

be no difficulties in settling with the men - I before desired an order for
the arms which were lodged at Philadelphia by the Maryland Flying
Camp militia, but you gave me no answer as to that point presuming
it was your intention they should be put into the hands of the militia
I have ordered they should take what good arms they could with them and
told them they may expect the deficiency would be supplied out of those
arms. I shall be obliged to you for an order to meet me at Philadelphia
as well as your instructions to the disposition of them. on my return it is
my intention if the people can be kept together to come back slowly in
convenient bodies and bring the arms with us - Disputes about Command
will be destructive of all authority and order. I wished to know whether I was
to command all the Maryland Militia or only those of this Brigade. Your
silence on that head compels me to repeat my request that you will send
me something decisive on that point - I hear from Colo Bratton as far as
New York that Washington Militia turn out well. B Johnson and Bruce's
Battalions do us honor. B Johnson's not so much. a good many in it are
backward. though every thing will be done that industry can effect.
from what I hear the Montgomery Militia muster very thin - I this evening
received Colo Sherrin's and Major Howard's resignations - and believe Ma-
jor Moore will not act - several of commissions for ^{the} Commissioned officers
are wrong. it is really difficult to put things on a footing at such times
that will please generally. I have appointed the Battalion to meet next Tues-
-day and shall attend it in my way to Philadelphia. By this means
only I expect to be able to send you a list of such as will do. I inclose a letter
from Colo Bruce by bearer to forward the commissions to Philadelphia. I think
it my duty to mention to you one Robert Bruce who was in the Clerk's Office
of Charles County; he went a rifleman in Price's company. He now goes
out in the militia - He is very active in spurring up and I believe very
spirited - I think he merits and I wish he had an Ensign's Commission.
The Companies I believe have recommended his brother, who I understand deserves
well - Would it not be well that a few recruiting Officers were ordered to
attend us, I suspect if they do not. I shall have broils about our militia en-
-listing on the quota of our neighbours which I must oppose. Frederick Ridge-
-ly goes surgeon to Baker Johnson's Battalion. if you approve. he is a fine
young fellow, will you by bearer send him a commission - Deot. Adam Frighth
to C. Bratton.

The Honble Council of Safety of Maryland

I am Gent - your most obed^t Serv^t.

Thomas Johnson Junr.

Sir.

January 4th 1777-

The Baron Capt. Jean Antoine Bonture is bound to see - I have
given permit for him to proceed to Annapolis - Please act with him as is rig-
-ht - the man has behaved very well here - I have lodged his Slaves with
Mr. Colthorn and applied to Mr. Colthorn for his necessary papers. he chose to

(refer)