

August 28
[copy] your exertions, that you can wish, both from Public bodies and individuals. My dependance therefore on receiving the Supplies from your State seems well founded.—

I have the honour to transmit your Excellency herewith, a letter from the Commander in chief on the same Subject which will add weight to my intreaties. I have written to Donaldson Yates Esq^r Quarter Master of the States of Maryland and Delaware, to procure immediately as many Craft Vessels suitable for transporting the Troops from the Head of Elk to Virginia as will carry about 7000 Men with the necessary provisions and aparatus.

I have written to M^r Ridley, William Smith Esq^r and some others in Baltimore, to assist in procuring these Vessels, and should any application to your Excellency be necessary on this Subject, I persuade myself that the authority of the Government or weight of its influence will be brought in Aid of the Quarter Master's endeavours to procure Shipping—I have also written to M^r Calhoun, to know what part of the Specific supplies he has ready, and what prospects for the remainder, he must bestir himself, as indeed must every person on whom the Procuring of those Articles depends.

While the demands for the Campaign are constantly transmitted to me, and so much depends upon the measures I am continually taking to economize the Public Funds, and facilitate our Military operations, your Excell^y will perceive that full early and accurate intelligence upon the various objects of my Department is of the utmost importance—I must therefore reiterate my requests for it. To act from necessity and on the spur of the occasion, is not only the source of Waste and extravagance, but frequently defeats plans otherwise the best concerted, while on the other hand, that timely forecast and early provision which compleat knowledge of circumstances can alone permit of, will save much Public money, and go very far to ensure victory to our Arms.

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[copy] [Robert Morris, Office of Finance, Philadelphia, to James Calhoun.]

By your answer to Mathew Ridley Esq^r respecting the Flour, I requested might be delivered to him by the Government of Maryland, I observe that the quality of the Public Flour is not such as will answer the purpose intended, therefore I have taken other Measures for procuring that supply, this Circumstance however will not lessen my demands on your State to which I understand you are the Agent, I have lately written several Letters to his Excellency the Governor informing him that the ballance due to the United States upon the requisition for specific Supplies by Congress from Maryland will now be wanted for the Public Service. I am authorized and directed to collect the ballances due from every State, with some I have already succeeded to very considerable amounts and the Main Army is intirely fed thereby. The State of Maryland is so connected with the