

M^r Smith did not furnish you the account of his purchases but I cannot conceive how this cou'd have deprived you of the Knowledge of the quantity he was master of since the Commissioners of the State had Possession of the whole for several months & could better than him, have given you the fullest information.

Brown Book
No. 8

M^r Smith will undoubtedly do everything in his power to second your views & request & I have sent him & will Supply him with whatever quantity of bills on France he can negotiate at 45 dollars per 5 livres tournois, so as he may purchase all the flour that offers at market & what he can contract for with the millers, but as I perceive that his Efforts at this late period can realise but very small quantities we cannot place dependance on them & I must therefore humbly entreat you to comply with all possible speed with the resolve of the Assembly & that you'll please to order four or five thousand barrels into the hands of M^r Smith who will store the same for the use of the fleet, which may very soon be Expected & which Entertains the strongest hopes of being amply supplied when here. Should you deem Necessary that I shou'd forward you, some bills on France I shall readily do it, on account of the flour to be delivered, on your Excellencys application to me, or M^r W^m Smith in Baltimore

[J. Swan, Baltimore to Gov Lee]

June 11

I had the Honor of receiving Your Excellencys letter of the 9th Current recommending Captⁿ Kelty to take charge of the flag Brig to New York, in consequence of which I applied to the Owners, who inform'd me they had appointed a person to take charge of her some time ago, that He had been at a considerable expence and trouble in fitting the Vessels for Sea, that in justice to him they could not take Her from him, nor could they appoint any person for that voyage upon an uncertainty, who would not continue in their employ after Her return, finally that they had lost a part of the best season for sending Her to Holland, and would keep Her no longer in a State of Suspence, that they would begin to load Her on Monday for Holland, without they were put upon some certainty, I requested they would give me one day, and not begin to load untill Tuesday that I might have an Opportunity to consult Your Excellency, by to morrows post, they require a demurrage of five pounds hard money p day, untill the 20 Days for Loading commence, laying a stress upon the time she hath already been detained. At present I think the uncertainty such that I would prefer running the risque of getting another Vessel altho: I know of none that will answer the purpose so well, yet a demurrage of five pounds p day will soon increase the freight considerably, and the Enemy I apprehend wish to gain time untill they know the destination of the French fleet, expected on this Coast.