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Williamsburg May the 6th 1794

Dr Sir

I find that I am extremely censured not only by your Board but by a multitude of others for my letter to Mr Purviance with respect to the seizure of Mr Eden's Person and Papers — but I really think, when the circumstances are explained, that the conduct will appear upright, and that I was neither violent, assuming nor precipitate — When the Secretary of State's letter to your Governor was put into my hands, I naturally concluded that could we possess ourselves of all Mr Eden's Papers, the whole machination of the Ministry might be discovered, that this discovery might enable us to prevent their effects, and perhaps defeat the whole plan — the possession of these Papers could not be hoped for without previously securing his Person and to accomplish this the utmost secrecy and expedition were necessary — now, Sir, as I imagined you had no Troops at Annapolis to execute the purpose (but in this I find I was mistaken) and as I knew there were Troops in readiness at Baltimore, and as there was no Commander General or other Officer in Maryland, Mr Purviance Chairman of the Committee on the spot where I had conceived Troops alone to be wanted, recurred to me as the only Person to whom I could with propriety and effect make application — had I known, Sir, that a Regiment or any Troops were stationed at Annapolis, I should undoubtedly, Sir, have addressed my self to you as President of the Council of safety —

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It is said, Sir, that Maryland was out of the District of my Command, that consequently to intrude myself into the business and affairs of that Province, was assuming and arrogant — I really conceive, Sir, that when the safety or very being of the whole community appears at