attended with rain or mist. The Ship Lydia must lie a little C. S. C. longer. As we hear the troops are discharged no doubt your Clerk will return. Tobacco it is thought will fall and as the rĭsque is very great in the Bay, Our Council do not incline to give the high prices you mention for Tobacco. You must settle with Cummings yourself for the bread.

Mr. Jesse Hollingsworth.

[Hancock to Council.]   Original.

Baltimore, Feby 17, 1777.

Gentlemen: As Congress have received Information that the Enemy are meditating a Descent upon the Coast of Chesa-peake Bay the ensuing Campaign, I have it in Charge to request you will cause all the Stock of every Kind (agreeably to the enclosed Resolve) to be immediately removed from the shore and the adjacent Islands, or otherwise so secured that there may be no Danger of its falling into the Hands of our Enemies, and that you will take the most Effectual Measures to protect those who are well affected to the Cause of America from being plundered and insulted by the Enemy.

I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obed^t Servt

Honble Council of Safety.   John Hancock Presid^t

[Resolve of Congress.]

In Congress, Feby. 17, 1777

Congress having this day received Information that the Enemy meditates an Expedition to the Bay of Chesapeak in the ensuing Campaign, and that the Eastern Shore is the first object or Place of Landing.

RESOLVED, That the States of Virginia and Maryland be requested to take immediate and the·most effectual Measures that the Stocks may be removed from their respective Eastern Shore Counties, and their adjacent Islands, or so secured that they may not fall into the Enemies Hands, and that Means the most effectual be taken to protect & secure the well affected Inhabitants from the Insults and Plunder of the Enemy.

By order of Congress

John Hancock, Presid^t

Tuesday, February 18th 1777   C. S. J.

Council met. Present as on yesterday.

Ordered That the Western Shore Treasurer pay to Capt Thomas Woolford Sixty Pounds.