

In Council Annapolis 27th March 1778.

135. Sir
In consequence the former Letter from the Board of War, Mr. Hughes was urged to get Fort Frederick Ready for the Reception of the British Prisoners with all Dispatch and to call on a sufficient Number of the Militia, perhaps more than barely necessary, to act as a Guard at least til the Assembly should make some other Provision, and we are induced, by a Letter received from him, to expect that the Fort is nearly ready. Col. Rawlings who is, at present, without any Command in the Army, we have thought a very proper Person to have the Command of the Guard and the Management of the Prisoners, he seems willing to undertake it and set out a few Days ago, from hence with Intention to call at York and discourse with the Board of War on this Subject and, we expect, he will give a much fuller Idea of all Circumstances than we possibly can - We have directed that the Provisions collected on the western Side of the South Mountain should be stored, with a View to supply the Guard and are apprehensive that what can be got there will not be sufficient for the Guard and Prisoners, the latter of whom must, probably, be supplied there by us or perish. Virginia lying just across the River, it might be prudent to direct that any Provisions collected in that State, in the Neighbourhood of Fort Frederick, should not be removed, at least til it can be seen whether they are likely to be more necessary any where else than at the Fort. We do not know how far Col. Rawlings's having the Charge of the Prisoners and the Command of the Guard, may interfere with Mr. Hughes's Appointment, but we suppose, Mr. Hughes could take no Umbrage at seeing this Business in the Colonel's Hands.

Wm. Pitt the Presid^t of the
Board of War

We are &c

In Council 2^d April 1778.

Sir.

136. With this you will receive an Invoice of Cloathing sent in the Baltimore Galley with some Recruits from this Place, and we expect, will arrive under the Care of the Officers who go with the Recruits. You will observe a Difference in the Shirts sent, some of them are much better than others and, if the Officers are in as much Want as we fear some of them are, they may probably