

tions within your State which they would punish capitally: And in February 1 this case I will on intimations from your Excellency furnish you with proofs of his citizenship authenticated in any [way] which your Laws shall require. Should he not be amenable to justice under your Laws or should he be acquitted on trial, I will on information thereof take immediate measures for having him received & brought hither.

I have been honored with a Letter from the Honorable M^r Jenefer President of your Senate and M^r Bruff Speaker of the House of Delegates proposing that we should invite our Allies the French to take a post within our State convenient for the defence of Chesapeake bay, and desiring communication on this Subject with your Excellency, The difficulties on this head will certainly not arise with us. Should our Allies not have a certainty of obtaining and keeping a superiority of Naval power in the American Seas, they would probably think any post on the navigable waters of Chesapeake liable to loss. As a discussion of this matter with the French Minister required full information to him of the various Ports & grounds which they might think fitted for defence as well as for overlooking the bay, of their conveniency to aid from the Country and many other circumstances which might draw the correspondence, if on paper, to a great length. I have thought it best to desire the Honble M^r Harrison Speaker of our house of Delegates who sat out for Philadelphia two days ago, and who is perfectly acquainted with the circumstances, to speak with the French Minister on this Subject, and to give him every information which may be necessary to determine his opinion I had during the last summer taken the liberty of soliciting from him some Naval force to be stationed in our bay, and received hopes that it might be done, just when the enemy, now within this State, came into the bay, I am afraid the proof they have exhibited of the practicability of making inroads into our Country, when conducted with rapidity and aided by winds & waters will rather discourage our Allies from hazzarding much in any situation which may be pointed out.

[Pat Sim Smith, Calvert, to Gov. Lee.]

I received £200 in new Bills by M^r Gray for the purchase of Pork and Beef as also 10 Bushells of Salt by M^r Norris to salt it. I Have purchased and Salted near two thousand weight of pork and about three thousand weight of Beef both very fine. Have a Quantity of Beef now engaged but fear I shall get very little pork more in this County. Many had sold before I was directed to buy, some who had not would not take the new Bills & I could not command continental—indeed the price they sold for were higher than I was Impowered to go—being first instructed to purchase Beef and Salt it. I did not attempt to buy on the Hoof, since receiving your orders for that

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