98 Honored Sir

Your favor of 16th inst. is come to hand, the contents I observe is requesting the state of that affair whereby Jeremiah Baron & Andrew Miers were by one of the officers of the 3d. Regimt. of Light Dragoons ordered in their Guard House. – The information I had was from Capt. Watkins, which gave me uneasiness to think free men, especially men on the guard of British Prisoners were confined without the knowledge of a Majestrate, and that for no other cause as I could learn than the want of a fridolous respect paid to an officer buying of water Mellions. – While I was writing a few lines to Lieut. Col: Washington requesting him to order the men to be discharged from their confinement, he comes in, I represented to him the injury that was done to those men and the public service. He replied that he had not heard the cause for which they were confined, but understood that it was for affronting one of the officers, and by the Articles of war all soldiers were punishable for such offences, and that they were to be tryed by a court martial; I informed him that Baron and Miers were militia men, and if they had commited any offence they were to be tryed by their own officers, and not by the Regulars, and that the Regulars had no controle nor power over the Militia in this State nor in the State of Maryland, on handing to him the Militia law of this State, it soon put an end to the contest, and the men were ordered directly to be set at large. – The Col: next day politely told me that it was a difficult task with him to know the laws of the different States respecting the militia (in Virginia he said the Militia was under the rules of the articles of war equal with the Regulars) that the Officer who confined Baron & Miers for want of knowing the law's was he hoped excusable; or words to that effect. –

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Sir. I take the freedom to mention to you and the Gentlemen of the Council, that the above was the only inadertency that happened during the stay of that Regimt. in this Town, wch. was about five weeks, on their leaving it, they were complimented with the Public thanks of the Burgesses for their discreet and genteel behavior, nor does it appear that the Officers shewed the least shadow of assuming any power contrary to good order. This is the substance of that which came to my knowledge. – With due respect I am. –

Honored Sir Your Most Obed.t Humb.e Serv.t

Wilmington Aug.st 28: 1779

David Bush