

States, and being solicitous to restrain or defeat the pernicious Effect of such Conduct enacted that all Purchases of Wheat or Flour made above the Quantity allowed should be deemed made for the Use of the United States. The Representation of his Excellency General Washington of the alarming Situation of the United States Army received just before the Close of the Session, demonstrated the Necessity of making the most vigorous Efforts to procure an immediate and full Supply of Flour and induced them to make the Law from whence it is apprehended such Mischiefs will result to our Ally. Your Excellency must be sensible the Distress which occasioned the above Representation was real, not fictitious; and we flatter ourselves, you will concur with us in Opinion that the using every Means in the Power of the State to obtain an immediate and full Supply of Provisions for our distressed Army is highly conducive to the reciprocal Advantage of united America and her Ally, and could alone avert a Calamity replete with Evils too numerous to be recapitulated, and of such Magnitude as cannot but be discerned. The General Assembly could not hesitate about the Expediency, indeed Necessity of employing their utmost Exertions to afford Relief, and the Information communicated to them, that the French Agents had purchased Wheat and Flour in this State, far exceeding the Quantity permitted, rendered it the more necessary to make the Law general; for the Exception of Wheat and Flour purchased by the Agents of France might have frustrated the Law, by exempting that Surplus or Excess of Quantity from Seizure: another Good, we expect will result from the Generality of the Law and a strict Execution of it; this State will be enabled to ascertain with Precision, the Surplus Wheat and Flour, and detect the Persons to whose collusive Practices, the Distresses of the Army, may be in some Measure, if not wholly attributed. We are well convinced that the primary and grand Object of the Legislature was, to procure a full Supply for the Army, with the utmost Expedition, and that every Thing else was to be subservient to it, and we trust such Conduct must correspond with the Feelings of your Excellency and meet with your Approbation though it may interfere with your Plans of Operation; because it is better the Marine of France should submit to a temporary Disappointment, than that we should hazard the Disbanding of the Army of the United States, by procrastinating the Supplies. We have instructed the Commissioners to observe the Directions of the Law and to seize all the Wheat and Flour purchased by the French Agent and to take a particular Account of it, and have directed them not to transport or send forward such Wheat and Flour until they receive further Instructions. As soon as we have Assurances from Congress or his Excellency General Washington, that the Army has a full Supply of Provisions, we shall order the Commissioners to restore such a Part of the Wheat and Flour purchased by the French Agents, as will make up the Quantity he was allowed to buy: until then, we

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