

December 20
Liber No. 78
p. 18

M^r Hollingsworth for their Vessels, and we are to request if one or both of the Vessels you are loading with Flour on Account of the State in a Situation that you will order them to turn out in Search of the Enemy. We imagine if they have left Patuxent they are gone over to some of the Islands about or a little below the Mouth of Choptank which seems to be a favorite Situation of theirs. Any loss that may happen by the Vessels going down on the Public Service, we engage on behalf of the State shall be indemnified as well as the Expences of the Vessels whilst in the Service including also therein the Addition of Men, Provisions and Stores. We have Reason to expect the Vessels in Potomack will cooperate with you, to remove the Difficulty you may make on Account of the Danger of being shut up in the Harbour of Baltimore by the Ice; we will engage the State shall pay the Expence of bringing the Flour thence to this Place, where it may be put on Board the Vessel or Vessels which may be employed on this Service. We have also Expectations

p. 19 of being assisted by a Vessel belonging to Mess^{rs} Steward Wallace and Davidson now lying in the Harbour of Baltimore. The State will not expect any Part of the Captures. The enclosed are Signals which will be furnished to the Vessels in Potomack, you will be pleased to give correspondent Orders.

Ibid. [Council to Colonel Hooe and Capt. Conway.]

We have had Information by several Vessels in the Course of two Days past that two of the Enemies small Privateers have captured several of the Bay Craft as high as the Mouth of Patuxent where they by the last Account yet remain with their Prizes, one of the Privateers from all Accounts is the Cat a Schooner of four Guns the other is said to be of eight. We hear that two Briggs of yours of superior Force are ready for Sea in Saint Marys River and by M^r Jesse Hollingsworth we learn that a Vessel of Force in which he is interested is probably now ready at Alexandria to come round to Baltimore. The General Assembly have desired that we should as private as may put in Movement any Force we think can or may think necessary for the Destruction or Capture of there Enemy Privateers, and have enabled us to enter all proper Engagements for that End. We therefore request if your Briggs are in the Situation represented to us that you will order them to turn out in Search of the Enemy, we imagine if they have left Patuxent they have gone over to some of the Islands about or a little below the Mouth of Choptank, which seems to be a favourite Situation of theirs. Any loss that may happen by the Vessels going down on this Public Service, we engage on behalf of the State shall be indemnified, as well as the Expences of the Vessels whilst on the Public Service including also therein the Addition of Men Provision and Stores. M^r Hollingsworth will as Part owner of Yellot and as far as he thinks himself justifiable