

Ibid. that place, with a number of Troops Destined on an expedition, and
 Letter 58 that unless the Merchants, and others, of this Town, wou'd unite in
 procuring such assistance as the Troops may want, there is reason
 to apprehend a failure of the enterprize, we the subscribers fully
 impressed with the importance of annoying & repelling the common
 Enemy, & Sensible of the Difficulties which Government at this time
 labour under, from the Exhausted situation of the Treasury, do
 hereby agree to afford every assistance in our power, and that we
 will ratify and confirm such agreements or purchases as may be made
 for the purposes of expediting the above business by Mess^{rs} Robert
 Purviance Matthew Ridley & William Paterson a Committee ap-
 pointed to Transact it, at a meeting held this day; and that we will
 by subscriptions of money if necessary, enable the said Gentlemen
 to fullfil their contracts. It is however understood that the said Gen-
 tlemen, in matters of importance, shall call a meeting of the subscrib-
 ers, that they may be informed how far the Credit may be pledged,
 and the Majority of those met, agreeing thereto shall be binding on
 the whole. It is also expected the Committee will write the Governor
 & Council of the measures adopted & settle some proper mode with
 them of receiving money for the completion of purchases; and in
 case of necessary advances to Guarantee Subscribers as to repay-
 ments of them

A true Copy

J. B. Cutting Sec^{ry}

Ibid. Extract of a Letter from James McHenry Esq^r dated Elk 6th March
 Letter 59 '81. Addressed to the Merchants of Baltimore.

On joining Major General, the Marquiss de la Fayette, I was con-
 vinced of what I had before suspected, that his Enterprize wanted
 all Your assistance. He has been greatly disappointed; and of course
 it has stood still for some days; and without very general exertions
 may be defeated in its commencement. Such is the deranged state
 of our treasury affairs, that public officers find a thousand inconveni-
 encies & obstacles in the execution of their duty. Scarce a Waggon
 can be put in motion without adding to the powers of Government
 that of private assistance. In such a situation it becomes the duty of
 Individuals, and of particular societies of men, to contribute a cer-
 tain support beyond what may be consider'd their proper proportion.
 This is look'd for under all Governments but expected more pecu-
 liarly in the republican. I need not select as an instance the Philadel-
 phia Merchants who have so long kept the Northern Army supplies
 with provisions.

You will be surpriz'd that a Sufficient number of Vessels for the
 transport of the Troops have not yet arriv'd. But there are other
 matters as necessary to the enterprize which without your interposi-
 tion may not be provided.