

In Council Annapolis 23^d April 1779.

Sir

N. 120. Inclosed you have a Letter directed to you from the Board of War & a Copy of one just received by the Post. We wish Col. Dawkins's Idea of placing the Prisoners out to work with good Whips, may take Place, but the one you take, we do not expect, will be very high, but sufficient to make those who have the Prisoners attentive & vigilant. The Plan of keeping up a small Guard at Fort Frederick to receive back such of the Prisoners as may misbehave, will be a prudent and, we hope an effectual Check on the Conduct of those who are let out and we much wish that a sufficient Number of Men may be engaged, on a Bounty as formerly proposed to do that Service, so that the Militia may be left to prosecute their private Affairs and when the Militia see that every step is taken for their Ease, which can, with Safety, we flatter ourselves, they will generally cooperate with you to effect our Views.

Dan. Hughes Esq.
St. of Washington County }

We are &c.

In Council Annapolis 25th April 1779

Sir

429 Yesterday Afternoon, after writing the Letter herewith sent you, we received yours of the 19th Inst. with Col. Barrett's Letter inclosed. We flatter ourselves that if an Expedition goes on the Westward, that Force will necessarily call off the Indians from the Frontiers, but in the mean Time the Inhabitants must be encouraged and protected, or they will leave their Settlements. Col. Barrett has proposed in his Letter, the Building Stockaded Ports at three different Places; he does not mention his Ideas of the Expence or the Number of Men which will be necessary: we should have been glad of your Sentiments on these Points, as well as the Means of supplying Provisions. Any thing that is done, we imagine, ought to be with a mere temporary View. You will be frequently advised of the Situation of Things and therefore may, on a change of Circumstances so likely to happen, be able to do what is proper before you can advise us. As Things now appear to us, we think it would be well for Col. Barrett to draw out a Company, for a Month from his Battalion and that about sixty Men should be drawn out from your County Militia below, for the same Time; Barrett's Battalion renewing their Number from Time to Time, whilst necessary, and, if it should be necessary, to replace the sixty Men, then to draw them from below: if you think this Number necessary, we desire and empower you to give the necessary Orders accordingly or to order any less Number that you may think sufficient. If from the Situation of Affairs, you should judge it absolutely necessary, that a greater Force should be immediately sent, we desire you to send out what you think necessary to keep the People from deserting their Settlements and advise us by Express that we may exert every possible Power to preserve the Settlements and divide the Burthen