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(From the Executive Archives) Box 1794.

(Draft of a letter)

29th March 1794.

Sir.

The Secretay of War having requested the Gov. & Council to afford you their permission to have carriages & Impliments made for the eleven eighteen pounders at Whetstone point belonging to this State for the purpose of fortifying the Harbour of Baltimore we have to inform you that you have our permission to do so

We are

With respect

John Stricker

Sir:-

April 4, 1794.

Major Rivardi who is now in Balt. has been lately appointed by the President of the U.S. for the purpose of fortifying Baltimore, Alexandria and Norfolk, and in consequence of his instructions from the War Office, a copy of which he has transmitted to me together with a Letter on the Subject from the Secretary of War, he has requested me to appoint some person in Baltimore to assist him in the Execution of the plan of fortification proposed and to conduct the work in his absence.

As the case of Norfolk is thought to be the most pressing he is directed to make but a short stay in Baltimore, and of course the Superintendance of the works contemplated for the latter place will under the Engineer's Direction in a great degree if not wholly devolve on the person to be appointed. I do not know that any compensation to the Gentleman who may undertake this Employment is ascertained, but I presume that if it shall be found to occupy much of Time or be attended with Difficulty a Compensation will be granted. As it is of importance that an appointment sh^d be immediately made and accepted and it is impracticable for me to determine who w^d undertake it, I take the Liberty of requesting you after communicating with Major Rivardi to direct and deliver the enclosed power to some ^e person well qualified for this Trust who will assume the performance of it.

If Capt. Stricker will undertake it he w^d meet with the approbⁿ of the Secretary of War who has I believe written to him on the Subject, , but as it has been intimated that he either has declined or will decline it, you will be pleased in Case of his Refusal to procure some other person to accept. By a conference with Major Rivardi you will be better enabled to judge of the nature of the Duties which are the object of this appointment and of course to decide on the Qualifications necessary to the Discharge of them.

I am concerned at being compelled to give you this Trouble, but you will allow the Necessity of the Case to be my apology.

(Enclosure.)

Council Chamber Annapolis April 18th. 1794

Sir

I have received your letter of the 15th instant with a plan and map accompanying it, and take the earliest occasion to testify my acknowledgements for the very clear and satisfactory manner in which you have explained your designs and my full approbation of the plan of defence you have projected. Without commenting in detail upon the alterations and additions proposed I shall just observe that the reasons on which you found the expediency of them are to my apprehension perfectly solid and conclusive; and as you will doubtless make a full communication on the subject to the Secretary of War, I indulge a hope that the inadequacy of the sum allowed for the construction of these works, when ascertained to the conviction of the general government will be considered and remedied. In the meantime and until a certainty appears of your being enabled either by a further appropriation or by public spirited exertions of the Citizens of Baltimore to complete the defences you have planned, it occurs to me to recommend that the commencement and progress of your operations should be ordered with a view to the completion of the most essential part of your plan in case that no adequate means shall be supplied of completing it in its full extent. The assistance of the Militia may be very important; I need not advise you to cultivate the patriotic disposition they have manifested and to facilitate your intercourse with the persons in command, as well as in compliance with your request, I send you herewith a letter to Coll Howard, who will I am persuaded be both willing and able to afford you advice and assistance relatively to the objects which Genl. Williams bad state of health prevents him from attending to. With respect to Mr. Gardy whose assistance you seem to think desirable, I do not consider it within my province to influence your resolutions on the question of retaining him, as the agency intrusted to me by the Prest. of the U. S. was limited to the appointment of one person to superintend the work in your absence, and an appointment has in consequence been made but at Mr. Dodge may not be in all respect qualified for your substitute, and you have intimated to the Secy of War

April 15, Continued
1794

your inclination to have Mr. Gardy employed, I am persuaded he will readily consent to it.

I return you Sir the plans you favoured me with and shall be gratified by receiving them again, when it may be convenient to you to spare them. I should have been happy to furnish you with the plans of the old works, if they were to be found but I can learn nothing respecting them.

Major J.J. Ulrich Rivardi.

(Thos. Sim Lee)