

tained and consequently after trial would be permitted to pursue her intended Voyage but as such delay must frustrate the Intentions of the owners and tend to distress their several Families Your Memorialist apprehends your Excellency and Honours taking into your Considerations the above Stated Facts and being fully satisfied of the truth thereof would in your wisdom direct that your Memorialist be permitted to pursue his intended Voyage either with or without your Memorialists giving Bond to exchange at the Place mentioned or to be answerable for the Vessel and Flower if Condemned by the Court of Admiralty your Excellency and Honours taking into your Consideration the above Case of Your Memorialist and doing therein as you in your wisdom shall seem right it shall engage Your Memorialist ever to pray. May 27

[Eph Blaine, C. G. P., Philad^a to Gov. Lee]

May 27

Sir A few Days will consume all the Salt Provisions in our Magazines, little in this part of the Country and no Money to buy it with. the severity of last Winter and backwardness of the Spring will deprive us of any Grass Beef till the latter end of July or beginning of August. Should we have Assistance from our Allies as is certainly expected, every possible exertion of the States will be necessary to feed the Army. have therefore to beg the aid of your Excellency and Council to adopt ways and means to secure all the spare Salt Provisions in the State. I obtained an Order from Congress early in April for One Million eight hundred twenty two thousand five hundred thirty three Dollars and thirty ninetieths payable to my Deputies agreeable to indorsement, this Money is to enable them to pay part of their old Debts, and secure all the Salt Provisions they possibly can. should their purchasing be contrary to the Laws of your State, would wish your Excellency & Council to give them permission, or order your County Contractors to secure all the Salt Provisions within their respective districts. The requisitions of Flour made by Congress from the States for the support of the Army will not be Adequate to the Consumption, therefore they should make an Additional demand.

We hourly expect to hear of the French fleet being on our Coast, every good man here wishes their first Object may be Charles Town, if they are not there very soon, I fear the Consequences shou'd they come to New York, I have not the least doubt but two weeks after their Arrival within the Hook General Washington will be completely possessed of the City of New York and its dependencies and that I shall be able to aggregate such a quantity of Salt Provisions as will give our Army three months Supplies, and procure a sufficient Magazine of Salt to serve the Continent two years. We had two different Accounts of the Arrival of the Fleet off Sandy Hook but it is yet premature.