

were brought to George Town yesterday by Cap^t Fraser of the April 7 Schooner Peggy from Baltimore now lying at Alexandria.

These Gents with sixteen more, composed a Party on board a small Tender (alias a Pilot Boat) who were hardy enough to come up to Alexandria and board a Vessel there in the Night, with an Intent to carry her off; but luckily they were discovered by Cap^t Fraser, who fired upon them, and they immediately deserted their Prize and proceeded down the River in their own Vessel. Capt. Fraser pursued them, and caus'd them to run ashore near Boyd's Hole in Virginia, where they fled from their own Vessel (which he has brought to Geo. Town) and soon after were captured by the Militia and delivered to him.

I have the following Description of these four Prisoners from M^r Thompson, who examined them last Night Viz:

First. Robert Etherington. A Person bearing a Commission as a British Subject, Instructions &c—(now enclosed)

2^d Richard Judd. Who says he was second in Command to Robert Etherington on this Expedition, and sailing Master of the Surprize, one of the Privateers described in the Commission.

3^d Duncan McBeane. A Caledonian. Only a common Sailor. Etherington and Judd are Englishmen—

4th William Dixon, late an Inhabitant of George Town, and Subject of this State, who took the Oath of Fidelity before M^r Thompson on the 22^d of June 1778—having been absent at the Time limited by Law for taking that Oath—

Master Dixon was this Day committed by M^r Thompson to our County Goal on strong Suspicions of Treason—i e by his having adhered to Persons bearing Arms and employed in “the Service of Great Britain”;—As to the other three, who are now under a Guard of Militia in George Town, I request your orders in what manner to dispose of them—

I also enclose you a Letter from Col^l Peter Wagener Lieu^t of Fairfax County, which Col: Deakins received about 12 o'Clock last Night by Express, and wish to know from you whether I may order the Militia of this County to march to that Part of Virginia, in Case of an Invasion, and should they be ordered as far as George Town, on their Way, whether Provisions may be issued by the Commissary at that Place—

I wrote you on the 27th Ult. respecting Instructions how to dispose of the Recruits now raising; and I again request your Directions as to that matter, not having yet received any Answer thereto.

M^r John Haymond Nicholls, son of the High Sheriff of this County, who never to my Knowledge, held any Commission in the Militia, has had the Influence to raise a number of Volunteers to act as select Militia, who have chosen him their Captain; these and others