

In Council, 15th January, 1781.

107. Sir, The General Assembly have thought proper under our present Circumstances, to have a Chain of Expresses established from hence to the Neighbourhoods of that Part of Virginia where the British Army are for the Purpose of obtaining the earliest Information of every material Occurrence, and especially of their future Designs. We shall meet with great Difficulties in complying with the Desire of the Legislature unless you are pleased to give us your Assistance. We are so sensible of the friendly Offices you have rendered this State in a Variety of Instances that nothing but absolute Necessity could induce us to call upon you in this Occasion. We wish you to establish Riders at convenient Places between Alexandria and Richmond or near the Place of the Enemy may be and to request a Gentleman you can depend on there to furnish you with the most exact Intelligence of the Operations and Movements of the Enemy. Every Expence we will defray with the greatest cheerfulness and Gratitude. We have agreed with Mr. Longdon to ride from Alexandria to this State.

Colonel Hood.

In Council, 18. January, 1781.

108. Sir, We received your Letter of the 15th Instant by Mr. Nails and can't help expressing our Concern at the Unwillingness of the People to take the new Money, however you may depend on it. This Humour must soon cease and the continental Money will not long have the Preference as the Circulation of it within this State is prohibited after a particular short Day. We have sent you thirteen hundred continental Dollars and one hundred Pounds of the new Emission and expect to have it in our Power to furnish you with a further Sum when the Assembly rises. You must not on any Account omit your Exortions to procure what Pork and Beef can possibly be had in your County; whatever can be effected by us shall be done to enable you to comply with your Engagements, informed by every Opportunity of your Success and Expectations and the Impediments you may meet with.

William McBride Esq.