

January 2 before the pork purchase begun; It is true I have but a poor prospect to effectuate it for for the want of cash: yet on public faith I get some at £75.—.— & so being determined not to exceed that price unless I am ordered: tho' private purchasers have given in my neighbourhood £80.—.— & the rise of the market; £85.—.— & £100, Certain, and that I am informed M<sup>r</sup> Page in Kent County purchasing for the States under Col Patrick Ewing gives £100.—.— p hundred weight for it but I can't take on me to follow those Examples who are too ruinous to the public Credit, and I believe all pork might have been purchased at £75.—.— p hundred weight and the Sellers satisfied

Should I be able to Cross the baye from Kent Island I shall wait on your Excellency Tuesday next; but should the weather prevent it, I shall be much obliged to you to send me p the return of the bearer M<sup>r</sup> Grason, the Commodore's nephew, an order on the Treasurer of the State on the Eastern shore, by which my present distress may be alleviated, and I may be able to go on with the large purchases expected from me; for without timely assistance I am ruined, The Army must Suffer or the necessaries hereafter procured at a considerable advance.

Your flour was not ready to send p the Plater since Ten days it is in Store at Emerson's landing on this river and I shall forward it to Annapolis p first opportunity after the navigation at that place is free from Ice, as the waggoning of it to the mouth of the river would cost upwards of Sixty pounds, about £6.—.— p bar<sup>l</sup>

Superfine flour p C<sup>t</sup> £60.—.— Common ditto p C<sup>t</sup> 52.—.—10—

January 3 [W. Smith, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee "in Council"]

Sir I am directed by the Agent general for the Marine of France to load flour for the fleet & army of his most Christian Majesty in the West Indies, on Board the Brig. Hawke, commanded by Capt. Taylor.

The Hawke mounts ten carriage guns and will carry about thirty men. I must therefore request your Excellency will send p the bearer hereof of a permission to take this Cargo on Board.

This State has an acc<sup>t</sup> against me for shot furnish'd Capt. Harrison of the Defence. If convenient I wish to have by return of the bearer to enable me to close the Acco<sup>ts</sup> of that unfortunate adventure.

P. S. You'll oblige me much by despatching the bearer as soon as may be, as he goes express on this business

January 3 [W. Smith, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee]

Sir Since I closed my letter of this date I have seen an Extract from an Acc<sup>t</sup> of Assembly, for supplying the Army with flour &c<sup>a</sup> by which Comm<sup>rs</sup> are empowered to seize in the hands of all persons