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Ballimore 24 Decr 1780

Sir

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The Commy Genl of Purchases has lately rec.d me several Letters giving the most alarming Accounts of his Apprehensions that the Army will shortly want Bread, and earnestly pressing me to send on Supplies of Flour. In endeavouring to execute these his orders I find insuperable obstacles thrown in my way by a Set of Engrossers who infest every Corner of the Country, and purchase up that and other Articles of Provisions, with an Intent to make a Profit out of the Commission. They have now got Flour up to 200 ₰ Cwt and Wheat to 10 dollars ₰ Bush. and even these enormous ~~Prices will~~ I am confident immediately rise to others still more enormous if Means cannot be fallen on to prevent it. Some Members of Assembly have told me of a Law passed this last Session against Forestalling &c but I can get no Magistrate to act under it as having as yet seen only a short Note or Extract from it. I therefore take the Liberty of begging your Excellency would please to order me an authenticated Copy of the above mentioned Law, or at least of as much thereof as was intended to aid the Commissy against Engrossers. I have the Honour to be

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Your Excellency's

Obedt Hble St

Robt Buchanan Asst Commy of Purs