

February 19  
Liber No. 78  
p. 415

[W Paca in Council to Col<sup>o</sup> Samuel Smith]

We have enclosed, open for your Perusal, a Letter to the Merchants of Baltimore Town. We hope you will give it all the Weight in your Power, and we request you will be so obliging as to take upon yourself the Transaction of the Business, in Behalf of the State. If our Request is complied with, we flatter ourselves, the Vessels and Hands will be down in two or three Days: every Moment's Delay is big with the Ruin of some defenceless Family.

Ibid.

[W<sup>m</sup> Paca, in Council to Honble Intendant]

We are honored with yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> in Reply to ours of the 7<sup>th</sup> Instant.

The General Assembly having entrusted us with the final Settlement of public Claims, and subjected all public Monies, except in a few Instances, to our Orders, Disposition, and Application, it becomes our Duty, when Demands are made upon us, and we find no Monies lodged in the Treasury to satisfy them, to apprise you of it, and request a Supply of Money, with all possible Expedition. The Treasury can only be replenished by Monies arising upon the Sale of Specifics, the Disposition and Sale of which, belongs solely and absolutely to your Department.

Altho' Sir, the public Demands are accumulated by the generous Exertions of this State, in Defence of its Rights and Liberties, beyond its present Resources; yet, so far as its Resources are competent, there ought to be a fair and impartial Application of them; and, when the General Assembly have made a particular and specific Application, there can be no Departure from it, without a Violence both to the Objects of it and the Honor of the Public.

It has, for some Time past, been the Wisdom and Policy, of our General Assembly to effect, if possible, a Restoration of public Credit; thoroughly persuaded that no Country is able to prosecute an expensive War by an immediate and prompt Supply of Money from the Pockets of its People. By their Supply Bill, November Session 1781, providing for the current Expences in 1782, they appropriated and mortgaged, in the first Instance, the whole Specific Tax, for the Payment of Interest on Loans to the State, and by the Supply Bill for 1783, they have made the same Appropriation & Mortgage. The public Creditors are thus entitled to their Interest, and, whether this Provision and Reference to all other Public Demands was proper or not, on either Supposition, it is equally conclusive on you and us; and if the Creditors are deprived of the Benefit of this Provision, or postponed to other Demands, the designed Influence with Regard to Credit, is defeated, the Intention of the Legislature opposed, and public Faith violated.

You admit, for the Year 1782, that possibly 12000 Bushels of Wheat may have been received, since September 1782. You say noth-