

French Marine, Permits are to be granted under similar Restrictions
expressed in our other Permits for that Purpose

Liber C C
No. 22

[Council to Wm. Smith, Esqr.]

Sir. Your Letters of the 3^d Instant, we have received and have sent a Permit to load the Schooner Baltimore and a Copy of the Resolve of the Gen^l Assembly of the 30th March which our Secretary was directed to enclose in our last we shall write to the Naval Officer of Baltimore to permit you to export the Quantity of 500 Barrels of Bread and 500 of Flour, to Virginia for the use of the French Marine. The French Agent is not at Liberty to continue his Purchases; such a Quantity of Flour will be delivered to him by our Order, as with what he has already been permitted to purchase, will make in the whole 15:000 Barrels. We are anxious to have the precise Quantity purchased by you and your Deputies ascertained as speedily as possible, that we may give Directions to have the enclosed Resolve fully complied with. The Extract of our Letter of the 17th Ian^r last which you obtained by Accident appears to have given you more Uneasiness than we think any Expressions contained therein can justly excite: those Parts which you deem so offensive, have not any Allusion to you or your Conduct, they relate to those Persons who, desirous of deriving considerable Advantages from their illegal Purchases and contriving to elude the Law, pretended that the Wheat and Flour in their Possession was purchased for the French, expecting thereby, to exempt those Articles from Seizure. Our Letter was written to the Commissioners of Cecil in Consequence of Information received from them, that many Obstacles were thrown in their way to retard, if not prevent the Execution of the Law and particularly that the Possessors of Wheat and Flour to avoid a Seizure, pretended they were purchased for the French, and was a Direction to them pointing out the Line of Conduct to be pursued under the Law in procuring Supplies for the Army and was calculated to frustrate the Artifices of pretended French Agents, who were sedulous in Attempts to defeat the desirable End of the Law. We have laid all the Letters and Papers that relate to the Seizure of French Flour and the Part you have taken therein, before the General Assembly and we make no Doubt that, that Body, on your Application, will afford you an Opportunity of vindicating your Character and freeing it from the Aspersion attempted to be cast on it

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Thursday 6th April 1780.

Present as on Yesterday.

Ordered That the western shore Treasurer pay to Robert Berry two hundred and ninty seven Pounds, seven shillings and six Pence due him p Acc^t passed by the D. Aud.

Liber C B
No. 23
April 6
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