

April 18th 1776.

Sir

Your letter enclosing the resolves of Congress was this day delivered to us: & we were furnished with the intercepted letters some time before the receipt of yours and had taken such measures as in our judgement were competent to the occasion: so dispose the Government and subvert the Constitution by the seizure and imprisonment of the Governor we conceived to be a measure of too much delicacy and magnitude to be adapted without calling and consulting the Convention of this Province: we see no necessity urging us to such an extreme and were therefore determined not to expose the Province to immediate anarchy and convulsion if an assurance could be obtained from the Governor that he would not depart before our Convention met to decide upon this important business. He cheerfully gave us this assurance and that we feel no apprehensions of danger from him. Under these circumstances we cannot comply with the request of Congress in any other manner than we have done and flatter ourselves they will rest satisfied and consider us excusable.

We have apprehended Mr Rofs and shall keep him in custody and examine him fully.

Permit us, Sir, to assure you that we are determined to maintain the rights and liberties of this Country at any hazard of life and property and will vigorously procure every measure which the defence of America shall require.

To J Hancock Esq =

We have the honor to be

Pres^t of Congress.

Your M^o: obed^t Serv^t

Sir

Capt Courway of the sloop Molly will deliver you this: In the disposition of the Cargo you will please observe our former instructions and send us any returns by the vessels you may have to make as she is a prime sailer.

To Rich^d Harrison.

Yr M^o: obed^t Serv^t

Perk:

We received the Honble Mr Hancock's letter of the 16th Instant yesterday afternoon enclosing a recommendation of Congress that we should immediately cause the persons & papers of Governor Eden to be seized and secured and convey such of the Papers as relate to the American dispute, safely to Congress; and also the person and papers of A Rofs and to transmit the letter likewise to Congress. Previous to our receipt of the above, we had fully investigated the charge that the intercepted letters imported, in which we concluded ourselves agreeable to what we wrote you by Mr Green and finally concluded the affair with our answer, a copy of which we now inclose you.

The extraordinary manner of communicating the intelligence by the Council of Safety of Virginia to us with the behaviour of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore gave us cause to complain of the indignity offered our board, and we cannot suppress our suspicion that matters have been concerted so as to preclude all information which might otherwise have been laid before you from hence. The letter from the Council of Safety of Virginia is dated the 7th Inst and was conveyed thro' Baltimore to us on the 15th about 3 o'clock P.M. by four gentlemen deputed by that body to await on us with it whose conduct was very disingenuous and exceptionable & the resolves passed on the 16th. We are at a loss otherwise to account for the length of time the Letter was passing from Williamsburg

Trues