

Gentlemen:

Immediately on the receipt of Mr Alexander's of the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan'y with the resolutions of the Congress we appointed gentlemen in Kent County of this Province to collect all the gold and silver they could in their several counties, the amount of which you shall be acquainted with as soon as we are informed of it by them. We have also received a letter from Messrs Paca and Alexander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month and are sorry to find we are likely to be disappointed in our prospects of getting Cannon from New York or Philadelphia as they were immediately wanted for carrying into execution the resolution of the Convention for fortifying the City of Annapolis and Baltimore Town and as we are not certain whether Mr Hughes, tho he has already begun casting the nine pounders with some success, may be able to comply with the contract for the heavy cannon with the Convention in time. Those purchased by Mr Paca are intended for the Ship Defence which is getting ready with all possible expedition. We are obliged to you for the attention you have given to our request and the resolutions of the Convention relative to the plates and paper which the new emission of paper money and should most readily conform to your advice and agree to the striking the money at Philadelphia by the persons you mention, but we think ourselves in that particular tied up by the resolve of the Convention which requires that the bills be printed and struck under the direction of two freemen of the province to be appointed as supervisors by the Council of Safety who are to receive 20 of per day and it would be difficult to get two that would attend at Philadelphia during the time of printing.

We have been long in the expectation of receiving from Messrs Willing and Morris the powder which they engaged to supply us with and for which the money was lodged in their hands but have not as yet been favored by them with any thing to that end. We need not acquaint you that it is an article we stand much in need of and that the Convention, to relieve our present necessity, had agreed to take five tons of that made at Philadelphia for the lost petre lately imputed in part of what we were to have had from those gentlemen. We shall be obliged if you will know of them when we may expect the five tons and what prospect they have of procuring the rest contracted for by them and favour us with their answer. While the Convention was sitting Mr Sam Purviance sent down two depositions for the purpose of what you mention in your last. The subject was considered by the Convention and it was resolved that no further notice should be taken of the affair and that the proceedings and that the proceedings should be kept secret. We suppose the two depositions sent you by Mr Purviance are in substance the same and we cannot but think it extraordinary that he should presume to trouble you with a matter that had been agitated and settled in Convention. If it be not too much trouble we request you will send us copies of them and a copy of his letter enclosing them to you.

We are with Respect

Yours Most Obedt

Annapolis Feby 8 1776.

To The Honble.

The Deputies of Maryland

in Congress Philadelphia

Gentlemen: