

In Council, 2nd Feb. 1781

Sir, We long since gave Orders to the Commissaries of the State to restore the Flour and Wheat seized by them which was purchased for the use of his most Christian Majesty, though it remained uncertain a long time whether that quantity did not exceed what was allowed. We have been and still are anxious to have the quantity purchased by Mr. Smith and his Agents in the several Counties, reduced to a Certainty and pointed out the only method, by which we apprehend it could be ascertained, the letters laid before you in Council; Mr. Smith acquiesced to call on your Agents to render accounts of their Purchases, in which they ought to mention, the Time of when they purchased and how much of each Person. We are inclined to think the method suggested by you of directing the Commissaries to restore the quantity of Flour and wheat seized by them belonging to the Marine of France, will not give the Satisfaction you could wish because the Commissaries gave Certificates to the Possessors as Proprietors without making particular Inquiry whose Property it was and because it cannot be supposed that the whole wheat and Flour purchased by Mr. Smith's Agents was seized by our Commissary. With great Pleasure we will grant the desired Permission to Mr. Smith to forward to Messrs. Turnbull and Company by the way of the Head of Elk 3000 Barrels of Flour. We are obliged by your Offer of 1500 Barrels of Flour Biscuit but decline accepting it, on account of the enormous Expence that attends the Transportation and Difficulty of procuring Barrels and having at this Time a very considerable quantity of damaged Flour which we have determined to have baked in Biscuit.

Attest
Wm. Hutton.In Council, 8th Feb. 1781

Sir, We received your letter of the 30th January Yesterday. We have in consequence thereof, given Orders to our Agent Mr. Muddock, to procure Boards, Pails and every Thing necessary for completing the Barrocks, and to be attentive to the regular Supply of Fuel and Provisions for the Convention Troops.

Brigadier General Hamilton