

February 21 Parliament, of the 5th of December last; there is some Reason to
 Liber No. 78 think that Orders have been given by the British Crown, prohibiting
 p. 419 offensive Operations on the Continent. Under this Impression, we
 beg Leave to inform your Excellency, that if such Orders were ever
 given, they have been most shamefully violated by the Enemy's
 Barges and armed Vessels, in the Bay of Chesapeake. There are now
 in the Bay, eleven Barges, and one Sloop, and two Schooners, who
 proceed in detached Parties, not only capturing our Vessels, but
 landing on our Shores, and wasting and plundering the Property of
 the People of this State. On Thursday last, a Party, under the Com-
 mand of Whaland, went up Patuxent, plundered the Town of Bene-
 dict, and burnt and destroyed the dwelling House and out Houses
 of M^r Benjamin Mackall, with his Furniture, Tobacco, and other
 moveable Property; Col^o Plater was also plundered of some of his
 Negroes. Another Party, the Day before Yesterday, consisting of
 five Barges and a Sloop, came as high up as Kent Point, nearly oppo-
 site to this City, and were cruising, by last Accounts, in the Eastern
 Bay and about Poplar Island. The most of their Barges keep about
 the Tangier Islands, and from thence make Excursions up the Rivers
 on the Eastern Shore, robbing and plundering on the Shores.

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The Intention of this Address is, to possess your Excellency with
 Information of the Enemy's Conduct and Operations in this State,
 in Order that if your Excellency should be of Opinion that such Out-
 rages are not authorized by the British Crown or his Officers, your
 Excellency may be enabled to make such a Communication to the
 British General and Admiral, as your Excellency may consider proper
 and likely to put a stop to farther Depredations.

February 24
 Liber C. B.
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Monday 24th February 1783.

Present His Excellency & all Members.

Ordered that the western shore Treasurer pay to James Baldwin
 eight pounds, eight shillings and nine pence specie due him for Wood
 per Account passed.—

That the said Treasurer pay to Thomas Rutland, twenty nine
 pounds, two shillings and six pence, and John Dove five pounds, five
 shillings out of the Money set apart for Contingent Expences of Gov-
 ernment per Accounts passed.—

That the said Treasurer pay to Benedict Eglin sixteen shillings
 specie for forage found 11 Horses on their way to join the Southern
 Army per Account passed.—

That the said Treasurer pay to Elizabeth Issabell two pounds three
 shillings and six pence due her per Account passed.—

That the said Treasurer pay to Thomas Hopewell four pounds
 ten shillings—Rachel Forry Twenty six pounds, six shillings and
 George Patrick six pounds, two shillings specie agreeable to the "Act
 to adjust the Debts due from this State" per Accounts passed.—