

Brown to Monseigneur De Sartine His Majesty's minister in the Department  
Book No. 8 of the Marine, and that it would be extremely Satisfactory to be informed of the qualitys of the Wheat & flour seized by the State Commissioners so as I may compare the Same with the returns & accounts of M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Smith of Baltimore, and also whether any Embezzlements Grants & misdemeanors have been the consequence of that Gentleman's transactions for the King's Service.

Not receiving any answer from your Excellency I directed M<sup>r</sup> Smith to transmit the resolve of Congress of the 11<sup>th</sup> March last relative to a Supply of 15000 Barrels of flour and to request from the Supreme executive Council a decisive answer thereon. M<sup>r</sup> Smith informs that you have been pleased to direct the Commissioners of the Several Counties to restore to him the provisions seized, but that it is not in your power to fix the time of the delivery of the remainder of the flour allotted for the French by the State, & that you will endeavour to have it done as soon as possible.

Your Excellency & the Honorable the Council must be sensible, that the Supplies of fleets & armies, are of so great importance, that the persons to whom his Majesty's Service is Entrusted, cannot place sufficient dependance on such an answer; that plans or operations for the Execution whereof, the demands of 15000 Barrels of flour from your State have been made & granted by Congress, cannot take place, if assurances are not given that not only provisions can be obtained, but are actually delivered into the hands of my agent in your State. it is on this sole footing, that his majesty's commanders, can concert or Enter on the Execution of any naval operation whatever, it is therefore my duty to request, that Your Excellency and council, will please to inform, whether your Situation will permit you, to comply with the aforesaid resolve of Congress, or whether you'll permit M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Smith to continue his purchases to the amount of 15000 Barrels of flour, I supplying him, with the necessary means to prosecute the same forthwith, as your answer is of the utmost consequence, I hope, it will be attended with no unnecessary delay: I shall only add, that on application to the Governor and Council of this State, they have not hesitated to empower me to direct my Agent here, to purchase the provisions demanded by congress & to Employ to this purpose all the Means which I should deem most Effectual for the King's Service

May 8 [Mordecai Gist Annapolis to the Honble Josia Beall Esqr]  
Brown Sir The Resolves of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> The House of Delegates on the  
Book No. 3 second reading of the Address of the Military Officers of the State  
Letter No. 17 has been communicated to the Maryland Division, who are truly sensible of the politeness of the House, and think themselves complimented by the very flattering Terms in which they are mentioned; but as the meaning of the Resolve is rather ambiguous, and the