the Enemy. Continue my Letter to Col^o Dashiell and, if the Arms I have wrote to him about, can be got ready, you will put Part into each Galley and bring them to Annapolis. Particular Care, especially to keep them Dry, must be taken of them. They are packed in 50 Boxes. Advice of your Situation by every