46

Dr Sr

46 I have been waiting a long time with the greatest Impatience to receive a supply of Arms &c. If I had been so happy as to have had about 500 stand of good Arms last Wednesday, make no doubt of being able to have taken 5 or 600 Prisoners; am Informed by two deserters there is near 1000 men on Spesutia Island cutting wood and robing of the Tenants of what they can gill, they were guarded by only Abt. 150 men, and they seemd very fearfull of our rifle men, the time is not past yet, they have not gott the wood they want, If you can send 4 or 500 men well armed with a few field pieces there will not be the least danger of taking the Partie, they come every day on the Island; I have a shoar to guard of 30 odd mile that cannot do them any harm except in preventing them from gilling stock of the main, the stroke would be the greater, if it could be accomplished as the greatest part of thes men are sailors, and the ships are very poorly manned as the deserters say. If you can let us have Arms pray do, as it makes the duty of the men we are Obliged to keep on guard, very hard, and the people begin to be very uneasey at their situation, that fine tract of land from Susquehannah Ferry to Gunpowder is chiefly deserted by the best Inhabitants and a number of Negroes and servants have gone over to the enemy notwithstanding all the care that has been taken to prevent them; Colo. Alexander Cowden, Lt Colo. James Mancomac & Major Saml. Caldwell of the 8th Batalion have no Comns. neither is there any good Officers belonging to the 23d Batalion, If you should think proper to grant Commissions would recommend Benedict Eaudsall to Colo. of the 23d Batalion, I intend waiting on you as soon as I am able to ride so far, am Informed Genl. How has made a forced March of 25 Miles in one night and has gott up to a place called Kennett Square Abt. 12 Miles from Wilmington, Genl. Washington has gott above him towards Phila. perhaps Genl How will now turn of to Lancaster to destroy our Magazine, should be glad to know what will be done with Capt. Thomsons Estate in this County, and likewise with using in Wm. Smiths Horse bridle & saddle which has fell into our hands, Mr. Wm. Smith Applyed to me Abt. Capt. Thomsons Estate and said he was security for him for 400 £ I advised him to Apply to you, we have drove the Cattle off the plantation &c. the people in the neighbour

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND. 46

hood behave very ill by taking the Corn &c
care of the wheat as the Corn is what Indian
is all we have to Depend on for Bread
Sir: the 13th 1777.

Aquila Hall

P.S. I think it will be best to Appoint some person to take
care of the wheat as the Corn is what Indian
is all we have to Depend on for Bread
Sir: the 13th 1777.

Aquila Hall