

In Council of Safety.

Gentlemen:

Annapolis February 8th 1776.

We are much obliged by your favour of the 27th ult^o and shall most cheerfully cooperate with you in every thing that may contribute to our mutual defence against the invaders of our reciprocal rights that may be in our power; and shall also be happy in keeping up a constant intimate correspondence with our common cause at this time under necessity.

Our inexperience in naval preparations, prevents us at present from either approving or disapproving your plan of shore galleys for the protection of Potomac river. We have a ship which we call the Defence that mounts 22 six pounders, besides swivels and will be ready to proceed to her station by the first of March. She will cruise in the Bay and the Captain shall have orders to contribute every thing in his power to the Common defence and as occasion may require proceed up the Potomack. The powder necessary for this ship and for fortifications which we are building will diminish our stock so much as to prevent us from attempting an increase of our marine till we receive a supply of that necessary article more than sufficient for our troops and militia in whom we chiefly rely for protection and when this happens we shall advise you of it.

We have adventured very extensively to procure arms & ammunition, but are fearful from the advices that we have lately received, our endeavours will not be attended with the success we wished and had reason to hope for.

To the Council of Safety

of Virginia.

With great respect

Y^r most humble Serv^t.

Annapolis 9th February 1776

Sir

We are advised by a letter which Mr Cheper favoured us with from Charlestown the 2nd inst that you can procure about the quantity of 140 yds of Country cloth at about 8/ per yard and linen (Country made) from 2/4 to 2/8 fit and proper for hunting shirts, sufficient for your Company. The cloth we request you will immediately purchase for the use of the Province unless from its narrowness you should think it dearer than broad cloth of equal quality at 15/ curd p^r yard; and if the linen should exceed Strabergs in width so as to reduce the price nearly to that at 2/ per yard, we would have you buy the Linen also as we presume it is superior to Strabergs and as we would give the preference to what is manufactured among ourselves when we can do it consistently with the relation in which we stand to the Public.

The money shall be either transmitted you by the first safe conveyance you may apprise us of after we are furnished with the amount of those articles, or paid to your order as shall be most agreeable to you.

Col Smallwood will direct what shall be done with the Cloth and Linen and we think you had better defer making them up for your men until you hear from him.

We have drawn an order on the Treasurer in favour of Mr Guford