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Sir. 159

York Town 17 January 1778.

Since my last of the 12th Inst. by Messenger Seals, I have been honoured by Your Excellency's Letter of the 11th which being presented to Congress was immediately Committed to the Board of War.

Under Cover with this Your Excellency will receive for the State of Maryland a very solemn & important Act of Congress of the 8th Inst: for suspending the embarkation of Lieut. Genl. Burgoyne & his Troops until the Convention of Saratoga shall be explicitly ratified by the Court of Great Britain & properly notified to Congress — A measure which after long & the most circumspect deliberation Congress judged to be their indispensable Duty, equally justifiable & necessary — hence the House not satisfied that their Resolves will be confirmed by the approbation of those who are most nearly concerned — all their Constituents throughout these United States, & they are as strongly persuaded that the Justice & good Policy of the Act will be acknowledged by every disinterested Court in Europe.

Your Excellency will also find inclosed an Act of the 27th December for bringing to punishment whom practicable any of the Inhabitants of these States who have joined or shall join the Enemy.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

I have the Honour to be
With great Respect
Sir Your Excellency's
Most obedient Servant
Henry Laurens.
President of Congress

His Excellency
Governor Johnson
Maryland.