

blackened (but we think injured) characters are with your acceptance. We must say that if the same Justice were done to us, that we would do unto others in similar circumstances, a Copy of the anonymous letter you mention traducing our Reputations would not have been refused us by the Congress, for we sincerely declare to you and the World, that were we in possession of any paper reflecting in so gross a manner on that or any other respectable body on the Continent, we should think it unjust and unparliamentary to withhold it from them, and by thus secreting, prevent the discovery of the author of so foul a calumny, and shelter him from the consequence, to say, punishment he deserves.

We wrote you fully in our two last letters, and sent Copies of all such papers as we thought material. The Governor voluntarily gave us his Parole in the fullest manner and has since confirmed it by letter, assuring us that he will not leave the Province till the Convention we are firmly persuaded he will not stir, or do any thing against the peace - he also assures us in the most explicit terms, that he had received no other letters from the ministry but what he gave us up and which we sent you copies of. He examined his bureau and closet and found several letters in them from him to Administration and his friends in England wherein he represents our Province in a favorable point of view.

We were not without our suspicions that a plan had been concerted by the two persons you mention, and have determined, if possible, to get to the bottom of it and for that purpose on Saturday last, before the receipt of your express, issued our Order to Mr Samuel Purviance Chairman, Mr Mm Lux, Deputy Chairman, and Mr George Lux Clerk of the Committee of Observation for Balt County, to appear before us this day, and to bring with them all the proceedings, papers, Letters, Orders, Entries, Instructions relative to the intercepted letters, we are resolved to have a full and open examination of the affair and shall then cheerfully submit our Conduct to the publick.

We consider the Authority of the whole Province trampled upon and insulted if not conspired against and having your letters holding forth the same sentiment, we have thought it advisable, as we know not to what lengths this matter may be carried, to call a Convention to be held at the City of Annapolis on Tuesday the seventh of May next, at which time we shall be glad to see all the Gent^l Deputies, that can be spared from Congress. We shall endeavour to have all our Proceedings ready to lay before them on the first Day of their meeting, and shall submit to them whether our Conduct has been either timid, inactive, or in any other particulars unjustifiable.

Our Proceedings with the Governor are such, as are in our opinions in every respect defensible; we are convinced from his declarations and answers, & from his manner of behaving to us, that he will not leave the Province. - Little minds might have been gratified with actual Imprisonment and further securities, but we do not imagine the Congress meant any such outrage on humanity - We have all the advantages we could have had, if we had committed him to the public Gaol, and we are persuaded many more. Nobody can believe that we are counting the Governor at present; 'tis the Peace & Happiness of the Province we wish to preserve, and we are persuaded that it will be best done by keeping up the ostensible Form of our chartered government. We feel for you; the insult offered by Mr Hancock in not admitting you to his presence must have been grating as our Province is the object of Attention, and we are to be plunged into all the

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