

to this Place, you will consent to it. Otherwise you will take them
on the Spot, and Nothing except the Hides will be returned. You
will give Certificates to the Owners expressing the Quantity, Weight and
the Price thereof, if it can with Justice be ascertained at the Time
of the Seizure, which shall be paid with Interest. This Business
must be done with the utmost Expedition.

Col. Hollingsworth

In Council, 7th March, 1781.

Sir, We had the Honor to be favored with your Letter of the 5th Instant.

N^o 244. We most sincerely lament the Delay and Difficulties by which the
Troops have been prevented from embarking and wish we could
gratify our Inclinations by an immediate removal of every Obstacle.
We have impressed and sent forward every Vessel in our Power and
shall continue forwarding all we can procure until there is a
sufficient for transporting the Troops with their Baggage &c.
Shoals and small Boats fit for landing the Cannon and the Detach-
ment cannot be obtained at this Place. We shall order to be
immediately the three Hundred Barrels of Bread which you
require with as great a Quantity of other Supplies as we can
command. The necessary Articles for the Artillery and engine
Departments are ordered to be purchased, except the Blank
which cannot be had in any reasonable Time. Various Accounts
received within two or three Days of the Strength of the Enemy's
Fleets in the Bay induce us to think the Convoy you may
procure from this State will be ~~in~~ inadequate to the purpose of
giving ^{the desired} Protection, under such Circumstances we beg Leave to
suggest the Propriety of strengthening the Convoy, we have
written on this Subject to the Governor of Virginia and the
Commander of his most Christian Majesty's Ships in Chesapeake
we are discouraged from attempting to aid you with the Militia
of this State from the strongest Impressions of the Imprac-
ticability of drawing a large Body Speedily to a Point for
Embarkation, the Difficulty of procuring Provisions for
their Subsistence and Vessels to transport them.

Marquis de Fayette.