Dorchester County Feb.y 3. 1777

Gent.n

I have now to acknowledge your favor of the 28.th Ult.o covering an order on the Eastern Shore Treasurer for £250. which probablely may be more than I may have occasion to expend in the purchase of Beef at this advanced season; but if I find it otherwise I will call on him for a further sum agreeable to your instructions. It is a great misfortune this commission was not given to me about the first of Dec.r at that time I could have purchased a hundred thousand with as little trouble as I now expect to buy a fifth part of the quantity (if to be had at all) and at 26 ₰ct. less price. I have employed one of the most skilful hands on this shore about this kind of Business, who is now out and will secure all he can that is yet remaining to be disposed of hereabouts.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

I have also to inform you that I rec.d yours ₰ Capt.n Patterson of the 22.d Ult.o, and by him I was informed he had no other Salt on Board but the 50 Bus you sent for me, that he was certain the quantity would hold out & that it would not be worth while to measure it as he wanted to be dispatched; accordingly I sent my Carts with Large Cases (which I use on like occasions) to receive the Salt, intending to take it upon his word, & in order to hurry the people I went to Town myself but upon seeing the Cases not near so full as I expected to find

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