

November 18

[Joseph Ford to Gov. Lee.]

I make no doubt but that Your Excellency And the Honble Council think strange that I have not made returns for the Two last months before this till within this Two weeks I was so much perplexed in the Collecting the Cattle ordered for this County that I could not attend to it, and Since I have been prevented by M<sup>rs</sup> Ford's being dangerous Ill, I shall send my last drove of Cattle to Fredrick on Tuesday next about 150 in Number, this with about 24 Strays and others that could not be drove and the 226 Delivered at George Town makes the 400 I have on Hand about 1200 Bushels of wheat which I have endeavoured to get a Craft to carry to Baltimore and have also wrote different times to M<sup>r</sup> Calhoun for to send for it I am in hopes that I shall be able to make particular returns and Bring them up by the first of the next week.

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[Richard Peters, In Behalf of the Board, War Office, to Gov. Lee.]

It is discovered that the British Prisoners lately captured in Virginia find Means to escape from the Places of their confinement & under one Pretence or other pass thro' the Country on their Way to New York. I take the Liberty of mentioning this Matter that your Excellency & the Honble Council may adopt some Measures for remedying this Evil by punishing the Persons harbouring or facilitating the Escape of Prisoners which is done in some Instances by Whigs for the sake of their Laborer & by the disaffected from a Desire to serve the Enemy. Probably in Recommendation to the officers of Militia & the Magistrates & Citizens to be careful in examining all suspected Persons & stopping all those who have not Passes might answer a valuable Purpose. The Keepers of Ferries have it much in their Power to be useful in detecting deserting Prisoners. If a Law of the State could be passed laying Penalties on all Persons employing or concealing British Prisoners not having Passes it perhaps might embarrass if not entirely put an End to the Practice

November 19

[Tho. Price, Frederick Town, to Gov. Lee.]

With great Difficulty I have supplied the Prisoners & their Guard, with Provisions, until Friday last, when I received a Supply of 300 Head of Beef Cattle, from Prince George & Washington Counties; these will be sufficient for them for about five Weeks. If they are to be slaughtered here & salted a Quantity of Salt will be immediately wanted, also a Number of B<sup>bls</sup>: this last Article I am afraid cannot be procured in Time without hard Cash. I have for the present procured Hay & Corn to feed the Cattle, these with Brann & Shorts I hope will enable me to keep them from falling away as long as these Articles can be had. I wish for Instructions concerning the Hides: I have for the present delivered them to Tanners here who are to pay for them in Money, Leather or Shoes as you shall direct