

are apprehensive we shall still be deficient, Wherefore we request you will purchase Cloth sufficient for about two hundred or two hundred and fifty suits and have them made up as soon as you can. We shall be also obliged to you for a General Account or List of what you have purchased and an Account of what thereof you may have delivered, to enable us to have a View of the whole of this Business and give the Assembly the Information they will expect & may be necessary on the Subject.

We are Sir &^{ca}

M^r James Calhoun }
Baltimore }

[Council to Gates.]

85

In Council Annapolis 18th Feb^{ry} 1778

Sir.

We had no Intimation of the least Probability of the Army's wanting Provisions, 'til our Rec^t of a Letter from the Board of War dated the 31st of Decem^r; on the Contrary we expected, from Reports that Salt was on its way from the Eastward and the Price of Pork &^{ca} as advertised by the Commissary, induced us to believe a plentiful Supply would be got on cheaper Terms than Purchases could be made in this State. We have had very little Intelligence from the Purchasing Commissary, nor have yet, any Account of the Persons employed by him in this State, though we hoped to have been furnished with it. It will be impossible for us to observe, personally, the Conduct of the Purchasing Commissaries throughout this State: so far as it comes within our Notice, if reprehensible, it shall be remarked on with Freedom. We believe the chief Reason of a Deficiency in the Purchase is the very late Season at which it was begun on such Terms as would induce People to sell their Provisions and, as we have understood, the Expectation of getting only 52/6 for Pork induced the back People who used to bring their Hoggs into this State, to drive most of them into Virginia. We believe, from what we have heard, that no unusual Quantities of Pork have been purchased & salted up, unless in Baltimore Town where, we have lately heard, some avaricious People have been ingrossing. If you will be so obliging as to inform us of the Quantity desired, from this State, we have no Doubt of the Assistance of the Assembly which is to sit in about ten Days, to get the Provisions which have been ingrossed & such others as can be spared by the Inhabitants. We should not delay seizing what belongs to Ingrossers but from the Certainty that they cannot be consumed or removed before