

to Alexandria with any Intention to destroy that Town and plunder the  
Inhabitants on the River; The Ships that laid off this City, returned this  
Morning with a Brig and a small Schooner and stood up the Bay till they  
330. were about the mouth of the Harbour, and then tacked and stood down,  
many concurring Accounts lately received ~~we~~ induced us to believe that Genl.  
Philips with not less than two thousand Men has arrived at Ports mouth  
From these Facts we think we are justified in concluding that the Enemy  
have in Contemplation, the effecting a Junction with Cornwallis which if  
accomplished must terminate in the Destruction or Dispersion of the  
Southern Army if not strongly and timely reinforced, the plundering Harass-  
ing and distressing the People on the Stores, the destroying our Town, and  
military Stores and getting Possession of the Provisions that have been collect-  
ed for our Army; The military Stores and Provisions at this Place and  
Baltimore Town must be a capital Object and as we have the strongest Reasons  
to think as soon as they have perpetrated their Designs in Potowmack, if not  
before they will visit this City and Baltimore. Under these Circumstances we  
beg Leave to submit to your Consideration the Propriety of detaining the  
Detachments under your Command in this State and marching such  
as best as you may deem necessary to our Assistance in Baltimore Town and  
in this City.

The Marquis Bayette.

In Council, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1781.

331. Sir, We have just received Intelligence from Col. Joshua Beall of Prince Georges  
County, that there are five of the Enemy's Ships in Potowmack supposed to be on  
their way to Alexandria after plundering Col. Richard Barnes of St. Marys of  
all his Property (and burning all his Houses with Priest Hunters House in the  
Mouth of Port Tobacco Creek. This Morning two Ships a Brig and a  
Schooner appeared off this Harbour and after looking in <sup>have</sup> proceeded down  
and are now below Tally's Point, what their Intentions are we cannot possi-  
bly say, but from what has been done by them we have not a Doubt  
but they intend to plunder and burn every thing before them, and in all  
Probability Baltimore Town will be an Object, with them from the  
Quantity of Property both public and private stored in <sup>the</sup> Town. we  
would recommend a Removal of all the valuable Property and  
Provision into the County immediately, for which so much Property