

In Council, 20th December, 1780.

Sir,

4th 55. You will be pleased to sell the Pistols in your Possession
belonging to this State, to those Gentlemen who may incline to serve in the
Volunteers Troop of Horse raising in Frederick County.

Colonel Baker Johnson.

In Council, 20th December, 1780.

Sir,

50. We have had Information that two of the Enemies small Privateers
have captured several of the Bay Craft as high as the mouth of Patuxent,
where by the last accounts they yet remain with their Prizes, one of
the Privateers from our Account is the Lat a Schooner of four Guns, the
other is said to be of eight; we hear that two Brigs of belonging to Colonel
Hood and Captain Conway of superior Force are ready for Sea in Saint
Marys River, and by Jesse Hollingsworth we learn that a Vessel of Force
in which he is interested is probably now ready at Alexandria to come
round to Baltimore. The General Assembly have desired that we should
as privately as may be put in Motion any Force, we can or may think
necessary for the Destruction or Capture of those Enemies Privateers, and
have enabled us to enter into all proper Engagements for that End. We
have therefore applied to Colonel Hood Captain Conway and
Mr. Hollingsworth for their Vessels, and we are to request if one or
both of the Vessels you are loading with Flour on Account of the State
in a Situation, that you will order them to turn out in Search of
the Enemy. We imagined if they have left Patuxent, they are gone over to
some of the Islands about or a little below the mouth of Choptank
which seems to a favorite Situation of theirs. Any loss that may happen
by the Vessels going down in the public Service, we may engage on
behalf of the State shall be indemnified as well as the Expenses of the
Vessels whilst in the Service including also therein the addition of
other Provisions and Stores. We have Reason to expect the Vessels in
Patuxent ^{may} will cooperate with you, to prevent the Difficulty you may
make on Account of the Danger of being shut up in the Harbour of
Baltimore by the Ice; we will engage the State shall pay the Expense
of bringing the Flour thence to this Place, where it may be put on
Board the Vessel or Vessels which may be employed in this