

My Lord

It is with Infinite Concern that I am Obliged to Return to the Fleet again without having had it in my power to land and Execute your Excellency's Commission — Cap^t. Squire showed the most willing Inclination to have sent me shore had it been practicable or indeed possible but from the Situation of the pyrat- ical Cruizers no such Attempt could be made without Certain Death to those would make the Experiment, — In Course of the Cruise we at a distance saw sundry of the Vessells belonging to the Rebel Rout but upon the nearer Approach of the Fleet they all made towards the Shore and into such Shallow Water that she could not come within the length of many Canon Shots without Running on Ground, — One of those Vessells was a Schooner and supposed to be called the Congress who used every Art to Decoy the Otter into Shallow Water as if they had been Inspired by the Infernal furies, Three Others of them in Company one of which a very large Row Galley kept close together under the Land and fled before the Otter like Snow in Sun shine or as the Devil had been at their heels, — So soon as the Ship could be possibly descried from any part of the Land Signals of Fire were at different distances lighted in order to Alarm the Infernal Legions and bring down to line the Shore in order to prevent any Landing that might be Attempted to be made from the Ships and which were kept for a considerable time burning —

It is not in my power to give your Excellency a proper or Consistent Account of the Cruise and had I not thought it was my Duty to give you some Reasons for my Returning and not land I would not have troubled your Excellency with any Detail tho never so Compleat — Cap^t. Squire is properly Qualified for this Task and no doubt will fully Satisfie you in every Respect —

I shall only presume to Conclude that no Rebuff shall Alter my Resolution of serving my Country at this Dangerous time nor hinder me from following your Commands for this good purpose —

Respect

S^t. Georges Island }
Mary Land }
July 29th. 1776 }

My Lord

Your Excellencies
Most Obedient and Most
humble Servant

John Weir