

wheat at the time of the delivery of said flour, and for what they buy and manufacture at their mills, with the money furnished by Mr. Wederstrandt, they are to deliver 112 ^{lb} good common flour for every 3 bushels wheat so bought by them, the cost of the barrels and nails to be paid for by Mr. Wederstrandt. It also appears by Mr. Wederstrandt's information, that Ezekiel Foreman, Esq; of Kent county, bought wheat in Queen-Anne's county at £. 10 per bushel and the rise of the market, and that Mr. Francis Baker did the same, by which means his endeavours to purchase for the public were rendered unsuccessful; and further says, that at the time he was attending the general court at Annapolis, the price of wheat rose in his district to £. 15 per bushel, occasioned, as he understood, by a miller who managed Mr. Barrister Carroll's mill in Baltimore, and purchased at that rate. He also informs your committee, that William Hemsley, Esq; sold about 2000 bushels of wheat to Messieurs Booth and Barnaby, millers, at the head of Elk, for £. 15 per bushel, which wheat he bought of colonel Edward Lloyd at £. 10 per bushel; this is confirmed as to the purchase by the deposition of Arthur Brian, clerk to colonel Lloyd, who says that he received from Richard Gresson, steward to said colonel Lloyd, a sum of money for 2,068 bushels wheat, at £. 10 per bushel; 1,500 bushels of barley, at £. 7 10 per bushel; which said wheat and barley were purchased by Mr. William Hemsley; all which will more fully appear by the papers No. 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, and 20, herewith delivered in.

Your committee have received information from Mr. Richard Dallam, licenced purchaser in Harford county, contained in paper No. 3, by which it appears that said Dallam has purchased between 6 and 7,000 bushels wheat from £. 10 to £. 15 per bushel and the rise of the market till the first of April next, which he was under the necessity of doing, as others had before contracted on those terms. He further says, that John Baxley, a miller, gave £. 20 per bushel for wheat, which he apprehended was in consequence of a contract with Mr. Jacob Giles, junior, who had agreed with him at the rate of £. 50 per C. for his flour, though the price then given in Baltimore was not more than £. 40; and that upon a conversation between Mr. Giles and the said Dallam, the former declared if the latter purchased he would outbid him, though Mr. Dallam shewed Mr. Giles a letter from the governor and council, authorising him to purchase for the public use. Mr. Dallam also says, that Mr. Jonathan Hudson, a miller, informed him, that he had contracted with the commissary (who he understood to be Mr. Robert Buchanan, of Baltimore) for all the wheat and flour he could procure, at an unlimited price, and for every 3 bushels wheat received into his mill, he was to deliver to the said commissary 1 Cwt. flour, and was also further to draw a commission of 2½ per cent. for purchasing. Mr. Dallam says, that 2½ bushels wheat, weighing 58 ^{lb} per bushel, will make 1 Cwt. flour, and by Mr. Hudson's contract he would get 7; whereas others had not more than £. 40 per 100 bushels for grinding; nor does it appear that the public were to have the ship stuff or bran; but your committee have received information from Mr. Robert Buchanan (No. 22) that his contract with Mr. Hudson is in some respects different from what is represented by Mr. Dallam, and that all the contracts he has made were in consequence of immediate orders from colonel Blaine, deputy commissary-general.

It appears to your committee, by a letter received from Mr. Patrick Ewing, assistant commissary of purchases, (No. 11) that many purchasers had been in his district, exclusive of millers, in public service, and all in the character of French agents and their emissaries; and that he had heard of Messieurs Foreman and Chambers, John Ward Veazey, colonel Henry, &c. which in his opinion accounts for the scarcity in the army. It also appears to your committee, that the said Mr. Ewing has this year employed sundry millers to purchase wheat, and manufacture for the public use, many of whom he has furnished with money for that purpose, and they are to return him at the rate of 1 C. of flour for the price of 3 bushels wheat, weighing 60 ^{lb} per bushel, the nails and casks to be paid for exclusive of the price; though it does not appear that they are to deliver or account for any ship stuff or bran. It also appears, that said millers have employed many persons under them in various parts of the country to make purchases for their account.

As to the quantity of wheat flour and Indian corn purchased for public use, your committee have no information, except as before mentioned from Mr. Richard Dallam.

It appears to your committee, that the wheat bought for public use has been purchased at various prices, from £. 6 to £. 15 and the rise of the market till Christmas, and in some instances till April; and that great part of the flour bought is to be paid for at the price per C. which 3 bushels of wheat of which said flour is made shall cost, so that the price which the public is to pay for the flour depends altogether on the rise of wheat. With respect to abuses committed by persons purchasing wheat without licences, it appears to your committee, by the paper No. 16, that Francis Baker, of Talbot county, hath purchased a considerable quantity of wheat for several millers in Cecil county, and one William Clark, a miller in the Delaware state, which millers are under contracts with colonel Ewing, assistant commissary of purchases, as appears by the papers No. 11 and 17, and have, as well as many others, whose names are inserted in the paper No. 20, received money of the aforesaid colonel Ewing wherewith to purchase wheat to manufacture