

In Council November 9. 1799

Gentlemen

We have the honour to submit to the Legislature the following Communication.

By a Resolution of the last Session the Governor and Council were requested to communicate with the Executives of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and concert with them proper measures to prevent the abuses arising from Slaves absconding from the service of their masters in Maryland and being concealed by the Citizens of those States. We addressed those several States on the subject and were desirous to accomplish the object of the Resolution, but have not been answered except by the Governor of Delaware. We submit the communication between us for the information of the General Assembly.

At the last Session Messrs George Murchison, Philip Thomas, and Valentine Brothers were authorized to purchase for the use of the State ten acres of Land in Frederick County whereon the Barracks now are erected. Those Gentlemen by virtue of that authority have made the purchase and reported their proceedings for our examination: and we, being of opinion that the purchase was on proper terms, have confirmed it and obtained a conveyance to the State for the property.

Since the State became the proprietor of those Barracks we have received a letter from General Washington requesting the use of them for the accommodation of those Regiments of Troops of the United States during this winter. Those Troops were designed to have been stationed at