

the movements of the Ships of War and their Kunders on your Coast and to repel any sudden attack or invasion which might be attempted by small parties, and as we do not conceive your situation more dangerous now than it was then, we cannot think ourselves at liberty to station an additional number of men in your County. We wish to prevent the Militia's being harassed and apprehend when Capt Meall arrives at his station which we imagine will be by the last of next week, there will not be any occasion for them to move unless a more formidable force should come up the bay than has yet appeared, which we have no reason to expect for some time, under which circumstance the number you speak of would not avail and the Militia's would be under the necessity of taking the field.

We have reserved our orders to the Committee of Observation for Charles County and if they are not shortly complied with, will send you some powder from hence. As to furnishing you with arms, tho' it would afford us the highest satisfaction, yet from our inability we cannot experience the pleasure of gratifying you, not having sufficiently for the regular forces.

To Committee of Calvert. We are Yr Mos Obedt Servts.

We received a letter of y^r 15th Inst from Mr Mackall advising us that you thought a Virginia Pilot Boat which the Calvert County Guards had stopped some days past would be very useful or well for conveying the Troops from one County to the other, as for taking any small tenders which might come into your river and that the owner would sell her for a reasonable price and requesting our opinion upon the expediency of regarding purchasing and arming her for the use of the Province. We cannot conceive a Pilot Boat properly calculated to transmit troops across a narrow river in which upon an alarm given unless the wind should be suit they cannot fail from one place to another with that expedition the service might require and as to repelling any hostile attacks which may be made by tenders we do not think that Boat would be sufficient for the purpose as nothing less than one eight or ten gun vessels would offer to run upon rivers to commit depredation. There are other reasons will not justify our purchasing her for the service suggested.

To Capt Thomas. We are Yr Mos Obedt Servts.

The letters from Col^l Barnes and Jordan were not inclosed in our last yours inattention we now read them with copies of some other letters from Calw. from whence you will see how affairs are going on there. Summers fleet have separated; the Torrey and the other with a number of vessels having the Jory Family's on board remain in the mouth of St Mary's River. The Blackbuck and six or seven other vessels have moved up the River Potowmack, as high as Quantico in Virginia, where they stop to take in water. There are some flying reports of their having landed at Mr Brent's and burnt his houses which are confirmed this day by Charles Parsondale. He says 'tis feared they are landing on Col^l Smallwood's estate the last landing of them was yesterday and the report was they were landing on the Maryland side near Col^l Smallwood.

We share what you say about the flying Catch and shall do the best we can, we shall give the necessary orders for finding the Proke Nations, in expectation that the Saboteuse money will be reimbursed. As soon as the Regulars are replaced that have or are about to be marched to the Northern, we shall use our endeavours to complete the remaining

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