

sorry that a Shop of so much Value to the Public should be c. c.  
discontinued. We are &<sup>ca</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup> William Richardson

[Gov. Johnson to Assembly.]

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1778.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly.

From the Letters received from Worcester and Somerset Counties, which I have laid before you and the Conversations I have had with People from thence as well as from the Insurrections some Time since, I am apprehensive that unless decisive Measures are speedily taken the Balance in Somerset County, will be in Favor of our Enemies & Toryism. If that should be the Case and our Friends are left under Apprehension of suffering instantly all the Cruelties which brutal Rage can inflict and the Enemies of their Country fear nothing but a slow Prosecution for the atrocious Villanies, entertaining at the same <sup>143</sup> Time the Hope that their Guilt may be shielded by the Forms incident to the Proceedings of Courts, Mens Minds will be influenced by the immediate Evil and the Consequent Influence will probably extend much to the Prejudice of the State. I cannot therefore but entreat your Advice & Assistance in a Matter which appears to me of so great Magnitude and submit to your Consideration whether it will not be well, immediately to order one hundred or one hundred and fifty of the Militia from some of the other Counties, into Somerset to do Duty there 'til a sufficient Regular Force can be raised for that Service and to proclaim Martial Law in Somerset County and erect a Court Martial competent to the Trial of Spies, Piracies and such of our own People as may be taken in Arms, with a Power of ordering the Execution of the Guilty without waiting for the Assent of any other Authority.

The General Assembly.

[Council to G. Dashiell.]

In Council 6<sup>th</sup> April 1778.

Sir

We are sorry for the Loss the Gentlemen of your County have sustained by their Negroes going away, but we cannot conceive the Enemy would restore them, unless their Masters make Concessions which no American ought to do. It is very unlikely that if a man avowed his Principles to support the Cause of America, that he would be so far favoured as to have