Inclosed you have a receipt for the prisoners delivered at Wilmington. & I am sorry to inform your Excellcy that two of our Militia men (worthy whigs) were treated with cruelty and insolence by one Mr. Thornton a Lieut. in Colo. Washington's light horse; and what surprises me is, that the Colo. countenanced the stripling; Capt. Watkins applied to Mr Bush a Magistrate who was much incensed at the outrage and promised to support the civil power.

The particulars of this affair is, that Mr John Baron & Andrew Miers went to the market in Wilmington & [illegible] by Mr. Thornton for a water melon [illegible] touched a melon which was cut [illegible] rately called damned rascal; and ordered under [illegible] Sergeant & four men also Mr Miers for [illegible] of Baron. The Guard with drawn swords conducted them to the Guard House, where they were detained during the pleasure of Mr Thornton, who at last through his Great Clemcy offered to release them on condition of their begging his pardon, but this was rejected with disdain. I need make no remarks on the consequence of such proceedings of the military, but must observe that it will be needless to issue orders for the citizens of Maryland to march as Militia men out of this State if they are to be at the mercy of every regular officer, what they may accidentally meet.

I have enclosed a list for some commissions. These men were recommended by the field officers & I am very certain they are worthy of the trust which will be reposed in them.

Aug. 1th 1779

I am &c Excellcy Humble Servt

M Bodley

Receiv'd of Capt. John Watkins 96 55 British Prisoners agreeable to an Order from Governor Johnston to the Delivery of the State of Maryland to the Commanding Officer at Wilmington — August 16th 1779 Geo: Evans Capt.