

Brown consequence of my application to them of the 27<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> to purchase  
 Book No. 8 4000 barrels, which were to be delivered to said M<sup>r</sup> Smith, on  
 account of the Royal Marine: this additional order formed my pre-  
 tentions for 12000 Barrels & they have been acknowledged by the  
 same Hon<sup>l</sup> Committee, when they applied some time since to your  
 Excellency & Council for all the flour purchased by my Agents over  
 & above that quantity.

At the same time that the above mentioned purchases were  
 directed to be made 12000 barrels of flour were demanded from  
 the State of Pensilvania, who entered upon measures to obtain  
 them forthwith, these however had not the desired effect, were soon  
 after annuled & have not Supplied me yet with 1500 barrels of  
 flour in the whole. Some time after the Steps were taken I perceived  
 that the Continental Commissaries on the eastern shore of Mary-  
 land could not furnish any of the flour demanded from them be-  
 cause the wants & urgent necessity of the Army were so great that  
 I was repeatedly applied to for the flour stored by my agents in  
 this city: & in the beginning of November I was apprised that my  
 conjectures were but too true, for instead of Supplying the 4000  
 barrels, *Colonel Blaine* applied for & obtained unknown to me, from  
 M<sup>r</sup> Smith 500 barrels of flour for the immediate relief of the Army,  
 and under the most Solemn promise that he should replace them  
 without delay, promise which he has not fulfilled to this moment.

Influenced by the apprehension of the fatal Consequences of these  
 my Conjectures, I determined in the run of october to press M<sup>r</sup>  
 Smith more & more: I told him that I expected the fleet on the  
 Coast forth with, that all my resources were almost frustrated in  
 every quarter but his: I reminded him of the engagement of the  
 Commissaries & Concluded that all my expectations for assistance  
 and relief lay with him: it was on this ground that he pushed for-  
 ward, that he exerted all the influence he was master of; had he  
 obtained 20000 barrels I should have claimed the whole for the  
 Royal Marine, as it would have been paid for by the remittance I  
 should have directed to be made in behalf of the King's service &  
 for the use of his fleet which was hourly expected, but this I knew  
 was not the case. I knew it by the sums of money paid to M<sup>r</sup> Smith,  
 or by his demands on M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris, & therefore I willingly con-  
 sented that the Scrutiney should be made under the idea that he was  
 only authorized to purchase 12000 barrels & that the overplus should  
 be applied for the relief of the American Army. How far I have  
 been grounded in my Conjectures your Excellency can but inform,  
 by the return I have demanded of the flour seized by the State Com-  
 missaries and redelivered to my Agents.

With respect to the letter of a Committee of Congress of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
 July 1779 I shall observe that 3000 barrels only were accepted of by  
 M<sup>r</sup> Smith in Consequence of my directions instead of 8000, though