

Amunition I have recommended to council also to be sent to such of the lower Commissarys as make their first returns to assist up with any provisions they may have on hand, and am now setting out to collect a Brigade of waggons in this neighbourhood to remove the provisions from the Head of Chester as it may arive there, to such places as Col^o Blain may appoint, he agreeing with your Honours of the Head of Chester being the properest place for the first deposit, I have therefore appointed M^r Abram Faulkner to receive, take charge of and deliv^r the State provisions at that place, and have been thus particular to convince you that though little is done, there has been nothing wanting on my part; (in my power) as soon as a Brigade is collected, by which time I am in hopes some returns will be made me, I shall set out again to the lower Countys (if necessary) to execute your Orders; in my last tour was informed of a quantity of what about two thousand Bushels in a Mill the property of Doctor Slyter Bouchell, near the Head of Chester about four or five Miles from the Line, the wheat is said to be the property of M^r John Acord a resider of Wilmington, whither this wheat is intended to go, out of the State or not is uncertain, but tis a pity our Army should want Flour while there is such a quantity of wheat laying, (providing M^r Acord could be paid for it, there is about twelve hundred Bushels of Corn in Store Just by the Mill (I see the wheat and it is very good) I have only to add that Enemys Shipping six in number are between Pooles Island and Turkey point (as I am informed)

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[Sam. Smith, Balt. to Gov. Lee.]

At Sun Set yesterday one Ship of 16 or 18 Guns & 2 Brigs lay on our River Channell at 3 Mi from North Point our Barges awes theirs & prevents their Landing the other 2 ships are off Pooles Island. Yesterday some Militia from the N. side of Patapsco Were arrv'd & I Have not a Doubt will prevent any Deprivations there, all the Stock & Goods of Value is remov'd from thence. Our Militia begin to be formidable should these Vessells Cut off our Communication long the Distresses of our poor will be very great. Our Galley is nearly fit for service. She only Stops for want of Money the Town have done their utmost. I Have not gone to Market for these last 3 Market Days for want of Money. It is not to be had. Fines have been laid & more will be laid on persons refusing to turn out on actual Service, these fines in fact belong to the Town, for they are levied no where Else. I Have been Spoke to by almost all the principal Inhabitants, I Have been applied to by the Committee to solicit that these fines Collected from & Levied on the Inhabitants of the Town be applied to the Defence of the Town, the request I think just & therefore I make it to your Excell^y not doubting that you will think the request reasonable, was the Galley properly fitted it would not be necessary to keep up so respectable a Militia, & she

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