

the mouth of Smiths Creek in Potowmack, that they were very weak, in  
 Land forces not exceeding 300 men, that they were so sickly that 50 dead  
 bodies had appeared on the shores chiefly negroes, and that having gone up  
 the River Potowmack to take in water and returned, he imagined  
 they would soon sail from that Quarter. Their forces appear so  
 inconsiderable and contemptible to him that he has dismissed all the  
 militia and keeps only two independent Companies, to oppose them,  
 one of which Capt. Thomas, we have this day ordered to march to  
 the Northward and Capt. Muntz of the Medinich Battalion marches  
 to supply his place. Capt. Deans Bonham is stationed at Kent  
 Island and Capt. Goldborough is to supply the place of Capt.  
 Hindman's if the latter can get arms (which we cannot doubt the  
 Militia will lend him for their defence until the Province can  
 supply them) These with the three independent Companies will  
 make a body of near five hundred men, we therefore think three  
 fourths of the Militia under your command may return to  
 their habitations and keep themselves in readiness to march in case  
 of an attack as the above force will be more than sufficient to  
 repel any invasion from that Fleet. We do not expect from their  
 weak state that any attempt will be made except to blockade and  
 we think the 500 regular troops together with the 200 militia a  
 sufficient force to protect your ~~force~~ shore until the Fleet sails  
 which we daily expect to hear of and if some of them go to sea, and  
 only a few remain at our Capes and in Virginia, to destroy our  
 Trade as is suggested to us will be the case the remainder of the  
 militia also may be discharged. If the Schooner you have taken  
 would answer to make an armed boat or vessel for the Defence of  
 this Province, we should be glad you would send her over that she  
 maybe put in repair and fitted for the service, if she is unfit on  
 acct. of her size, value and stores will be agreeable to us. We are  
 of opinion that a Court Martial ought to be held on the conduct &  
 opinions of the two military gentlemen you mention, and a represen-  
 tation made from it to our board as a foundation for their being  
 deprived of their Commissions. The spirit and ardor with which  
 your Brigade has acted on this occasion has been exceedingly  
 agreeable to us and we are possessed of the pleasing prospect  
 that they will continue to distinguish themselves on every future  
 occasion by an animated affection to their country leading them  
 to brave every fatigue and peril to preserve her liberties inviolate.

P. S. Capt. Bouway is safely arrived in Wightbourne Virginia with  
 10 1/2 tons of powder and 270 stand of arms the property of this Province.  
 To Brig. Genl. Hooper 1/2  
 Dorset County 3/4  
 we are &c

(Gentlemen