

[Council to W. Hemsley.]

C. C.
p. 247

In Council Annapolis 4th May 1779.

Sir.

On Friday by the Post, we received a Letter from Gov^r Morris, in which he requested that the 10000 Barr^{ls} of Flour which he before desired to be purchased & sent forward to Philadelphia, should be lodged in Stores, under the Inspection of Officers of our Appointment. That it should be at the Order of the Chairman of the Committee of Congress on the Commissary's & Quartermaster's Departm^{ts}. That it should be on the Waters of this Bay, so as to be within the Effects of our open Navigation at a Moment's Warning. That it should be collected in Stores, so that it might make him Returns of it by the 1st Day of June at farthest. That what might be got beyond the above Quantity, be stored in like Manner. He says that Orders had been given to stop the Commissaries from purchasing in this State. From this you will see that the Flour M^r R. Morris desires you to purchase is wanted with the same View as that 10000 Barr^{ls} and from R. M's Letter and other Circumstances, we conclude more than 10000 Barr^{ls} is desirable. We have, the same Day of the Receipt of G. M's Letter, wrote to M^r Rob^t Buchanan, Purchaser in Baltimore, & Col^o Dallam, Purchaser in Harford, advising them of the Change of Destination of the Flour, & requested them to act accordingly as we have since done to M^r Sam^l Gilpin & Jn^o Ward Veasey, Purchasers in Cecil & Col^o Henry & Col^o Perkins, Purchasers in Kent and we wish that you & Col^o Thompson would get what may be produced by your Purchases in the situation desired as soon as is well possible. We do not know the Reason of the Flour's being desired to be lodged at Landings on this Bay, but to prevent the Possibility of an irreparable Stroke, we think it would be best not to collect too great a Quantity at the Head of Elk and therefore we could wish that the wheat purchased in Queen Anne may, where it is any Way convenient, be ground up in the Neighbourhood. From any Information we have, there are not yet more than about 7000 Barr^{ls} including Wheat capable of producing, if procured. We are not at Liberty, by the Act, to stop the Purchase in particular Places and continue it in others. Any Thing above the 10000 Barr^{ls} will be applied to the desired Purpose and the Gen^l in Kent & Cecil seem to have been very industrious; for these Reasons we cannot stop the Purchase on the Eastern Shore. Be pleased to send us an Account, the 20th Ins^t of the Quantity of your Purchase and where it is, that we may be able to answer M^r Morris's Expectation. We send by M^r Carie, an Order in your Favor,