

which I doubt not will be obey'd with cheerfulness (so far as in our power) the want of armes is the only deficiency that at present appears, which I fear cannot be supply'd but from your City, as I meet a number of the Militia going to Philadelphia all without armes.

Coll. Rumsey and myself yesterday examin'd some chests of armes, said to belong to the Virginia State, but found them old and much out of Repair, nor is there time at present to repair them, as orders are expected immediately for marching, in which case at the request of Coll. Rumsey and in behalfe of the Battallion I am inclin'd to sollicite, that armes be forwarded, unless there be a certainty of getting good ones at Philadelphia, or some port forward, as it will animate the Battallion much to be assured of good armes, I doubt not of your necessary Credentials to some person forward (in authority) to enable us to obtain tents and every other necessary for the Battallion, and am with much esteem.

To

The Honourable the Council  
of Safety.

Maryland.

Annapolis.

Gentlemen.

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>l</sup>. Servant.

W<sup>m</sup> Hollingsworth.

Baltimore Dec<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Sir,

I am to inform you that last night Capt. George Cook departed with about sixty or seventy men. Mr Auchincloik, his first Lieutenant and other Officers belonging to the Ship Defence under his command, on the Head of Elk, from whence they are to proceed to Philadelphia with an intent to join the forces there.

I would have attended him, but was oblig'd to give place to my Senior Officer, wherefore I was left in command of the Ship till Capt. Cook's return from the Expedition, which I expect will not be till Howe's expulsion from the Jerseys, which I'm in hopes will be soon.

I have the Honour to be, Sir,

The President of the

Humble Council of Safety

Annapolis

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>l</sup>. Servant.

John Burnell.

George Town Dec<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Dear Sir,

The Breach, Mr John Gouge, who has contract'd with the Council of Safety for a number of Muskets, now waits on them for Cash to enable him to carry on his business. He has employ'd a number of hands and is now in a good way of doing much work, if he is properly assist'd with Cash, without which he cannot go on, and you may assure the Council he is a man much to be depended on, and will not deceive them, I have been in his Shop and find him well prepar'd (as far as I can judge) to carry on the business extensively.