

into such Engagements & shall feed their Cattle during
the winter by advancing them a proportionate Price
for whatever they will agree to furnish in that manner.
I have inclosed you a Calculation of the Expence of
supplying 3000 Men with Provisions for 3 months, which
Quantity I apprehend it will be necessary to lay into
the Magazine at Wills Creek immediately by reason
I conceive it will be very difficult if not impossible to
procure Beves or Hogs fit for the Slaughter after this
Month & next till July or the August following. My
Estimate is made in Maryland Currency which is at this
time with Sterling at about 65 p Cent Discount. The Expence
of the hired Waggons I could not know, neither have I taken
any Notice of the Number that will be wanted for carrying
Ammunition & Baggage. You will be pleased to give Directions
(if you have not already ordered a sufficient Number to be
made or purchased) that Barrells enough to receive the Meat
be immediately laid in, the most eligible way I think
would have been to send proper Workmen & Coopers to have
Cut & prepared Staves & made them up near the Camp
but as I am dubious it will be now too late to proceed in
that manner (for unless the Timber be washed or cleared
from Sap before it is made up there will be a great Probability
of its damaging or quite spoiling the Meat with which they
shall be filled) I hope you will give strict Orders to have
them procured or prepared in the best manner that the
time will permit, & in the mean time I think the Company
might proceed to salt up some Provisions in large Troughs
or Vats that might be made for that purpose I was told