

In Council, 11th April, 1781.

367. Sir, Gentlemen, We think the Rampart Pieces if they should be too numerous for the Militia, will be very useful in the Gallies, Barges and Vessels of Defense to be built in this State, and request you to apply for Seven Hundred and fifty of the best, and as many of the best of the Cartridge Boxes as can be spared and four of the Brass Field Pieces, and hope your utmost Endeavours will be exerted to obtain the Field Pieces for they are much wanted.

(The Honble John Hancock and Daniel Conoll Esq^{rs})

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368. Sir, Yours of the 19th Instant we have received. There are so many Calls in the States for Supplies of Provision that we have been under the Necessity of directing in many Parts of this State that the Militia when called in Service should find themselves and make a Charge thereof, this has been ^{universally} the Case with those acting as Homeers, and we hope the Company of Homeers Baltimore Town will readily agree to furnish themselves with Provision and Storage; to have a Quarter Master and Storage Master in every County for this Purpose would create an Expence far beyond any advantages resulting from such a Service. It never was ~~the~~ our Intention that the Militia of Baltimore Town should be sent on Guard to Potapoco Neck we have wrote to Genl. Buchanan on that Subject. Whenever any Person is pointed out to us as dangerous and disaffected, it will be our Duty as well as our Inclination to exert the extraordinary Powers with which we are invested for the Security of the State by taking such Steps as may be deemed necessary. we have wrote fully to Genl. Buchanan on this Subject to which we refer you. we wrote you yesterday to send down under a sufficient and secure Guard, which we request may be complied with. we have determined to charter Vessels for transporting Corn &c to New York for the Payment of Debts contracted by our captive Officers agreeable to the Terms enclosed yours.

Col Samuel Smith.

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Sir, Col Smith writes us that it is very inconvenient for the Militia of Baltimore Town to perform the Duty of Guards on the north