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Somerset County 3d April 1779

May it please your Excellency

Inclosed is two Depositions Relative to an Act of Piracy committed in Tangier Sound, I am sorry to Inform your Excellency that it is not the only one that have been committed by the same persons on the property of the Subjects of this State, Yesterday application was made to me by a Number of Gentlemen to endeavour to apprehend the pirates but as I am not clear that Power is Vested in me to call out the Militia for that purpose, & having an Opportunity to make your Excellency acquainted with the matter Consider it the best Method I can pursue. and therefore have concluded on waiting your Excellency directions, a Number of Respectable persons have Offered their service as Volunteers to execute this business at their own Risque & Expence, provided they are left at Liberty to treat the Offenders as they think proper, and I am desired by our friends to make you acquainted with this Circumstance, I have no doubt but detachments of Militia Under the Command of proper Officers would speedily Effect this Business, tho I Hope it could be done with propriety the proposal of the Volunteers, would be very Agreeable to me, — from report a Number have Enlisted in this Infamous Service, Therefore if your Excellency should think it practicable to send down a small Armed Vessel to act in conjunction with me, I make no doubt, but that we may be able to Apprehend the Greatest part of those pirratical Scoundrels —

I am with Much Respect & Esteem, your Excellency's Most Ob. Servant

George Dashiell

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.