

in their companies, or (if the exigency of affairs is such as not to admit of the delay) to appoint such Officers belonging to the Company, as the Honourable House may think proper, and that their late Officers be immediately discharged as persons unfit to hold such commissions.

To the Honble Council of Safety of Maryland at Annapolis.

Gent.

January 29th 1777.

I understand you have honour'd me with a commission, and am sorry to inform you it is not in my power to accept of it, through an indisposition of body I find myself not able to recruit men this winter and as there is an immediate call for me, I think I do justice to the State as well as to myself in refusing - as I am not able to do my duty. I am Gentlemen.

The Honble Council of Safety of Maryland } Your most Obedient & Humble Servt.
John M. Burgess.

Gentlemen)

Patuxent Town Jan 29th 1777.

I am directed by Congress to lay the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr Bingham before our General Assembly.

The privates of Capt. Smith's Company petitioned the Congress and I am order'd to enclose the papers to your Board. I am, Respectfully

The Honble Council of Safety at Annapolis } Your Obedient-Servant.
S. Chase

Gentlemen)

Cecil County Jan 30th 1777.

By your letter of the twenty sixth Inst I received the Resolve of Congress wherein they request that there should be thirty six privates commanded by two commissioned officers (with four Sergeants and four corporals). These privates believe me, will take all the officers of the Company to get them in the service, and am apprehensive that must be done by force which the Convention of this Province have not given a licence to do - altho' if the officers are allowed to each Company, it will strengthen our hands.

In your last Inst you desire my giving marching orders to my Battalion which I do this day, that they may be ready at the Head of Elk on Wednesday next for that purpose of joining Genl. Washington. But Gentlemen, a Body of men will not march without necessities and money, which we are not supplied with.

Col^o Hollingsworth will present this letter and can give every necessary information relative to our Battalion. I am, Gentlemen,

Honble Council of Safety of Maryland } Your most Obed^t & Humble Servt.
Charles Rumsig.

Gent.

Prince Georges County Jan 31st 1777.

In consequence of a resolve from the Honble Congress, and your letter of the 26th Inst, we have requested a meeting of the eleventh Battalion