

laid before the house of delegates who referred it back to the board with directions that we should take such order therein as we should judge necessary. We have no doubt that you have taken such steps in this business as you thought most conducive to the general good and hope you will soon have it in your power to have your part in such circumstances as will secure peace and quietness in future you mention your having some prisoners in custody and wish to know whether you are to send them up immediately or detain them no longer until you can take more depositions. in answer to this we can only say that if the depositions already taken are conclusive it might be proper to send up the prisoners. if not you would do well to detain them until you can obtain such depositions if in your opinion they can be had within a reasonable time you would do well to publish the proclamation immediately as in our opinion no decisive measures can be taken with the insurgents until the expiration of the 40 days therein mentioned the arms of all should be instantly taken. If any of the excited persons or others will in a short time service you are empowered to inform them this will wash away their offences and the Council would rejoice at their taking this course to reinstate themselves in the good opinion of their injured Country. We shall take care to lay a list of the several applicants you mention before the Gen^l assembly

Gen^l Smallwood

Sir

Annaps March 11th 1777

Your fav^r of the 10th any we have rec^d and are sorry for the passage of the resolution you order in fav^r of 576 1/33. Dols we have paid. Mr McCreary informs us that he shipped from Rotterdam to you a dress made of this state 20 muskets that a Mr Beall who is connected with Mr Norton at Wms Burch informed him that these goods arrived safe in Statia & that you refused to pay the freight of them and that a Mr Stevenson had taken them up & sold part to pay it. We cannot give credit to this information and desire that you will make enquiry & inform us particularly how and in what manner this business has been transacted and what has been done with the goods we refer you to our letter of this date to B. H. and ad^l & c.

Abraham Van Balke

Edw. S. Ann^l March 11th 1777