

Just

In Committee Lucean Anns County Feb 5 1777

The recommendation of Congress of the 21st ult, with the requisition of the Council of Safety, we received per Express on the 28th, and on consideration thereof (that no time might be lost in forwarding the service recommended to our attention) we forthwith sent circular letters to the captains of the several Companies & Militia in this County, requesting them to call their respective companies at convenient times and places in those letters ascertained, in order to know who would voluntarily engage to reinforce Genl Washington gloriously supporting the cause of liberty and his Country. The Committee pursuant to those letters attended the meeting of the Companies of the 20th Battalion on Saturday the 3rd Inst, to whom the recommendation of Congress and the requisition of the Council of Safety were published when only sixteen men offered themselves for the Service. And on Tuesday the 4th Inst the Committee (pursuant to their appointment) attended the meeting of the Companies of the 5th Battalion, to whom the recommendation and requisition afo^{re} were likewise published, and enforced by an animating and pathetic Abortation from the Pres. Mr Keener when forty six men offered themselves for the Service. That no endeavors of ours may be wanting to promote this service we have requested other meetings of the Companies at their respective places of exercise, and that returns may be made by the several Captains to the Committee on Thursday next. We lament the backwardness which has generally appeared on this occasion. The raising of the Small Pox to the Northward which has been brought here by the Soldiers of the Flying Camp, and is now spreading fast in this County we have good reason to think has discouraged many, who would otherwise have offered themselves for this Service. To this we must add that at the meeting of the twentieth Battalion. The backwardness of men of property was assigned by many as the reason for their declining the present service, who declared that if such men would set the example they would most cheerfully follow it. What has been the effect of the meeting on Kent Island we are not informed. Mr James Kent will on his way to Annapolis know the result and communicate to your honours. In full assurance that you will direct such further measures on this occasion as the exigence of affairs may require. We are with respect. Your Honors

The humble the Council of Safety of the State of Maryland: Most Obedient Servts. (per order)
 Sol^o Wright Chairman.
 Thursday Noon.

Gentlemen

Baltimore Town Feb 9 6th 1777.

Congress are very anxious that some immediate steps should be taken by our State: not only as to the person of Capt Patterson, but as to the payment of the engagements entered into by the Continental and your agent - Capt. Patterson is received as a pirate, and after examination, if the facts should appear to you to be well founded, it may be well to consider, if it would not be proper to send him to Martinique for trial there, by the law of nations. If our State shall pay the value of the vessel and goods seized by Patterson, would it not be proper to inform the Governor of Martinique that the whole would have been returned, but for the Risque! If no remittance can be made but by purchase, it will be an equal risque to send back the vessel - Could

(not)