In the Proclamation copies, as 'till I know the Pleasure of the General Assembly, and receive their further Direction on that head, the least concise I have exercised a Power not clearly derived from either, in summoning, & bringing under Guard hither, such Persons whose Conduct has been most exceptionable, & whose Testimony might ascertain the Original Causes of this Insurrection, and set in a clear light the Conduct of those who have been most active against their Country, in which if I have erred I must beg it may be imputed to generous Motives, in being anxious to check such Conduct in future, & promote the Public good - which shall be discontinued if disapproved. however those Persons have been treated with Lenity & suffered no other Inconvenience but their Attendance here - I am sorry to observe that some of the Exceptions are extended against Persons who are Objects of Pity - rather than Resentment, & it would appear have been deluded, whilst others better enabled, and whose Offences have been more artfully concealed, will avail themselves of the Benefit of the Proclamation, nor can it be expected that their Designs and Views will terminate here, unless they are brought into Public light, and made Examples of - I would not be understood to shew a Disposition to disparage any Mans Conduct - but I submit to superior Judgement if it would not have answered better Purposes, had the Commanding Officers proceeded to disarm (which I am well assured might have been effected without Bloodshed) rather than treat with those Insurgents which was dishonoring not only their Commissions, but the Power that conferred them, and if I may presume to judge, this transaction I am afraid has prevented such a finishing stroke being put to this Affair, as otherwise might have been, and at the same time equal Lenity & Mercy might have been extended - and it does not appear to me from the Complexion of the People (tho I sincerely wish it) that the Proclamation will have the desired Effect, any longer than 'till a more favorable Opportunity offers —

This Business is irksome, because Time is passing & I find myself inadequate to it, and am apprehensive of such a new Department to me, I shall not afford the Public that satisfaction which may be expected, and am well satisfied it would have been much better accomplished by some Gentleman in the Civil Line, supported by a small Military Force, which if this could still be done, I think the general Good would be better Promoted by my Attention to and forwarding the Recruiting Service. However the Commands of the general Assembly &c. shall be a law to me - Pray will it absolve and wash away the Offences of the young fellows who are excepted, should they inlist which I believe they would readily come into? Have inclosed Depositions which I judged might now be wanted at Annapolis, I have a Number more taken, but —