

c. s. c. When I was amongst the people the other day, some Gent. from Ann^s were there, from whom I learnt that some people below were buying up wheat at very high prices. They told me the conjecture was it was done to invest the paper money for fear of its falling in the purchaser's hands, it is obvious if provisions should be ingrossed from such a motive, it will bring very great distress on us; there's no existing power I believe to prevent it, but as an article of our constitution provides against retrospective laws, I submit it whether if this practice is carrying on in any very great extent, it may not be proper to forwarn people from pursuing it to lay a foundation in justice for the interposition of the Legislature.

[H. Hollingsworth to Council,]

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 10th Jan^y 1777

I am now hear settling my bil for publick services for the Virginia State with Congress, fully intended to have waited on your Honnours in hopes of geting credentials to the committee of Safety at Philadelphia or Lanckester, in order to obtain some of the prisoners, to work at my gun factory, if any workmen should be among them that would sute for either finishing, or lock making. Should your Honnours think fitt to furnish me with a request of this sort to either of the above Committees (or elsewhere as seem to you best) I shall with pleashure wait on them, and use my indeavour to obtain and set to work such workmen. I am in the greates want of locks for the large peices, which is the reason for trouble you at present, as I fear they will be much wanted next Campain.

I congratulate your Honnours on the great good news, but have not time for particulars, shall be hear till the return of the bearer, and am, Gentlemen,

Your most obed^t Humble Serv^t

H. Hollingsworth

To the Hon^{ble} The Council of Safety of M^d

P. S. I mean to go to Lanckester next week in order to get a large grind stone for the Gunmill. Should therefore thank your Honnours for the credentials above, by the bearer who I shall wait the return of.

[Jesse Hollingsworth to Council,]

Sirs.

Baltimore January 10th 1777

I did not by the ship yesterday, but can have her this morning for the 4400 Pounds. Shee is a fine Ship built in Philla-delpia, but 4 years old, Seeder and live Oke, sales well and