

[Gov. Johnson to C. Beatty.]

c. c.

Annapolis 31st Dec^r 1777.

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Sir

I received yours this Morning by M^r Faw. Col^o Lloyd & M^r Brice are of Opinion with me, that no other Method can be taken to have an immediate Effect but by calling on the Militia, 'til we can get a Guard of about 60 Men, if the other Prisoners should not come. This Guard, we suppose, will be sufficient for the Prisoners and also for the Magazine; wherefore we request that you will, immediately endeavour to have such a Guard raised under a Captain and two Lieut^s. If good Officers of the Militia will serve, the better. The Guard to be inrolled for the Purpose of Guards in Frederick County or to go with Prisoners for the safe conducting them to either of the adjacent Counties only, the Time the Engagement to be for six Months, if they should be so long necessary, or, if the People will not engage for so long a Time, for such shorter Time as they will agree; The Guard will be entitled to Continental Pay and Rations. M^r Faw says he is afraid that the Men will not inroll without a Bounty. I have no Power to give any, but, what perhaps, may nearly answer the Purpose, we send, by M^r Faw, two hundred Pounds and would have you, when you think it may be safely done, to advance a Month's Pay. I will represent the Matter to the Assembly and endeavour to get them allowed a Bounty of five Dollars and I am so well satisfied of the Necessity of a good Guard that, if the Men cannot be got without a small Bounty, that I think it will be better for the Inhabitants to advance it, I will give forty Dollars towards it myself. I am anxious to get the Powder out of your Town, I think it endangers the Life of every Inhabitant of it. Two Companies of Matrosses being ordered to Camp has made it impossible to send a Guard from hence, as I once intended, but the Expence of getting a small Guard for the new Magazine, be almost what it will, 'til you get your Guard Company inrolled, I beg you will immediately have the Powder removed. If you have more public Arms finished than will be necessary for your Guard, it will be prudent to put them into the Hands of such of the Inhabitants of your Town, as you can best rely on for taking Care of & using them on a proper Occasion. I am &^{ca}

Charles Beatty Esq^r }
 L^t of Fred^k County }

[Gov. Johnson to Colonels.]

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Annapolis 31st Dec^r 1777.

Gen^t

The Number of Prisoners at Frederick Town and those expected, makes it absolutely necessary, for the safe Keeping