

In Council Annapolis 17th Jan^y 1780.

Gentlemen

We received your Letter of the 18th Inst^d and cannot forbear expressing our Surprise that our Letter of the 29th December had not then come to Hand, it was delivered to Mr Ward one of the Delegates for your County; we sent with it a copy of the Act for the immediate Supply &c^a an Extract of General Washington's Letter and a Number of Certificates. You will receive with this, Copies of the Act and our former Letter and an Extract from General Washington's Letter. In case of Disagreement between the said Commissioners and the Person whose Property is seized, the Law points out the Mode to be pursued to ascertain the Price. It is our Opinion that Flour and Wheat purchased by the pretended or real French Agents is as subject to Seizure as any other Flour or Wheat; because the Words of the Law are general and the Object of it is an immediate and full Supply for our distressed Army. After Seizure made of such Flour and Wheat, we advise you to take a particular Account of the Quantity of each and of the Persons in whose Possession it is seized, in Order that we may fix with the utmost certainty the precise Quantity purchased under the Pretext of purchasing for the French. This will lead to a Detection of that Villany which we have the strongest Reason to suspect and to which we think the present Distresses of our Army may in great Measure be imputed. We would not have the Flour, seized in the Hands of French Agents, transported, until you receive our Orders, unless you have Assurances from good Authority, that it is necessary for the Relief of the Army; for it is our Desire to avoid every Thing that is offensive to the Minister of France or which may in any Manner counteract the Schemes or Plans concerted by him, to annoy our common Enemy, or which may be construed into a Disinclination in us to grant him the necessary Supplies. We do not esteem it necessary, at this Time, to add any Thing more to what is suggested in our circular Letter.

To the Commissioners of Cecil County

We are &c^a

In Council Annapolis Jan^y 18th 1780

Sir

We have purchased a considerable Quantity of Cloth &c^a of Britanias and some Bolts of Baize, of Mr John Dorsey, which we request you to take into your Possession likewise 50 Dazen Pair of yarn Stockings, bought of Mr W. Adon. It gives us concern to hear you have not been able to proceed to Camp with the Cloathing. This Service is essential for the Relief of our Quota of Troops, and we still hope you will be able to procure Waggon's for that Purpose in the manner we directed. If you should not, will it be possible to procure Waggon's to go as far as the Head of Elk? we will write to Mr Hollingsworth to assist you on from thence. It will be necessary to take the Bolts of Baize with you, for Blanketing for the Soldiers: inform us of what you are able to do.

Capt. George P. Heports

We are &c^a

Gentlemen

In Council Annapolis 18th Jan^y 1780

We received your Letter of the 18th Inst^d and should have attended to it sooner, had not other Business of consequence that then lay before us, required our immediate Notice. We lament that, in the Execution of the Act for the immediate Supply &c^a the Utility of which is recognized by every Friend to this Country, you should be embarrassed with so many Difficulties. Little did we expect the Commissioners of Baltimore &c^a would have met with Opposition from any of its Inhabitants, in their