

Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1776.

Gen<sup>l</sup>

Congress is of opinion, that the order from the Board of War extends only to such prisoners as are natives of Great Britain and soldiers from France in the present war, and therefore the prisoners from Carolina and privates there lately taken in arms against us are not comprehended and are still to be detained, as to the two gentlemen taken by Capt Cook whether they be prisoners or not is a matter our State must decide and not Congress. I am told by the Delegates to the Eastward that persons in such predicament are set at liberty, but the property taken is confiscated; but this is not a general rule. Circumstances often require them to be \_\_\_\_\_; you must therefore (I speak my own opinion only) exercise your discretion in the present case.

The Enemy is still at Brunswick. Genl Washington has faced about and is moving towards them with the reinforcements from this State. Genl Lee has crossed the River, as we are informed with about 2000 men and we are also informed that Genl St. Clair with about 2000 men left New Windsor last Friday week and that by this time we hope the Enemy will find them selves between two fires and Heaven grant they may be well routed.

Great complaints have been made by the Privates of our flying Camp of neglect and want of pay. I am afraid our officers have not been so careful and industrious in making out their rolls as they ought to have been; we are doing all we can to get them their money, which indeed has been long ago ready for them and only detained from the want of Officers rolls. Our poor sick were much distressed till they came to this City, here every necessity is found them and the best care taken of them, we have declined no trouble to have these poor creatures comfortably provided for.

Yours

Your Obedt<sup>l</sup> Servant.

W. Paca.

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Council of Safety  
of Maryland.

per

W. Paca.

Annapolis.

Baltimore Town Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Sir

The bearer James O'Hara is a soldier belonging to Capt. Parsons's Company, who had the misfortune before the departure of the Battalion from the Province, to take cold standing sentry at night which brought on an universal inflammation upon him to get the Venetian issue in that Disorder discharged his eyes likewise suffered that Degree as to deprive him of his sight, tho' he was in the utmost danger of his life that being said, but his eyes  
(over)