

In Council, 11th January, 1781.

Sir,

91. We send you by this opportunity about 25 Bushels of Salt, which we hope will answer as the Quality of it for country Salt is very good being about 12 years old. A further Supply will be sent as you may have occasion for it. The Demand for Beef on the Coast for the Prisoners at Fredericks Town is pressing.

John Smith Brookes Esq.

In Council, 11th January, 1781.

Sir,

92. We have certain Information that a Party of the Army composed of Refugees and new Levies from New York and Long Island about 2500 or 3000 strong, headed by General Arnold took Possession of Richmond, on Friday last and sent a strong Detachment to Petersburg, They have destroyed the public Works near Richmond and threaten to do the same in Petersburg. Their Object is Plunder and now after they have accomplished their Business in Virginia, it is more than probable they will visit us, every Preparative ought therefore to be immediately made to put the State in a proper Posture of Defence, and to prevent the military Stores and Provision from falling into their Hands, for the attainment of which Ends we desire you to order the Whole of Militia of your County to put themselves in Readiness to march at a Minutes Warning to such Place as they shall be commanded, The Small Arms ought to be instantly examined and cleaned for Service, and every Step taken and Disposition made vigorously to resist those Invaders of our Country, you may depend upon receiving from us every Assistance in our Power.

Circular to the Lieutenants of
Several Counties except Baltimore.

In Council, 11th January, 1781.

Sir,

93. We request to have all the Cannon Carriages for Field Pieces under your Direction repaired with all possible Expedition to render them fit for Service, where the old cannot be repaired, new ones must be immediately made, you will also have all the Small Arms repaired, cleaned and made fit for the Service, Field, heavy Cannon except four which may be useful at the Fort, must be moved to Elk Ridge Landing.