intirely disaffected to our cause.

If these men were all we had to contend with it is probable our Militia might be sufficient, but from the best information we can obtain we are of opinion they have a very formidable member to protect them from Caroline, Worcester and Sussex in Delaware, and as (since their outrages) several Companys in this County have taken salt nearly in the same way which will of course stop them from exposing them if they do not join them, we are unanimously of opinion that it is very improbable there can be in general Cooper Brigade a sufficient number of the Militia Raised, who would on the present occasion take up arms to suppress and stop the progress of these Rioters and their adherents and bring the Offenders to Justice; and we therefore think it most prudent to decline making the attempt as a failure would be very detrimental to our cause, and give Strength and Spirits to their party & Friends. And have sent this by an Express hired for the purpose to inform your Honours of what we have done and what we apprehend is our real Situation, and we would beg leave to Submit to your Judgement, whether it would not be proper under our present Circumstances to send men to bring these Offenders to justice, who having neither Connexions or acquaintance with them may be relied on, and will probably much better go through the Business. It is becoming a matter of great importance & we are apprehensive if it is not soon checked will probably go a great way towards destroying the Peace and good order of the greatest part of this Shore.

We Cannot omit the opportunity (in behalf of those people of our County who have yet remained quiet under their great distress for Salt) to inform your Honours that the want of that Absolute Necessary of Life is so great in this County that many Families for months past have not had a Spoonfull of Salt. others have got a quart or a few handfulls by begging from those who could badly spare any. The people hearing of Quantities of Salt going to Baltimore have some of them applied there for relief but have very few of them got any it being generally taken for the Inhabitants of the Western Shore before those this way can get there to apply. Under these Circumstances they are much distressed and if these unhappy people find they have no chance of being Supplied equally with those on the other Shore We know not what may be the consequence, perhaps they may at length grow desperate rather than perish. We therefore are moved in duty towards our distressed County men to apply to your Honours for such relief as may be in your power to grant them and as we hear there has lately arrived Vessels at Baltimore with Quantities of Salt if your Honours would be pleased to order that a part of that or any other Salt that may arrive be bought and sent to us for the relief of the Inhabitants of this County we will engage to be answerable for the price set on it, and will undertake to have it delivered at the same price as far as it will

(90)