

Liber C C
No. 22

[Council to William Smith, Esqr.]

Sir We received your Favor of the 21st Ins^t and, after considering the Requisition of the Minister of France and the Act of Congress of the 7th founded thereon, requesting us to grant Permission to the Agent of the Minister of France to purchase within this State and export three thousand Barrels of Flour to some of the Spanish Colonies for the use of his Catholic Majesty, have determined to give you Permission to purchase and export that Quantity for the Uses aforesaid and in the Manner the Minister shall direct. We esteem our present Situation delicate and embarrassing; willing and desirous to grant the Supplies necessary to carry on the military Operations here and in the West Indies and to render our Assistance to facilitate the Procurement of them, and at the same Time anxiously solicitous to comply with prior Engagements, and to avoid every Thing that may have the least Tendency to obstruct the Execution of Laws formed for the professed Purpose of obtaining Provisions and to prevent a Competition highly detrimental to the Interest of the States in affording an Opportunity to the Avaricious and Designing to make the most unreasonable and exorbitant Demands for Provisions; We do request and desire you to use every Precaution in your Power to obviate the mischievous Consequences pointed out, and that might otherwise flow from this Permission. We expect, in making your Purchases you will not interfere with the State Commissaries or exceed the Prices to which they are limited, 60 Dollars a Bushel for Wheat and 67..10..0 a Hundred for Flour, and that you will not buy of any Person who has purchased with a View of deriving an Advantage by selling again, for as this extraordinary Demand and the Allowance to procure and export it must be known, we do not hesitate to pronounce from Experience that many adventurous and enterprising Persons will be busily and industriously employed in buying up and storing those Necessaries, to avail themselves of the public Necessities, and to extort such a Premium for their Trouble and Hazard as unbounded Avidity may suggest. The Commissaries have received Directions to use their utmost Diligence in executing the Laws to obtain the necessary Supplies of Provision and you may depend upon having such a Quantity turned over, as soon as procured, as will make up the Proportion allotted to the French and desire you would acquaint us what the Deficiency is at present. We are so hurried that we cannot attend to and answer the other Parts of your Letter at this Time. You will give us Information from Time to Time of the Quantity of Flour you have bought, under this Permission.

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[Council to Mr. John Bolton]

Sir As it will be necessary to have a Commissary of Issues in Chester Town to supply the Recruits raised on the Eastern Shore,