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133-15
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Philadelphia

*This Academy, Joseph Wood Esq
Treasurer of Penna*

Philadelphia

*Lancaster Aug 12. 1781
from Col. Tubley*

Sir

Lancaster August 12th 1781

Your favour of the 6th instant (by Express) came safe to hand, last evening.

After taking every precaution, for removing the stores, and securing the Prisoners &c. at this place, in case of a forward movement of the Enemy as was expected, and ordering four Battalions of Militia to hold themselves in readiness, to march on the shortest notice. - I being ~~much~~ ^{greatly} disappointed, by a number of People, whom I expected would turn out Volunteers, for the purpose of collecting intelligence of the operations of the Enemy) with Col. Ross, on the 8th went to Charles-town, and places adjacent, to inform ourselves, of their movements.

I now beg leave to communicate to your Excellency such intelligence, which I collected from the most intelligent people of that Country.

It appears the fleet, with about 1200 (some say 2000) troops, on the 6th instant, stood up the Chesapeake, making a half circle, round a place call'd the Horse-shoe, Wind & Tide being unfavourable, oblig'd them to put, into the Western shore, at the mouth of of York. River near Hampton road - Here they continued

for

for some small time, - and then took a position
 so as to move either up the Bay, ^{Potomack,} ~~York~~
 or Chaplansock, as circumstances would admit.

It appears rather difficult to make any
 thing of their present movements, - Conjectures are
 various, some are of opinion their Object is
 Baltimore, some, they mean to push ^{up} one of those
 Rivers, to Disturb the Country, others they mean
 to make a rapid move up the Bay, and attempt
 a rescue of their Prisoners, at York & this place
 but the more general opinion is (which, to me
 seems to carry some degree of probability) they are
 prepar'd for an immediate push to New York
 should that place be invaded, as is expected. -

However, our situation here is such as to
 admit of a surprise, if not the greatest precaution
 is taken, and therefore we ought to be prepar'd
 at all times.

On the 11th, after having settled, for
 the purpose of conveying intelligence from Charles-
 town, ~~of~~ a chain of Communication, - I returned
 to this place, and shall now wait your further
 orders.

I cannot but Confess I was exceedingly
 Disturb'd on receiving your letter - Our want
 of Arms &c. is truly alarming, - and the
 Militia here knowing their situation in that
 particular, seem absolutely cool, - The Coy is,

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give us arms, and we will readily do our duty
but without them, nothing can be expected, or done
from us, our safety must depend (in our situation)
on our flight.

I must beg your Excellency will
prop, the forwarding of those, which are prepared for
this place. - No time should be lost, - Our
situation is not the most desirable, - The Enemy
should they incline this way must carry their
point, as our opposition could be but faint, owing
to the want of arms &c.

I think it would not be amiss, (consider-
ing our present situation) if a few pieces of Artillery
were stationed here, they would answer various
good purposes, amongst others, that of perfecting
the Recruits of late Proctors Regiment, ^{stationed here} in
Exercise.

I am sincerely, Your Excellency
most obed^t & very humble serv^t.

A. M. Hubley *22/11/74*

I must beg your Excellency's attention, to my last,