

London Town a quantity of _____ and other things be-
 longing to this State, it is necessary that you make as much
 Dispatch as possible.
 Capt Joseph Middleton.

In Council, 31st Aug. 1781.
 Sir, 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 rely
 Sir, on every exertion that it is possible for us to make to acce-
 lerate 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.

In Council, 31st Aug. 1781.
 Sir, We have the Honor of your Letter of the 16th Yesterday an
 Express brought us a Letter from his Excellency Genl Washington,
 and another from Robert Morris Esq. The contents are so
 interesting that we think it necessary ^{to send} you Copies by Express for
 your Information. In consequence of this Intelligence and the
 most pressing Solicitations from Mr. Morris to deliver our
 796 Quota of continental Supplies, we have given the most pointed
 Orders to improve every vessel set for the purpose of Transpor-
 tation within the State, to be sent immediately to Elk; to pur-
 chase or seize, if necessary, all the salt Provisions that can be
 spared without distressing the Owners, also upwards of 5000
 Head of Cattle, and a large quantity of Flour and Forage are
 in our Orders to the different Commissaries; part of these supplies
 are to be sent to Elk Baltimore and George Town, the rest to
 be deposited in convenient places for Transportation either by
 Land or Water. As a large part of these Supplies must come
 from the Counties of your Share, we hope that you will give
 every assistance requisite to facilitate that Business. If the
 French Fleet arrives in such Force as to be masters of the
 Chesapeake, we expect the Transportation of every thing neces-
 sary will be rendered easy and convenient.
 President of the Special Council.