

204. Gallies below and, if it would be agreeable, we would have the whole brought hither and divided by any Body sent or appointed for that Purpose. — We are Gen. J. H. C.

Mess^{rs} John Maxwell Nesbitt & Co.
Merch^{ts} Lancaster }

In Council Annapolis 16th May 1778.

Sir,

205. We inclose you the Commissions you wrote for, we have done so under a strong Impression of an absolute Necessity of having the back Militia put immediately in the best state of Defence against the Indians. We wish you had sent us a List of all the Officers, that their Commissions might have been issued together. We are packing up and shall send off in the Morning 100 Musquets and 10 Rifles and write Col^o Beatty to send you two half Barrels of best musquet Powder. The Express thinks it very unsafe to send the Arms and Powder without a good Guard, least the Disaffected and Deserters about Murlies Branch should seize them: would it not be well for the Arms and Powder to be sent by you as far as the Sennolaways, giving Notice to Company or two about Old Town to receive them there and to carry them as far as Old Town or Barretts, where they may be put into the Hands of those who are called into Service? We are told there is a pretty good stock of Lead at Fort Lumberland; both Powder and Lead were sent some Time ago into that Part of the Country and we hope it has been taken care of. We also write to Col^o Beatty to furnish you with more Ammunition and what Arms he can, if you judge a further Supply necessary, & apply for it. The Militia to the Westward we hope may be sufficient, if not, you are to assist them with a Company or two from below, and give us Notice by Express, that we may send Assistance from the Counties below you. You will give Orders to Col^o Barrett conformable to the inclosed Order and we flatter ourselves that the People will exert themselves with Alacrity, as the Necessity of exerting themselves at all will probably be of but short Continuance. We have given the Express 20 Dollars towards bearing his Expences, of which advise Col^o Barrett. We imagine an issuing Commissary & Forage Master can be wanted but a very little while at Hagar's Town; we suppose it must be for the Continental Business, if so, we think you had better employ some Body for the Time such may be wanted, advising the Board of War. The Recruits we wish to have sent forward as soon as possible.

Danl. Hughes Esq^r

We are Gen.