

particular Inquiry respecting the ~~Trade~~ ^{Ships}, whether they are in the Bay and if in the Bay where stationed, if not in the Bay whether they are cruising off the Cape and of what Number they consist; how many Ships of the Line; how many Frigates and how many Transports and in what Manner they are supplied with Provisions; as far as you obtain full and precise Information you are to return and make your Report to this Board. If you fall in with Capt. William Middleton you must desire him to return and communicate what Intelligence he has been able to collect.

Cap. John Pitt.

In Council, 3^d March, 1781.

227. Sir, We have the Honor to transmit the enclosed Letter, this Moment received from Col. Gouven. We have ordered all the Vessels at Baltimore and in this Port to be impressed and sent to the Head of Elk with the Detachment under your Command, and have directed six hundred Barrels of Bread to be forwarded in them. This State will most cheerfully make every Exertion to give Force and Efficacy to the present important Expedition by every Measure in our Power.

Marquis Fayette.

In Council, 5th March, 1781.

228. Sir, The Marquis ^{La} Fayette with fifteen hundred Men from the main Army are now at the Head of Elk, and ^{are} intended to be transported down the Bay upon a most important Expedition which ^{is} retarded for the want of Vessels and meat Provisions. We most earnestly request your Assistance on this Emergency and beg you will exert yourself in forwarding any Vessels you can procure fit for transporting Troops, and if you have any meat Provisions that you will sell or lend, and collect all you possibly can, by Purchase or otherwise, to do this you will send to all those people who you may think have Beef on the Hoof. The Vessels to be sent immediately to the Head of Elk the Salt Meat, if any to be sent and the Beef on Hoof to be drawn or if those who have Beef will not sell it on the Hoof, you will hire Waggon &c. to bring it immediately to this Place. We enclose you a Warrant for impressing Vessels their Horses, Driggs &c.

Stephen Steward Esq.