1

Princess Anne March 3d 1775

Sir

Having an Opportunity by Mr. Crockett embrace it to acquaint, that agreeable to your last Requisition, the second Virginia Regiment, & the Continental Regular Companies, under Command of Deams & Gadsman were discharged on the 16th Feb.y, but by contrary Winds have undustood they were detained some Days at Cambridge, & our small Party arrived on the 19th at Salisbury and on the 23d here, at Snow Polts and on our March we found People generally quiet, and Peaceable, tho' much alarmed particularly such who were under Guard upon Accusations, who seemed disposed to accept the Terms offered in the Proclamation which induced me to discharge, all the Militia, and procure twenty light Horsemen, who have rendered essential Services upon detatched Duty, under Regular Officers; having all the excepted Persons under Guard except Cattalo, and Moore, after whom I have had three Parties for some time out, & directed Capt. Campbell to cruize in the Sound, along out British Colonys, and have about the Mouths of the Rivers in order to intercept them, should an escape be attempted that Way, but am apprehensive they have escaped, having this Day received a letter from Campbell, informing that several Tories escaped 'tho' the Sound three Days before he arrived at his Station, I defered distributing and publishing the Proclamation, 'till every caution had been used to apprehend the Persons excepted, & upon supposition that the whole would be secured, have hitherto declined sending to Annapolis such as have been in custody, w.th attendance, & Drum taken from the Insurgents, and should be glad to know the Pleasure of the Assembly respecting their being sent up immediately, or longer detained 'till further Testimony might be adduced against them, and other Steps taken to apprehend the two others, should they not have escaped to the British Ships; I find myself under some difficulty respecting the Proclamation the Terms of which in some Degree appear repugnant to my Instructions, in rendering it Optional in the Offenders to comply with the Terms within the 40 Days limitted for that purpose when the latter part of the first Requisition in my Instructions, requires me to publish, distribute and enforce the same without any Limitation, and the last Requisition therein requires (if I apprehend right) that I should give the necessary Orders for securing the Arms of the Insurgents in Somerset & Worcester Counties in the like unlimitted Manner — however 'tho' my Instructions & the Proclamation bear the same Date, and I conceive the former should determine my Conduct, yet the Public Faith being Plighted in the latter, has induced me to waive exercising Force, for compliance with the abovementioned Requisitions, till the Limitation

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.