

In Council, 31st Aug. 1781.

N^o 797
Sir, We have been lately honored with several Letters from you on very important Subjects, but as it was necessary for us to make many Arrangements and Enquiries before we could give you such explicit Answers as we thought necessary on the Subjects deserved. We contended ourselves with adopting the best Measures in our Power to perfect the Business without troubling you with unsatisfactory Replies, however your favour of the 28th demands a more immediate Answer. Every Thing that is within our Power, and within the exhausted Abilities of this State shall be done cheerfully and immediately to promote, and render effectual the Expedition which his Excellency Genl Washington formed against the British in Virginia; in which we are fully sensible the Case and Safety of this State in particular is deeply interested. The most precise Orders are issued to impress every Vessel within this State, and to send them to the Head of Elk without a Moment's Delay; to purchase and seize all the fresh Salt Provisions, upwards of five thousand Head of Cattle, and to procure a large Supply of Quantity of Flour and Forage; Part of these Supplies will be at Elk, Baltimore and George Town, the rest in Places convenient to be removed either by Land or Water, as may be found most proper for the Service.

Robert Morris Esq.

Sir.

In Council 1st Sept. 1781

790 We are this Day honored with yours of the 29th ult. and are sorry to be informed that it has so happened, none of your Barges could convey the one we have purchased in Dorset, and the Salt Provisions to this Place. The Necessity of collecting a Quantity of Salt Provisions at Baltimore and the Head of Elk, without Delay, will fully appear to you on perusing ours of the 31st Ult. with the Enclosures, to which we beg Leave to refer you, and we request you, Sir, to use your Influence to have one of the Eastern Shore Barges immediately ordered on that Service, which will tend to accelerate the procuring Supplies for the Detachment on their March towards Virginia. We conceive the Information given by Col. Hooper, of the Force and Intentions of the Enemy, to be without Foundation, as our Accounts from the Marquis's Camp of the 25th ult. do not mention it.

President of the Special Council.