

to us and the expedition with which the dispatches appear to have been transmitted from Baltimore to Philadelphia. The instructions given Capt. David Smith by the Council of Baltimore and those given by Capt. Nicholson to his Lieutenant, copies of which we have sent you; the originals came into our hands accidentally, and the whole of the proceedings of the Balt. Committee were kept from us. Whence this unmerited treatment has sprung we cannot conceive, as we ever most cheerfully cooperated with the Congress and assisted the Colony of Virginia in such measures as we could justify from our situation and have always considered the interest and security of Baltimore as essential to this Province and acted correspondently with those ideas. Reflecting upon these circumstances and being fully persuaded the Congress would have determined differently if they had been furnished with the same evidence upon which we proceeded.

~~Subsequent~~. We cannot but hope they will rest satisfied with what we have done more especially as a convention is shortly to be held, and we are firmly persuaded the Governor will not stir from his station or do anything to disturb the peace of the Province between this time and the meeting of that body. We consider the Congress as having the supreme authority over the Continent and look up to them with reverence and esteem, but that they cannot interfere with uncontrollable power in the Internal Polity of this or any other Province and herein we are supported by the Resolves of the late Convention.

If unhappily however they do not approve our conduct we are determined to call a Convention with all convenient speed and lay our whole transactions before them, that they may judge of the propriety of what we have done.

We omitted informing you before that the Governor assured us on his honour that he had received no other letters from the Ministry at home but those he delivered to us and of which we have heretofore sent you copies: he has also given us leave to search all his papers if we think proper. We are not convinced that he has carried on any correspondence with the Ministry, unfriendly to America; If we suspicion only we seize the head of the Civil Government all Commissions of Magistrates, Sheriffs and other offices flowing from him must be at an end, and the Council of Safety have no power to fill the vacancy. The Convention have this power inherent in them as Representatives of the People, they have not communicated it to us that we can find. On seizing the Governor therefore the Convention ought immediately to be called together to take the State and condition of the Province into their consideration and make provision for the Civil Department. If you recommend calling it earlier than the 29th, we shall pay due attention to the day you fix on, we have done every thing in our power to promote the interest and peace of the Province, and are firmly persuaded that if this storm blows over, that we shall continue to enjoy quiet some time longer, if not the whole Campaign; and perhaps before another, all will be settled happily.

We write to the President by this opportunity, and we think ourselves fortunate in having Mr. P. with us and approving of all we have done and we doubt not you would have acted in substance as we have done, had you been here on the spot. Our Council consisting of D. G. C. C. J. H. P. R. and J. S. more unanimous in their

opinions