

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

June 12
Red Book
No. 30
Letter 85

Last night I arrived at this place and find the inclosed letter from M^r Sam^l Smith State Agent with your order Inclosed, for fifteen hundred Barrels of Flour—as this order ought to be executed with the utmost dispatch, and many difficulties appears to operate against it, I have taken the Liberty of pointing them out to your Excellency & Honours as tis by this only that you can be properly informed or I directed, the quantity of flour is 1500 Barrels which from the best account I can collect is one thousand Barrels more then I have a prospect of procuring from the Eastern shore on this side of Harvest M^r Smith mentions his being willing to put up with two hundred B^{bls} only of superfine, it does not appear the least probable, that half that quantity can be had, as almost all the Wheat collected is ground down and Bolted according to your former directions, the flour and Midling pack'd together for the use of the Army, therefore will not bear inspection in Philad^a tis also weighed and Invoiced into short hundreds and most of it moved from the Mills, and of course cant be bolted over again, and where it can, the expence will be very considerable. I am sorry thus to point out difficultys in executing your orders on a matter so very essential to the Cloathing of our past army, though they are not agravated in the least, and difficult as they appear I shall with cheerfullness undertake to Execute them with your further advise and assistance, though I see no prospect of doing it unless a quantity of wheat could be sent me from Hartford County, where I understand there is great quantitys collected, with us in Cecil there was very little made last year and less collected in Kent there is collected 2765 Bushels of wheat tis all ground and mostly on its way to this place except what has been sent to Duck Creek, Appoquinemy and consumed by the Militia and new recruits, in Queen Anns County the Collection is considerable, have received 211 B^{bles} flour and sent to Duck Creek about three hundred remains there all ready part of which I had ordered with the Pork to your City and Baltimore, (as the Schooner takes in the Pork contedious to the flour) this flour is ground bolted and weighed according to your former Instructions, there is at Seths Mill in Caroline County about 600 Bushels of wheat that was brought out of Dorset County, but this is out of the district that your Honours have laid out for the furnishing this flour, and suppose it is all Manufactured according to your former Instructions the 613 Bus. wheat received from Queen Anns is the better half Manufactured into flour for the Army according to your former directions (so that on the whole) I have neither superfine nor common that will bare Inspection nor do I see a possibility of getting the quantity to fill your order, unless from Harford County where part of the wheat is not yet Manufactured (which if it cant be done in that County) the wheat being sent here could be