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May 20th 1779

We recd. you yesterday, Mr. Martin took the Letter up this Morning which unrecd. yours of yesterday: We had some Expectation that an Order was made to make Cartouch & Bayonet Belts of plaid Hemp, but we have not time now to consult the most Signal Methods: we request you'll give Orders to have the Bayonet Belts made on the best Terms you can. We hear a Boat has gone up from Hampton, she was spoke by Capt. Rogers but he could not hear distinctly; we suppose she carries you later Intelligence than we have received. By Major Smith's Return 6th March he had at the Fort 10 spare Musquets & 13 spare Bayonets, a small Number, but worth looking out.

We are &c.

And. Buchanan Esq.
 of Balt. County - }

Im Council Annapolis 20th May 1779.

Sir.

In yours of the 17th you mention that salt Provisions may be had in Balt. for the Conqueror, on returning it or paying for it. We imagine that what was sent down in the Boat and returned would serve for some Time, it had best be so applied and if more is wanted that it had best be furnished out of that sent up in the Smallwood. The Officers you mention in yours of yesterday are very agreeable to us. The Independence wants a good Deal done to her to fit her for a Cruise; the Men we have are, at present, divided between her and the Chester; they, in concert with our Fort might be useful against Vessels, the same End would be answered to you by the Baltimore & Johnson, they are gunned, we have them ready to send up to Indian Landing with Park and some other Articles, but if you can get a Force to use them as Batteries, Baltimore Town may have them for that Purpose, if Men can be engaged to carry up the Balt. & Johnson and act in them in case it should become necessary we will on this Occasion draw their Pay for the little Time they can be wanted, out of the Treasury & risk the Assembly's Approbation of our conduct. The stores proposed by Capt. Nicholson appear reasonable to us, we wish you to lay in exactly the same for the Chester, except Meat which we can furnish here.

We are &c.

Genl. Purrance

Im Council Annapolis 20th May 1779.

Sir.

From late Information, it is highly probable that the Enemy design to attack Baltimore Town, you are therefore hereby empowered & required to march immediately to that Place as many of the Militia of your County as you can arm, under proper Officers, to join the Militia assembling there to act with them under Genl. Buchanan. You will exert yourself to bring the Militia down as quick as possible, no Time ought to be lost, to

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