

In Council, 11th March. 1781.

1^o 250. Sir The arrival of the Marquis de la Fayette at this Place, at the same Time the Messenger and your letter arrived, has necessarily occasioned his being detained, and as the Information you gave materially concerned the Marquis's Expedition down the Bay, your letter was given to him to carry with that Information and unfortunately he has taken it with him, so that we cannot particularly answer it. The Assembly voted a proportion of Cannon Arms and Ammunition for the Eastern Shore, your part of which has accordingly been sent to Cambridge. Your Messenger mentions some pieces of Cannon lately found in a Marsh in your County, if those could be procured and fitted they might we think be of Service in your Defence; and if you want Shot or Powder it is probable you may be supplied out of the proportion sent to Cambridge. We approve of your drawing out your Militia to oppose the Enemy, and make no doubt you will pursue the most effectual Measures for opposing them. We have some Reason to expect that Circumstances may soon happen that may greatly contribute to free you from the Enemy's Depredations; but in the mean Time you should relax nothing in your Preparations.

Colonel George Dashiell

In Council, 11th March. 1781.

251. Sir We received your letter at a Time that we were very busily employed with the Marquis de la Fayette, and to whom it was delivered to extract the Intelligence as material to his Expedition down the Bay. He has unluckily carried it ^{with} him so that we cannot answer it particularly, and we had nearly the same Intelligence from Col Dashiell the Lieutenant of Somerset to whom we ^{write} more fully. We doubt not your every Exertion to repel the Enemy and we have Reason to hope the Time is not far off when they may be compelled to retreat and look to their own Safety, mean Time you will continue your Vigilance

Col. Hooper.