

to forward up a further sum for that purpose. Mr James Ball waits on you, and if it is agreeable, a further sum of one or two hundred pounds may be sent up which I will account for in the equipment of that Company. Having no Quakers Masters to attend them there must be provision made for their subsistence to where they can be supplied. If you send the money, you will direct how to be employed, if more than necessary ballast Companies expenses.

I am Sir

Swan Creek

Your most Oble Servt

October 19th 1776.

(Amos Barrett)

B. Mear is twelve musquitos first at Mr Richards & Ballanis Factory, please to order, if to be taken for this Company.

St Pierre Martinique Oct 20th 1776.

Sir (Our last respects to you were by Capt Martins, who sailed from this place the 11th current with a valuable cargo. Since then your favours of the 12th Sept have come safe to hand for the Molly Cut Conway. His cargo, tho' a very poor one, we are sorry to acquaint, has come to a most wretched market. 57/ per barrel for his flour and 36/ for his bread is the most we have been able to obtain and his tobacco is yet unsold. Since disposing of this Flour, a cargo of Philadelphia Superfine has been sold for 53/. This fall has been occasioned by the immense quantities that have arrived and continue to arrive from France on a supposition that it would be a scarce article here. We fear there will be no change for the better till towards the middle of winter and spring when we imagine it will begin to advance again as in all probability the exportations from France will cease when it is known how badly their speculations must turn out and plenty as flour is, we know of nothing that can be sent from Maryland that will turn to a better account so surprisingly are we glutted with Tobacco and all kinds of provisions.

We almost despair of supplying you with the large quantities of molasses and salt that you want - they are scarce and command ready cash - but we shall do our best.)

As vessels with you are difficult to procure and markets here very low, we fear you cannot easily remit us money sufficient for the extensive we have and are to enter into. We moved therefore beg leave to propose a method which we think may be employed with more success and facility than any other at present. It is, if possible, to get a boat or two out from S Carolina with Indigo. One pilot boat ballasted with that article would yield more money here than any three or four Brigs with flour and tobacco. It is constantly worth from 6/ a 12/ per lb according to quality, and is the only article of our exports that can be shipped from hence to France; and the risk of getting it there will be trifling as it may be sent in rich small fast sailing vessels.

A part of Capt Martins' tobacco has been sold in St Louis a 48 p cent and yesterday we shipped the remainder for that place.