

[Gov. Johnson to W. Cowper.]

C. C.

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Annapolis 8th July 1777.

Sir.

M^r M^cHerd, on his Return, told me of your Friendly Disposition towards the Design on which the Council and myself had sent him to Virginia and Carolina, by which we are very much obliged. Cap^t Webb called on me with your Letter, I should gladly have purchased the Salt on the Public Account to have delivered it out to the People in small Quantities, if Cap^t Webb could have thought himself at Liberty to deliver it at 51 /, our Currency, the highest Price that the Council and myself thought, from what we could understand of the Cost & Charges, it is allowable to be retailed at, under our late Act. But the Cap^t thinking himself bound, by your Instructions, not to sell under the highest Price going at Baltimore, was disinclined to accept it. I inclose you one of our Papers, which contains our late Act against Ingrossing & Forestalling, thinking it may not be unuseful to you. If the Practices, which began in Philadelphia, were soon adopted in Baltimore and have been since extended southward, are suffered to continue, instead of 20 Dollars, which I have understood has been extorted in Baltimore, I should not wonder that a Bushel of Salt was up to twenty Pounds merely from the artificial scarcity but I hope Virginia and the other States will take Measures to suppress the growing Evil, else, I am apprehensive, our Cause is ruined.

M^r M^cHerd tells me that M^r Josiah Jordan offered to supply this State with one thousand Pair of good Shoes at two Dollars, to be delivered this Fall; we shall want them for our Soldiers and I shall take it kind that you would let M^r Jordan know that we will take them, but must be on a Certainty, as to the Time we may have them. Deliveries of Parts at set Times may suit him best and do very well for us. I am Sir &^{ca}

M^r Willis Cowper Suffolk.

Wednesday 9th July 1777.

C. B.

Present as on yesterday.

George Ross app^d first Lieutenant of the Ship of War Defence & Commission Issued, he having served from the 18th March last

John Roger's second Lieut, served from 11 March

Thomas Broomfield Capt. of Marines, served from 25 April

Vachel Yates first Lieut of Marines served from 23 Feb^y

Warrants Issued to Samuel Walker app^d Master of the Defence & served from 22^d April last