

We directed me to the Marine Boards; on waiting on them my People were desired to assist in fitting out the Delaware. There is nothing at this time appears alarming the Enemy are retreating its supposed to Winter's Quarters. I am extremely willing to do every thing in my power to serve our Country, but it appears to me from what intelligence we have, that we shall not be wanting in that case it will be better to be fitting out the Defence. I have inclosed you a list of the officers and men now with me, they are in high spirits and very desirous of engaging the Enemy, and I am satisfy'd would have endeavour'd to excel each other in being of most Service to their Country. I had not time before I set off to make mention of those Gentlemen who are worthy of preferment. I now will use the freedom of mentioning my first Lieutenant Mr. Auchincloik. Likewise my second Mr. Burnell both these Gentlemen are very deserving and none more worthy within the circle of my acquaintance in the State of Maryland.

I am, Honble Gent,

The Honble the Council of Safety
of Maryland, Annapolis

Your most Obedt Servt.
Geo. Cook

Gent.

Fred. Town 24th Dec^r 1776.

I inclose you a resignation of Mr. Azelwater as Quarter Master in Col^l James Polunais Battalion. Mr. Richard Butler whom I think a very good man is desired to be commissioned in his stead. You have too a letter and its Inclosure I received this afternoon from Col^l Bruce and Blair. I hope the returns you have before you will supply the omission of some of the Gen^l's flintlocks hands if not I really do not know what can be done unless you can trust the Committee or me to fill up the flintlock hands of such as you may be at a loss for. I shall write to Col^l Bruce informing him of the omission and desiring him to write to you, but to prevent delay, I had much rather receive the Commissions if they can issue. I had no suspicion that the Militia Commissions in this and Washington Counties were in much disorder. This morning Capt. Proffers of the new Battalion came to town on purpose to tell me that none of the officers in his Company nor as he believed of any other Company of that Battalion had yet received a Commission. I went to the minutes of the Committee and on a long search could only find five Companies had been returned. I shall inclose in this a certificate as to them for fear if any return was ever made to the Council, which I doubt, it may have been mislaid. I very much wish I could get up Commissions for all the Gentlemen who are entitled to them. I enquired from what passed in the Committee last night, they would have sent off an Express this morning to have known for a certainty whether the Militia could have had any supply of Blankets &c from the Council of Safety, but this morning on my several friends mentioning it the Gen^l seemed disinclined to it, presuming you would not furnish them. They were never wanted more than by those who now offer to turn out and

(S)