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Sir,

Dorset Coty 15th Decr 1777

I have to inform your Excellency that thirteen of the Somerset & Worcester Tories who were confined in the Jail at Cambridge, made their Escape on Wednesday Night last, which they effected by corrupting one of the Centinels who opened the prison Door for them and went off with them carrying with him his Musket. Mr Jno Chalmers who then commanded the Guard went in pursuit of the prisoners the next Morning but has not been able to recover any of them. I have since removed all the Tories who had been confined in the Guard house, into the Jail and have given the Command of the Guard to Capt. Joseph Dashon, who will, I believe, prevent the Escape of any more of them. It is with difficulty I have been able to furnish a small Guard on the Tories; I frequently call on the Colonels to know why Men have not been sent in agreable to my Orders to them and they assure me that they have from time to time issued their Orders accordingly to the Captains, but with Little Effect. I could wish the Powers of the Militia Officers were enlarged by the Legislature —

I have the Honour to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's most
Obedt. Hble Servt.

Henry Hooper

ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND.

His Excellency
Thomas Johnson Esqr.
in Council