

of them to be a Sloop of eighteen Guns and the other to be a Frigate of ~~eighteen~~
eight, the Comanders suppose they will either continue to block up this Harbour
or being disappointed in their original Designs will return to their Stations
down the Bay.

His Excellency Samuel Mientington Esq.

In Council, 14th March, 1781.

N^o. 257. Sir, This Day about one a Clock two British Ships of about eighteen and twenty
eight Guns passed by this Place, and we are apprehensive ~~that~~ by this ~~Place~~,
they may land some Men between this and the Mouth of Patapasco River and
plunder the Inhabitants. We wish to have and frequent Intelligence of
their Movements and therefore request you will station four Centinels as far as the
Boatwin Point to give Information. We hope to hear from you this Night if
possible, whether they have come to an Anchor and where. The People should
be put on their Guard and keep themselves in Readiness, but perhaps it may
not be necessary to call out the Militia. This however will depend on the
Movements of the Enemy. We depend on your Vigilance.

Major Mienton.

In Council, 15th March, 1781.

258. Sir, We request you to purchase immediately and deliver to Capt. John
Drotter Quarter Master to the Detachment commanded by the Marquis Fayette
ninety five Quires of Paper to be chared to the Continent.
John Bullen Esq.

In Council, 15th March, 1781.

259. Sir, The arrival of our Express with your Excellency's Letter of the 12th
this Moment received gives us an Opportunity of informing you that all
the Transports with the Troops from Elk got safe into Harbour on Tuesday
Evening. The next morning at day Light two Ships apparently British of
the rate of eighteen and twenty eight Guns came to an Anchor opposite
to the Mouth of our River Severn, at 12 Clock they made Sail up the
Bay and by the last account were at anchor near the north Point
of the River Patapasco. We judged that you would be anxious for the
Safety of the Troops but they are fortunately safe and the arms & pelts which
conveyed them down are prepared for Depose. Yours Servants of the Peace
we come to ~~land~~ and we thank you for your Intelligence respecting