

[Benj Nicholson, Balt. Town to Gov. Lee]

January 5

I understand by M^r Jenings that the Assembly have allow'd me as Judge of the Court of Admiralty 200 pounds Tis by no means equal to my Trouble & expence. Therefore shall send you my Comsⁿ upon my return Home If y^r Exc^{ly} & Council should think me equal to the filling the Vacancy on the Bench in the Gen^l Court I have no objection to serving as the Trouble is much less than my present Comsⁿ

[William Wright, Queen Anns, to His Excy Thos S. Lee] January 5

May it please your Exc^y Your Letter of 22 ult^o inclosing an Act to prohibit the Removal of Indian Corn &c came Safe to Hand appointing me with M^r Downs and M^r Ridgeway to assist in carrying said Act into Execution, with Request to be informed frequently of our Proceedings therein.

As to myself, I am very thankful for, and happy in, your Excellencys Confidence of my patriotic Zeal and Activity, and equally solicitous of continuing to deserve it; But must beg Leave to withhold my Assistance from Carrying said Act into Execution, as an Officer; and beg Indulgence while I adjoin some Reasons. If Delaware (from whom we have had I judge one hundred Waggon Salt) be offended, and in Return prohibit the Removal of that Article, we shall be entirely dependant on Baltimore for Salt, and we dare not trust her Monopolizing Principles with any Thing of so much Consequence to us. We have abundant Crops of Corn, and more abundant Wants, without any other Prospect of Relief, than the Sale of our Corn (By the late severe Winter our Wheat perishd and our Stock of Hogs much failed) and to be precluded the only source of Relief is well nigh to Desperation. Corn brings but two shillings clear in Delaware, and the Distressed only sell. Numbers of us have bought Salt and Pork too, in Delaware and have engaged to pay Grain, as must sell Grain to get the money.

If your Excellency by Hearsay, be too well acquainted with my attachment to my Country its Liberties and Independance to suppose I need a Stimulus herein: I am by Experience having bore my Attachment, thro' the Fire; for having been so well paid for Catchpoleing, that I need not the Emoluments of Pimping of which I am intirely ignorant, and am, so determined to remain

[John Smith Brookes to The Honb^l The Governor & Council.] January 6

Your favour of the 27th Ult^o. is now before me and in persuance of your commands, I have made preparation of the reception of Provisions and flatter myself I shall be able to collect a pretty considerable quantity especially of the Beef kind. I have taken in 800 weight and could have taken in more but for the want of salt. I have