MdHS 1974 [468-722]

Dear Governor

Calvert County Sept.r 27th 1781 —

722

I came from the Mouth of Patuxent yesterday, where I left, upwards of 150 of the Eastern troops with five Officers, the Commandant a Capt.; One of the Vessels in which they were found is near Love Point, & is there sunk with a load of Bomb Shells & Cannon Balls, which I believe will be saved as she is now in two or three foot Water — One or two other Vessels moving leaky were Discharged, so that the Men were obliged to Land — They have sent an express boat to Virg.a to Notify their Situation, & I hope will soon be removed — By the Imprudent Indulgence of the Officers, the Men have strolled about, & done much Damage to the Inhabitants, by Stealing their Cattle, Sheep, Hogs & Poultry; they have taken from me 7 Sheep Several Cattle, 25 Geese &c &c, from Mr. Jesse Brown 13 Sheep & two Cattle &c & have plundered many others in the Manner; Notwithstanding these Depredations, they applied to a Magistrate who on every request, press'd provisions for their Use, for which the People have real receipts from the Officers, & they might have been furnished with every thing necessary on the Same Terms — I remonstrated with the Officers on the Conduct of their Men, & obtained an Assurance that they shall be restrained in future.

The Various reports we have had from Virg.a of — Clinton's, & Arnolds Movements from New York, has made me very Anxious, to hear the truth from those Quarters. & I hope will Excuse me for requesting your Excellency to favor me with the Earliest Intelligence — I have not yet Heard whether General Gist has gone to the Army, & am the more Anxious, as my Son William, was to go with Him.

Mr. Fitzhugh joins with me in Affect.e Wishes, & Compliments to you, Your Lady & Family.

I have the Honor to be
with Perfect respect, & Esteem
Your Excellency's
Affectionate & Oblig.d H.ble Serv.t Wm. Fitzhugh