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[Council to J. Dashiell.]

In Council Annapolis 19th Feb^y 1778

Sir.

We imagine the Expences of the Prisoners taken in the Prizes are to be a Continental Charge; the few you sent to Cambridge are all we have and those, we should be glad to exchange for our own People and, if you could think of any Method of getting W^m Merrill as one of them, we should most willingly contribute what we can towards it but, at present, no Way appears to us by which we can effect it. By our last Accounts from the Maryland Troops, they are still in great Want of Cloathing, those you sent up were very useful and the Public and we, are obliged to you for your Exertions the Price was high, though there's no Doubt of your doing all in your Power to moderate it. We understand there have been several late arrivals; if you could get some more Woolens, especially Blanketts, they would be very acceptable. Shoes, Stockings and Blanketts we believe, are the most deficient. Coating too is wanted and Shirting is yet desirable, if the Price is fallen. We are at some Difficulty to get Shoes made, though, we believe not from the Motive you mention to have actuated your Workmen. If the Assembly, on its Meeting, should pass such a Law as in Virginia, and we should be glad they would, we should soon have Shoes in Plenty. If you should have an immediate and good Opportunity of sending the Goods you have purchased or may purchase to this Place, we should be glad you would as we must send to Cambridge for those lodged there. Some Cattle from Talbott have reached Gen^l Smallwood at Wilmington and were very acceptable. Those purchased in Worcester may be joined, as you advise, with those of Somerset and sent under just such Number of Hands as you think will carry them safely, a little way up, there's no Danger the rest of the Way, or if joining the Drovers will make any Delay, we wish the Gentlemen to send them separately. Col^o Henry Hollingsworth at the Head of Elk, now purchases for the Continent; let the Drovers call on him, he'll either receive them or advise and if necessary, assist in sending them forward. Pray advise him by Letter, what farther Number may be bought in your County; we expect, if worth while he'll send down for them. Our Treasury will not bear further Advances.

Col^o Joseph Dashiell.We are Sir &^{ca}