

May 1 safe at the Head of Chester from every River with the flour, shall  
 Red Book be down in a few days and employ them on any other Service that  
 No. 30 they can be usefull in (if any) as the Head of the Bay is now clear  
 Letter 07 of the Enemies Cruisers this day received eight good fat Bullocks  
 of M<sup>r</sup> McBryde Commissary for Summerset County which is the  
 only provisions received here since my last returns, Col<sup>o</sup> Yeates com-  
 plains loudly for want of Forage which I have ordered M<sup>r</sup> Baruch  
 Williams to purchase who says he has no money, and if he buys on  
 Credit it will enhance the price, an order in his favour would be very  
 usefull. I have wrote to the several County Commissarys to be par-  
 ticular in hastening their collections, forwarding their provisions, and  
 meeting me with their Returns at your City at the Setting of the  
 General Assembly.

May 1 [Ja Hutchings, Annapolis, to the Governor and Council.]

I attend your Board in obedience to your warrant arresting me  
 for having gone on board the Enemy Ship and for obtaining two  
 of my Negroes from the commanding officer without Your Excell<sup>ys</sup>  
 and the Councils Leave in writing I did not know that your Board  
 alone was invested with the Power to grant Permission to the Citi-  
 zens of this State to go on board the Enemies vessels, but from the  
 convenience and the Practice heretofore I really thought either the  
 Special Council for the Eastern Shore or the County Court or Lieu-  
 tenant of any County could give Licence in their Discretion as the  
 Special Council was not sitting I sent a Letter to the honble William  
 Paca Esq<sup>r</sup> one of the Members soliciting the Favour of a Flag to  
 go on board the Enemies Ship for the purpose of recovering my  
 Slaves, but as M<sup>r</sup> Paca was from Home my Letter was not received  
 by Him; Application was afterwards made to the honble William  
 Hemsley Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant of Queen Anns County for Permission to  
 go on board the Enemies Ship to Endeavour to recover my Slaves  
 which he declined to give. By the advice of a Gentleman of the Law,  
 I made application by a Friend to the Court of Queen Annes County  
 for Leave to go on board the Enemies Ship to Endeavour to recover  
 my Slaves the Judge of the Court informed the Gentleman by whom  
 I applied that my Application was proper and regular, and that He  
 wou'd bear Testimony of its being open and public to the Court while  
 sitting. I beg Leave to assure your Excell<sup>y</sup> and the hon<sup>ble</sup> Council,  
 that I meant no contempt of nor Inattention to your Authority; and  
 that any Error I may have committed was altogether the Effect of  
 Ignorance of the Law. Many Slaves have lately been recovered from  
 on board the Enemies Ships as I have been informed, and that with-  
 out a Flag from your Excell<sup>y</sup> and the hon<sup>ble</sup> Council. No particular  
 Favour was shewn me by the giving up of my Slaves any Persons  
 Slave had Liberty to go a Shore. M<sup>r</sup> Kerrs Slave was permitted to  
 return to His Master unsolicited by me upon my Honor I knew not  
 that his slave was on board til I saw Him in the Canoe. It wou'd