

as represented to us that you will take the Measures pointed out
by the Act to compel the Payment of the Money due.

(Thomas Sprigg Esq.)

In Council, 4th Aug. 1781.

N^o. 687. Sir, The enclosed Copies of Letters this Moment received from the
Marquis de La Fayette and Dict. M^r Henry communicates the Designs
and Movements of the Enemy, the State is making every Exertion to
collect such a Force as with the Regulars here amounting to about
Six hundred under skilful and experienced Officers will enable us
to confine them within very narrow Limits. our people are resolute
and determined they feel that animating and noble Spirit which
diffused itself through all Ranks at the Commencement of this glorious
Contest, the Approach of the Enemy has apparently banished every sordid
avaricious and selfish View, and we trust our people will act
like the stoutest of the Blessings they are struggling for and the
difficulties which by an abject and dastardly Conduct they most deservedly
incure. If our Militia could be well armed and accoutred they
would acquire a Confidence which would stimulate them to a Conduct
which would not disgrace Regulars, and on Congress we rely for
that Aid and most earnestly solicit your Excellency to supply
us immediately with what can be spared and forward them.
The Field Pieces intended for us would be very serviceable, Congress
has not often been troubled with Applications from this State
and we flatter ourselves the Exertions of our people upon all Occasi-
ons merit every Assistance that can be afforded especially at this
Crisis. we have taken every possible Precaution to prevent the
Stores Provisions and valuable Property belonging to the Continent
and State falling into their Hands.

President of Congress.

In Council, 4th Aug. 1781.

Sir, We have this Day received Intelligence that the Enemy
from Portsmouth in Virginia with forty Sail of Topsails and
small Cargo Barges with about twelve or thirteen hundred Troops
are coming up our Bay said to be destined for Baltimore.