

In Council, 30th Aug. 1781.

112. We are honored by your Excellency's Letter of the 27th and we receive with the greatest Satisfaction, the Intelligence of the Approach of the Fleet of our generous Ally. (You may, Sir, on every Expedition that is possible for us to make to accelerate the Movements of the Army on an Expedition, the Success of which must hasten the Establishment of the Independence of America, and relieve us from many of the Calamities of War. Orders have issued to impress every Vessel belonging to the State, and forwarding them, without Delay to the Head of Elk: but we are sorry to inform your Excellency, that since the Enemy has had Possession of the Bay, our Number of Sea Vessels and Craft has been so reduced by Captures, that we are apprehensive what remains will not constitute so considerable a Detachment. We have directed the State Officers, to procure immediately by Purchase or Seizure five thousand Head of Cattle and a large Quantity of Flour; there is very little Fall Provision in the State, but can be obtained, we trust will be collected. Part of the Provision will be deposited at the Head of Elk, Baltimore Town, and George Town, most of the Cattle will be kept in good Pastures, not far distant from the Bay and Rivers, so that they may in the Case be forwarded to any Point where they may be required, we have directed sufficient Quantities of Forage to be laid in, at the Head of Elk, Baltimore Town, and George Town, for the Use of the Army. The third Regiment consisting of about five hundred Men, under the Command of Col. Adams marched from this City last Tuesday; and about seven hundred of the new Levies now here will move in a few Days. Every Aid that can be given Mr. Morris will be afforded with the utmost Cheerfulness and Alacrity.

His Excellency, Genl. Washington.

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Sir, By Letters received by Express from his Excellency Genl. Washington and Robert Morris Esq. we are informed that a large Detachment from the main Army are on their March to Virginia by way of the Head of Elk to cooperate with the