Sir

Baltimore Jan. 14th 1779

By the Beaver we received this evening a Letter from the President of Congress with Copy of the Resolve of Cong. which we presume is now sent to Your Excellency. The purport of his Letter to us is to request our best Endeavours either to prevent the Sale or removal of the Cargo of Salt which is referred to by the Resolve, or otherwise to endeavor to secure it for the Public Use, lest it should be dispersed before You can have time to take proper Measures in the Matter — We therefore Judge it proper to advise you what We know of this Matter. Capt. Newton Master of the Salt Sloop called upon us when he arrived, to ask our Advice, having had some Dealings with Us last Winter. We told him the Necessity of the Country for Salt & advised him against selling it in bulk but to retail it out so as to serve as many as possible. This We understand he continues to do, & has as yet only sold About 200 Bushls. besides 100 Bushls. engaged to us in order to secure Provisns. for Two Contl. Vessels which We are fitting out, & to replace Some belonging to another Concern, which we were obliged let Captn. Nicholson have before he sailed — As this is the Caue & that there is not a probability much more of it can be disposed of before You can take such Steps as you Judge best, We think it ~~[illegible]~~ not to interfere in the Matter unless there is an apparent Necessity to prevent its being disposed. — We know Mr. Beekman was concerned in the Sloop last Voyage she made here, & We believe still is so; and We are much inclined to think is no Enemy to the American Cause, having last Year abandoned his Residence at New York & taken Refuge in Philad.a — We have also pretty good ~~pretty good~~ Reason to believe that Isaac Gouverneur Esq.r of Curaçao a most Zealous Friend to America, & a Gentleman who has taken great Pains to serve its Cause, is half Owner of this Sloop & Cargo. We doubt not that

Your

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE MARYLAND