

In Council, 28th March, 1781.

289. Sir, We have appointed Matthew Ridley Esq^r of Baltimore Town, Agent for the State to obtain of the Courts of France, Spain, and the Individuals of France, Spain and Holland, Loans of Money, Arms, Ammunition and Cloathing, and have empowered him, to transact and negotiate all other Business, matters and Things that may be committed to his care and Management by the State. Your Excellency is so well acquainted with the real Situation of the States, that we think it unnecessary to suggest the Defenceless Condition of Maryland and that it is of the utmost Importance to procure those necessary Articles of Defence, without which the common Enemy cannot be opposed with that vigour we so ardently wish to see. The Disposition manifested by your Excellency on a former Occasion to further and promote the Measures adopted by the State for its Security induces us to solicit your Excellency to patronise Mr. Ridley in the Execution of the Powers we have delegated to him, and as the Benefits will derive from Mr. Ridley's Services on this occasion will in a great Degree depend upon the Expedition with which they are performed. We hope you will be pleased to have him ~~be~~ accommodated with a Passage to Europe in one of his most Christian ~~of~~ Majesty's Ships.

Chevalier De la Luzerne.

In Council, 29th March, 1781.

290. Sir, The Engineer at work at the Fort wants planks for the Platforms, you will furnish him with as much of the old (if it will answer the Purpose) as may be necessary, and if that should not be sufficient you must procure fresh as well do.

Mr. John Shaw.

In Council, 30th March, 1781.

Sir, There is a pressing Occasion for a considerable Number of Teams and Horses to transport the Cannon Stores and Baggage of the Detachment commanded by the Marquis Fayette. We therefore request and authorise you to impress twenty five Waggon and Teams with Drivers, and all the Hatts and Shaws that can be procured with their Hands for the purpose above mentioned, these Waggon and Teams are to be sent immediately to the Indian Landing at the Head of Elk, there to remain subject to the Orders of the Marquis or the Officer commanding