(Circular)

Head Quarters near the Liberty Pole
Bergen County Aug. 27. 1780

Sir

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The Hon.ble the Committee of Co-operation having returned to Congress, I am under the disagreeable necessity of informing your Excellency, that the Army is again reduced to an extremity of distress, for want of provy. The greater part of it has been without meat from the 21st to the 26th. To endeavour to obtain some relief, I moved down to this place, with a view of stripping the lower parts of the Country of the remainder of its Cattle, which after a most rigorous exaction is found to afford between two and three days supply only, and those consisting of Milch Cows and Calves of a years old: when this scanty pittance is consumed, I know not what will be our next resource, as the Commissary can give me no certain information of more than 120 head of Cattle expected from Pennsylvania and about 150 from Massachusetts. I mean in time to supply our immediate wants.

ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND.

Military coercion is no longer of any avail, as nothing further can possibly be collected from the Country in which we are obliged to take a position, without depriving the inhabitants of the last morsel. This mode of subsisting, supposing the desired end could be answered by it, besides being in the highest degree distressing to individuals, is attended with ruin to the Morals and Discipline of the Army. (Saving the few days which we have been obliged to send out small