

they have resolved the Militia ought to march and I believe in very great propo-  
-tion will though as you must imagine many of them are very ill, provided for a  
winter Campaign. It is intended if possible to get some in motion on Monday. I do  
not know whether it is intended that I should command the whole Militia or  
any part of them or not. if it is I think some special authority for that purpose  
will be necessary and I shall cheerfully execute it as well as I can. but in a  
matter of so much consequence I shall frankly give my opinion at every  
- hazard that it is best not to let our Militia go out under any provin-  
-cial Brigadier - Genl. Brall's commission I suppose has expired, and if not  
many of the Flying Camp speak of him so low as respectfully that you may  
be assured that many from here would but half obey him, and so far with  
all illwill. None of the rest of us have new service and I fear we are not  
so competent nor will the men have the same confidence in either of us, as  
in one who has had experience. Genl. Smallerwood and several others I believe  
have but very small Brigades. but if any Genl. goes from here as Brigadier,  
he must have a great stock of philosophy to give up his brigade to another  
though superior in abilities, and having nothing to do when he becomes the gen-  
-eral however suspect insinuations which will be thrown upon him - if  
these reasons appear to you in the same strength they do to me. I imagine  
our Militia might be put under the immediate command of Smallerwood  
by a request to the Congress, or General Washington. I have seen a good  
many of the Flying Camp who speak well and some who speak ill of Smal-  
-wood - If you have any stock of shoes, stockings or Blankets that you can  
spare to be forwarded to York immediately and there sold to the men at re-  
-ducent prices or sent after them it would be a great relief. I shall expect to  
hear from you - and am,

Yours

The Honble Council of Safety of

Maryland

with very great respect. Your Obedt. Servt.

Th. JOHNSON Junr.

If there's no immediate good opportunity Mr Chase is desired to for-  
-ward this by express.

Yours

Fredricks Town 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1776.

Some time ago the Committee of this County, formed James Wells, Wm  
- Peggler, Henry Stevens, Lucian Meredith's, Henry Butler, Basil Dorsey,  
William Porsledan and David Moor's Companies into a Battalion  
and recommended Captain Sheeldine Col. David Steiner Lt. Colo. David  
- Moore & Major. Ephraim Howard 2 Major and Charles Trafield Quar-  
-ter Master it is said here the Recommendation was sent to the Council  
of Safety and is lost. Afterwards, as it is said under the countenance of  
some of the Committee and after a very general agreement on time and  
- place, and two or three weeks intervening (most of the officers and  
some of the men though from what I understand not a majority of the  
- privates, met and voted for Field Officers to be recommended, who were,