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of the Flour and Wheat, lawfully purchased. We request you
to explain the Nature of our Power, that we act in a subordinate Capacity
and cannot make, repeal or suspend the Execution of any Law. The
Minister informs us that he has imparted to Mr. Plater, some fatal
consequences which will result from our not restoring the Flour,
besides the Inconveniencies suggested to us; we cannot conjecture
what they are. We have not yet been furnished with Returns
from all the Commissioners of the several Counties, of the Flour and
Wheat obtained under the Law, but from those received, the Quantity
does not exceed 8000 Barrels, exclusive of the Flour purchased for the
French. It would give us infinite Pleasure to be favoured with a
Communication of the several Matters of Importance agitated in
Congress, which relate to this State. We are &c
The Delegates from Maryland }
in Congress.

In Council Annapolis 19th Feb^r 1780

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Sir,
We received yours of the 19th Inst. As to the Line of Conduct to be ob-
served by you, with Respect to the Flour and Wheat purchased for the
French, and the other Matters submitted to our Consideration, we refer
you to our Letter of the fifth, a Copy of which is enclosed. We think the
Certificates given by the Commissioners, are discountable out of the
Assessments that the Sheriffs are now collecting, or any future Assessment
at the Option of the Bearer of the Certificate. We have sent you an
Order on the Collector of your County for the further Sum of £3000.
Col^o Isaac Perkins, Kent. We are &c

In Council Annapolis 19th Feb^r 1780

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Sir
Several of your Letters have been received by this Board, which we have hitherto
wanted Time and Opportunity to answer. Agreeable to your Request on
the 30th of Dec^r an Order was drawn upon the late Collector of Cecil County
in Favor of Mr Harwood the Continental Treasurer for £93750. Subject to
your Order as a Part of the Sum granted to Charles Pettit by Warrant
from Congress. In answer to your second Letter of same Date, we have
to observe that no Charges have been exhibited against you for Misconduct
The Letters and Certificate which you enclosed, were returned through
Mr Harwood, as we were pressed in Point of Time and he had Occasion to
write you. Yours of the 15th of January, gives us a high Sense of your
Attachment to the Interest of America and your unremitting Exertions
to discharge the important Duties of your Office; your Measures are pru-
dential and very pleasing to us. It certainly would be most advisable
to remove the Flour from the interior Parts of the Country first, as
there will be a chance of having Water Carriage for what lays on Rivers
and the Bay before the whole is sent off. The Attention you mention
in your Letter of the 20th of Jan^r, to have given to the Flour then lying
at Susquehanna, was very necessary and may be a Means of preserving
much that, otherwise, would be exposed; the expensive Manner of forwarding it
will, most certainly be avoided, as soon as we are informed that the Army
is well supplied. Your Returns of the Quantity of Flour sent forward, are
received. The Conduct of the Commissary, in ordering the Wheat to be carried