

August 30
Red Book
No. 26
Letter
No. 87

if enquirey was order'd it might easily be made Appear, M^r Gibson being a Public Officer & well acquainted with our situation as to provisions I had not the least thought that he w^{ld} deceive me in regard to the delivery of the flour I often askd for it & as often had his promise to finish the grinding as soon as possible and on the very day I heard of his send^g the flour and as I was with him & had his Promise to deliver the flour & that 100 Barrels was then ready. When he sent the flour off I stoped the Vessel till he agreed that the flour should be sent to M^r Smith in Balt, as flour seized by me & returnd him, for flour he was under Contract with Hutson for This flour was deliverd by the Skipper to M^r Smith as my flour, but he could not obtain any receipt for it & M^r Smith I am told is paying Hutson for it at the present Price 20£ upwards higher then it w^{ld} have cost had he received it as seized flour not having Power to seize the flour I could do nothing more then I did Altho, I could prove it was actually made of my wheat. I have been so much engaged of late with other Business that it was not in my Power to be so attentive to that Otherwise the Public should not have lost the flour.

With reluctance & sorrow I say I meet with but few People Who are not taking every advantage of the Public they can I have been most Raskelly imposed on with recruits & Deserters it was impossible to know the deseption till too late.

Several Deserters Who I can not get apprehendd for any reward I can offer are through their Friends applying to get the Liberty of Procuring Substitutes by them to get discharged Last evening I was offerd 100 Bushels of wheat to get a discharge for one Who will not be taken. If your Excellency thinks Proper to allow me liberty to make terms I shall use it only for the good of the State And I cannot help recommending some such plan as the public will get something by it & be no looser for were those men to be taken they w^{ld} be of little use at Camp

I shall use my best endeavours to procure what provision I can but the Business must be attend^d with considerable expense I must have assistants to ride through the County & I know not what I may be allowed. I sent round the County to buy salted meat & could obtain none, that Business cost me a sum that may be thought extravagant.

I am so convinced that nothing can be done without Cash that I think it time wasted to attempt it. Wheat I Expect will be bought in for the 15 p C^t Tax & if Your Excellency could order to this County 400 or 500 Bushels Salt to be exchanged for wheat it w^{ld} be better then Cash. I am sorry to trouble your Excellency with so long a Letter especially as its to little purpose.