

are guilty of the most wanton Destruction of Property on the Shores. Unfortunately for the People who are exposed to their Ravages, there is no Force belonging to Government, able to oppose them. Were our Barges completely manned and fitted, they would be quite insufficient for the Purpose, and the State Ship building by M^r Steward cannot be finished in any reasonable Time. Under these disagreeable Circumstances, we are compelled, once more, to put the Patriotism and Public Spirit of the Merchants of Baltimore Town, to the Proof. We understand they have generally determined, not to send out their Shipping, until the Result of the Negotiations carrying on in Europe, is known, and we therefore flatter ourselves they will be able, without Injury to themselves, to afford us the Aid we have to solicit on the present Occasion; which is, to lend three armed Sloops or Schooners of eight or ten Guns and upwards, completely manned, and 150 Men over and above the Crews of these Vessels, for one Month, if their Services should be so long wanted. We want the 150 Men, to man three Barges belonging to the State, which are now at this Place. We propose that the armed Vessels and Barges shall be commanded by such Officers as the Merchants shall appoint. From the best Information we can obtain, there are thirteen Barges, one Sloop, and two Schooners, belonging to the Enemy, now in the Bay: their largest Vessel mounts 10 Guns, the greater Part of their Barges, we apprehend, are small; and we think the Force we have mentioned, added to the Pole Cat, which we expect to get, will be quite sufficient to drive them out of the Bay: but if we should be disappointed in the Pole Cat, we shall in that Case, be under the Necessity of requesting one more Sloop or Schooner, and that no Time may be lost, we beg you will be so obliging as to consult Commodore La Ville Brune, on this Subject. The Whole of the Prizes taken by this Equipment, shall be divided among the Crews, agreeable to the Practice in like Cases, and we will agree to pay the Men, at the End of the Cruize, at the Rate of three Pounds per Month, and the inferior Officers in Proportion; the Commanding Officer £20. and the other Captains £15., the Lieutenants £10. p Month, besides furnishing them with a sufficient Quantity of good Provisions and Liquors. As for the Sloops, or Schooners, we will agree to pay for them, if it should be required, such Price as you shall agree upon, by the Month; and we will engage that the Value of them shall be paid to the Owners, in Case of Loss or Capture; and any Damage they may sustain, shall be repaired at the public Expence. We need not add that the utmost Dispatch is essentially necessary in this Business. Whaland has taken Post with a considerable Force, and is building Barracks at Cages Streights, and there are Vessels now in Patuxent, doing great Damage. The Warehouses all over the State, are in the greatest Danger. We send an Express with this, and we hope to hear from you by his Return.

February 19
Liber No. 78
p. 415