

the mother Country

To Gov Eden.

Dear Sir.

We are much hurried. The hostile fleet are sailed down the Bay and we are confident they will return in two or three days, therefore prepare for your defense. We ordered Colo Weems's Battalion at 12 o'clock last night to guard West river and at 12 to day which was the time the Otter weighed, ordered the remainder of that Battalion to hasten down along the Bay side toward the mouth of Patuxent and to show themselves ready to oppose any attempts of landing and if they should land without a flag to fight it out to the last with them. The £1000 you mention shall be sent by the first opportunity. We have a great deal to say to you and shall be glad to see you tomorrow or next day. We are all now to the stumps.

Yours affectionately,

J. C. Carroll Esq.

Capt.

We received intelligence by our Pilot boats on Tuesday evening that a ship of war and two Tenders were under sail on their way up the Bay and immediately issued an order for their reception which was observed with amazing expedition and punctuality. We were much indebted to the spirited, active and good conduct of the regular officers and troops. The militia moved with astonishing dispatch and as soon as the vessels bore in sight on coast was lined with men. At Baltimore the celerity of their movements exceeded description and had very near proved more advantageous than they really bore, for it was expected by the vessels (the Otter of 16 guns - a Tender of 6 and another armed with swivels only) that the Ship Defense was altogether unprepared which led them to conceive themselves in a state of security which had like to have been attended with consequences very disagreeable to them. The residue of our guns for the ship arrived only Wednesday night and on Thursday morning were wanted. On Friday night she was towed a little way down the river maned with a parcel of buckskin heroes and other brave fellows. Several small vessels were crowded with men to assist in case of an engagement, which would have been creditable, as we understand Capt Nicholson intended to grapple at once. She got under way very early in the morning, resolved to retake Hudson's ship and engaged the Otter, which was four or five miles below, if she moved to her relief. Hudson's vessel was guarded by the Tenders, the morning was thick and hazy and the Defense got nearer to them before she was discovered than was agreeable to them. They were much alarmed (not having any idea that our ship was in readiness to venture out) and pushed off with the utmost expedition leaving the ship and 4 or 5 small vessels which had fallen into their hands. The Tenders would probably have been taken if the Otter receiving a signal gun had not sent off men to double man their arms. The Defense stretched backward and forward below her Prizes and at length, finding the Otter got under way, came to close by Hudson's vessel and prepared for battle expecting she was coming up to her, but to the amazement of our brave Countrymen she bore away and anchored in the afternoon off Annapolis. Nicholson continued his station thinking it inexpedient to risk an action as he had such a valuable prize under his care. In the evening a flag was sent in. The gentlemen behaved very politely and on some subjects were here and conversant with them.