Sir

Within 3 or 4 Days I have received several Letters from the Magistrates in different Parts of this Province informing me that those of his Majesty's Officers who have been ordered hither to recruit have lately received 27 Your positive Instructions to enlist without Exception or Distinction all Apprentices & Servants ~~that~~ they can persuade to enter into the Service, that the Inhabitants having a great Part of their Property vested in Servants unanimously oppose the Execution of such Instructions, that on such Opposition Violences have been committed, & that unless their Cause of Complaint be speedily removed an Insurrection of the People is likely to ensue. The Magistrates as well as myself have & shall endeavour to prevent Mischief but as the Officers are determined to persist I cannot promise that the people will be much longer restrained from expressing their Resentment by Actions: I think it my Duty to make this Representation to Your Excellency & hope You will not be averse to countermanding such Orders, otherwise I shall find myself under a Necessity of exerting the Power with which I am invested to preserve the Peace of the Province &c

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Feby. 2. 1756 — To General Shirley

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