

ten thousand had been ordered by a Committee of Congress & were purchased for the use of the Royal Marine for purposes then in Contemplation.

M^r Gerard claimed leave to export 5 or 6000 barrels of flour by his letter of the 21st of August. 3000 barrels thereof have not yet left your State, which you'll perceive by the return of the Naval office; therefore nothing has been done contrary thereto from the purchasing 12000 barrels, it is not allways to be concluded that the same is to be exported forthwith—whenever that would have become necessary I should have made application for the same, & it would have been so if three large * Store ships which sailed from Martinico on the 14th November under Convoy of three frigates with Cargoes of Salt & West indies produces could have reached the Shores of America.

Permit me now to observe to your Excellency that to this day from the moment of the arrival of the Count de Estaings fleet in the American Seas, 8000 barrels of flour have not yet been furnished to the Royal Marine from the United States comprehending the supplies furnished that very fleet, off New York, Rhode Island & in Boston.

It is also incumbent on me to inform you, that his Majesty's fleet off Georgia, was ardently wished for & expected in the run of October last. It was intended that it should Cooperate with the American Army & should be seconded by a large body of militia: this body was not assembled, no fleet arrived here & notwithstanding these two circumstances, all the flour procured in Pennsylvania for the sole use of that fleet, has been taken from my Agents for relief of the Continental Army: what was Shipped on board vessels bound to Join the fleet, has been demanded & granted; no flour has been delivered by the Commissaries on the eastern Shore: the whole of what remained & which had been purchased at the greatest expence &c with immense trouble by M^r Smith of Baltimore has been seized & wrested from the hands of my Agents under pretence of the immediate relief of the American Army. the Vessels chartered to export the same have been refused a permission to load; His Majesty's Ship the Fendant then in Chesapeak could not have been supplied from the King's Stores in Baltimore, because they were no more at my disposal, & what is still more incomprehensible the provisions have been seized in consequence of Circular letters under the dates of the 17th January & 3^d february Coppies of two of which I have the honor of inclosing, in order to know from you whether they are genuine & whether they had the sanction of the Government of Maryland: I shall draw no Consequence, nor make any inference from those faits; I can only request you'll please to submit

* These vessels have been blown off the Coast, have put in Cape are refitting to proceed further.