(115)

Dover April 15th 1778 10 P.M.

Sir,

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I am to acquaint you that there is still the old disorder reigning in this State —

About 10 miles from this place, at the head of Chester river, is an island called Jordan's near Mr Edward Tilghmans plantation or on it, by best accounts the tories are assembled in arms, to 6 or 700 men, under the command of China Blow, & some say Mr Tilghman and others, and have a block house on the island, which island contains about 30 acres of land — They are obliging persons to go with them all around them, which is not hard to be done — if they refuse, they take their arms and ammunition every where they can.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

I look upon it a dangerous insurrection — My opinion differs from some here — what their design is immediately cannot say; but some give out — they expect to be joined soon by British forces landing on the Delaware in the course of a few days — they have British forces by the best acct amongst them — officers & some men — how they got there, cannot say — they are now bold in open day time go out 6 miles — Last monday was the first ever heard of by whigs — the situation of our general assembly is now critical. Just about closing our whole work — perhaps routed and nothing done — & such obstructions has arisen here by men of influence, although we are a majority, I think little good yet appears to be done till the heads of this junto are all removed — God send it soon —

The gentry removed by order of Congress you see their behaviour — much has been said about that affair — and with warmth and resentment blame the enemies of our internal police only — Your officer is also to blame — He should have proceeded as he was advised, when the habeas corpus was talked of —

I am Sir your much obliged frnd & most hble servt —

Sam: Patterson —

To march this morning towards them some militia ~~pay~~ perhaps 200 men

Genl Smallwood

(Copy)