

February 26
1 o'clock in
the morning

Baltimore you will inform me by the return of this express I think you have ovens at Elk, it will be of great consequence to have as much hard bread baked as will serve the detachment thirty days please to inform me if this can be done you will now see the extent and importance of the business hereby committed to your management and thereto proportion your exertions, let me intreat you to give it your whole attention, and not rest till every necessary provision is made, and by the third of March as before mentioned In addition to the above it will be necessary for you to provide teams and have them at Christiana bridge by the second of March twelve four horse teams will I Judge be sufficient to take the tents and baggage of the troops from thence to the Head of Elk besides these a large number of teams will be required to Transport Shott Shells, powder and implements before mentioned these articles I expect will be sent from hence to Christiana bridge in the course of three or four days.

A few cords of wood should be provided at Christiana bridge for such of the officers and troops as may take Quarters in the houses there, tho I rather suppose they will march to the nearest woods at the head of Elk it will be requisite to provide twenty cords of wood and have it cut ready to put on board the Vessels.

You will take care to provide and fill water carts for each Vessel Sufficient for their crews and the troops on board, making large Allowances, for the length of time, such a fleet will be going down the Bay and for contrary winds. Tho I said above that to facilitate the Execution of these orders, you might mention the object of the expedition yet I would not have the particular contents of this Letter divulged except perhaps in Confidence to the person, shou'd it so happen, whom you may consult, in estimating the tons of Shipping requisite for service. Once more suffer me, intreat that nothing depending in you may be omitted, which can either defeat or Retard this expedition

February 28

[Jno. Dorsey & Co., Annapolis, to the Governor and Council]

We will Charter the Schooner Nautilus to the State to go as a Flag to New York to Carry a Cargo of Corn and some Flour for the freight of one third of the Sales to be paid in N. York, unless some flour be sent and Permission obtained to invest the freight in such goods as may be Permitted and to bring them an Account of the Owners of the Vessell the Freight of one third cannot be Accepted. We will bring any goods for the State without any Freight not Exceeding one Half of the Burthen of the schooner. We will purchase the corn on being furnished with the Money and we will procure the flour and advance the money on the usual Commissions. If its Required the Vessell shall Load in Patuxent