

[Council to Col. Harrison.]

Jan^y 21st 1777

C. S. C.
No. 120.

Sir. Your favour of the 17th instant we received and are pleased to find you will be able to purchase a quantity of Beef for the use of the State. We send you inclosed an order on the Treasurer of your Shore for £250, and will write to him to advance to you any further sum that may be necessary for your purchase. As soon as a vessel can be had, we shall send you fifty bushels of salt. Those belonging to the State are out with Salt for the lower counties on your shore, and Patuxent, to be applied for curing Beef for Public use. When we applied to you to undertake this business we expected you would be prevailed upon to engage in it rather from a willingness to serve the public than the commission offered; however we think it proper to let you know the expense of labourers in the purchase and curing will be allowed as well as the commission of five per ct. on the price of Beef and Cask.

Col. Robt. Harrison

We are, &c.

[Thomas Contee to Council.]

Gent.

Nottingham Jan^y 21st 1777

I have enquired something about Tobacco on Potomack, am informed twenty two shillings and six pence has been offered, and Tobacco comes in slow, my acquaintance thinks it may be had at twenty five shillings and five shillings for cask. If the Council of Safety determine to load the ship that Capt. Kelty commands with Tobacco and chuse that I shou'd put one half the cargo on board and will give me orders to that purpose, I will cause it to be set about immediately. I intend to be inoculated for the small pox myself in two or three days, but that will not impede the dispatch of the Ship, as I shall give such directions to put things in the greatest forwardness. If Col^o Hooe puts half the Cargo on board, and is desired not to exceed 25/ p^r Cent, I make no doubt Tobacco may be had for that price, and if I am to put the other half, it would be well to advise Col^o Hooe of it, that we may act in conformity and be as one purchaser. Many purchasers always raise a commodity is well known by you all. Be pleased to favour me with a line p^r Post or if any opportunity, before. It would be well to let the ship take in her ballast, lumber, Bread &c. at Baltimore, if to be had readily there. Provision I presume may be had on Potomack where the ship loads and the Capt. may purchase it.

I am, Gent, with great esteem and respect,
Your most obed^t Serv^t

Tho^s Contee.

To
The Honble Council of Safety
Annapolis