In Council Annapolis [illegible] Sept. 1779

Sir

We received the Day before yesterday a Letter from the Board of War dated the [illegible] informing us that they are much overburthened with Prisoners at Philadelphia, by which we have [illegible] Colo. Blaine they have Five about 1000 that they are under the Necessity of sending about Four Hundred to Fort Frederick and requesting of us a good Militia Guard on them, we have answered

No 601. their Letter that we shall endeavour to get the Guard and that the Prisoners may be sent off the this Day Week so that about the 28th Inst. they may be expected at Fort Frederick. We don't know what will be their Route but have recommended it through Black's Gap, as shorter than the Distance and avoid Frederick Town. Washington County has been so much burthened already that we cannot expect a Guard can be fully furnished from them, indeed it gives us real Concern to be obliged to call on the Militia any where for Service at this Season, but Necessity compels us, we desire that you will immediately order a full Company of the Militia of your County, of the Classes which have not yet served consisting of one Captain two Lieutenants, one Ensign four Sergeants, four Corporals and 68 Privates, to hold themselves in Readiness and actually to march so as to be at Fort Frederick the 27th Inst. where they are to continue on Duty with half the Number of Washington Militia for five Weeks or until relieved, as we intend they shall be about that Time by a like Company from Montgomery, unless, as we hope, the Guard by that Time should either not be further wanted or some other Provision should take Place. You are to supply the Company with Arms and a reasonable Quantity of Ammunition. The Continental Commissaries are already ordered to furnish Provisions. In a Matter of this Consequence where Delay might prove so very injurious, we can rely on your Efforts and flatter ourselves that the Militia, impressed with the Necessity and having a just Confidence that we, on this as every other Occasion, shall joyfully embrace the first Opportunity of lightening their Burthen, will, as they have hitherto done, discharge their Duty with Alacrity. We request the Favor of you to send the inclosed to Colo. Hughes immediately by Express, it is on the same Subject as this Letter & that you will also forward Mr. McDocks Letter by the same, or some other safe Hand, it is from Colo. Blaine, appointing him Commy. of Purchases with our Licence under the late Law.

We are &c.

Normand Bruce Esq.
Lt. of Fredk. County

In Council Annapolis 12th Sept. 1779

Sir

The five nine Pounders were lent the Buckskin under the Orders of the Assembly; we did not know of their having been yet returned, as they are, we imagine, they are not wanted again and therefore presuming the Assembly would sell them, you may have them with any Number of, not exceeding two hundred and fifty nine round Shot at Balto. for the Proportion of Price Guns & Shot sell for at Baltimore, of which make Enquiry and write us. This shewn to Mr. Keeports or whoever

602. has the Guns & Shot in Possession, is intended as a Warrant for the Delivery. We are so circumstanced that we cannot supply any Powder, it is all engaged to the Congress, or, immediately, any four Pounders, we have only what are on Board the Gallies & on the Forts, we have already refused to supply Powder and four Pounders, if we could spare either, we should prefer the first Applications

We are &c.

Mr. Hugh Young.

In Council Annapolis 13th Sept. 1779

Sir

Colo. Chambers called on us the other Day to notify to us your Appointment of him to purchase for the French Navy and to be licenced for that Purpose, if we thought a licence necessary. Not esteeming any licence necessary under the Act, we did not give

603 him any and the same Reason only occasions our not sending one to you. We will inclose you an Account in a Day or two, of what Capt. Harrison had, we are not at present furnished with it.

We are &c.

Wm. Smith Esq.

In Council Annapolis 15th Sept. 1779

Sir

You are hereby impowered and directed to inlist into the Service of this State, for three Years or during the War, any Number not exceeding fourteen effective Freemen, to serve as Marines according to the late Act of Assembly intitled "An Act relating to the Officers and Soldiers of this State in the American Army and other Purposes therein mentioned. As the Encouragement offered by the general Assembly is so liberal and the Number wanted is so small, we hope you may have, in a Manner you choose of Men for this Service, by all Means prefer Country born, not take any others, unless they have some Property or Connection which may attach them to the Place before you pay the Bounty, which

604. is two hundred and forty Dollars, to any Man, have him well examined to see that he is sound [illegible] Time of the Payment of the Bounty, let him, before a Magistrate sign his Inlistment, specifying whether it is for three Years or during the War and also a Receipt for the Bounty. These Inlistments and Receipts, certified by the Magistrates before whom they are signed, transmit [illegible] You are to apply to Capt. Keeports from Time to Time for the Bounty Money as it [illegible]

Sam. Chester