

C. S. C.
No. 125.

[Council to Maryland Deputies.]

To the Deputies of Maryland in Congress

Gentⁿ

We received the Hon^{ble} M^r Hancock's letter of the 16th Inst. yesterday Afternoon inclosing a Recommendation of Congress that we should immediately cause the Person and Papers of Governor Eden to be seised, and secured and convey such of the Papers as relate to the American Dispute, safely to Congress; and also the Person and Papers of A. Ross and to transmit the letter likewise to Congress. Previous to our Receipt of the above we had fully investigated the Charge that the intercepted Letters imported, in which we conducted ourselves agreeable to what we wrote you by M^r Green, and finally concluded the Affair with our Answer, a copy of which we now inclose you.

The extraordinary Manner of communicating the Intelligence by the Council of Safety of Virginia to us with the Behaviour of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore give us Cause to complain of the Indignity offered our Board, and we cannot suppress our Suspicion that matters have been concerted so as to preclude all Information which might otherwise have been laid before you from hence. The Letter from the Council of Safety of Virginia is dated the 7th Inst^t and was conveyed thro' Baltimore to us on the 15th about 3 o'clock P. M. by four Gentlemen deputed by that Body to wait on us with it, whose Conduct was very disingenuous, and exceptionable, and the Resolves passed on the 16th We are at a loss otherwise to account for the Length of Time the Letter was passing from Williamsburg to us, and the Expedition with which the Dispatch appears to have been transmitted from Baltimore to Philadelphia. The instructions given Cap^t Sam^l Smith by the Committee of Baltimore and those given by Captain Nicholson to his Lieutenant, copies of which we likewise send you; the Originals came into our Hands accidentally, and the whole of the Proceedings of the Baltimore Committee were kept from us. Whence this unmerited Treatment has sprung we cannot conceive, as we ever most cheerfully co-operated and assisted the Colony of Virginia in such Measures as we could justify from our Situation, and have always considered the Interest and Security of Baltimore as essential to this Province, and acted correspondently with those Ideas—reflecting upon these Circumstances and being fully persuaded the Congress would have determined differently if they had been furnished with the same Evidence upon which we proceeded—we cannot but hope they will rest satisfied with what we have done—more especially as a Convention is