

supplied. The Recommendation of Congress to restore the Flour, has been received ; but that cannot give us Authority to do it ; because, at the same Time, we were informed by them that the Wants of the Army were pressing and require immediate Relief. No Inconveniences have, as yet, we apprehend, have arisen from the Seizure and as the Obstruction to the Navigation still remains, we flatter ourselves it will be in our Power to obviate any ; to that End, as well as with a View of removing every Cause of Uneasiness or Disgust, we have called a Meeting of the General Assembly the second Day of March next in Order to Submit to their Consideration your Excellency's Letters and the whole Proceedings of the Commissioners and we have no Doubt but that the Result of their Deliberations will be highly satisfactory to your Excellency. We cannot refrain from expressing our Disapprobation of the Conduct of M^r Smith, in resisting the Officers appointed to carry the Law into Execution. Whatever his Sentiments might be respecting the Propriety of it, we think, an Attempt in any Individual to trample on the Authority of the state and to frustrate its Acts, ought not to escape without Reproof. It is not in our Power at this Time to point out any Species of Misconduct in M^r Smith, or others employed under him in the Purchase of Flour and Wheat, but as soon as we make any Discovery of male Practices, we shall impart them that your Excellency may take proper Precautions to prevent a Repetition

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[Council to The Delegates from Maryland in Congress.]

Gentlemen In the Execution of the Law to procure an immediate Supply &^{ca} we have been embarrassed, but nothing has given us more Uneasiness than the Idea that the Conduct of our State, in seizing the French Flour, may, possibly be imputed to some Motive different from that of relieving the alarming Distresses of the Army, which has rendered us the more desirous that you should converse with the Minister of France and explain the Whole of this Business. We would have him convinced of our firm Attachment to the Alliance, our Desire to promote the Interest of France and facilitate the Operation of their Fleets and Armies, and to supply them with the Means of Subsistence, and that Nothing but the most urgent and pressing Necessity could have constrained us to subject the French Flour to Seizure ; that we wish to have, from Congress, or the General, that the Army is supplied, on which Event, we shall not hesitate to order Restitution of the Flour and Wheat, lawfully purchased. We request you to explain the Nature of our Power, that we act in a Subordinate Capacity and cannot make, repeal or suspend the Execution of any Law. The Minister informs us that he has imparted to M^r Plater, some fatal Consequences which will result from our not restoring the Flour besides the Inconveniences suggested to us ; we cannot conjecture what they are. We have not yet been furnished with Re-

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