

it a very Difficult matter for the Troops to Cross either at the lower Ferry or Hammonds as there is not a Scow here fitting to Receive a loaded Waggon, and the Boats at Hammonds is so Crasey that I have sent all the Waggons with the Flour by Elk Ridge Landing which is the only way the Troops can come with safety as it is Impossible for Scows to Cross at the lower Ferry either in a Fresh Brees or high Swell, and the Difference in the Distance by the Landing do's not exceed five Miles.

[Edw'd Gaither, Jr., Commissary of Provisions, for A. A. County, April 1  
Elk Ridge, to Gov. Lee]

Please to send me p the bearer hereof an Order on the Treasury for some money to buy flour Barrells, some of the Mills are full of wheat, and cannot grind any untill I can get Barrells. I cannot get them without money the Coopers will not trust the Public.

[Stephen West, Upper Marlbro to Gov. Lee.]

Wednesday  
April 1  
Red Book  
No. 28  
Letter 6

I did myself the Honour to write to your Excellency yesterday by the Charles County Carts, & at the same time sent the Paper I had bespoke of M<sup>r</sup> Bowie with some Ink powder & other small articles that I believe were wanted & woud be approved of I also mentioned 150 pair of good Strong English shoes that I had perswaded M<sup>r</sup> Bowie to Consent to let go at 13/ if wanted—and there is some very good Russia Sheeting & other Linnins here which perhaps may be had. The 30 Stand of Arms which were lodged here for the Marlbro Militia were ordered down the River Patuxent This Morning—so that this whole Neighbourhood is without Arms—this will be represented to you by the Gentlemen in & about Marlbro requesting your Assistance as to Arms & Accoutrements.

½ past 12 oClock. A Letter from Col. Lyles this moment dated 2 Hours ago at Piscataway. “We have certain Intelligence that the Enemy are under full sail up the River (Potowmack) the last Accounts (which may be depended on) they were opposite to Crane Island & in all probability are by this time at the Mouth of Piscataway Creek—their force are 3 ships 1 Brig or Snow & several sloops & schooners. We request your immediate Assistance &c.”

In Consequence of this Advice & similar from Co<sup>l</sup> Addison—the Marlbro Militia are preparing to March to Potowmack but without Arms or any other Conveniency.

I beg leave to mention that there are several Vessells at Nottingham & some at Pigg Point. I do not know whether any of them are armed. Here are 4 short French 3 pounders—belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Kerban of Alexandria—he carried the Carriages to Alexandria I apprehend if these Cannon & what others may probably be got, were put on board some of the best of those vessells now in the River, with Armed de-