

Country. Immediately on their being taken, we had an c. c Opportunity and inclosed Copies to Col^o Simpson. If Sterling or any of his Party should fall in the Way of the Militia Officers, or it should be in the Power of the Militia Officers to seize any of them, we would have it done, without waiting for Applications to the Magistrates, which may and, in most Instances will, occasion so much Delay, that the Culprits will escape. We hope for the Exertion of the Magistrates and every Friend to the Country to get the Deserters taken up and Sterling's Recruiting put an End to, and, if it is not done, we may expect a serious Piece of Work in your County in the Spring. If the Cattle collected in Somerset & Worcester Counties can be conveniently joined, we think it would be best to send them in one Drove as your Brother proposed, but if it will occasion any Delay, they had better be sent off at once for Gen^l Smallwood's Troops at Wilmington. No more need go with the Cattle after they are through your County than are just sufficient to drive them and let the Men call on Col^o Henry Hollingsworth at the Head of Elk and take his Advice & Instructions; he now purchases for the Continent and perhaps may receive the Cattle there, if he will, every good Purpose will be answered. Pray write him what further Number can be got and he will, we expect take Measures for purchasing and driving them. We had no Doubt but that Cap^t Dashiell was long ago left at Liberty to give £5. a Hundred for Pork, that being the Price the Purchasers for the Continent are giving and are at Liberty to give and if Cap^t Dashiell can purchase at that Price or under, you would do well to let him know he is quite safe in doing so. You mention a Gentⁿ from Virginia purchasing Pork in your Neighbourhood for that State. It is strange it should be so, as there must be a Plenty more convenient within that State; yet if it is really for the State, he ought to be suffered to go on, but this ought to be examined into, and, if it turns out that he is not empowered to purchase for the State of Virginia or the Continent we request you will stop the Pork and the Person too, 'til you can get well ascertained it is not for the Use of the Enemy. We think there would be an Impropriety in any particular Recommendation to the Magistrates by us, on the Subject of the Warrants; we send down the Laws which alone will and ought to influence their Conduct. Our Treasury was in a low State when you went from hence; it is now much lower, so that we cannot advance farther for the Purchase of Cattle for the Continent. We are Sir &^{ca}
Col^o George Dashiell.