

N^o 22.

Benjamin Griffith Esq^r.

Sept 6th 1701
If you can do all the Duties which the Assembly have
annexed to the Office of County Commissary, and also litely decline to
undertake the Collection of the Duties required of Baltimore County, which
is the most essential Post at this important Crisis, we shall take imme-
diate Measures to displace you and appoint a Successor, to whom, in
that Case, you will deliver the Money, and you will also make a
Return immediately to James Calhoun Esq^r Commissary General
for this Shore and adjust your Accounts as Commissary.

Sir.

In Council 7th Sept^r 1701. 10. o'Clock.

023.

The fourth Regiment, under the Command of Major Baylourgh, have
just marched; most of the Men are Americans and very healthy, likely,
young Fellows. We have made every Exertion to get Tents, Blankets,
Shoes and Lamp Stettles, but without success, and we can't refrain from
expressing our uneasiness on Account of their being so ill provided,
for they must suffer greatly. The Shoes, we hope have been, or will be,
obtained in Time and forwarded to George Town, agreeable to our
Request. Nothing would be a more acceptable Service than supplying
them with 250 or 300 Blankets, or Cloth suitable for that Purpose,
and, if they are attainable, we are sensible your Exertions, in Conjun-
tion with Mr. Edelen will not be ineffectual. The Dews, at this
Season, are very heavy and pernicious, and unless they have Blankets
many of them will fall sick and be lost. We have the Happiness to
congratulate you on the Arrival of the French Fleet in the Bay
of Chesapeake under Comd^r DeGrasse, consisting of 20 Ships of the Line,
four Brigades and a Flotilla; the enclosed Copies will give you the Par-
ticulars. Governour Nelson, by his Letter of the 9th informs us they have
made such Dispositions as will prevent the British Army, now at York
from crossing James River, should they attempt to escape to the Southward,
and trusts they shall, in Conjunction with the French Troops, be able
to oppose to them such a Force as will keep them from penetrating
westerly in Order to cross the Country higher up. We are also informed by
Major Gibbs, that the British Fleet of 15 Ships of the Line, under Sir Samuel
Hood, arrived at the Hook on Wednesday the 5th ult. and were joined by five
Ships of the Line from New York, on Friday following the whole fled
from the Hook, supposed for the Chesapeake; their Arrival has not yet
been announced.

Col^o Philip Thomas.