

[John Gordon, Independence Galley to Gov. Lee]

November  
17  
Red Book  
No. 22  
Letter  
No. 32

Sir At the beginning of those troublesome times I for my own part thought there was undoubtedly great honour to be deriv'd from being so honourably employd. I have now been allmost three years in the Galleys, first one, & the other, and now find I am forced to one worse than I was, when I first entered into the honourable Service; my waiting from one Session to the other avails nothing, as nothing has yet turnd out to my emolument. Must beg the favour of your Excellency to stand my friend respecting to the advancement of a Loan from the Treas<sup>y</sup> as it has been frequently obtained by other officers in the Land Service. I should not have pressed to trouble your Excellency on the Subject was not my present Circumstances truly distressing, my present pay being inadequate to Support a Wife and Family. Should I be so lousy as to be relieved through the benevolence of your Excellency, I shall with Allacritty return to the duty that becomes an Officer who cou'd wish to serve his Country at any time or any place. The request I hope my not appear to inormous when I mention the sum of £750 or £1000. I am much involv'd & coud wish to extricate myself from so disagreeable a Circumstance.

An Interview w<sup>t</sup> your Ex<sup>y</sup> wou'd be exceeding Satisfactory.

[H. Hollingsworth D Q M G Head of Elk to His Excellency  
Thomas Johnson Esqr]

November  
18

Dear Governor The packett which comes Express by the Barer M<sup>r</sup> Faris, met me yesterday near Chester (on my way to Philad<sup>a</sup>) with orders from M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris to me to forward them from this place by a fast sailing Vessel and carefull Skipper to Portsmouth Virginia, or such other place as the French Fleet may then be at, as there is no such Vessel at this place at present and the wind such as will not admitt of any coming shortly, the Dispatches being for the Royal Navy of France of course of the greatest consequence, I have thought it advisable to dispatch an Express to you by way of Baltimore with a request to M<sup>r</sup> Calhoon to forward them if convenient, the Dispatches consist of a large packet seal'd To Monsieur Count de Grasse Chief De Escadre & Cet. one Lesser D<sup>o</sup> To Monsieur Count D<sup>e</sup>Estang Vice Adm<sup>lle</sup> & Cet. one Small Letter to Robert Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> of Baltimore now at Portsmouth Virg<sup>a</sup> which packet please to give or order a receipt to be given for. I mention this as M<sup>r</sup> Farris is young in his present appointment, and doubt not of a ready conveyance by one of your Boats to Portsmouth or as you may direct

[H. Hollingsworth, D. Q. M. F. M. G., Head of Elk, to His  
Excellency Thomas Johnson, Esqr.]

November  
19

Dear Sir As I have ever made it a point to acquaint you with the difiiculty's that arose to the Public, and to my self as a public officer