

Annapolis 28th Dec^r 1777

George Somerville has made repeated Applications for a Discharge from his Imprisonment. The Motive of committing him was the Safety of the Public. The Gentlemen of the Council and myself think that it may be effected by taking Security from him and therefore I send you the enclosed Bond on the Execution of which, by himself and two Securities, approved as sufficient by either of the Justices, you are to discharge him. Job Green also appearing to us to be under similar Circumstances, we would have you discharge him too, on the same Terms, if he chuses to give the like Bond. The Reverend Mr. Patterson & Mr. Wright will, in a little Time, be sent to the Eastern Shore, where a Court will be called and their Discharge will depend on the Proceedings of that Court.

We are &c

P.S. Send us the Bonds, if given.

Henry Stephenson Esq.
Sheriff of Baltimore.

In Council Annapolis 28th Dec^r 1777.

Sirs The General Assembly not having given any Directions concerning the Estates of those who have gone to the Enemy, unless on an Indictment and Outlawry for Treason, we request you will return Debt^r Henry Stephenson's Effects, which remain the same, again on his Plantation. It may be well to have an Inventory made of them and let ~~some~~ ^{the Debt^r cannot now remove them} Mr. Stephenson send some Body to receive them, & they will be subject to the Creditors, if they chuse to proceed against them in a Course of Law.

We are Sir &c

Wm. Smith Esq. Harford.

Annapolis 31st Dec^r 1777.

Sirs I received yours this Morning by Mr. Faw. Col. Lloyd & Mr. Brice are of Opinion with me, that no other Method can be taken to have an immediate Effect but by calling on the Militia, 'til we can get a Guard of about 60 Men, if the other 150 Prisoners come, or about 30 Men, if the other Prisoners should not come. This Guard, we suppose, will be sufficient for the Prisoners and also for the Magazine; wherefore we request that you will, immediately endeavour to have such a Guard raised under a Captain and two Lieut. If good Officers of the Militia will serve, the better. The Guard to be inrolled for the Purpose of Guards in Frederick County or to go with Prisoners for the Purpose of safe conducting them to either of the adjacent Counties only, the Time the Engagement to be for six Months, if they should be so long necessary, or, if the People will not engage for so long a Time, for such shorter Time as they will agree; The Guard will be entitled to Continental Pay and Rations. Mr. Faw says he is afraid that the Men will not inroll without a Bounty, I have no Power to give any, but, what may, perhaps, may nearly answer the Purpose we send, by Mr. Faw, two hundred Pounds and would have you,