

N<sup>o</sup>. 294.

transporting the Cannon, Stores and Baggage, some Sea Rebels and most of the Fleets belonging to the Bay have been impressed to transport the Detachments from Eld to the place on their way down, and a very numerous Expence incurred on that Account and by Means of the Locations of the State to facilitate the Movement of the Troops. The Transports now lie in Severn River, and will as well as the City and the public Property in and about it be exposed to the Enemy, the State Boats now here being too inconsiderable to make effectual resistance against the Force in the Power of the Ships to land. We apprehend the Preservation of the Transports, the public Property, the City and the Safety of the Citizens to be Objects of general as well as particular Concern to the State and therefore request you to order one hundred and fifty or two hundred Men to this Place for the Protection of the Inhabitants, the Transports and the public Property. If it was necessary to suggest any further Reasons to induce a Compliance with our requisition we should mention the disagreeable Situation of the Citizens; the Small Pox is almost in every Family and will be very infectious in a few Days and therefore if an attempt should be made by the Enemy, no Success could be expected from the Militia most of whom have not had it; This is not the only Inconvenience they must encounter if compelled to desert their Habitations, they would have no place to fly to the Country, people would avoid them as much as they would the Enemy.

General Gist

In Council, 30 March, 1781.

Sir,

We have enclosed the Commission you requested. We think that notwithstanding your Returns to us of the Select Companies of Militia, you may receive others into the Companies so as they do not exceed the Numbers limited by Law. Capt. Mountjoy Bailey of Frederick County is appointed to receive and provide for the recruits procured in your County, and in Frederick, you will be so obliging as to send the recruits furnished in Washington County to him. The recruits by the Law are not to be removed from the County until they are provided with Cloathing allowed them, yet we suppose they will have any objection, when we assure them they shall not be marched from the place of Rendezvous until they receive their Cloathing, the Reasons of our ordering them are that they may be better provided for and that they may be disciplined.

Thomas Sprigg Esq.