

[Council to the Commissioners for Baltimore Town]

Liber C C  
No. 22

Gentlemen We received your Letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and should have attended to it sooner, had not other Business of Consequence, that then lay before us, required our immediate Notice. We lament that in the Execution of the Act for the immediate Supply &<sup>ca</sup> the Utility of which is recognized by every Friend to his Country, you should be embarrassed with so many Difficulties. Little did we expect the Commissioners of Baltimore Town would have met with Opposition from any of its Inhabitants, in their Endeavours under the Act to procure Supplies for the Army, and less did we think any should be found so destitute of real Patriotism, as to bid Defiance to the supreme Authority of the State and the Officers appointed to execute the Law, that the Rest who have nobly distinguished themselves in the Cause of Freedom and indicated a sincere and inviolable Attachment to their Country and Love for the Army, would with a Criminal Indifference, stand by and suffer the Officers of the State to be insulted and the Act, made for the professed and laudable Purpose of relieving the Army, suspended by arbitrary Power. We cannot suppose that the Inhabitants of the Town, whose Courage and Magnanimity were never questioned with Impunity, were deterred from rendering their Aid to the Commissioners, by the impotent Threats of a Few Individuals, of repelling Force, by Force, nor can we think they possess so little Discernment as to allow themselves to be imposed on by the shallow Artifices mentioned in your Letter, that the Commissioners had no Authority to impress Waggon in the Country from whence it is inferred that they had no Power to seize Flour purchased for the French: this must be the Conclusion, or it could have no Relation to the Subject. That if the Flour was seized, the Inhabitants would perish! Were the Inhabitants to be supplied with that Flour? if they were, it was an Infringement of the Law and liable to be seized. M<sup>r</sup> Smith cannot despise our Opinion more than we condemn his Conduct, which we esteem highly reprehensible, because it leads to Anarchy and Confusion and has a palpable Tendency to defeat or elude a Law founded on the most evident Necessity, the Execution of which the public Safety requires. On the most mature Consideration of the Business referred to us, we find no Reason to recede from our former Advice and Instruction and for your Satisfaction we will repeat so much as respects the present Subject. We think Flour and Wheat purchased for the French, liable to Seizure, and therefore would advise you to seize and secure such and to take a particular Account of the Quantity of each and the Person in whose Possession Seized. We are more particular because we are Solicitous to ascertain the Quantity of Flour and Wheat purchased in this State under the Pretext of acting as Agents for the French. We instruct you not to transport the Flour and Wheat purchased for the French, until you receive our further In-

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