

When a member
council during
the war - sent to the
U.S. for aid by
the Government of
Virginia

The Honorable

James Monroe

Secretary at War

Washington

Sir

The defensive measures taken by the State of Virginia both to repel ~~the~~ ~~enemy~~ Invasion, and to meet those attacks of the enemy with which she has been constantly threatened, have no doubt be duly appreciated by the Government of the United States - To enable her to continue those defences, deemed not more important to her own safety, than essential to the security of that portion of the Union ^{of which she is a part} The Executive has requested me respectfully to represent to you, the present exhausted state of our finances & to ~~request~~ such immediate aid as it may be convenient for the general Government to furnish

I shall not advert, Sir to those claims already presented ~~presented~~ to the Department of War on a former occasion, & which have recently accumulated to a considerable amount - The ground on which they stand has been fully and ably elucidated - and clearly evince a disposition on the part of Virginia, when occasion presents, not to advance the means she possesses and frankly rely on the Justice of the general Government for future ~~retribution~~ - but I would beg leave to call your attention for a moment, to the present condition in which the war has placed us: to protect our shores

from the constant inroads of the Enemy, the militia of the whole of our low country has been kept almost on constant duty, besides the repeated & almost daily reinforcements which we have furnished to Norfolk.

about the first of August a detachment of 2000 men under the command of Genl Porterfield were ordered to take the field - Scarcely had this Brigade assembled before it was ascertained that the present formidable force of the Enemy had entered our waters, and its sudden descent on Washington, induced the Executive of the State to order out 10000 men for the defence of Richmond & the surrounding country -

In dependant of this, a considerable force was ordered to rendezvous in the Northern Neck ^{to} protect the shores of the Potomac - ^{with a view to look to the defence of the city of Washington & the defence of any other point to which they should be directed.} Not having time to consult the Government ~~at Washington~~, and being unwilling to add to ~~the~~ ^{the} difficulties already ~~existing~~ ^{resulting from} the presence of the Enemy, the whole of this Force has been kept in the field & supported by the State ^{until} the present time -

Indeed more has been done - finding the Brigade under the command of Genl Porterfield, after it had received into the service of the United States, without the funds necessary to procure immediate supplies 20000 dollars have been advanced by the Executive on the letter of Mr Swann to the D. Q. M. Wheaton on a promise of its repayment in a few days - This has not been done - The Governor no longer able to continue the force now in service, & believing the ~~present~~ ^{present} danger still imminent from the present posture

of the Enemy, ^{in our waters} earnestly solicits the repayment ~~of the~~ of the money advanced to Mr Wheaton at Richmond and such further aid as the Government here may be disposed, or in a condition to grant us - It is also desirable that the force now acting under the authority of the State, should receive the sanction & support of that of the United States, & I am directed by the Executive of Virginia to ask of the President the acceptance of the whole or such parts of the troops now in the vicinity of Richmond as he may deem competent to the safety & defence of that section of our country? - I am perfectly assured that such is the desire of the State, heartily to cooperate with the general Government in all its defensive measures - that at all times it stands ready to contribute any further aid (within the limits of its own means) ~~which the Executive of the State~~ ^{which may be deemed necessary for the speedy & successful termination of the present war}

I have the honor to be with very great respect
most ob. servt

Chs. Everett