

February 29 lency how to act, desiring you'll please to consider how hard it would be to me after all the trouble & difficulties I have had to see other persons take away the commissions I have right to (which will hardly be adequate to my expences) without forwarding the Service more than I have done.

Col. Peregrine Tilghman told me he had wrote to your Excellency about the 28 barr^{ls} of flour I purchased last December of W^m Hemsley Esq^r as mentioned in my letter of the 5th instant, & he thought himself obliged to detain it 'till your orders are known; be pleased to inform me if I can forward them to your Excellency & the Gentlemen in Annapolis I bought them for.

I was lately in Somerset County and was informed there was about 70 or 80 barr^{ls} of flour in a Store at Salisbury purchased last Summer by M^r M^cBride, by order of the late Governor & Council for the use of the States; it has been so long there, that most of it is Sour. If brought up to Baltimore it may Sell to mix with Ship Stuff and make Ship bread otherwise it must be lost.

[W. Smith, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee.]

February 29 Sir By a letter of the 25th Inst. from the Agent general of the Marine of france. I am directed to apply to your Excell^y for permission to load with provisions for acco^t of his most Christian Majesty fleet & Army in the W. Indies the two following Vessells. To wit the schooner Holker & the schooner Morris, mounting four carriage guns & four swivels each, with fourteen men. I am also directed to withdraw the application made on Acco^t of the Brig. Hawke Capt. Taylor. I am sorry to be troublesome on this subject and must plead my instructions as an appology.

I would Iust beg leave to observe to your Exc^y that as I am informed much pains has been taken to injure my character with the public & reports circulated to induce a belief that under cover of a permission to purchase a quantity of flour for the french navy I had engrosed considerable quantitys for my own Acco^t & far exceeded the quantity permitted to be purchased in this State. And as I am told returns have been made or are to be made to your Board of all the wheat & flour seized in my possession and in the possession of my Agents, I take the liberty for the information of your Excellency & the Council (who I wish to be acquainted with every of my transactions respecting this business) to mention that fourteen or fifteen hundred bb^{ls} of the flour seized in my stores at Balt^o is no part of that purchase, but delivered to my by order of the late Gov^r & Council by the State of Virginia & by the Continental commissary of purchases, this flour I was directed by the several committees of Congress to appropriate to diferent purposes. To Wit, for the use of the American Navy at Boston a part to be delivered to the order of the Comm^y general but principlly for the Marine of france. Add to this