

c. c. loss, especially as the next in Command (Cap<sup>t</sup> Manly) is vastly his inferiour in abilities, & knowing as I do how much your Excellency wishes to promote the Service of America, I cou'd not refrain from mentioning my notions on this Subject. There is also another matter that gives me concern & that is the detention of Continental Troops on the Eastern Shoar to keep Forces in order at a time when Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington cou'd strike a Capital stroke was he reinforced by those & others that ought to join him, I wish you wou'd think of this & order them to march on, other means may be found to keep the Forces in order there, you will merit & require the thanks of the continent if you think proper to improve this hint, the resolve of Congress for detaining them was obtained in consequence of your letter to me on that Subject. The Arms that came on the Ship blown up at our Capes I am told are pretty generally damaged in the explosion, the Continent had 2500 on board & for your State 500, but the Packages are all blown to pieces and the muskets mixed therefore of what is saved we must receive in proportion & I am now sending for the whole to this City to have them put in order & divided, that done I will inform your Excellency or the Council of Safety & deliver what I receive as my proportion to their order.

The Continent also rec<sup>d</sup> when at Balt<sup>o</sup> 52 bbls of the Powder I imported for your State, supposing it theirs, I will get an order for it & send the same down, for I think that Powder is still at Baltimore.

I am very respectfully

Your Excell<sup>ys</sup> most obedient

Very hble Servant

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris

To His Excell<sup>y</sup> }  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Johnson jun<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> }

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[Council to Lux and Bowly.]

In Council Annapolis 2<sup>d</sup> May 1777.

Gent.

The fitting the Row Gallies is an Object we have much at Heart, as our and the Public Confidence is, in great Measure placed in them for the Defence of the Bay. We therefore wish you to forward their Rigging all you can. We are desirous the Public should be as cheap and well served as Individuals; we cannot expect it will be better; if you secure yourselves on a Rise, we expect to be benefitted by a Fall in the Price of Hemp, if it should happen. We are Gen<sup>t</sup> &<sup>ca</sup>

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Lux and Bowley }  
Baltimore }