

RESOLVES OF CONTINENTAL CONGRESS—31 MAY, 1781.

“Whereas the British king, regardless of the rights of mankind, and of the United States in particular, continues the ravages of war with relentless fury; . . . and whereas the deficiency of the continental regular lines, makes it absolutely necessary to call forth a respectable body of militia, till those lines be completed; . . . It is also earnestly recommended to the state of Maryland, immediately to raise, arm, equip and accoutre for the field, two battalions of infantry, consisting of nine companies of 64 rank and file each; and a corps of cavalry of 64 troopers; . . . And it is further recommended . . . to cause the said troops, as soon as raised, . . . to be marched . . . to such place or places as the commander-in-chief shall direct, to remain in the service for and during the space of three months, . . . unless sooner discharged by Congress or the commander-in-chief, and to be subject to the orders of the commander-in-chief.”

MARYLAND ACTS—MAY, 1781

“An ACT to raise two battalions of militia for reinforcing the continental army and to complete the number of select militia.

WHEREAS it hath been earnestly recommended by congress to call forth two battalions of militia in this state, for the purpose of aiding and assisting our friends, now actually invaded, in the southern states, and this present general assembly have thought it reasonable and necessary to comply with the said recommendation:

*Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That thirteen hundred and forty effective men, to compose the non-commissioned officers and privates of two battalions of militia, to be officered according to the resolutions of congress of the third and twenty-first days of October last, be immediately raised in this state, in manner hereafter directed, to act in conjunction with the continental army until the tenth day of December next.

*And be it enacted,* That the said two battalions be apportioned upon and raised in the several counties, according to the number of militia in each county.

*And be it enacted,* That proper persons shall be appointed in each county by the governor and council, to procure the said number of militia men on or before the 16th of July next, by voluntary enrollment, . . . and where several persons are appointed to recruit in any county, he that shall procure the highest number of recruits exceeding twenty, shall be entitled to a commission as lieutenant . . . and he