

In Council, April 4th 1794.

Sir,

Major Rivardi who is now in Baltimore, has been lately appointed by the President of the United States for the purpose of fortifying Baltimore, Alexandria and Norfolk; and in consequence of his instructions from the War Office, a copy of which he has transmitted to me, together with a Letter on the subject from the Secretary of War he has requested me to appoint some person in Baltimore to assist him in the execution of the plan of fortifications proposed, and to conduct the work in his absence. As the case of Norfolk is thought to be the most pressing, he is directed to make but a short stay in Baltimore; and of course, the superintendance of the works contemplated for the latter place will, under the Engineer's direction, in a great degree, if not wholly, devolve on the person to be appointed. I do not know that any compensation to the Gentleman who may undertake this employment is ascertained or promised: but I presume that if it shall be found to occupy much of his time, or be attended with difficulty a compensation will be granted. As it is of importance that an appointment should be immediately made and accepted, and it is impracticable for me to determine who would undertake it, I take the liberty of requesting you, after communicating with Major Rivardi, to direct and deliver the enclosed power to some person well qualified for this trust who will assume the performance of it. If Cap^t Stricker will undertake it, he would meet with the approbation of the Secretary of War, who has, I believe, written to him on the subject. But as it has been intimated that he either has declined or will decline it, you will be pleased in case of his refusal to procure some other person to accept. By a conference with Major Rivardi, you will be better enabled to judge of the nature of the duties which are the object of this appointment, and of course, the degree of the qualifications necessary to the discharge of them.

I am concerned to give you this trouble, but you will allow the necessity of the case to be my apology.

With great respect, I am
General Otho H. Williams
Baltimore

Your obedient humble servant
The S. L. L.