

LETTERS TO THE COUNCIL.

1779
October 27

[Richard Dallam, Harford County to Gov. Thomas Johnson]

Sir I am under the disagreeable necessity of informing your Excellency of the further rise of Wheat to 20 £ & that I really expect to hear this day 22..10..0 being given

These prices are the consequence of Contracts M^r Giles (in Acc^t with me) entered into with M^r Hall & John Baxley to whom he has engaged to give fifty Pounds & the rise of the marketts till April and advance them the money. And they to deliver the flour by Christmas for about 400 Barrels. Baxley I know has near all the Wheat to purchase & he must have it, he will shirk at no price, the Present price he gets for flour enables him without loss to give 20 £ & better for Wheat which he has already done. This Joins all the Wheat purchased in this Country to that price. And as We have four Millers in this County under like Contracts as M^r Hutson, I have no guess when it will stop.

I am not the only person alarmed I have conversed with numbers of Persons of different ranks & find all of the opinion that the money is gone, so little Confidence have the people in the money that I have been offered only yesterday, Wheat at 7/6 & Pork at 30s. gold, to be paid in three years altho the latter sells for 100 £ I cannot help saying I believe that money will not Procure the necessary supplies and that some other mode must be adopt^d

This Contract of flour with Hall & Baxley is the first I hear of M^r Giles making altho he has had his Commission some time he Boasts of being unlimmit^d in price & that he will out bid me, let the loss to the Public be what it will for my Part I have no intention of entering into such a Contention with M^r Giles. Were we expending our own money, I should have no fears on that acc^t You may depend nothing shall induce me but a Conviction, of the Public service being Promoted, to give over what I am justifyd in doing from the price being general could an immediate supply of flour be obtained I believe I should have not been nice ab^t a bid, both M^r Hall & Baxley was with me on the morning of my return Home & I could have contractd for Baxley flour at forty Pounds & a rise but knowing his situation & hav^g laid a plan which I had no doubt of executing to prevent a further raise I put him & M^r Hall off with a promise of getting his flour on the Terms that others offerd And as M^r Giles soon after meet with them they informd me of the offer made them