

**Edmund Pendleton to George Washington, April 21, 1775, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM COLONEL EDMUND PENDLETON.**

EDMD. PENDLETON Apl. 21. 1775.

DR. SIR

I have procured a Copy of Dr. Savage's Bill which I now inclose you with the other papers, as I imagine yr. Answer may be drawn above with more convenience to you. As to the Release he sets up, 'twil be necessary to set forth where it was made by your consents, or on her privy examination in Court, so far as you are acquainted wth. the Facts. it will be time enough to have the Answer agt. October, & indeed I fear 'twil be of no use then, as all late Accounts from [mutilated] itain seem to promise Us other employment before that time. We have a loose Report that the Govr. has taken the Key of the Magazine, & that a sloop with a Company of Marines was lying in each of the Creeks, which it was supposed were to take the Arms & Ammunition from thence. Some of our Independants had a strong inclination to go immediately & secure the Arms & Ammunition.

I have as yet heard nothing from the Speaker fixing the time of our setting out, indeed from some disturbances in the City, by the *Slaves* I doubt whether he will go—I purpose however to set off at all events Wednesday morning .the 3d. & shall be glad to meet you at upper Mabrough thursday night.<sup>1</sup> My Compts. to Mrs. Washington and the young pair. I am

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Dr Sr. Yr mo hble Servt. EDMD. PENDLETON

1 On the morning of April 21 a delegation, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council of Williamsburg, presented to Lord Dunmore, by Peyton Randolph, an address protesting against the secret removal of the powder from the magazine, and calling attention to the fact that they were threatened with a negro insurrection. The Governor replied that, "hearing of an insurrection in a neighboring county, he had removed the Powder from the Magazine where he did not think it secure, to a place where it would be in perfect security; and that, upon his word and honour, whenever it was wanted on any insurrection, it should be delivered in half an hour. That he had removed it in the night to prevent any alarm; and that Captain Collins had his express commands for the part he had acted. He was surprised to hear the people were under arms on this occasion, and that he should not think it prudent to put Powder into their hands in such a situation.—American Archives, Fourth Series, vol. ii. p. 372. This diplomatic reply so incensed the people that the leaders had some difficulty in preventing the companies from marching upon the palace at Williamsburg.