

as soon as the small Cannon are fitted with Carriages you will order Carriages to be made for the heavy Cannon, that they may be removed into the Country if necessary, We expect your utmost exertions in this Business and flatter ourselves that the Workmen in Baltimore Town will readily undertake this Business. We refer you to General Buchanan for any further Directions.

Capt. George Keports.

In Council. 11th January, 1781.

Sir

Colonel Stow has just received a Letter from Mr. Hooper an Extract of which is enclosed. It is most probable that the Enemy will visit us as soon as they have accomplished their Object in Virginia, which we are satisfied is to plunder, harass and distress our People; what induces us to conclude that to be the Design is the Character of the General and the Men he commands being composed of Refugees and new Levies from New York. We think every Preparation ought to be made to put us in a proper State of Resistance in Case our State should be invaded and every Precaution taken to prevent the military Stores from falling into the Hands of the Enemy. We have directed Mr. Keports to have the Carriages belonging to the Cannon repaired as speedily as possible, and if any of them ^{from Decay} should be unrepairable to have new Ones made. It will be proper to remove all the heavy Cannon except three or four to be left at the Fort, which is not fit for field Pieces, to Elkridge Landing immediately. We desire you to order the whole Militia of your County to put themselves in Readiness to march at a minutes Warning. The small Arms ought to be examined and cleaned fit for Service and every Step taken and Disposition made to enable us to make a vigorous and obstinate Stand, at this critical and trying Conjunction. We cannot supply you with Money at this Time; and trust that no Difficulty will be made on that account for the people employed by the Public may rely on being amply rewarded and fully compensated for every Service, and they may be reassured that their Liberty Property and every Thing they esteem and hold dear depends on their Assistance and Exertions. We wish you would give Mr. Keports every Aid to execute our Orders.

General Buchanan

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