

The letters not long since received by the governor and council from captain la Villebrun and the count de Kergarion de Leumaria, and now before us, afford the pleasing expectation, that every assistance in your power will be yielded by you, to extirpate the enemy's cruisers which infest our bay.

If to the barges, which we propose to fit out immediately, and which we hope will be ready for action in four weeks time, you would join an armed brig and a sloop, to cover and protect our barges, in case of need, or to encounter the enemy's armed sloops, or other vessels, if any such they have cruising with their barges, we have the most sanguine expectation, that by a well combined and prompt operation of our joint force, we should easily succeed in taking or destroying all the enemy's barges, or other small cruisers, now in this bay.

Such an enterprise, if successful, would render the enemy more cautious in venturing hereafter into the Chesapeake, to plunder our inhabitants, or interrupt our trade, and would compel them to fit out a larger force for such expeditions, than the object of them would be worth, or than they could well spare, in their present circumstances, without neglecting armaments of more importance.

But lest an unprovided state of defence should encourage the refugees to attempt further depredations, it is our intention to keep in constant pay a number of barges, properly equipped; these we propose to have stationed among the Tangier islands, and to be subject to — command and direction.

We propose to form a magazine at York, under the protection of your batteries and shipping, for the constant re-viceualling of our barges, as likewise to erect an hospital for the reception of the sick and wounded.

When the barges want repairing or cleaning, they may run into York river, to be cleaned, or repaired. It is not our wish or intention, that they should return into this state, or cruise above the Tangier islands, unless in pursuit of the enemy, until the first of January next, unless sooner recalled by proper authority.

We have been informed, that there are several of the enemy's barges, now in your possession, taken at the surrender of York-town, which might be easily and speedily repaired. If this fact be true, we entertain the hope, that you will man with part of the crews of your vessels such a number of these barges, as you may think, in conjunction with ours and the assistance of the armed brig and sloop above mentioned, will be sufficient to capture or destroy the enemy's barges and small cruisers, now infesting this bay.

The time it would take to fit out a galley, or a vessel of greater force than barges, has induced us to give the preference to the latter, which draw but little water, and may be much more speedily equipped, and, supported by your vessels, will pursue and attack the enemy's barges on the shoals, or in small creeks, where probably they will endeavour to shelter themselves from the fire of galleys, or vessels of a superior force.

The protection and security, which this enterprise will give to a very great number of our inhabitants, who are kept in perpetual alarms and apprehensions, not only for the safety of their property, but of their persons (being liable to be seized in their beds at all hours of the night, and carried off into captivity, or barbarously murdered) will, we are satisfied, be a sufficient inducement with you to afford us all the assistance in your power, to accomplish the destruction of these free-booters, for they scarcely deserve the dignified appellation of enemy.

In addition to the obligation under which you will lay the people of this state, the advantage will not be inconsiderable which you yourselves will derive from the secure navigation of the bay, in receiving supplies from Baltimore-town, and other parts of this state.

We request as speedy an answer to this letter as the subject will admit of, and that you will be pleased to signify to the governor and council what force it will be convenient for you to join to ours, and express your opinion freely of the proposed operation against the enemy's cruisers.

We are, with the greatest esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants, —

The bill was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The letter was read, assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by Edward Lloyd, Esq;

On reading the above letter, James M'Henry, Esq; gave notice, that he should enter his dissent, and accordingly entered the following:

Dissent.

**B E C A U S E** agreeing to the letter previous to passing the bill for the protection of the bay trade, and to defend, &c. &c. is improper, as it cannot be known that the bill will pass, upon which the letter is founded, or that it will not receive alterations opposite to the bill.

**B E C A U S E** the letter engages the general assembly to equip, under every event, four barges, mounting two pieces of cannon each, and carrying two hundred and fifty men, when from a small change in the enemy's force, or from their employing privateers, or sloops of war, these barges may be rendered useless, or only partially useful.

**B E C A U S E**