

c. s. c.

[Baltimore Committee to Council.]

In Committee Baltimore March 13th 1776.

Gentlemen. I am directed to inform you that Mess^{rs} Jn^o Smith Benjamin Nicholson, Capt^{ns} Nicholson Boucher & myself having this day examined the state of the Batteries already made & making at Whetstone & Fells Point, & reported the same to the Committee. They are induced to believe & hope that there is every rational prospect of securing the town of Baltimore in Case of the Otter returning with any other Frigate that can come up this River. And as the ship defence may be so stationed as to support the Batteries & Boom at Whetstone it will be of the greatest importance for the preservation of both the Town & ship, that she should not be ordered out of this harbour. The attention of our workmen being entirely engaged since last week on the Batteries at Fells Point, the Boom is of consequence less forward than it otherwise would have been, But to avoid every possible hazard of its being too late, It is agreed (with the advice of Captⁿ Nicholson) to sink all the vessels now collected at Whetstone Point; which will serve the purpose untill the Boom now executing is completed. We have got the vessels all valued & ballasted, and Persons are appointed to begin sinking them to-morrow. The Battery at Whetstone will be ready to mount several guns in a few days; even now it can be used on emergency. At Fells Point the Breast Works fit for 19 or 20 cannon will be nearly completed tomorrow. General Buchanan has ordered away the militia of Harford this day. Our worthy friends of York County have raised a select company of Riflemen, commanded by M^r Joseph Donaldson to be held in readiness to march to our assistance on any emergency: The Committee beg leave to submit to your consideration whether (as you have no artillery at Annapolis) it would not be advisable to station Cap^t Fulfords Company of matrosses in this place. That gentlemans knowledge as a gunner may be of much service to us. Either one or Two wagⁿ loads of Powder sent us by our delegates on the first alarm are arrived in Town this evening. We shall calculate on another visit from the vesl^s of war & use every means in our power to be prepared for it.

I am with great respect, Gentlemen Your most h^{ble} Serv^t
p order Sam^l Purviance Jun^r Chairman

c. s. J.

Thursday 14th March 1776

Council met. Present as yesterday.

Ordered, That Major Price be empowered to purchase or