

[Council to Legh Masters, Esqr.]

April 8  
Liber No. 78  
p. 113

Yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant we have received, respecting Permission to return to New Providence you have our Approbation to depart and by this opportunity we have directed to naval Officer of the Port of Baltimore to give you the necessary Permit on the Terms heretofore granted you by this Board.

[Council to the Marquis Fayette.]

Ibid.

We have just received Information from Col. Beall Lieutenant of Prince Georges County that six of the Enemy's Ships have burnt Col. Barnes house on St. Mary's River and plundered him of all his Property, and have burnt Preist Hunters House at the Mouth of Port Tobacco Creek and are proceeding up Patowmack River to Alexandria with [every] Intention to destroy that Town and plunder the Inhabitants on the River. The Ships that laid off this City returned this Morning with a Brig and a small Schooner and stood up the Bay 'till they got above the Mouth of the Harbour, and then tacked and stood down, many concurring Accounts lately received induces us to believe that Gen<sup>l</sup> Philips with not less than two thousand Men has arrived at Portsmouth From these Facts we think we are justified in concluding that the Enemy have in Contemplation, the effecting a Junction with Cornwallis which if accomplished must terminate in the Destruction or Dispersion of the Southern Army if not strongly and timely reinforced, the plundering Harrassing and distressing the People on the Shores, the destroying our Town, and military Stores and getting Possession of the Provisions that have been collected for our Army; The military Stores and Provisions at this Place and Baltimore Town must be a capital Object and as we have the strongest reasons to think as soon as they have perpetrated their Designs in Patowmack, if not before they will visit this City and Baltimore, under these Circumstances we beg Leave to submit to your Consideration the Propriety of detaining the Detachment under your Command in this State and marching such a Part as you may deem necessary to our Assistance in Baltimore Town and in this City.

[Council to Genl Buchanan.]

Ibid.

We have just received Intelligence from Col. Joshua Beall of Prince George's County, that there are six of the Enemy's Ships in Patowmack supposed to be on their way to Alexandria after plundering Col. Richard Barnes of S<sup>t</sup> Mary's of all his Property and burning all his Houses with Priest Hunters House in the Mouth of Port Tobacco Creek. This Morning two Ships a Brigg and a Schooner appeared off this Harbour, and after looking in have proceeded down and are now below Tally's Point, what their Intentions are we cannot possibly say, but from what has been done by them we have