

N^o 497. and are of Opinion that they ought to be removed to the Northward, we hope and expect you will carry the Resolution of the general Assembly into Effect immediately, and to enable you we have given Orders to the Lieutenant of Washington to furnish on your Requisition as many of the Militia of his County as you may think necessary to escort the Prisoners and have desired Colo Price of Frederick Town to supply you with fresh Provisions as he may have on Hand and if necessary to seize as much as may be wanting, and have authorized and empowered the Lieutenant of Washington County to impress Waggons Teams and Drivers sufficient for the forwarding the Prisoners into the State of Pennsylvania where we would have them marched and where we expect you will receive further Orders from the Board of War to whom we have wrote on the Subject. The Resolution referred to is enclosed. We were favored with your Letter of the 25th Ult. which shall be laid before the Assembly, it gives us pain that there should be such a Scarcity of Provisions and so many Embarrassments. We cannot write you fully at present, but will do it by the first convenient Opportunity.

Colo James Wood.

In Council, 1st June, 1781.

498. Sir, In Pursuance of the Directions of the general Assembly for the removal of the British Prisoners from Fort Frederick, Northward we request you will order such a Guard from the Militia at large and or trusty and vigilant Officers as Colo Wood may deem sufficient for the safe Keeping and conducting them into some Part of Pennsylvania. You will impress if not to be procured by Hire, a sufficient Number of Waggons Teams and Drivers to transport their Baggage and Provisions.

Lieutenant of Washington County.

In Council, 1st June, 1781.

Sir, The Enemy under Lord Cornwallis are marching with great Rapidity through the State of Virginia, and a Force embarked under Lord's support for Patowmack to cooperate with Cornwallis makes it necessary that we should have as great a Force as in our Power to receive them should they invade this State.