

N<sup>o</sup>. 262

We have a Chain of Bidders that go through this State and sometimes to Wilmington and Philadelphia. As they will always call at Elk we request attention may be paid to their Dispatches and that as Neglect be supposed to pass unnoticed; should you observe any Delay in any of them we desire that you will give us Notice and the Name of the Person.

Donaldson Yeates Esq.

In Council, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

263. Sir, We beg Leave to refer your Excellency to our Letter of Yesterday giving a full Account of the Transports and Troops from the Head of Elk being safe in this Harbour. We shall adopt such Measures to guard and subsist the Convention Troops and British Prisoners captured in the Action of the Clouds, on their March through this State as may be necessary and consonant to a Resolution of Congress of the 8<sup>th</sup> Instant and such as the Means in our Power may afford. We have writte to the President of the State of Pennsylvania fully on the Subject of the March of these Troops. Matters remain in the same State as Yesterday respecting the British Ships and Forces here we are extraordinary anxious to hear from the Marquis and the Situation of the Southern Army.

Governor Jefferson

In Council, 18 March, 1781.

264. Sir, Two armed Schooners supposed to be British passed the Ships lying off this Harbour, yesterday, and proceeded up the Bay immediately, we do not know what their Intentions are but suppose them to be on a plundering Expedition.

Andrew Buchanan Esq.

In Council, 18 March, 1781.

Sir, Yesterday two armed Schooners passed by the Ships off this Harbour and proceeded immediately up the Bay, they are supposed to be British what their Intentions are we do not know but presume they are on a plundering Expedition. As there are large Quantities of Stores at the Head of Elk, it may be an Object with them to destroy or take them, and therefore we request you in Case there should not be any regular Troops at the Head of Elk to