

War Department  
21<sup>st</sup> March 1813

Sir

Your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. has been received,  
{ The cooperation you mention is highly proper, &  
would have been directed by this Department, had  
not the duty been of that obvious character, requiring  
no specific order. Genl. Smith states that the timber  
of which you are making the Gun carriages, is not  
sufficiently seasoned, and that it will be long before  
there will be finished, for the first there is no remedy  
but that of stove drying or baking, and for the other  
an increase of workman, which you are authorized  
to employ. There are I understand about 500 Arms  
in the fort not used, these you will <sup>give</sup> to the Militia,  
taking the Governors receipt for them. Col. Swift  
will have directions to inspect the works and give  
such general directions for their repair, as he may  
find necessary, Is there any active intelligent Officer  
of the U. S. at Baltimore, who might be employed  
as Lt. D. I. Master, communicate the contents of  
this letter to Genl. Smith & accept the expressions of  
my respects

Signed John Armstrong

Major L. Beale  
Baltimore