

March 7
Liber No. 78
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Articles for the Artillery and engine Departments are ordered to be purchased, except the Blank which cannot be had in any reasonable Time. Various Accounts received within two or three Days of the strength of the Enemy's Crusiers in the Bay induce us to think the Convoy you may procure from this State will be inadequate to the purpose of giving the desired Protection, under such Circumstances we beg Leave to suggest the Propriety of strengthening the Convoy, we have written on this Subject to the Governor of Virginia and the Commander of his most Christian Majesty's Ships in Chesepeak We are discouraged from attempting to aid you with the Militia of this State from the strongest Impressions of the Impracticability of drawing a large Body speedily to a Point for Embarkation, the Difficulty of procuring Provisions for their Subsistence and Vessels to transport them.

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[Council Circular to the Commissaries of the Eastern Shore
except Cecil.]

Finding it impracticable to procure an immediate Supply of Provisions of the meat kind to carry into Effect the present important Expedition without the Exertion of the extraordinary Powers with which we are invested, and being informed that the object of the Expedition will in all Probability be frustrated unless every Assistance is instantly afforded to enable the Detachment of fifteen hundred under the Marquis de la Fayette to move forward, we do therefore upon this Emergency authorise and earnestly request you to Seize or cause to be seized, such a Quantity of fresh and salt Provisions not exceeding being a Proportion of what is necessary for the Consumption for thirty Days of the above mentioned fifteen hundred Men from the main Army, going on an Expedition against Arnold. You will give Certificates to the Owners expressing the Quantity seized and the Price thereof, if it can with Justice be ascertained at the Time of Seizure, which shall be paid with six p Cent Interest. This Business must be done with the utmost Dispatch As the General Assembly have directed us to remove all the Stock from the several Islands within this State below Hoopers Streights and between the sound and the Bay. We request you to Seize all the Beef on any of those Islands within your County fit for the above purpose. We hope you will meet with no Difficulty in procuring Vessels to transport the Provisions hereby requested, but to avoid Delay you have a Warrant enclosed which may be made use of eventually.

March 8
Liber C. B.
No. 24
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Thursday 8th March 1781

Ordered that the Issuing Commissary deliver to Ens. John Boone of the 1st Reg^t four Gallons of Rum & sixteen pounds of Sugar due to Feb^{ry} inclusive.