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69 Head of Elk March 6th 1781

Sir

Copied

I have received your Excellencys Letter of the 5th inst. and for the Appointment it contains, beg leave to offer my most respectfull acknowledgments.—

If in the course of tomorrow, we can get a sufficiency of Vessels, I intend to embark the Troops immediately, but when the intelligence we receive of British Frigates being in the Bay, I more than ever feel the want of an Armed force for our security—

By a Letter from Baron De Steuben, I find he was not gone with the Detachment sent to the Southward, that General Officer is now preparing matters for the expedition, and as I expect also to hear from a Naval Officer on the same quarter, I beg leave to request, that any dispatch be sent to me with the greatest rapidity—

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Having been told, that there was at Baltimore a number of heavy Guns, I could not help thinking, that six of the eighteen Pounders, with 300 rounds each, might be of service, but from the aversion I feel to give any useless trouble to the State, I would only propose that they be put in readiness, as upon information from below we could better determine their utility—

Copied

With the greatest respect
I have the honor to be
your most obedient
Servt
Lafayette

His Excellency
Governor Lee—