

- C. B. Artillery Companies who shall safely convey & keep them at Queen Anne in Prince Georges County or the Head of South River till further order, the Guard not to consist of more than five persons

It is intended that Servants and Slaves under the immediate directions of their Masters be permitted to stay as long as their Masters in Assisting to remove their Effects

M^r Robert Smith not having signed the Association was informed of the general order of the Governor and Council of this Day but he being in a weak and sick State he was excused from departing the City of Annapolis on his Parol which he willingly gives and hereby promises on his word of Honour that in Case he falls into the Enemies Hands he will use the utmost of his Endeavours to return and surrender himself up to the Governor and Council and in all Events that he will not convey any Intelligence in any way or Manner to the Enemy. In Witness whereof he has hereto set his Hand this 20th Day of August 1777.

Witness W^m Hyde.

Robert Smith

Thursday 21 August 1777.

P. as on yes^{ty}

The British Fleet having this morning passed Annapolis and consisting of upwards of two hundred and Sixty Sail as said to have been counted by some and as estimated generally. The Governor proposed to the Council as a Question for their opinion whether the small number of Militia already in Town should be kept others called in and preparation made with a view to defend this place or the Town and Forts evacuated and the Guns and Stores endeavoured to be removed and secured. The Governor and Council were unanimously of opinion that Annapolis cannot be defended by any force which may probably be collected against the force the Enemy may at any Time bring against it and that therefore the Town and Forts ought to be evacuated and the Guns and Stores removed and Secured. Major Fulford was consulted on this Question whilst the same was under Consideration and was of the same opinion as the Governor and Council

C. C.
Original.

[N. Smith to Gov. Johnson.]

Baltimore the 22^d August 1777.

Sir

I rec^d your three different letters by Express the Fleet Appeard off the mouth of this River before the last came to