

when we hope effectual measures will be taken to keep those who are disaffected or too much inclined to riotous and extrajudicial proceedings within proper bounds. It gives us pleasure to be informed that your committee have on all occasions exerted their utmost influence to preserve the peace of the State and will continue to do it. We are much concerned that we have cause again to trouble you on behalf of Melchior Keener who hath lately been very ill-used as he alleges by some soldiers of Capt. Nat. Smiths Company and others who came without any authority or warrant that he knows of to search his house and committed divers irregularities, two of the soldiers now David Melch and Harry the drummer as he informs us the Whig club mistake it for granted had no hand in this riot, we have wrote to Capt. Smith and request you would with his assistance inquire into the affair and see that the peace is preserved. If Keener be guilty of any offence let him be prosecuted according to law and the resolves of congress and convention. We must observe once for all that mobbing men of doubtful principles is not the way to gain friends to the cause of America, this is the same person we wrote you about in our first letter (whose case we referred to a special Committee but no answer given on account of the hurry and confusion Balt. Town was then in by congress removing from Philadelphia. Surely Gent it is in your power with the assistance of Capt. Smith to put a stop to such riotous and irregular proceedings.

We have considered the deposition transmitted us of which John Ross and desire you would direct to attend on board according to the condition of his bond on Monday the 27th instant. What you tell us of the people framing a petition to Lord Howe and the Riots complained of in Baltimore Town have induced the council of safety to pass an order a copy of which is inclosed to you and to each of the Captains

JAMES CALHOUN Esq. chairman
Committee Abser. for Balt. Town

we are &c

Jan. 20th 1777

Sir we received your letter by Sergeant Rodwell and have sent one hundred and seventy shirts and eighty five pair of shoes by him, which we hope will come to your hands safe the rest of your clothing you are to get upon the best terms you possibly can and with all expedition. Blankets we have none you may get some perhaps at Philadelphia on your way up. You must lose no time in preparing to march, when you are near