

pared for making it into the best of flour (if necessary) this I conceive will more evidently appear when it is considered that at Least one half the wheat on the Eastern shore grows, (and is threshed and clean'd) within two Miles of some Landing, which I presume could be forwarded occasionally by Water (when safe opportunitys offered) to the Head of the Bay, where it would be much more out of the way of the Enemy, and where there are plenty of Mills of the best, plenty of water at all seasons, that could Manufacture it to any degree of fineness, and where Casks, waggons, and every other matter or thing necessary, can always be had to forward it, on the shortest notice to where it may be wanted; leaving that which grow more interior, to be Manufactured by the best Mills in the County and neighbourhood of its growth, And the collecting curing and forwarding the provisions of the Meat kind, is attended with as many inconveniences and extraordinary expences, as that of the wheat and flour, though in my opinion much easier remedied, as each and every creature (be it Cattle or Swine) are able to carry themselves to, or near Market, or the place they are wanted at, and the price of Slaughtering Salting packing & coopering the same; with this difference only, that the coopering or making Casks would be much better done were it all done at or near one place, (than at many) and as I conceive some where near the Head of the Bay would be the most convenient place, it is supposed the workmen are in general much better there then below, but should there not be the odds, I am supposing when we consider that the one is to be waggoned (or shalloped) from one to two hundred Miles and perhaps three or four times handled, the casks abused, the pickles leaked out and exposed to the sun (the other kept in a close house or cellar) untill wanted, and then at hand for use, or at least it is known where it is and ready for Transportation without the Extra expence of waggonage, danger of Leaking the pickle, or any other abuse, it may be argued in opposition to what I have said, that should large Magazines of provisions be made at any one place it may tempt the Enemy to come and destroy it, which I admit, but this can be provided against by sending it, ten or twenty Miles assunder, in proper deposits, without moveing it one Mile from the common rout where it will be wanted, another object which I think worthy of your notice is, the Hides of the Cattle which in this State has been much neglected, though very essentially necessary for the supplying the Army, several quantitys of Leather that I forwarded to Philadelphia from this State, while acted I as D. Q. M. G^l convinces me that we either dont know how to Tan, Curry, and clean Leather, or have not conveniences or materials (or perhaps want both) I have seen several parcels of Leather sent on that was not worth half as much as the green Hides it was made of, and the complaints from the receivers, and leather cutters, will Justify what I am saying as they were general,

June 14
Red Book
No. 30
Letter 84