

April 21 Receiv'd Baltimore 21 April 1781 of Richard Curson the within Specified Articles agreeable to Account p the order of His Exc^y Thomas Sim Lee Esquire for the use of the State of Maryland.
Geo. P. Keepports

April 23 [Patrick Hamilton, Cecil County, to Gov. Lee]

When your attention must be taken up with the affairs of the State, it gives me uneasiness to trouble you with a matter relative to myself only. The great number of applications for relief, in consequence of a law passed last June Session, empowering the Commissioners of the tax to relieve those who had suffered by the enemy & the long indisposition of Col. Thompson, retarded the publick business so much, that I never got the Tobacco Tax & second 10^l Tax for last year settled with the Commissions before tuesday last. The next day I sett off in order to make a final settlement with the Treasurer, but, unfortunately for me, before I reached his house, he had gone to Annapolis. As the delay was not owing to any negligence in me, and as I am now fully prepared, & will wait on M^r Dickenson as soon as he returns. I hope your Excellency will not under a Scire Facias against me. If necessary, the Commissioners say they will certifie that the delay was not owing to me.

April 23 [Matt. Ridley, Phil^a, to Gov. Lee.]

I am informed by the Minister of his having wrote you relative to my passage. He promises me every assistance in his power. He has already wrote Compte de Vergennes that I may be expected & the purpose for which I go. He promises me personal Letters on my departure. I am now endeavouring to procure every influence & recommendation I can & am in hopes if the state does but provide proper Funds my attempt will not prove a fruitless one Be assured my wishes are ardent & that assiduity shall not be wanting to complete what I have so much at Heart.

A Vessel from the Havanah in ten days bring an Account of the Arival of the Fox. Her cargo sold I believe at 32 Dollars. The Spaniards went before Pensacola offers of surrender had been made, but refused—ten sail of Line went from Jamaica supposed for its relief. The Spaniards followed in two days after with 17 Sail of the Line & 7000 Troops. It was however expected the Force there would be in possession before either fleet could arrive A Vessel from L'Orient sail'd the 23^d Feb^{ry} brings advice that 51 sail of French Ships of Line lay in Brest. That Compte D'Estaing was at Paris A great reform had taken place in the Navy. Compte Guichen & Mons. LaGrasse had resigned. It is said Mon^s Maurepas has retired & that the Duke De Choiseul succeeds him—that the Dutch had given Orders for reprizals & the Northern Powers were determined to support them. The English had sent 28 Ships of the Line