

greatest Stimulus to their Exertions, though we believe they wanted no additional Incentive to comply as fully as possible with the Requisition your Excellency alludes to. After a great Deal of Time spent, and long Deliberation on the Subject, they passed the Supply Bill, of which the enclosed is a copy, and we much question, were we to call them them together again, whether they would be able to do more under our present Circumstances. When they next meet, which is to be the first of June, by Adjournment, and probably may be earlier, the Subject Matter of your Letter, shall be the first Business submitted to their Consideration. The Assembly also passed a Bill for recruiting our Line giving the entire Direction of the Business to General Smallwood, and providing Means for furnishing him with 20,000 £. Specie for the Purpose. We are inclined to believe the Bill would be effectual, provided we could be supplied with 2500 Suits of Cloathing, which at the Desire of the General Assembly, we have requested of Congress, and as your Excellency must know that we have, for the last two Years, furnished our Line entirely with this Article, without the smallest Assistance from Congress, we hope you will not deem us unreasonable in soliciting your Influence to have our Application complied with the more especially as we can say with great Truth, that it is absolutely out of our Power to provide for the present Year.

His Ex.^{ty} Genl. Washington.

In Council 20th Jan^y 1702.

Sir. We have your General Letters before us, and enclose you an Order on the Commissary of Baltimore County for 200 Barrels of Flour, should he not be able immediately to comply with the Order, on Information, we will furnish you with Tobacco, to extricate you from your present Difficulties, to be disposed of at the Market Price, be it what it may.

1011 You will sell the Tobacco in your Possession for the best Price to be obtained. We cannot, with Propriety, request you to engage further for the State, but our Necessity obliges us to request you to purchase 100 Yards of Soldiers Cloth, white to be preferred if to be had, which we engage to pay in Specie on the first of March next.

Capt. George P. Shepley.

In Council 30th Jan^y 1702

Sir Captain Nicholas Martin brought, in the Brig Newbit 5000 Mexican Dollars for the State, which were lodged in the Hands of Mr. Stephen Steward for safe Keeping. This Money is appropriated by Law, to the Recruiting Service, and cannot be applied to any other Purpose. Mr. Steward most illegally detains it, under the Pretence the State is indebted to him, and that he will place it to their Credit. We have wrote to him and insisted

1012 on his delivering it immediately to our Order, and warned him of the consequences of his Refusal; one of which is, not to permit the Newbit to clear out, nor any other Vessel, in which he is concerned. We therefore request and enjoin you, not to suffer the Brig. Newbit to clear out, nor any other Vessel in which Mr. Steward is concerned, until our further Order is communicated to you.

Thomas Collins Esq.
Gov. Off. 4th District }