

It rests on our Minds that the Minister of France has Licence to purchase Flour and Wheat in our State, to the Amount of eight thousand Barrels, but we cannot, at this Time, after the most diligent Search, lay our Hands on the Papers from which we should be able to give you precise Information.

The Commissioners for }  
Baltimore Town - }

We are &c.

In Council Annapolis 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1780

55. Sir We have nothing farther to add to what we wrote you yesterday. The Charges of conveying the Cloathing are left to your Discretion. We have this Day purchased of Mr John Darby, 24<sup>th</sup> more of Baize, which we want to have left to be delivered out for Blanketing, to the Recruits, likewise about 200 Pair of Stockings. We shall be glad to know who will have the Charge of the Cloathing left, in your Absence. We desire you would measure one of the Pieces of Baize and inform us how many Yards it contains and what a Number of Blankets it will make, doubled.

Cap<sup>t</sup> George J. Meeposts. We are &c.

In Council Annapolis 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1780

56. Sir This Day we received your Oath of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup>. You must pursue the Directions of the Law in all Things that relate to the Trust reposed in you. When you seize Flour or Wheat, if you and the Owner disagree as to the Price, you must call in a third Person not interested immediately or remotely, to ascertain it. When the Price is fixed, you must give a Certificate, in the Manner the Law prescribes; you have no Power to pay Money. If the Person refuses the Certificate, you must take an Account of the Quantity seized and in whose Possession and make a Memorandum of the Tender of the Certificate and Refusal. We are of Opinion, from the Information we have received, if the Commissioners in the several Counties execute the Law, we shall detect a great Deal of Villany and find out the Source from whence the calamitous and distressing Situation of our Army took its Rise.

Richard Dallam Esq<sup>r</sup>. We are &c.

In Council Annapolis 22<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1780

57. Gentlemen. We have a Number of Continental Troops here and are much distressed for Flour for them. We shall therefore be obliged to you to send by Mr Bullens Waggon, four or five Barrels.

The Commissioners for }  
Baltimore Town - }

We are &c.

In Council Annapolis 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1780.

58. Sir We had the Honor of receiving your Excellency's Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> with a Copy of a Letter from Mr Holker, and your Memorial to Congress. It is for me from the Inclination of this Board to obstruct any Measures concerted by our noble Ally, or to counteract the Operations of your Fleets and Squadrons, that we esteem our indispensable Duty to contribute all in our Power to this Cause and be assured our Wishes coincide with our Duty in this, as well as in every Instance in which the Interest of our Ally is concerned. To decide on the propriety of the Law and our Conduct consequent thereon, it will be necessary to take a comprehensive View of every Thing that relates to this Subject. We have made to this State, by the Agent for the Marine of France, a Memorial to