

In Council, 16th Feb. 1781.

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N^o 173
Sir, (The want of arms for our militia (whose defenceless condition is the principal, indeed, only cause of their Backwardness to turn out and repel the Invaders of our Lives, Liberties, and Property with Spirit and vigorous activity) and Cloathing, and arms for our Detach of Troops in the continental Army, and the Impracticability of procuring them in America, together, with the well-grounded Expectation that the Enemy's Operations, the ensuing Campaign, will be directed against the Southern and middle States, fill us with anxiety for the Safety of our People, and induce us to look up for Succour to his most Christian Majesty, whose Magnanimity and generous Participation of our Cases and Distresses animates us with the pleasing Hope that, another Instance of his Favour and Assistance will be added to those essential, and important ones already conferred on America; and the Impression we are under from the friendly and disinterested Sentiments you have expressed for the State, and its Welfare, convinces us that, every Aid that can possibly be contributed to facilitate the Execution of our Plan herewith transmitted will be afforded, and that you will feel the highest Satisfaction from a Conscience^{ous} that the People of Maryland ~~will~~ will retain a grateful Sense of the Assistance ~~and~~ derived from your Interposition.

W. Holker

In Council, 17th Feb. 1781.

174. Sir, Equally to a Law passed the last Session of Assembly, requiring the Sheriffs under heavy Penalties to forward all public Letters and Prochets &c we now have to request you to deliver the Acts enclosed and the Dispatches which accompany them to the respective Gentlemen to whom they are directed.

Circular to the Sheriffs.

In Council 17th Feb. 1781.

175. Sir, You are to proceed immediately down the Bay as low as you can with any Degree of Safety; If you should have any Information of the Enemy coming up the Bay or should discover them yourself you must with all the Expedition possible return to this Place and give immediate Information to the Board.

Wm. Williams & Middleton