

October 6 are Left in Doctor Jenifers Meadow, they being too poor to drive
 Red Book up, I expect to be in Annapolis next week when I shall close my
 No. 22 Letter Accounts.
 No. 8

October 6 [Joseph Ford Leonard Town to His Excellency
 Thomas S. Lee Esqr.]

Sir Your Excellencies letters of the 20th & 28th Septem^r by M^r Ford and Coll^o Forrest I received Each accompanied with five Hundred Pounds of the New Bills and have to say in Answer, that the number of Steers from S^t Mary's will I fear fall short of what I expected Owing to M^r Jenefers Giving a greater Price in Charles County. I have Purchased from fourty to fifty good Steers from four to Seven Grasses, five and a half Dollars of the New Bills (except some few which I gave certificates and old circulating currency for And them I think I shall get settled with this new Money) with a promise of a Higher Price if any commissary gives it in the Lower Counties by authority, the People in this county I am well Assured would have been contented with the 5½ Dollars If a greater price had not been given

I shall send off next fryday or Saturday from fourty to fifty and thirty more will I think be as many as I shall be able to have Ready, to forward Shortly after, and this I shall be deceived in probably if the other purchasers continue to give a greater Price, There is to be had here Three or four Hundred good Whethers and from an Experience the meat comes much Lower than Beef and keeps in Pickle Better, I speak from a Trial I had last fall.

I must begg leave to mention to y^r Excellency that there is but one Cooper in this County and he has no particular place of Residence who I have kept for Better than four weeks expecting to know whether the Staves I have on hand is to be made up he has promised to wait Ten days before he sets off for Baltimore his price is much Reasonabler than I Believe a professed cooper is to be got for in the State one Hundred and fifty Pounds p month and will make Two Barrels a day I have not purchased any Cattle to Slaughter here, If any is [to be had?] the best time is [passing?] in my opinion before they can be bought collected & Slaughtered it will be late in the fall I have not been well since I left Annapolis or I think I should have had my first Drove of Steers at the Head of Elk Before this. your Excellency may depend my Utmost endeavors will be Used to make up a good Proportion of the Supplies wanted, the Bacon and Wheat that I've purchased is still with me, there has been no possibility of geting it away with any Safety could not one the State Boats come for it and about four Hundred Bushels corn that Coll Jordan has in his Care they would be able to keep the Barges off.