

In Council Annapolis 15th Feb^r 1778.

79
The Bearer, St. Gale, goes to Williamsburg with two Waggon,
under his care, for the Linens in your Warehouse, belonging to this
State. We shall be obliged to you to deliver them to him. We shall
endeavour to ascertain the Goods sent us by Mr. Stephenson, but
their coming in such small Parcels and Part of the Transactions
being in the Time of the old Council of Safety, will render it difficult
to be done with the Precision that is desirable.
Mess^{rs} Norton & Beall. We are Gent^l &c.

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Ive
Just before your letter of the 20th Jan^y came to Hand, we received the
Resolutions of Congress of the 19th for establishing a Communication for
transporting Provisions to the Army and sent the Letters to you and the
Governor of North Carolina, from Congress on the same Subject, by Express.
The Congress having adopted Mr. Duchanans proposed Mode will,
we imagine, induce you to concur in it, rather than pursue that
which you at first intended. The Board of War had mentioned to
us a Scheme of transporting Provisions by Water, nearly similar
to what had occurred to you and that our Gallies might be useful
in the Execution of it. We had no Objection to risking the Gallies
but it appeared to us, that it would have been very expensive
and very uncertain, as our Gallies draw upwards of eight Feet, with
their Provisions, Water and Ballast, and have but little Room for
Stowage when but tolerably manned. The Number of Men of War
in the Bay and their Activity, confirms us in Opinion, that the
Communication by Water will be too uncertain to rely on and, in all
Probability, when the Enemy discover that the Army draws its Supplies
through this Bay, the Number of Men of War will be still increased.
It appears to us, that the keeping this Bay clear or obliging the Ships
of War to keep together, is an Object worthy the Attention, not only of
these States, but of Congress, and that, if the Virginia Frigate was laid
up and her Crew employed in Gallies for that Purpose, they would be much
more usefully employed than they are at present. We have five Gallies
now fitted, the Hull of a sixth & seventh almost finished, all very stout
but we cannot compleatly mann two. The Assembly, seeing no likeli-
hood of manning the Whole, directed the two unfinished Gallies to
be sold and, if your State or the Congress incline to purchase, we had