Wilmington April 2d. 1778.

Dear Sir,

Colo. Hollingsworth pursuant to Instructions from the Board of War has call.d on me for a guard to escort the Removal of the Stores out of the Peninsula below to some place of greater security, back in the Country, which is a very Necessary Measure as those parts are Subject to, and even threatned with an Invasion, which there are disaffed enough to Countenance and even Intercept those Stores without the aid of any Considerable drafts from the Enemys forces, the present weakness of this Garrison will not admit of a draft Sufficient to aid Colo. Hollingsworth to effect this purpose, and he has little reason to expect any aid from the Militia of this State, I have therefore recommended him to apply to you for a Company or two of Militia to assist him in this pursuit

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Many of the Troops here are in great want of Cloathing particularly Shirts & breeches, which you will Please give orders to have forwarded, & direct the Recruits to be marched here with all possible dispatch, to strengthen the Regiments at this post which is much exposed and daily threatned with a stroke from the Enemy both by Land & Water, We are not more weak in Men than Officers, having but five Field Officers in Garrison, and want Captains in as great a degree, which shews the Expediency of calling in the Officers on furlough & recruits Immediately; We have the strongest Assurance that General Howe is drawing ~~his drawing~~ his forces to a point, having order.d the troops from Rhode Island and four Regts. from New York, great part of the Latter arrived some days ago at Philad.a and the former are