

In Council, 12th April, 1781.

Sir, We were honored with your Letter of the 10th Instant, a sufficient Number of Militia may be & always collected to deter the Maines of the armed Vessels and Privateers from landing and espel them if they should, which makes us perfectly easy on their Account, and although we coincide with in Opinion, while the British continue superior on the water, their Advant. is as such our Attempts to make opposition at any particular Point may be rendered negatve by their changing their Design, and carrying on their Operations else where, yet we must suggest that some Towns and Places from their Situation and other Circumstances of Moment must be greater Objects of Attention than others and more likely to be attacked. We have the strongest and most irrefragable Proof of your Zeal to advance the Interest and Happiness of the State and ~~we~~ knew that alone was sufficient to prompt you to comply with our Requisition if restricted Instructions and other Objects had not made it improper, your Resolution to march with the greatest Rapidity to reinforce the Southern Army ~~and~~ imparts to us the greatest Pleasure and merits our warmest Applause, and your halting at such Point as would enable you to give the most speedy Assistance to either of the three Towns you mention would be highly agreeable, yet we do not wish that the temporary Relief that would be derived from your Stay among us should impede your moving rapidly to the Succour of the Southern Army. We have issued Orders to Mr. Poe to collect at Baltimore what Waggon and Horses may be necessary for your Detachment and required Mr. James Colthoun our Commissary at Baltimore to provide for your Use a Number of fine Cattle and a Quantity of Flour, you may depend on finding every Thing furnished agreeable to our Desire. Your Stores that were left at the Indian Landing were ordered to be removed to George Town on Patowmack, but when we were apprised of the Enemy's Intentions against Alexandria, Orders were given to stop there ~~and~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~Place~~ ~~on~~ ~~this~~ ~~Side~~ which is unquestionably a Place of Security and in your Route from Baltimore to the Southwards. We are convinced the disaffected and Emisaries of the Enemy are dispersed through the State, and are busy in collecting and supplying them with Provisions, and communicating every kind of Intelligence