Head of Elk 1 March 1778

Dear Governor

your Favor of the 23 with the plater Galley and Salt came to Hand, I was alsiard with the Board of war at the time the weather Seemy so Bad it was impossible to inload the Salt on my return yesterday I found our Neighbourhood had been allarmed by some advances of the Enemy down the Delaway in Boats, Cent Gen Smallwood informes they were not Landed on our Side the Delaway, yet this Induced me to think it most Prudent to send the Salt to Charles Town as we have great quantity of Publick Stores hear already, and the Road so very Bad that tis impossible to remove them should we be surprised, and being ordredly the Board of war to put up a quantity of Herring I thought it best to send it into the Neighbourhood where the fish were taken, the Virgenia Galley should not be sent of. I would advise that she be sent into the Mouth of Susquehanah where I have a Store provided for the Salt, and I have a Plenty of Salt at Elk for any Immediate Demand as to the Cattle below I should have sent for them ere now, Cent yesterday only Red Cash, with an order from the Board of war to purchase all the provisions that can be spaid on the Eastern Shore and from those that will not Sell at a proper price to seise, this I am Loth to undertake at any rate, Cent more so without your approbation, nor could I attempt it, till I had Cash to open them, I take the freedom to Inclose one of the Board's Letters to me on that Subject, craving your assistance as I shall send down two Discreet persons to purchas on the peninsula tomorrow Morning, should your Excellency in Council think it necessary to assist my Indeavours with any Credentials to strengthen me, they may be send to Mr James Buch=ingses on Kent Island where I shall direct my Brother who I have send down to call for them (with some Cattle which he has) I have found some Inconveniancy in my purchas, and fear I shall finde more from some of the Purchasers appointed by the Lancaster Council of Pensylvania, who raise the price to no real advantage, I meant to give 10/ for good wheat at Elk 7/6 for Corn and Oats, £5 for pork and Beef or £18 for Barell for pork, and £15 for Beef, Cent those Gentmen hear raised wheat to 12/6 p Bush Corn 9/ and if they are permitted it will hear no Land

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND