



[Council Circular to the Commissaries of the Several Counties.] September 5
Liber No. 78

Yesterday Evening we received certain Intelligence by a French Cutter which arrived at Baltimore Town, that the French Fleet consisting of 28 Ships of the Line and 4 Frigates came into our Bay on the 26th ult^o and had landed 3000 Troops in Virginia. The Intelligence is confirmed as to the Arrival of the Fleet, by a Letter from Virginia from one of the Marquis Fayette's Family. There never has been a Time which required the Exertions of the State more than the present. The Fate of Lord Cornwallis and his Army will in a great Measure, depend upon them. Relying therefore on your Patriotism Zeal and Activity, we trust you will do every Thing in your Power to procure the Cattle heretofore ordered. Not a Moment is to be lost and to enable you to act with more Facility, and to ease the Inhabitants we have sent you  £ to pay, in Part for the Cattle, and you may inform the Persons of whom you get them, that the Residue shall be paid as soon as sufficient Subscriptions shall be received on which the Money is to issue. If you cannot procure the whole of the Cattle by Purchase and should meet with any Resistance or Difficulties in collecting them by seizure, you may employ Persons to assist you, and call on the Lieutenant of your County whom we have directed to order out as many of the Light Horse Militia to aid you in the Execution of this Order, as will be necessary. p. 274
Ibid.

 Money sent to each County :

To Somerset £1700 to Worcester 1700£ to Dorchester 1100£ to Talbot 950£ to Caroline 350£ to Queen Anns 950£ to Kent 800£ to Cecil 950£ to Harford 800£ to Baltimore 1100£ to Ann Arundel 500£ to Prince Georges 500£ to Charles 500£ to Saint Mary's 500£ to Calvert 500£ to Montgomery 800£ to Frederick 1100£ and to Washington 800£.

[Council to President of the Special Council.]

Ibid.

We most sincerely congratulate you on the Arrival of Count de Grasse. We do ourselves the Honor of enclosing Copies of the Letters which confirm this happy Event. Circular Letters are dispatched to the respective Commissaries, urging them to use every Exertion in their Power to procure and forward the Supplies, agreeably to our former Orders. As they will probably be wanted before they can be collected, without the most strenuous Exertions, we beg Leave to request every Aid in your Power that this Business may not be a Moment retarded. To give the more Energy to the Exertions of the Commissaries, and to satisfy and quiet the apprehensions of the Inhabitants, each Commissary is furnished with a Sum of Money to enable him to pay in Part for the Cattle