

goods on board. The Capt & an intelligent passenger says that three fleets sailed from Brest ab<sup>t</sup> the 20<sup>th</sup> of March supposed to be destined for North America, the West & East Indies. Capt Josiah left L'Orient the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. I will endeavour to see the passenger & be more particular by next Post, I am very unwilling to write any thing I hear at second or third hand

May 12  
Red Book  
No. 5  
Letter 81

P. S. The passenger, I am told left Ireland not much more than 2 Mo<sup>s</sup> past, & says that a number of the Volunteer Association having assembled [~~damaged~~] they were ordered to separate. [~~damaged~~] refusing a Regiment was sent them [~~damaged~~] an engagement ensued & another regiment having reinforced the first, they were both drove & defeated by the Associates—several regular officers kill'd among them a Col. Blackwell.

[Joseph Ford to Gov. Lee.]

May 12

The confusion the enemy has Kept us In for this month past, and my Books being removed some distance from home has prevented my Making a Return of Purchases in April to your Honorable Board but as I have obtained nothing more than will serve the Militia on duty here for a little time, I do imagine it is not so material. Country make Salt is rising Very fast here, I have a sufficiency for this Post, but Perhaps some others are not supplied in that case it may probably be right to procure some it sells currently for £5 new money.

With submission I think it would be the best time now to purchase live Cattle as they are low in flesh and of course would be Judged Light and have them got into good pastures And a little Corn given them would certainly be of advantage to the State.

[H. Hollingsworth, Head of Elk, to His Excellency Thomas Sim Lee In Council]

May 12  
Red Book  
No. 30  
Letter 98

And Please your Excell<sup>y</sup> & Honours In Consequence of an offer made me by M<sup>r</sup> Richard Tilghman 4<sup>th</sup> of Queen Anns County I have contracted with him for two thousand Bushels of corn at 2/ specia or the real exchange p Bushel as the money is to be paid immediately and the corn delivered (as tis much wanted) I begg this money may be sent me or I shall be obliged to sell the corn again to raise the money, the exchanges in Queen Anns is four for one I am told settled so by the Commissioners least it should rise would gladly pay M<sup>r</sup> Tilghman immediately—the price of this corn will be two hundred pounds specie or eight hundred State if paid before the depreciation goes further but as I have engaged to pay the most of the waggoners with corn at the rate of Six Bushels p day, I would advise that one thousand pound State money be sent me to defray the expence as there will be rather a Saveing in it if the corn is bought now at the above price—it may be ask'd why I contracted with them for corn