

[Council to Dorchester Committee.]

C. S. C.
No. 74.

To the Committee of Observation for Dorchester County.

In Council of Safety Annapolis March 21st 1776.

Gentⁿ

We received yrs. of the 15th Instant by Cap^t Woolford, and are much pleased to hear that the Militia of your County behaved with so much Spirit and Alacrity on the late Alarm occasioned by the Otter Sloop of War and her Tender's Appearance in the Bay, but at the same Time we are concerned to find they have so few good Arms among them. We doubt not but that the same noble and generous Spirit which induced them to step forth on the late Occasion in Defence of our just Rights and Privileges and those of their Fellow-Citizens, will support them under every Difficulty they may have to encounter. You may be assured that the Council will give them, as well as every other Part of the Province all the Assistance in their Power. We have ordered the Arms & Powder imported by Capt. Tibbitt for the Use of the Province down to Chester Town, from whence the Arms will be distributed among the regular Troops stationed on the Eastern Shore, and a Proportion of the Powder sent to the Committee of each County. Inclosed we send you an Order for the Distribution of the Powder which we have ordered to be sent to Cambridge to M^r Hanson's Care by the Committee of Kent County and we hope will reach you by the Middle of next Week as also an Order on the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore for the Payment of the Expence of sending forward that for Worcester and Somerset Counties. Upon the late Alarm some Powder was given into the Hands of the Militia on this Side of the Bay and we fear it will be difficult to collect the greatest Part of it again and that too much of what may remain with the People will be lost to the Public. We recommend it to you therefore to deliver to the Captains on the Water-side, as much as you may conceive will be sufficient (taking their Receipts) with Orders, not to distribute it among the respective Companies, until there is a real Necessity and to keep the Residue in some convenient Part of your County, where upon any Emergency, the other Companies may be readily supplied. We have given Captⁿ Woolford an Order on Captⁿ Robson for the Provincial Arms, which he received from the Committee of Observation of Kent County & we hope soon to be able to compleatly arm his and the other Independent Companies stationed on your Shore.

21st March 1776.