

No 85. to the Quantity, will be very uncertain, though there are yet some <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> Park  
which we learn is chiefly falling into the Hands of the Continentals. Perhaps  
Several People on Patowmack River who have Fisheries there, would <sup>be willing</sup>  
contract for considerable Quantities of salted Fish of the large white kind,  
from two to perhaps, four or five Thousand Barrels might be got, about  
half a bushel of Salt would, as we are informed, be sufficient for a  
Barrel containing about 200 Fish, their Heads being cut off. The Congress  
must find the Salt which, we suppose, might be got up from South  
Key, in Time: it appears to us, a large Quantity of those Fish might  
be a great and agreeable Relief to the Army, but the Contracts ought  
to be made soon, to give the Undertakers Time to get Things properly  
disposed, especially to procure the Barrels. If the Board of War should  
think proper to make the attempt, Mr Thomas Richardson of George  
Town, will be as proper a Man as any in this State, to make the  
Contracts on this Side of Patowmack, and another Person about Alexandria  
ought to be employed on the Virginia Side, but each to be confined to his  
own Side. If barrell'd Herrings would be useful, great Quantities might  
be got, at and in the Neighbourhood of Charles Town on the Head of this Bay.  
We had taken such Measures as we thought would have furnished Guards  
for the Prisoners; we gave Orders for inlisting for six Months only and, if that  
failed, to require a Proportion for a few Weeks, of each Battalion of Militia,  
but both have failed. Col<sup>o</sup> Beatty has had a great Deal of Trouble, and  
we have been uneasy at the Situation of the Prisoners; we shall try the  
Expedient he mentions, though, in a conversation with the Governour, he  
seemed to be of Opinion that the Militia would not serve on Guards,  
tho' it should discount for the Time they are to serve in Classes. Our  
Militia Law does not expressly oblige them to serve on Guards and  
we are not very fond of giving Orders that may or may not, and  
probably will not be obeyed, but shall, in this Instance, and lay the  
Defect of the Law before the Assembly. We have not, lately, heard from  
Fort Frederick: the Distance is so great we cannot hear often and expect  
that Mr Daniel Hughes had corresponded with Mr Boudenot on the  
Subject, but, from the Information the Governour had about a Fortnight  
ago, we expect it is by this Time nearly ready to receive the Prisoners. Guards  
and Provisions will be necessary there. Inclosed is the Roll of the Officers in the  
Maryland Troops, some of them were appointed by the Commissioners who  
were sent to the Camp, some by the Council of Safety, some by the Assembly  
and some by the Governour & Council and, in many Instances, the Officers acted  
under Recruiting Warrants before their Appointments. Minutes of the Warrants &  
Appointments have not been kept, with such Regularity as is desirable. These  
Rolls are the best we can make from tracing the Minutes and we send Copies  
of them to Gen<sup>l</sup> Smallwood with a View that if, from the original  
Recruiting Warrants in the Hands of the Officers, Dates of Commission