

to the Measures of Government are every day gaining Acquisitions of Strength that the Declarations the Conduct and the Views of these turbulent Men are of the most licentious and daring Nature. That they have established a Correspondence and connected themselves with the Insurgents of Pennsylvania. That they have refused to submit to the Draft prescribed by the orders of the Commander in Chief or in any manner to aid the Object of the President. That they have supported this Refusal by a show of Force and in some Instances by the actual use of it. That they have erected Liberty Poles at various places and guarded them by armed Bodies of Men. That they are endeavouring to collect in sufficient force for the purpose of attacking and plundering the public Armoury and Magazine at Frederick Town. and that in short every thing wears the Aspect of Confusion and Danger.

I had already provided, as far as former Accounts had suggested the Necessity, against the Spirit above described. by ordering a Captain's Guard for the security of the Armoury and Magazine. by putting arms into the Hands of the well affected Militia in and about Frederick Town. and by ordering two hundred Stand of Arms &c into Allegany to be distributed by Major Lynn among such of the Militia in that County as could be safely relied on.

These Precautions I am apprehensive are very far from being adequate to their Object in the present situation of affairs. and as a late Letter from the War Office counts upon the most efficient Measures on my Part for guarding against even the possible Effects of the above Disturbances (a partial Account of which had reached the President) and as it is certainly of the last Importance that under Circumstances so peculiarly emergent prompt and decisive Steps should be pursued, it is obvious that a strong Body of Troops ought to be immediately marched to and stationed at Frederick Town. under a spirited intelligent Officer to act as Occasion may require.

It is presumed that a Detachment competent to the contemplated Service may be formed by procuring Artillery Men Infantry and Horse according to the plan enclosed; and I feel a Confidence that the Nature of this Emergency arising within our own Government will enable you (or whose Agency I in part rely) to obtain Volunteers to the extent of the within Arrangement, so far as it respects the Limits of your Command.

But if, contrary to my Expectation, there should be any Reluctance to serve on an occasion so evidently pressing itself on every Mind. To his Country, the power of the Law must be exerted to procure the Troops required by a speedy Draft.