

INSTRUCTIONS by the General Assembly of Maryland, to brigadier-general Smallwood, and through him to colonel Gist, the commanding officer of the detachment that now moves forward against the Somerset and Worcester county insurgents.

COLONEL GIST is to take with him all the troops now under his command (the Virginia regiment of regulars excepted) together with the Annapolis independent company of militia, commanded by captain James Brice, and thirty matrosses, with two field pieces, commanded by lieutenant William Campbell, and with all expedition proceed to Somerset and Worcester counties, and there disperse the proclamation published by authority of the general assembly, and see the same duly enforced, and use his utmost endeavours to apprehend all the several persons excepted out of the said proclamation.

Should he find any disaffected persons assembled in arms, he is to use his utmost endeavours to quell them, shedding as little blood as may be, and taking care to arrest the ringleaders, and send them under a guard to the executive power of this state, by them to be disposed of according to law.

As brigadier-general Hooper has already marched into Somerset and Worcester counties, we recommend to colonel Gist to call on, or send an express to, him, in his way down, to gain intelligence, and if he should understand that the tories are entirely dispersed, and their ringleaders secured, he is to direct the militia of this state to return to their respective homes, the matrosses to their stations at Annapolis and Baltimore-Town, and dismiss the regulars from the present service.

He is to give intelligence of his proceedings from time to time to the executive body of this state.

That colonel Gist, or the commanding officer in Somerset and Worcester counties, hereafter take the directions of this state, as to the disposition of the arms that may be delivered up by the insurgents in those counties.

A memorial from John Weems, setting forth, that he is an inhabitant of Calvert county in this state; that he has been for the last seven years and still is most grievously afflicted with the stone; that he has been attacked by it at eleven different times since the tenth of May one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six; that the least degree of laborious exercise throws him into the most deplorable condition; that he apprehends himself affected neither by the letter nor the spirit of the resolve of convention commanding all able bodied effective freemen within this state to enrol themselves in some company of militia, and upon refusal to be subject to a fine; that he has in his possession, and is ready to show to this honourable body, a number of stones that have been discharged by him with the most excruciating torture, at the above-mentioned times, within the last eleven months; that he, in confirmation of the above stated facts, and for the satisfaction of this honourable body, will produce a gentleman of the faculty of undoubted reputation, who has attended him under this complaint for the last seven years, and who will testify the truth of this memorial; that he, if compelled to attend to the regular duty prescribed by the conventions, would in a great measure hazard his health, at present sufficiently impaired, and in all probability fall a sacrifice to such compulsory act; that he acted in the capacity of lieutenant in a company for a considerable time, but finding it was injurious to his health, he was driven to the disagreeable necessity of declining to act any longer in that honourable station; that he has been regularly fined for his non-attendance on a company of militia; that a warrant has been obtained for the purpose of levying the aforesaid fines, from the committee of observation; that he made application to the honourable the council of safety for redress of the above stated grievance, and that honourable body, upon a representation of the facts, were pleased to grant an injunction to stay all proceedings on the warrant against his property, till the matter could be properly examined into by this honourable body, and the final determination was made known; that he is still greatly apprehensive that an attempt will be made to seize his property before the complaint is examined into; and therefore praying of this honourable body, that they will be pleased to grant an injunction to stay all proceedings, and to appoint a day for the hearing and determining the merits of this memorial; was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Galloway has leave of absence for a few days.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, February 12, 1777.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Shepherd. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Chase appeared in the house.

The proclamation and instructions to colonel Gist were sent to the senate by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Mason, for their concurrence.

The following message was prepared and sent to the senate by Mr. Ford and Mr. T. Bond.