

up a constant intimate Correspondence, which our common Cause at this Time renders necessary. —

Our Inexpence in naval Preparations prevents us at present from either approving or disapproving your Plan of Gov. Gallies for the Protection of Potomack River. We have a Ship, which we call the Defence, that mounts 22 six Pounders, besides Swivels and will be ready to proceed to her Station by the first of March. She will cruise in the Bay and as Occasion may require, proceed up Potomack and the Captain shall have Orders to contribute every thing in his Power to the common Defence on all Occasions. The Powder necessary for this Ship & for Fortifications which we are building, will diminish our Stock so much, as to prevent us from attempting an Increase of our Marine, till we receive a Supply of that necessary Article, more than sufficient for our Troops & Militia, on whom we chiefly rely for Protection, and when this happens, we shall advise you of it.

We have adventured very extensively to
(procure)