

Liber C C  
No. 22

[Council to Delegates in Congress]

Gent<sup>n</sup> The General Assembly on the 12<sup>th</sup> June last, took into Consideration the Trade of this State and entered into the following Resolution (☞ vid. resol.) which was transmitted to Congress, and by them, referred to the Board of Admiralty: The Result of whose Deliberation thereon, has not yet been communicated to us, nor do we know that the Requisition of the Assembly will be complied with. Our Coast has lately been much infested with the Privateers and Cruisers of the Enemy, our Trade and Navigation obstructed and many of our Vessels captured, to the great Detriment of the Public, Ruin of some, and Distress of many of our Merchants, and we can assure you, unless two, or one, at least, of the Continental Frigates are so stationed as to afford Protection to the Trade of Virginia and this State, that there is little or no Probability of our providing Cloathing and other Necessaries for our Quota of the Army. As this State have, on every Occasion, exerted themselves in an extraordinary Degree, in support of the Common Cause, and have, and do contribute their Proportion of the Expence of the Continental Navy, and have not, hitherto, derived any Advantage from it, we can but think it reasonable that our Request should be gratified. We have just received a Letter from the commercial Gentlemen from the Town of Baltimore representing, that the Successes of small armed Vessels, have invited a very formidable Enemy into our Bay, and that not less than twenty of their most valuable Vessels, outward bound are now blocked up in Patuxent River, and have been for some Time past and that, every Day they receive Accounts of their Vessels being taken or destroyed. This Representation of the Distresses and Embarrassments of the Trade and Navigation of the States of Virginia and Maryland, not only merits the immediate Notice of Congress, but, we think cannot fail to induce them to order such a Number of Frigates to be stationed at the Capes of Chesapeake, as will afford ample Protection to the

p. 143 Commerce thereof. We entreat you, in the most earnest Manner, to lay this important Subject before Congress and to use your utmost Efforts and the weight and Influence of this State to obtain the Protection desired.

[Council to Robert Morris Esqr]

Sir We have been favored with your Letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst accompanied by Letters from their Excellencies the President of Congress and Minister of France, M<sup>r</sup> William Smith is furnished with the desired Permission to purchase and export 3000 Barrels of Flour for the Supply of his Catholic Majesty's Fleets and Armies acting in the West Indies and, at the same Time, we requested M<sup>r</sup> Smith to act with that Caution, in the execution of your Commission,