

279
No 24. Sir By Information this Day received from Governor Nelson of Virginia, the Article of Flour will be immediately wanted for the combined Forces in Virginia. You will therefore use every Exertion to have as much as possible collected at such Places on navigable Water as will be most convenient for Transportation. There are considerable Quantities of Wheat and Flour in Frederick and Washington Counties; we request you to have the Wheat immediately manufactured into good Flour and waggons without Delay to George Town, and the Flour now in the Possession of those Commissaries, must be sent to George Town as soon as possible. We directed Col. Rawlings to purchase Waggons to transport the Flour from Washington. If Waggons should not be attainable by Hire, you will make Use of the enclosed impress Warrant, to obviate any Difficulties that may arise. We must call your attention to this Business, and think your Presence will be necessary, and assist in forwarding the Supplies to the several Posts. We think, for the present, you ought to refrain from delivering Flour to those Gentlemen to whom we gave Orders, and flatter ourselves the Importance of the Service and the immediate Demand for that Article will induce them to wait without complaining a few Weeks.

James Calhoun Esq^r

Infancil 4th Sept^r 1781

275. Sir The Arrival of the French Fleet commanded by the Count de Grasse with 3000 Land Forces in the Bay of Chesapeake, gave us the highest Satisfaction and we can but applaud the Cautionary Measures concerted to prevent the Escape of Lord Cornwallis and have no Doubt of their proving effectual. We are anticipating the Pleasures that must follow so auspicious an Event as the Surrender of the Garrisons of York and Gloucester. We saw the Necessity of laying in ample Supplies of Provisions for the Fleet and Army and have been and are still exerting ourselves to procure a large Quantity of Flour, 5 or 6000 Bees and what Salt. Meat is obtainable in our State. Although we cannot, at this Time, ascertain the Quantities of Provisions this State can furnish, yet there is Reason to believe they will be considerable in the essential Articles of Flour and Cattle.

Governor Nelson of Virginia.