Queen Anns County 15th October 1775

Sir

Mr Hemsley continuing very ill, I hope will be a sufficient Apology for sending my Returns of the Militia by Mr Chas Downes —

Before I did myself the Honor of writing to You on the Subject of Genl Smallwoods Orders to Capt Roberts, I had desired the General Captains to take up all the Deserters who belonged to their respective Companies, and I thought it would never do to countermand the Order (on the receipt of your Favor by Mr Wiedersteandt) as I did not Authorise the Captains to proceed to the last Extremity in Case of Resistance. My Orders were executed and the Delinquents are put up to head Quarters under Guard, indeed many of the Men went off immediately to Camp on hearing they were to be apprehended — I fear any of them bring Actions against me I must get out of the Scrape as well as I can — I have given Orders for the Second & Third Class of the Militia to March but fear it will not be in my Power to Raise Men enough as a Guard, with the Council can give me some Assistance; & could they furnish Some Blankets Tents & Camp Kettles it would greatly contribute to the Men turning out — I do not believe the Militia of this Shore have any Tents, and as the Weather is now growing Cold I could wish they might have Some, or an Assurance they would be provided with them when they got to Camp — —

Complaints have been made to me that our Militia are neglected at Camp for want of a Commissary and Quarter Master of their own, & that they are never served 'till the Regulars are Supplied, by which Means they are often obliged to march before they can Cook their Rations —

I beg your Excellency's Directions whether I shall order a Commissary & Quarter Master to stay with the Detachment now