

In Council 5th Jan 1778

Sir

N^o 50 We have appointed Mess^{rs} John Poffly, John Richardson & William Wise, to purchase and collect Beef & Cattle in your County, for the Use of the Army, with a Power, if the Owners refuse to sell, to seize such on the Sea-Board as may be in Danger of being taken away by the Enemy. We hope there will be no Occasion for the Exertion of this Power, in the Extent of it, but if there should, it will rather prove the Necessity of it, for the Cattle can be desired to be kept in Places where they are subject to be taken by the Enemy, only from a Motive that the Enemy should be supplied with them. If the Gent^l appointed to collect the Cattle should be opposed by Force and apply to you for Assistance, we request you to call on the Militia of your County, and afford them the necessary Support, to carry the Order, which, with their Instructions, they will communicate to you, into Execution.

We are Sirs Y^{rs}

Col^o Joseph Dashiell

In Council 9th Jan 1778

Sir

N^o 51 We are sorry that any of the Militia should tak up an Opinion that, in case of an Invasion or the Enemy's coming into their Neighbourhood they are not compellable to defend themselves, their Property, their Families and their Country, til Orders can be given by the Governour and Council for that Purpose. If there should be an Invasion or any Parties of the Enemy in your should land in your County or Worcester where your Militia might probably get up Time enough to be of Service you are to march them or such of them as may be necessary immediately, without waiting for particular Orders from us, and send us an Express immediately.

We are Sirs Y^{rs}

To the Lieut^{ts} of Somerset & Worcester Counties - }

In Council Annapolis 15th Jan 1778

Sir

N^o 52 We are much obliged by your Readiness to purchase Cattle for the Continental Army. We send you by Col^o Dashiell, three hundred and seventy ^{five} Pounds, towards enabling you to get what must be immediately paid for. Pray send forward what you may collect to the Camp, and endeavour to get the last & Charges paid by the Commissary of Purchases; shewing this Letter to him will perhaps expedite your getting the Money.

We are Sirs Y^{rs}

W^o Francis Baker }
Talbot County - }