

circumstances will admit of, we request you will immediately meet your Battalion and hold them in readiness to meet at a moment's warning upon the further orders of the Council.

C. P. K.

To Col Johnson.  
Lieut.

A ship of war (which we take to be the Liverpool) and two tenders passed by the City up the bay yesterday afternoon and came to an anchor off the mouth of Patuxent where we conclude they are destined to Baltimore Town. They took a new English schooner out of Patuxent on Tuesday they came up and two or three other small vessels yesterday. We expect every moment to be informed from Baltimore by express of their movements which we will communicate to you, but as probably they are gone there with a view to take what vessels they can meet with and particularly our ship Defiance and on their return may pass your river, we think it proper to apprise you of their proceedings by this opportunity that you may make the best preparation in your power for their reception if they should venture up Potowmack.

To Committee of Alexandria.

In Council of Safety.

Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Gentlemen:

At 8 o'clock on Tuesday night our two Pilot Boats returned to this place with intelligence that a Man of War and two tenders were pushing up the Bay, that in the mouth of Patuxent river they made prize of a new English vessel and that we might hourly expect them off our Harbours. We immediately dispatched expresses to Baltimore Town and other parts of the Province with orders for the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march. The high wind all day on Wednesday prevented those armed vessels proceeding up the Bay. Yesterday half past three, Post made they bore in sight and pushed past up the Bay having taken several small vessels on their way. The ship which we imagine to be the Liverpool came to an anchor last night off the mouth of Patuxent, the tenders kept under sail. Early this morning the ship weighed and we presume proceeded up Patuxent river to take or destroy our ship Defiance and a large ship loaded with wheat and flour by permission of the Congress. Whether the ship Defiance with a Battery hastily thrown up will be sufficient to defeat the hostile attempt we cannot say but we are confident if a landing is attempted either at Baltimore Town or this place that the enemy will be defeated. We are with the greatest regard

Lieut<sup>d</sup> Your most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>.

To the Council of Safety  
of Virginia.

P.S. 9 o'clock P.M. we have this moment received certain intelligence that the man of war is the other sloop with two tenders one of six Carriage guns and the other six only - that they have taken the ship loaded with wheat and flour which unluckily happened to be exposed at the mouth of Patuxent and that they are proceeding up that river to take or destroy the ship Defiance. Fresh provisions we believe also is their object.

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