

In Council, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

N<sup>o</sup> 245.

Sir, Finding it impracticable to procure an immediate Supply of Provisions of the meat kind to carry into Effect the present important Expedition without the Execution of the extraordinary Powers which we are invested, and being informed that the Object of the Expedition will in all probability be frustrated unless way Assistance is instantly afforded to enable the Detachment of fifteen hundred under the Marquis de la Fayette to move forward, we do therefore upon this Emergency authorize and earnestly request you to seize or cause to be seized, such a Quantity of fresh and salt Provisions not exceeding <sup>being a</sup> Proportion of what is necessary for the Consumption for thirty Days of the above mentioned fifteen hundred Men from the main Army, going on an Expedition against Arnold. You will give Certificates to the Owners expressing the Quantity seized and the Price thereof, if it can with Justice be ascertained at the Time of Seizure, which shall be paid with Six per Cent Interest, This Business must be done with the utmost Dispatch As the General Assembly have directed us to remove all the Stock from the several Islands within this State below Hoopers Straights and between the Sound and the Bay. We request you to seize all the Beef on any of those Islands within your County fit for the above purpose. We hope you will meet with no Difficulty in procuring Vessels to transport the Provisions hereby requested, but to avoid Delay you have a Warrant enclosed which may be made use of eventually.

Circular to the Commissioners of the Eastern Shore excepted.

In Council, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

246. Sir, We have the Honor of your Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant, and you may rest assured Sir that any Dispatch that comes to our Hands for you shall be instantly forwarded. The heavy Gun which you request shall be furnished from this Place but the Carriages are out of repair and we think unfit for Service. General Gist has promised to order the three hundred Round of Powder and Ball necessary for them from Baltimore.

Marquis De la Fayette.