

In Council, D. April 1781.

1<sup>o</sup> 299. Sir, It is not in our Power to supply you with any Money from the Treasury at present. The Commissioners of the Tax are empowered to draw their Order on the Collector in your Favor for such Sum of Money as they may think necessary, not exceeding two hundred Pounds to enable you to proceed in the Execution of your Office, if you have not already done it, you had better apply to them as they have the Power of drawing on the Collector. We have long since discontinued that Practice.

Col. Edward Gaither.

In Council, D. April, 1781.

300. To, Gentlemen

We have this Moment received your letter without Date by Express, yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ult. never came to Hand till the 30<sup>th</sup>. In answer to which we refer you to our letter of the D. Instant. We are concerned for the mistake of our Officer that has happened through the Inattention of our Officer and have sent you a proper Proportion of Musquet Powder. In Consideration of the exposed and defenceless Situation of the Eastern Shore we have ventured to send you one hundred and twenty five Musquets more than the Quantity allotted by the 10<sup>th</sup> that Shore, fifty of which were delivered to Col. Ligon and are now in his Possession subject to your Order and Distribution. The principal Cause of our not having before complied fully with the Directions of the General Assembly respecting the military Stores, was the Obstruction of the Inter course between us by the Enemy's Sloops of War for some Time past, previous to which they could not have been sent without imminent Hazard of falling into the Possession of the Enemy's Privateers and Buoys, to which we may add the various Sorts of important Business which incessantly claim our Attention; no Measures have been taken for building the Vessels directed, owing to our being destitute of Money, and much of the Business cannot be executed from the same Cause; We are pleased you abound with the Materials and will very cheerfully place that Business under your Direction if you think you can accomplish it; but are apprehensive that the want of Money an Obstacle that impedes most of our Measures, and will also stand in your way and prevent your doing any thing effectual. As soon as the Acts of the last Session are published they will be forwarded & in the Manner the Law directs. It is impossible for us to ascertain with any Degree of Precision the Quantity of Provision we shall want from your Shore, but are certain the whole that can be furnished will not exceed the Demands on us; the only Account we have seen of the Action between the French and British Fleets is published in the last Pennsylvania Paper. We have no official Account of the Engagement between General Greene and Lord Cornwallis.