

New York was compelled to contract some debts to procure necessities for support which I pledged my honour to pay in hard money, and some I have been compelled to contract since my return, for the same purpose, therefore have to request Your Honours will furnish me with, about £50, as also an order for a Sufficiency of Cloth for a Great Coat, by the bearer my Brother, as I have drawn but little since in the service, and my necessity so urgent flatter myself, Your Honours, will grant my request

[Eph Blaine, C. G., Oxford, To The Honble Mathew Tilghman Esq. President of the Special Council, Talbot Court House] (By Mr Blake)

October 16

October 16
Red Book
No. 32
Letter 34

Your favour by Mr Blake I have just received, and have only to observe that the requisitions of Congress in beef from the respective States is neat beef, and they afterwards add pay for the hide and tallow, this convinces me that the State ought to pay the expence of Slaughtering and that expence will not exceed the cost of procuring hands, paying pasturage while driving the Cattle to places where I would be Justifiable in receiving them.

In the first place it is impossible for me to attend to the slaughtering of the Cattle in the respective Counties, in the second I have not one shilling of money to defray the expence allowing it to be a Continental charge, however as I do not wish to through any difficulty upon your State, shall agree to the following proposals Viz. That if Mr Morris with a Committe of Congress say the expence of Slaughtering the Cattle shall be a charge against the United States, I will pledge my honour to you to see it paid. If that of the State why it is done—any additional expence which may attend the trying of the tallow and procuring barrels to put it in, and drying the hides I shall engage to pay, but be assured the slaughtering of the Cattle lays with the State. I have requested the Commissioners to sell the hides, but would rather wish them to dispose of them to good Tanners who would tan them on the shares—such of the people as will carefully slaughter their Cattle and are dispos'd to keep the fifth quarter I agree to keep the beef but this I leave to your direction, and if the hides and tallow can be saved they are much wanted for the Army.

I have been delay'd exceedingly by unfavourable winds and as there is a prospect of getting down the Bay this morning I am prevented of the honor of waiting on you. The Governor and Council have engaged to send a boat to Mr Blake to load with beef I shall take particular care to send boats to the sundry landing places to take in beef. I have enquired the price of hides at Baltimore and find they will bring four pence hard money p lb.

I would wish the Commissioners to obtain that sum for what they may sell, making a reasonable deduction for the expence of drying the hides and freight to Baltimore