

Season to see further safety. We feel to safety around our harbours, and therefore compelled to remain  
until the breaking up of the Ice renders it practicable to prosecute their Voyages. We do not propose  
further to remark that it will afford a convenient harbour for such of the public Ships of War  
as will not draw more than twenty feet Water. These considerations, we presume will have  
no small influence upon the hostile Spirit of the Enemy, and would probably prompt them  
to embrace the earliest opportunity to attack lay waste and plunder it. Taking it for  
granted that in the event of War such a Spirit will actuate the public Enemy it is without  
anxiety and solicitude that we reflect upon the facility with which such a Spirit may be  
indulged by reason of the coldness of our Navigable Waters and the consequent inaccessibility  
of the public and private property contained within its limits to the pillage and  
outrages usually perpetrated in such a state of things. We are decidedly of opinion  
that the fortifications at present erected here are inadequate to its security and  
defence, and that to accomplish so desirable an object it will be necessary for your  
Excellency to appropriate a portion of the public Money allotted to the defence of the  
Seaports to the improvement and extension of the Works of defence already erected  
here.

We have the honor to be

Yours Excellency James Madison  
President of the United States

Robert Bowie

Sir

Council Chamber Annapolis May 19/81

By a Report of Mr. Robert Welsh of Ben. the Agent of the Executive for the  
purpose of receiving the Arms Swords and Pistols purchased from the United  
States in September last it appeared that the Pistols in the United States Arsenal  
at Philadelphia were not considered by him of a quality sufficiently good to supply  
him, in taking and that therefore he refused them. The Governor and Council have  
in consequence directed me to ask that you will inform them as soon as possible  
whether there are any now under your superintendance of a quality equal to those  
already received in order if there should be they may take steps to get them. It is  
hardly necessary to remark that fifty Brace of Pistols are due from the United  
States to Maryland.

I am with Respect  
Yours Obedient Servant  
Museum Penhney  
Clerk of the Council

Captain Callender Irvine  
Superintendent of the United States Arsenal  
at Philadelphia