

[Council to T. Smyth.]

C. S. C.
No. 38.

Sir. Before the receipt of your favour 1st we had ordered on board Middleton's Boat 250 Bushels of Salt to be delivered to you at Chester Town for the purpose of curing Beef and Pork. We must give market price for both, though we hope Beef at 30/ & Pork at 35/ may be had. I believe we made some promise to M^r Hemsley about purchasing Pork in Queen Ann's, be pleased to write to him to know if he has or can engage any—if he should, and apply to you for salt, let him have some and we will send more to you. We wish it was in our power to relieve the distresses of the people occasioned by the want of this necessary article. Our agents at Martinique and 'Statia advise us that they will do every thing in their Power towards furnishing us with it. The Row Galley must stand as she is for some time longer. M^r Coursey is down on our list for preferment, and shall be glad to serve him.

Dec^r 3^d 1776

Thomas Smyth Esq^r

[Tilghman to Council.]

Original.

Phil^a Dec. 3^d 1776.

Gent^l

M^r Hanson and M^r Chamberlaine arrived here last night after I believe a very fruitless journey to the camp, which they found on the retreat and is now no doubt at Trenton, being left by our Gentⁿ on the road thither o' Sunday night.

By the best information our General cou'd get, the enemy are between 6 and 7 thousand, his army now not more than 3 thousand. If any considerable reinforcement can be sent from hence, He intends to make a stand at Trenton in case the Enemy come forward which it is generally thought they will, tho' Gen^l Chamberlaine thinks they will not.

The German Battalion are nearly ready to march from hence, and every measure is taking to spirit up the Mil^a to move. Shoud the Enemy move forward with any degree of speed I greatly fear our reinforcements will not be in Time. a little Time will open their designs. If we dont hear to day of their coming forward from Brunswick, of which they must have possessed themselves o' Sunday evening after the retreat of our army, I shall be inclined to think their aim is not at this place. Where Gen^l Lee is, seems not to be well known. 'tis said Gen^l Sinclair is on his mar. with about 1500 men. We had a report indeed yesterday which for a time gained credit that Lee and Sinclair were joined with an army of 10 or 15000