No 85. to the Quantity, will be very uncertain, though there are yet Some Beef & Pork which we learn is chiefly falling into the Hands of the Contractors for Several Peaple on Patawmack River who have Fisheries there, would willingly contract for considerable Quantities of Salted Shad of the large white Kind from two to three Inches, four or five Shad and 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 these 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 Patawmack, and another Person about Alexandria ought to be employed on the Virginia Side; but each to be confined to his own Side. If barrelled 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. Colo 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 Governor, he Seemed to be of Opinion that the Militia would not serve as Guards, tho' it Should discount for the Time they are to Serve in Classes. Our Militia Law does not expresly 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 Defects 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 Governor 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 Governor & 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 Genl Smallwood with a View that if, from the original Recruiting Warrants in the Hands of the Officers, Dates of Commissions