

Pass granted to Mr. Limes of Baltimore Town to go to C. B. General Smallwood from thence into Philadelphia if he thinks proper.

[Council to W. Buchanan.]

C. C.

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In Council Annapolis 8 Jan^y 1778.

Sir.

M^r M^cGermant just now delivered us your Letter of the 10th of December. It is a principal Object with us, as well as with the Legislature of this State, to render every possible Aid to the Army and, if there was a pressing Necessity for seizing Salt and Provisions within this State, we have no Doubt but, on its being disclosed to the Assembly, for which there was a full Opportunity, due Provision would have been made, but it would, in all likelihood, have been limited by the Occasion, and modified in such a Manner as to prevent, as far as possible, any Oppression or useless Violence. Besides our not being yet informed of any Resolution of Congress, under which Col^o Blaine could suppose himself empowered to seize Salt imported into the Inlets or Stock in Somerset or Worcester County, he seems to have left M^r M^cGerment at full Liberty, nay, to require him to seize all Salt imported there and all Cattle, without making the Necessity of the Army or our Inhabitants any Rule and, so far from attending to the great Principle on which the Seizure of Property can, in any Instance, be justified, that is, the Payment of the full Price, Certificates only were to be given, no Price to be mentioned and the fifth Quarter of the Cattle to be sunk which, according to M^r M^cGermonts Explanation, was not to be taken into the Account at all. We can never approve such Orders or the Execution of them, and, we flatter ourselves that they were given without your Privity. We should be glad to be advised from Time to Time, what Gentlemen are employed in your Department, in this State, and the Extent of their Powers, that we may know who to assist and how far Assistance is desired. Unnecessary & wanton Violence, as stated to us, on Oath, was lately committed by M^r Huggins, on the Person and Property of Yeiser, of Baltimore Town and ought to be enquired into. We last Sunday received Letters from Congress and from the Board of War which give us the very disagreeable but first Notice of the Army being in Danger of suffering for Want of Provisions. The State of our Treasury would not allow us to do a great Deal but, on disclosing the Matter to M^r Chase, he immediately went to Baltimore to endeavour, if possible, to throw in something towards a temporary Supply and, by a Letter from him, we hope, he will succeed. We had taken Steps to collect what Beef we could