

gent.

We have transmitted a copy of the inclosed order to the Committee of Observation for Kent County & as they will send the gunpowder to you early in next week as it probably will be with them on Saturday from Philadelphia. Upon the late alarm some powder was given into the hands of the Militia on this side of the bay and we have tried as difficult to collect the greater part of it again and that too much of what may remain with the people will be lost to the public. We recommend it to you therefore to deliver to the Captains of your Companies on the water as much as you may receive will be sufficient (taking their receipt) with orders not to distribute it among their respective Companies until there is a real necessity and to keep the residue in some convenient part of your County, where upon an emergency, the other Companies may readily be supplied -

And are &c.

To Committee of E. S. County.

gent.

We have called James Morris before us and not finding his affair in such a situation as that we can go into a pleary hearing we have thought proper to oblige him to give security for his good behaviour, and also for his appearance before the Committee of Observation on the first Thursday in April next against which time if you think it necessary you may order witnesses to attend to enforce his charge and send him down to us again or not as the facts may appear. Stephen Bartlett hath been heard and is ordered to make proper concessions at the head of the Elderidge Battalion at their next meeting and to pay one moiety of the expense of bringing him down. Inwardly James Morris to pay the other moiety.

We are yr. mo. obedt Servts.

for order.

In Council of Safety Annapolis March 21st 1776.

To Eldridge Committee.

Gentlemen.

We received you of the 15th Instant by Capt Woolford and are much pleased to hear that the Militia of your County behaved with so much spirit and alacrity on the late alarm occasioned by the Otter Sloop of War and her Tenders appearance in the Bay but at the same time we are concerned to find they have so few good arms among them. We doubt not but that the same noble and generous spirit which induced them to step forth on the late occasion in defence of our just rights and privileges and those of their fellow citizens will support them and in every difficulty they may have to encounter you may be assured that the Council will give them as well as well as every other part of the Province all the assistance in their power. We have ordered the arms and powder impudged by Capt Dilbitz for the use of the Province down to Chestertown from whence the arms will be distributed among the regular Troops stationed on the Eastern Shore and a proportion of the powder sent to the Committee of each County. Inclosed we send you an order for the distribution of the powder which we have ordered to be sent to Cambridge to Mr Hanson's Care by the Committee of Kent County which we hope will reach you by the middle of next week as also an order on the Treasurer of the E. Shore for the pay of the expense of sending forward that for Worcester and Somerset.

And are &c.

To Committee of Dorset County -

gent.

As it was thought by the last Convention that 50 regular Troops would be sufficient to maintain the