

100
119
Service. We have also Expectations of being assisted by a Vessel
belonging to Messrs. Howard, Wallace and Davidson now lying in
the Harbour of Baltimore. The State will not expect any Part
of the Captures. The enclosed are Signals which will be furnished
to the Vessels in Patomack, you will be pleased to give correspon-
dent Orders.

Colonel John Denny.

In Council, 20th December, 1780.

Gentlemen

5
N^o 57. We have had Information by several Vessels in the Course
of two Days past that two of the Enemies ^{own} Vessels Privateers have
captured several of the Bay Craft as high as the mouth of Patuxent
where they by the last account yet remain with their Prizes, one of
the Privateers from all accounts is the Lat a Schooner of four Guns,
the other is said to be of eight. We hear that two Brigs of yours
of superior Force are ready for Sea in Saint Marys River and by
Mr. Jeph's 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 private as may put in attendance any Force we think
can or may think necessary for the Destruction or Capture of these
Enemy Privateers, and have enabled us to enter into all proper
Engagements for that End. We therefore request if your Brigs are in
the Situation represented to us that you will order them to turn
out in Search of the Enemy, we imagine if they have left Patuxent,
they have gone over to some one of the Islands about or a little
below the mouth of Choptank, which seems to be a favorite Situa-
tion of theirs. Any loss that may happen by the Vessels going
down on this Public Service, we engage on behalf of the State
shall be indemnified, as well as the Expenses of the Vessels whilst in
the Public Service including also therein the addition of other Provision
and Stores. Mr. Hollingsworth will as part owner of Yellow and as
far as he thinks himself justifiable concurs with you, we expect
also to have a Vessel or two in attendance from Baltimore in two
or at most three Days, might it not be proper if the Brigs
can go on the Service that they should look into the mouth of