

In Council Annapolis 19. Feb. 1778.

Sir,

No. 89.

We inclose you a Copy of two Depositions taken here, which, upon the
Necessity of Vigilance in your Part of the Country, Immediately on their being
taken, we had an Opportunity, and inclosed Copies to Col. Simpson. If Sterling
or any of his Party should fall in the Way of the Militia Officers, or it should
be in the Power of the Militia Officers to seize any of them, we would have it
done, without waiting for Applications to the Magistrates, which may in
most Instances will, occasion so much Delay, that the Culprits will escape.
We hope for the Execution of the Magistrates and every Friend to the Country
to get the Deserters taken up and Sterling's Recruiting put an End to,
and, if it is not done, we may expect a serious Piece of Work in your
County, in the Spring. If the Cattle collected in Somerset & Worcester Counties
can be conveniently joined, we think it would be best to send them in one
Drive as your Brother proposed, but if it will occasion any Delay, they
had better be sent off at once for Genl. Smallwood's Troop at Wilbington.
No more need go with the Cattle after they are through your County, than
are just sufficient to drive them and let the Men call on Col. Henry
Bollingworth at the Head of Elk and take his Advice & Instructions;
he now purchases for the Continent and, perhaps, may receive the Cattle
there if he will, every good Purpose will be answered. Pray write him
what further Number can be got and he will, we expect, take Measures
for purchasing and driving them. We had no Doubt, ^{that} Capt. Dashiell
was long ago left at Liberty to give £5. a Hundred for Pork, that being
the Price the Purchasers for the Continent are giving and are at Liberty
to give and, if Capt. Dashiell can purchase at that Price or under, you
would do well to let him know he is quite safe in doing so. You mention
a Gentl^m from Virginia purchasing Pork in your Neighbourhood for
that State. It is strange it should be so, as there must be a Plenty more
convenient within that State, yet if it is really for the State, he ought
to be suffered to go on, but this ought to be examined into, and, if it
turns out that he is not empowered to purchase for the State of Virginia
or the Continent we request you will stop the Pork and the Person
too, 'til you can get well ascertained it is not for the Use of the Enemy.
We think there would be an Impropriety in any particular Recommen-
dation to the Magistrates, by us, on the Subject of the Warrants;
we send down the Laws which alone will and ought to influence their
conduct. Our Treasury was in a low State when you went from
Rence; it is now much lower, so that we cannot advance farther
for the Purchase of Cattle for the Continent.

Col^o George Dashiell.

We are Sir, Y^{rs}