always esteemed, not only a firm but a suffering, Whig; what Encouragement he
No. 15. has had here, seems to have been with those who are Whigs. The Captain
says, that he was employed in the Service of the Congress from New York to
Curasoa with a Cargoe, in this Vessel, to make Remittance for Powder sent
to New York by Mr Governeur, and that Mr Beakman offered her Cargoe of
Salt last Year to Mr Livingston for the Use of the Congress, at two thirds
the Price it was sold for at Egg Harbour. Seeing no Circumstance against
Mr Beakman but what ought to be equally decisive against every Body else
now in Philadelphia, I have forbore to make any Seizure of the Salt,
on an Assurance which I have no Doubt will be kept, that the Congress
may have it, if they please, at the common Selling Price, which is now
15 £. a Bushel. 000 Bushels at least, will be reserved for an Answer. One Mr
John Davis since I began this Letter came in and offered me 200 Bushels, just
brought up at £18. a Bushel. — Mr William Lux & others have a late Arrival
at South Key North Carolina and will engage to deliver 1000 Bushels here
as soon as possible, they expect ~~one~~ one Half of it within a Fortnight, at 13 £.
pr Bushel. There have been several late Arrivals in North Carolina,
Virginia, and in the Inlets on the Eastern Shore, amongst the latter
400 Bushels belonging to this State, these 400 Bushels, about 300 at
Snow Hill about 200 at Annapolis and about 150 in the Neighbourhood
of this Town, all belonging to this State, the Congress may have at a
reasonable Price — Several People expect Salt in daily and small
Quantities of imported and Country made Salt are, every now and then,
brought to this Place for Sale. Those who have and expect Salt, seem
desirous of giving Congress the Preference and, independent of all other
Circumstances which would make it more desirable to purchase, the
Congress may be Supplied in that Way with a greater Quantity than in
any other of this ~~State~~. The Council & I are so well Satisfied that if
the Treasury of this State could possibly bear it, we should immediately
purchase 500 or 2000 Bushels for the Use of the Continent, but we have
not the Money. If I might advise, it would be, to order the Commy.
to purchase what is immediately wanted here for Cash and, there can
be little Doubt but, in a Short Time, there will be a Plenty and at
a lower Price. A few Days ago, I received a Letter from Mr Richardson
in the purchasing Commissary's Department, at George Town; he
had borrowed one hundred Bushels of Salt of Mr Hooe & had just
been informed that a Quantity which he expected from Virginia had
reached a Creek on Potawmack, from whence he might soon get it.
I am well informed of large Quantities of Salt expected here, but a
Seizure will certainly determine People to Stop what they can and
prove not only highly prejudicial to the Inhabitants of this State
but prevent Congress from being supplied at so cheap a Rate on the
whole, with any large Quantity at the Places by much the most convenient
for Carriage — I am Sir &c

The President of Congress.