

October 24 we have overcome all difficulties. The gallant behavior of your line  
Brown Book in the last action, places them in the highest point of military glory.  
No. 8

Letter 12 This appears to me to be a Crisis of American affairs. If General  
[Indorsed : Washington is successfull against Lord Cornwallis, which hardly  
"referred to admits of a doubt, it will afford leisure and opportunity to the united  
the Comm. States, provided they improve it properly, of preparing themselves  
on the to meet the enemy upon more equal ground than they have con-  
recruiting tended with them for a long time past, not to say, from the begining  
service "] of the War. I hope Maryland will loose no time in compleating her  
line to the establishment it will give security to herself & proper aid  
to her distressed neighbours, who have suffered more by the war  
than she has.

I wish you an honorable and happy administration, beloved by  
your friends & feared by your enemies.

With sentiments of esteem & regard, I have the honor to be Sir  
Your most obedient Humble Servant

October 24 [Stephen Steward & Jno. Dorsey & Co., Annapolis, to the Council.]  
Red Book

No. 27 We are informed that about 100 Ships & Briggs have been Cap-  
Letter 149 tured at York and are the property of our Ally. If the Board incline  
to Purchase any Vessells of Force for Defence of the Bay, or any  
Vessells to Export—M<sup>r</sup> Stephen Steward Jun<sup>r</sup> will if authorised,  
endeavour to Buy of Count De Grass such Vessells as the Governor  
& Council may Direct, the Purchase Money payable in Flour or To-  
bacco. As we propose to empower M<sup>r</sup> Steward to Purchase Vessells  
for us to the Amount of £8000 Specie, We should Esteem it as a  
Peticular favour if the Board would give M<sup>r</sup> Steward an Introduc-  
tion to the Count De Grasse with an Assurance that his Contracts  
not Exceeding the above sum will be Punctually Complied with.

October 25 [Rich'd Dallam, Harford County, to Gov. Lee.]

The New money has no Credit in this County not an Article is to  
be procured with it

M<sup>r</sup> Osborn by the approbation and Consent of the Commission-  
ers [damaged] the Commission Business. I am named as Commis-  
sary at their request because they could not appoint M<sup>r</sup> Osborn he be-  
ing Collector, M<sup>r</sup> Osborn informs me that he was obliged to sell four  
head of Cattle at Baltimore But of the last drove to enable him to  
send the remainder on, he applied to M<sup>r</sup> Calhoun but could get no  
assistance. He has sent off upwards of 100 & has an other drove to  
send on but cannot get drovers He tells me it will be impossible to  
procure the whole Number of Cattle required without taking 2 years  
old & striping the people of the Provisions necessary for their Fami-  
lies. He has had much trouble in collecting Cattle

I know & experience that meat is very scarce in this County. Your  
Excellency will Please to give what assistance is possible to enable  
him to do what can be done