From every Indulgency, & from a Consideration of their respective Circumstances & Situation in Trade, I discharged them the 16th Inst. before it was consistent with my Duty, or the Exigency of the State, at the same Time informing Capt Stanley, and others of his Compy, that as the Militia Regt were to meet, I should keep their Fifer & Drummer, who could contribute much to the Musick, in procuring Recruits, & promoting that Service, which he not only very politely agreed to, but ordered the Fifer and Drummer to continue, the Drummer then applied to me to go to Baltimore, which I peremptorily refused, urging the Reason of his being detained, that as soon as the Musters were over, he should be discharged, however they went down to the Company's Boat, about seven Miles below Princess Ann — I then ordered Lt. Campbell who was also going in this Boat, to take with him a File of Men well armed to take the Drummer and Fifer, & send them back to me under this Guard, which from the Inclosed Ltr of Capt Stanley you'll observe he was prevented by some of the Company from doing — I should not have taken up your Attention with this Circumstance, but to point out that I am sorry your Independants do not a stronger Sense of their Duty, both as Soldiers, & as Gentlemen well affected to the general Good, and to acquaint you that unless proper Notice is taken of it, I shall decline in future the Command of your Independants as Militia, upon any occasion unless under better Regulations, which Campbell may have acquitted himself on this Occasion becoming a regular Officer — I have wrote to Capt. Stanley for the Names of those who refused to let him comply with his Orders —

No Persons as yet have brought in their Arms, or claimed the Benefit of the Proclamation, except such who have been under Examination, & some of those have refused swearing Allegiance to this State, nor do I think they will generally come in 'till towards the last Day — I shall not presume to judge, or draw conclusions, but I am often shocked and confounded to know in which this class of Men conduct themselves under Oaths & Solemnity which it may not be productive of many Perjuries — the excepted Persons are under Guard, Cattle & Moor not yet taken — 15 Deserters some Gunby's mostly of Longs Company, & two of Flemings Virginia Regt. have been taken, and I have now Detachments out after near 30 more who have deserted from the Navy and Army, and are skulking among these People — Capt. Stanley an Officer of Spirit, & one who on this occasion has rendered many Services, being this Night in quest of Deserters, was fired on & rec'd one Shot in his Side and his Horse was wounded with seven, but the Party being in the Woods, & it dark, escaped upon an Men returning the fire — inclosed is 26 Copies of Depositions & have taken upwards of 100 which shall hereafter be transmitted — with Respect

I have the Honor to be

Your very Obedient Hble Servt

W. Smallwood Brig. General

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.