

June 17, 1775

They show up at the plantation

At present the martial law stands thus:
"an officer or a committeeman enters a
plantation with his posse."

The alternative is proposed: "Agree to join
us [Whigs] and your persons and properties
are safe . . . if you refuse, we are directly to
cut up your corn, shoot your pigs, burn your
houses, seize your Negroes, and perhaps
tar and feather yourself."

*They tell
us to
join the Whigs*

*if we
refuse,
they
threaten
violence*

Not to choose the first requires more
courage than they are possessed of, and I
believe this method has seldom failed with
the lower sort.

This works on almost everyone.

Source: Janet Schaw, *Journal of a Lady of Quality*, June 1775. Schaw was a Scot visiting her brother, a merchant, in Wilmington, North Carolina, where she was strongly critical of the local Whig regime.

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