

I wish therefore to have directions what to do with them by the Return of our post at farthest, and at sometime hope I may be furnished either with the Cash I have mentioned above or an order on our Collector, as I am considerably in arrears I am daily press'd for it.

March 8
Red Book
No. 27
Letter 40

Col^o Fitzhugh & D^r Johnson informs me they had made application for me to the appointment of Auctioneer for this county, under an Act of the last General Assembly, I'm not yet acquainted with the Tenor of the Act, but should the appointment be not engaged to any other person & your Excellency & the Council are inclined to commission me I will very thankfully accept it

[Robt. F. Hooe, Alexandria, to Gov. Lee.] (favor of Capt. Conway)

March 9
Red Book
No. 28
Letter 47

I was in hopes to have had it in my power to give Your Excellency an agreeable Acc^t of both Cornwallis & Arnold before this, but by our latest advices I am afraid the former will make good his retreat—the latter I think must fall into our hands, as by this time there must be a very great Militia force upon his back, and if the french fleet continue to block him up, he must shortly surrender for want of Provisions, being as we are informed in great want. Capt. Conway has two Vessells fitting out here in w^{ch} I am interested & the expence & difficulty of getting Commissions from Richmond being very great, I have to beg the favor of Your Excellency to grant them at Annapolis, and I will see the Bonds executed and punctually return'd from this place.

[R. Purviance, W. Patterson, M. Ridley Baltimore, to James McHenry Esq^r.]

March 9
Red Book
No. 28
Letter 59

In consequence of Your Letter dated March 6th 1781 to the Merchants of Baltimore stating the difficulties that may possibly arise respecting the Troops at the Head of Elk a meeting of this body was held to day when we had the honor of being appointed a Committee to transact the bussiness on the present occasion.

We are authoris'd to assure you in their names that no exertions within the compass of their abilities shall be wanting to expedite the enterprize of Major General the Marquiss de la Fayette & the military Subordinate to him, they being warmly dispos'd to aid & give immediate energy to his operations against the common Enemy.

And on the application of the commanding officer to us for any articles, which tho' necessary to furnish the Detachment Government cannot procure on the present emergency, the Merchants here will give their best assistance to obtain them.

We woud however suggest the expedience of giving us timely notice of such deficiencies as some Articles are always difficult to be procur'd even for Cash—

All the Vessels in the harbour have already been sent to the Head of Elk. (See page 115)

True copy. J. B. Cutting, Sec^y