

c. c. had that degree of Spirit and Patriotism which I think would have (on a similar occasion) been exerted in any other Government on the Continent his supplies must long since have been cut off. here is more Toryism I suggest than in all the states besides and perhaps less Fortitude than in any particular State in America our Gallies obliged 54 Soldiers & 2 officers who had landed on Province Island and were erecting a Battery ag^t the Fort to surrender on the 18th and the obstructions and our Force on the Delaware embarrass the Enemy much more than they expected from which shou^d the Fort hold out a shorter Time than may reasonably be expected the advancing Season must defeat their Design if not subject their Army to destruction

At length I have got the Militia in a more orderly and regular Train they seem somewhat better disposed and disciplined than I ever expected but their Time being near expiring the impression will make them lose sight of this and every other Object of their Duty. Cap^t Cox's & Baileys companys have obtained liberty to return they are entitled to this Indulgence from their situation (being mostly Tradesmen) having served their Time out faithfully these men and Murdocks Regiment have behaved better than any corps of Militia from Maryland and have had far less Desertion among them. Col^o Dorseys Reg^t evidently the worst corps in the Militia having only 28 men left from the Desertions w^{ch} have prevailed in it has also obtained leave to return & I could have wished they had never stepped forth the men from Elk Ridge and some other parts of Ann Arundel will shine more at an Election than in the Field their disorder & licentiousness under our present Regulations will ever render them contemptible in the Field. I have thought it most adviseable for these men to return Home with their Arms and Accoutrem^{ts} as its probable they will reach Home before many of the other classes turn out & I have no Place of security for them here. they set out to Day or Tomorrow morning & I have ab^t 296 Arms & which have been left by Deserters many of them out of Order which I shall order back wth an Officer and a Detachment taking his Receipt for them to be transmitted to you I have also inclosed Receipts for those which the men March with the Pensylvanians have already made application for these Arms to Gen^l Washington which I have absolutely refused to give up to their Militia & am obliged to put a Guard over them otherwise they might be seized therefore am induced to take the above step.

In much haste remain

Y^{rs} & c & c

W. Smallwood