

12/6 the short Hundred, and after your appointment, he settled his Account and paid for what he had received at that Rate. At the same Time we agreed to continue to supply him with Flour on the Terms of the first Contract, 'til a new one should be made. All these Circumstances you were acquainted with, and you knew that Rawlings did not deny his Engagement, and yet, contrary to Law, contrary to the Interest of the State, and contrary to the Opinion of this Board, you have undertaken of your sole Authority, to give up one Shilling in the C<sup>t</sup> w<sup>t</sup> for all the Flour received by Rawlings from the Time of his first Settlement, 'til the Time you made a new Contract with him, in April. We can pardon Mistakes which flow from a Desire to serve the Public, but as your Conduct in this Instance, could proceed from no such Motive, you must expect to answer it to the Assembly, to whom we are persuaded, it will be necessary for you to adduce more powerful Reasons to convince them that 11/6 is more than 12/6, than those with which you have favored us. We are obliged to you for your Hints respecting the Propriety of attending to the Forms so necessary to give Validity to Agreements; hitherto we have principally regarded Substance, but we will endeavour to profit, even by your Example. Permit us in our Turn to observe, that if you had attended to any Thing but Form, in your Agreement with Col<sup>o</sup> Rawlings, we should not now have to lament the most injudicious public Contract we have seen. You have agreed with him for Flour at a less Price than it is selling for in that Part of the State, and if Flour should fall, there is to be a Deduction, even from that Price, but if it rises, the Public is not to be benefitted by the Rise. Your Letter gives us the first Information that there is a Diversity of Opinion between M<sup>r</sup> Steward and this Board, respecting his Agreement to build the Galley, and we should have imagined that you, at least, had made up your Mind on the Subject, before you reported to the Assembly, the Circumstances of the Case. We have a written Memorandum of M<sup>r</sup> Steward's Engagement, which we are pretty confident he will not deny, and though not dressed up in all the form and Pomposity of Office, will be found equally as valid and effectual. When you deny our Right of calling on you for Information, respecting your official Transactions; we cannot be surprized at your conceiving that you have the Power of inspecting our Proceedings with as little Ceremony as you would use to any Officer of Government. We could admit you had consulted us as often as you pretend, and yet deny that you had obeyed the Directions of the Act, in any one Instance. You cannot be so weak as to imagine that you are to advise with us, only in the little Business of settling Accounts, bargaining for trifling Quantities of Specifics, and consulting us in the common Transactions of Business, while you are left at Liberty, as to the great Outlines of your Office. We are sorry to be so often obliged to remind you of what you ought to do. It is your

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