advanced prices above my limits, as am pretty certain has been the case with some since my writing to you last, I wonder my application has been the first to raise the price as I have been told by several that the Convention was wrote to on same head, but when I wrote you first the matter was only beginning & that with people who were buying on some private acct & not on that of the Convention, which disabled those employed by them from execu-ting their commissions as the County people & millers will always sell to those who give them most, may some flour that I had bought two days ago was taken from my door & given to another private buyer who gave 13/ pr Bl. for it, under such circumstances, the market is at present; & unless some order is taken therein to put a stop to private buyers it appears that the publick must be impeached. I did in-form the Committee that I had engaged between 4 & 500 Barrs which was the case, but bad weather has I must suppose stoped the wagons; I have about 170 Barrs flour on board & the bread is ready but that must go in last, I shall go on with loading as fast as flour comes in & follow your directions. I thought I could not do less then advise you in my former letter how matters were going on here. Which is still the case this week I think must bring much flour in. I am sir with all respect your very obed.t humb.l Serv.t Wm. Courtenay.

Balt.o 16 Janry 1776.

To Charles Carroll Esq.r Barrister.

Annapolis 19 Janry 1776.

Capt. Robert Forsythe Sir

You are to proceed from home to the Island of Martinico and there deliver the inclosed letter and your cargo to Mr. Richard Harrison, if Mr Harrison should not be at the Island of Martinico, addressed to Mr. Mc-Creary and if he should not be there. You are in that case to open the letter addressed to Mr. Harrison sell your cargo at the very highest prices you can get, the money arising from the sales you must lay out in gun powder if you can get it, if not, in muskets fitted with good bayonets & if they are not to be had, salt petre and sulphur & if you cannot get those articles, then lay out the whole in strong coarse linens & russia duck. and take care you are not im-posed on in your purchases. as soon as you have done your business make the best of your way home, and avoid speaking with vessels on the Coast, when you come into the latitude of our capes if you have a strong fair wind in, push up the Bay as far as possible, and if you find it failing, run into some small Harbour & there wait till you have a favorable opportunity to get into Patomac, Patuxent or Annapolis. If you find a better chance of getting into any of the inlets between cape charles and cape Henlopen than into our Bay, you may push into one of them, and send an express to the Council of Safety, letting them know where you are and what you have got but take care and land your goods under the care of a Committee as soon as you can for fear of being followed by the Tenders. In going out you had better take a brisk gale of wind, or get out of nights, as Tenders commonly keep a strict watch

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