

52. We approve your Discharge of the Prisoners you mention, on the Terms you let them at Large, they being, as we suppose, People of no great Influence... We shall soon send over a Commission under a special Act of Assembly for the Trial of the chief Offenders. The Ends of Justice, Policy and Example will be best answered by the Punishment of a Few only.

Col. Joseph Dashiell }

We are &c,

Sirs

In Council Annapolis 12th May 1777.

53. We received a Letter Yesterday from Mr Lewis a Member of the Congress and of the Navy Board, advising, that the Brigate built in Baltimore, is now waiting for some of her Guns that lie at Hughes's Works and inclosing us a Letter from Lieut. Johns now at the Works, to Capt. Nicholson, informing him that his utmost Industry can not procure Waggons without impressing, which Col. Stull is disinclined to do though he intended to ride with Johns to see if he could not procure Waggons by exerting his personal Influence in a private Way.

We are very sorry that any Intimation of Compulsion should be necessary in a Business so easy and so essential to be performed, and would by all Means have it avoided, if possible. If Col. Stull's Exertions, for which we thank him, have not proved effectual, we request you will use your Endeavours severally to procure Waggons for the few Guns only immediately wanted by the Brigate, offering a full Value for the Carriage and giving a Certificate of the Sum to Mr Samuel Purviance of Baltimore, who will pay, on the Service being done, on Sight; if you find Waggons cannot be got on these Terms, we request you'll press Waggons sufficient for the Purpose giving them Certificates on Mr Purviance for the Money, but we repeat that we wish Compulsion to be avoided if it can, and used only to prevent the Brigate's lying to the Injury of the Cause and Reproach of our State.

We are &c,

John Stull, Jos^{ph} Sprigg
& Doct. Schenckely }

In Council Annapolis 12th May 1777.

54. Gent. We are informed by Mr Green that he contracted with the Council of Safety for the same Sum in Proportion for printing our last Bills of Credit, as the Congress allowed for printing the Continental Bills. The Service is done, and we do not know what Allowance to make. We shall be much obliged to you if you will enquire and write us what was allowed by Congress, as we suppose the Account is in the Treasury Office. If it cannot be come at, by recurring to the Account itself, probably Hall & Sellers might give the desired Satisfaction.

We are &c,

The Hon^{ble} Deputies
in Congress }