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Gentlemen.

This will go with the military Returns.

We wrote you, on the 17th. of this Month, requesting, amongst other things, that you would forward, with all possible Expedition, the Residue of the Cannon, Arms & Ammunition which the late Act of Assembly directed for this Shore. Our Letter was delivered to the Sheriff of Queen Anns County but we apprehensive it has not reached you as we have not had any Answer from you on the Subject of it, and therefore must again earnestly repeat our Request that the Residue of the Arms, Ammunition and Cannon may be sent to the first safe Conveyance. It is with great Concern that we are obliged to observe to you that in the Execution of your Orders respecting the Ammunition sent, there appears a most unpardonable Inattention and Negligence in the Officer: Of the twelve Barrels of Powder received eleven are Common Powder & only one Barrel Sporting Powder: Of the Cartridges Paper sent, there is not a sufficient Quantity for the Troops: We must therefore pray you to forward a proportion of Musket Powder to us by the first Vessel bound to this Shore.

Before Consideration upon our present Situation, the very precarious State of Affairs between the two Nations, and the imminent Danger of an Invasion with which the Shores of this Province are threatened, We have this Day taken upon Ourselves the Powers of Government for the Time: altho we cannot but lament the unprotected Situation of this Province, we are determined to make every Exertion and have recourse to Measures untried in the common Defence. It is a Misfortune which we sensibly feel that nearly more than half of the Inhabitants of this Province are Quakers, from Principle averse to the general Appearance of Arms, for our Defence, from Causes we are not the Framers, tho yet bear some Proportion to the Burden.

We request to be informed what Measures your Excellency & Honors have taken for the Building of the Vessels directed by an Act of the last Session; we abound here in Materials for such Vessels & have a number of Carpenters ready to undertake the Building of them. We applied to Congress by this Express all the public Acts of the last Session particularly those which respect the Power of the Governor and Council & the Application of public Monies. We have wrote to the Treasurer of this Shore for a supply of Money, and shall draw on the Commissioners for Provisions for such of the Militia as we shall think proper to call into Service for the Defence of our Shores against any of which Depredations or Invasions shall be threatened. You'll be pleased, However, to mention the Supply of Provisions you can furnished and where from, as we wish the Exertions of both

(Shore

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.