

February 7 tempted to purchase, but my utmost endeavours have been defeated by the Commissioners who have thought their duty obliged them to Seize without consideration.

P. S. I'll endeavour to have the flour herein mentioned released, if I succeed shall send it to Annapolis p first opportunity

February 7 [J. Bolton, Chestertown to His Excellency Thos Sim Lee]

Sir I wrote you some time ago advising that at the request of Thomas Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> our late Governour I had furnish'd the several recruiting Parties & Soldiers on furlow with Rations under great disadvantage to myself, as I had to lay out my own money to purchase the Provisions, & by the time the money has been paid to me the depreitiation has sunk the greatest part of the sum advanced; since I wrote you, I have had daily Soldiers calling on me for Provisions, which are (meat especially) scarce to be had. If therefore you choose I should continue to supply them, please desire one of the State Purchasers or the Comissary to supply me with Beef or Pork or both for that purpose for it is now too late to purchase any as for Bread or Flower, I can procure that, provided I can be furnish'd with Cash to purchase it, but I really cannot afford to lay out any longer my owne money as I have hitherto done, to the great determent of my Business as a Retailer, being for a long time kept by that means so bare of Money that I had not wherewith to lay in a Stock of Goods particularly in the year 1777 & beginning of 1778 at which time I was above two thousand pounds in advance to the States & tho I lost considerably by laying out of my money & by the depreitiation at that time yet I have lost much more by the depreitiation since in proportion to the sum advanced. Hope therefore if you should order me to supply the Recruiting parties as I have hitherto done, you will also order me, what is necessary for that purpose. about four bb<sup>s</sup> Pork & 4 bb<sup>s</sup> Beef & as much Cash as will buy the same quantity of Fresh meat, & Flower or Bread in Proportion I recon will be sufficient for the year. My Pay is so triffling that should you think fit to continue me in the Station hope you will consider that, as one months pay at present will scarcely hire a Labourer for two days, as the Auditor tells me I am intitled to but 40 dollars p<sup>r</sup> month. My Acco<sup>t</sup> from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> I sent to Rock Hall just before the Frost set in, so recon it is still lying there, it has already sunk above half the Value by the depreitiation, & may probably sink more before it reaches you, however shall continue to supply any soldiers on furlow, going to, or returning from Camp, out of the Provisions laid in for my Family (if I can't get to buy) rather than that they should suffer, but should a Recruiting party come here before I get supplied with Provisions the Service will certainly suffer, as I really have not a sufficient quantity of Salt provision laid in for my Family & there is at present no fresh