Head of Elk Novem. 9th 1781 —

47

copied

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

And. pl. Your Excellcy
& Honor

In my long letter of the 22d October I did myself the Honour of acquainting you of my difficulties being out of money and Credit though much in debt (~~though~~ ~~liable~~) having given the people I have had Forage pastures &c. of the Strongest assurances that I would pay them as soon as possible, and as the Sheriff is now on their backs for their Taxes which he will execute for if not paid I must Intreat that a Sum of not less than five hundred pounds of the late Conscription be sent me by the bearer John Hollingsworth who waits on you for that purpose, (and if tis possible, at least as much hard money, as it is impossible for me to go on without it, —— you will observe by the Inclosed requisition that I am requisited by Colo. Yeates to procure twelve tons of Hay per Day, and that Forage Equivalent for twelve or fourteen days, which will amount to three hundred Bushels of Corn or Oats pr day, which is not to be had in this neighbourhood the whole being consumed by the Army on their way down and by the Co Teams left here to transmit (untill the return of the Army) the expence of which has amounted to about thirty pounds pr day, which is now Increased to near as much more, Colo. Dayton who commands the Jersey Brigade and is now here waiting for their Arrival, assures me there is fifty odd Teams now between this and Baltimore on their way up, which will want Forage in two or three days —

By your letter of the 30th August you request me to have a Sufficiency of Forage laid in at Elk, and were pleased at the same time to send me £250 hard money this sum (though acceptable, and if it all hard money, would not have defrayed the expenditure of Forage at this Post for any one week since, nor at several particular times would it have sufficed for two days. the expence now at this Post for Forage only on the best calculation I can make is not less than fifty pounds pr day with an Arrearage of about three thousand pounds which by promise ought to be paid us now, nor will