

Open them to you. They are going on with the Brig as fast as possible  
today when she is ready. I am purchasing Pork for the defence at 50/  
and it can't be had in less. I shall do all I can for you.

To the Honorable Council  
of Safety - Annapolis } From your Obedient Servant  
Joseph Hollingsworth

Council of Safety - Gent.

Talbot County 4th January 1777.

I imagine ere now you've had an impeachment  
laid before you by Mr. Chamberlaine against Gen. Colston, and others of  
Carolina County for forcibly taking a quantity of Salt from him. And lest  
you should not have the matter impartially laid before you Honors, I've  
thought proper at the request of the parties concerned to give a real and  
true State of their whole proceedings in going out in search of salt and  
their coming in. Viz. Colston being in extreme want of salt heard it was  
most likely to be had in Talbot County, and being well acquainted there, he  
proceeded through it making the strictest enquiry after salt, but could hear  
of none except that Mr Chamberlaine had inclosed. He then went to Mr Cham-  
berlaine with an intent to purchase, and finding him not at home, made his  
business known to the family, who told him Mr Chamberlaine would certainly sell  
him some and also heard that he had refused selling to many before. Colston  
went a second time, when he was disappointed in the same manner. On his  
return he acquainted many as he pass'd with his business and the real want  
he was in, for he then had 1500 wt. of Pork fill'd in his house, which had  
lain there some time for want of salt, which he could by no means procure  
and returned empty home again. He was thus mentioning his case to his neigh-  
bours, who said they was in the like circumstances and knew not what  
to do. He then let them know he was inform'd Chamberlaine had a quantity  
of salt, at a plantation of his (called Plain Dealing) to the amount of 100  
Bushels, but would not part with any of it to any person; those men then  
after making the strictest enquiry after salt without success, propos'd him  
to go with them, and seem'd determin'd if Colston would join them, to deal  
plain with the incroper of that scarce article salt. They then propos'd going  
with each of them a musket, and also money to buy as much as they had  
true present need of, which latter they would first offer to Chamberlaine's  
Trustee, and if he would not take the money and deliver the salt,  
they would take it by force. to this proposition Colston agreed, the time  
was appointed when to set out on their expedition, accordingly they met and  
went down to Plain Dealing to the amount of 17 men with muskets,  
(though no ammunition) where they found a number of negroes which they  
expected belonging to the plantation, and the Trustee from home, however  
his wife was, to whom they apply'd for salt, she as well as the negroes  
had their lesson, say'd there was none there, Colston told how he was ac-  
cidentally inform'd there was a considerable quantity there, which had laid