

Smith's Commissary of (about which you will be pleased to forward to his
Col. Fitzhugh)

In Council, 6th April, 1781.

320. Sir, There is an absolute necessity that a quantity of Forage should
be immediately provided at the Posts of Elk Baltimore and George Town
on Patowmack, we therefore request that you will give Directions
to the Commissarys of Cecil Baltimore and Montgomery to purchase
the Forage hereafter mentioned, Cecil 2000 Bushels of Corn and
fifteen Tons of Hay for the Post of Elk, Baltimore 2000 Bushels of
Corn, and ten Tons of Hay for that Post, Montgomery 2000 Bushels
of Corn and five Tons of Hay for the Post of at George Town.

James Falkner Esq.

In Council, 6th April, 1781.

321. Sir, We request you to order the Company of Select Militia in this
City on immediate Duty.

James Brice Esq.

In Council, 6th April, 1781.

322. Sir, It is our most earnest Desire that Baltimore Town should be put in a
proper State of Defence, and that effectual Measures should be taken to
prevent the Inhabitants of the Town being surpris'd and plundered, which
we apprehend may be done without incurring the enormous Expence that
must arise from embodying and ordering on Duty the whole of the Militia
of the Town, and therefore cannot comply with your Requisition in the full
Extent of it. We think by keeping a sufficient Militia Guard and putting
Arms ^{to the Hands of} in all the well affected Militia of the Town, and agreeing on and
establishing Signals to warn and assemble the County Militia, that the
Inhabitants cannot be surpris'd, and will be enabled to make effectual
Resistance and repel a considerable Party of the Enemy. We have
requested the Lieutenant of Baltimore County to arm all the well
affected Militia belonging to the Town and to order out such a Guard
of the Town Militia as he may judge necessary and to agree on and
establish proper Signals for warning, and assembling the County Militia
on the Approach of the Enemy. The Ships left us last Night and had