

In Council 26th March 1778

Sir

No. 133. Thomas Worthington complains to us that one Benjamin ~~Todd~~ we suppose is a Sergeant, enlisted his Convict Servant Man named Thomas Bennett, knowing that he was his Servant, and that he applied to you for the Servant, and you refuse to return him: We are at a loss to conjecture on what Principle a Servant, and especially a convicted one, could be enlisted or detained, as we have no Law to warrant such a Proceeding, and, from the frequent Desertions of People so circumstanced, Genl Washington thought proper to discountenance it. We request, on Mr Worthington's shewing that Thomas Bennett is his Servant, that you will restore him and that you'll give Orders to the Officers under you, not to enlist Servants, by which you will prevent their running away from their Masters, in Hopes of getting to the Enemy which, whilst Servants were enlisted, proved a greater Injury to the People of this State, and very little, if at all, strengthened our Army. — We are &c.

Lt Col. Saml. Smith.

In Council Annapolis 27th March 1778.

Circular? —

Sir

134 We wish to be advised of the Quantity of Provisions which you have a prospect of procuring, under the Directions of the late Act, which we have already transmitted to you, as we may remit you the Money necessary to pay for them, we have received Cash this Morning from the Congress for that Purpose. It is essential to the Service that we should be regularly furnished with a Monthly Return of your Purchase agreeable to the Act, and we request you will specify in it the Places where the Provisions are collected, which we desire may be chosen with a View to their Safety and the Convenience too, as far as may be, for their Removal for the Use they are designed. The Barrelled Pork and Beef which you may get, must be well examined and, if there's Doubt of its Keeping you must by all Means have it put into proper Order and, if necessary, Salt added. —

To the Agents for the
Purchase of Provisions }

We are &c.