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without Foundation, and he writes that the Troops have received no Meat for five Days past. We observe you write of a person from Carlyle offering Seventy Bullocks to be paid in Flour at Baltimore Town. The Distance between Frederick and Baltimore from Carlyle should certainly make some Differences as the Price of the Beef as well as the Difference between small and large Quantity. However we think it best that you get the Beef upon the lowest Terms possible to be paid in Flour at Baltimore Town at the current Price for Flour there and you shall upon your advising us of having made the Contract be furnished with orders for the Flour to make your Payment

Ibid.
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[Council to Mr Holker.]

We long since gave orders to the Commissaries of the State to restore the Flour and Wheat seized by them which was purchased for the [use] of his most Christian Majesty, though it remained uncertain whether that Quantity did not exceed what was allowed. We have been and still are anxious to have the Quantity purchased by M^r Smith and his Agents in the several Counties, reduced to a Certainty and pointed out the only Method by which we apprehend it could be ascertained, the Letters laid before you in Council, M^r Smith ought to call on his Agents to render Accounts of their Purchases, in which they ought to mention, the Time of whom they purchased and how much of each Person we are inclined to think the Method suggested by you of directing the Commissaries to return the Quantity of Flour and wheat seized by them belonging to the Marine of France, will not give the Satisfaction you could wish because the Commissaries gave Certificates to the Possessors as Proprietors without making particular Inquiry whose Property it was and because it cannot be supposed that all the wheat and Flour purchased by M^r Smiths Agents was seized by our Commissary. With great Pleasure we will grant the desired Permission to M^r Smith to forward to Mess^{rs} Turnbull and Company by the way of the Head of Elk 3000 Barrels of Flour we are obliged by your Proffer of 1500 Barrels of Biscuit but decline accepting it, on Account of the enormous Expence that attends the Transportation and Difficulty of procuring Barrels and having at this Time a very considerable Quantity of damaged Flour which we have determined to have baked in Biscuit.

Ibid.

[Council to Brigadier General Hamilton.]

We received your letter of the 30th January Yesterday. We have in Consequence thereof, given Orders to our Agent M^r Murdock to procure Boards Nails and every Thing necessary for compleating the Barracks; and to be attentive to the regular Supply of Fuel and Provisions for the Convention Troops.