

November 19 in the State where you preside, so now I am encouraged from your former condision to acquaint your Excellency that the difficulty's I now every day experience in procuring Forage for the Army (which they are in the greatest want of) are truly alarming the more so as 'tis in the midst of plenty, to give a more full Idea of our situation I take the Liberty of inclosing a Copy of a letter this day receiv^d from Col^o Owen Biddle A. C. G of Forage at Philadelphia, by which you will be fully inform'd of the wants of the army, and at the same time I shall take the Liberty of informing you of the little prospect I have of supplying it, from which you will be enabled to Judge what is best to be done, and as our General Assembly is now Setting I flatter myself that some salutary measures may be fallen on for their relief; M^r Biddle, your Excellency will observe requests ten thousand Bushels of Forage per week, I have not been able with every Industry in my power to furnish Him with five Hundred, nor even to supply this post sufficiently for their common dailey consumption, not that 'tis scarce but the people wont sell nor will the money buy produce long. I am now offering seven pounds ten shillings for Corn per Bushell, and five pounds for Oats, I can't think of giving more, as it appears to me that Corn and Oats at these prices, and wheat at the present price, that the whole money of the United States will not be Sufficient to purchase the produce of Maryland and Virginia for one season were the people willing to take it, but this is not the case they wont sell at all, and by holding back their grain intend to raise the prices still higher, if this is suffered to goe on, you may lay and welcome the planters and Farmers will evaid all taxes, as they have these heretofore lay'd by raising their produce in proportion to the taxes, and we the purchasers are oblig'd from necessatys of the Army to comply with Exorbitant demands; I would not dare to say so much on this subject which your Excellency is so much better acquainted with than myself did I not recollect that the Squalling of a Goose once saved a great City, and in fact I am so distressed that I know not what next to do; could we once get a supply for a few months before hand, so that we could be at liberty whether to give those prices or not it would give me comfort, but that is not the case we must give what they ask or Starve (I see no remedy) but that of laying a part of the Tax in produce which I am informed has been done in Virginia, though this may seem hard at first, yet doubtless it would be puting mony in the Peoples pocketts (on the whole) as it would assist to fill our Magazines and relieve our emediate necessities, by which we should be put to on a standing so as to deal on a square footing with the Planters or Farmers, and in the end not only produce of every kind, but wages and even imported articles must fall

Thus Sir I have taken the liberty to make you acquainted with our wants and given my thoughts on a remedy, a sthe wants they are