

Quaton March 1<sup>st</sup> 1806

May it please Your Excellency

Oppress'd by diffidence and a sense of the apparent boldness of my undertakings, in presuming immediately to address the first Magistrate of my Country; and unacquainted with the customary forms of address, and without any one to advise or assist me - I have nothing to plead in my excuse, but my extreme distress, which has impell'd me to break through every obstacle which might deter me, and to throw myself, and helpless family upon Your Excellency's Mercy and beg your protection - as my late Husband Mr Lamb, had the honour of receiving his instructions immediately from Your Excellency and making his returns to You, it appears that you must be knowing to his Conduct, and on what account his Mission fail'd; by his letters to me, in his absence, it appear'd, that he had the charge of it, very much at heart, and by the honorable testimony which Your Excellency bore in Congress (as I was inform'd by a Gentleman then present) that he did not fail, for want of Abilities, application or address; but merely for want of money - I should suppose that would never be attributed to him as a Crime, and that he had done nothing to forfeit the favor of his Country, of which he has been allways a sincere lover and faithful servant - in the last war when in the freighting business, from one part of Europe to another, he redeem'd numbers of his Countrymen from Captivity, and paid their passages to a Neutral port, at his own expense, and afterwards fitting out a privateer under a Commission from Congress, he captur'd a large British Ship - and brought a greater quantity of warlike Stores into Boston than was ever brought, by a Vessel of no greater burden - and when Continental money began to depreciate, he had the offer of exchanging 25000 £ that he had then by him, for hard money at 3 for 1 which he refus'd, saying he would sooner lose the whole, than do any thing to injure the credit of the Currency, in consequence it sunk in his hands almost to nothing - and by receiving the paper Currency, after it became a tender, upon hard money notes, and repealed acts of lavish Generosity to unfortunate individuals, beyond what his circumstances could afford, he had considerably impair'd his property before he undertook that unfortunate Mission to Algiers, which complain'd his ruin, and occasion'd the loss of one of his eyes -



At his return he was 7 times, at the old Congress to endeavour to obtain a Settlement, at an expense he was by no means able to support, as may be seen, by a letter he wrote to Mr Jay, which was put upon the files of Congress he then believing himself holden, till he had a regular Dismission from Congress, entrusted his business with men, who either thro' ignorance or Design, sunk almost the whole of his remaining property, and involv'd him in such embarrassments, as oblig'd him to go abroad, to endeavour to retrieve his affairs, expecting to return in time, to lay his acc<sup>ts</sup> before the new Congress - but one misfortune after another pursued him and still detain'd him, till he met with that unfortunate blow with which, after languishing 8 years, his misfortunes were terminated with his life - he flatter'd himself for a long time that he should recover, and be able to go on to Congress himself, but at length despairing of that, he advis'd my present Application to Your Excellency, of the wisdom of whose Administration, and the Great and excellent qualities of whose head and heart, he had the most exalted opinion - previous to Mr Lamb's going abroad, he put his acc<sup>ts</sup> with Congress, into the hands of Benjamin Huntington Esq - who prov'd a treacherous friend, and kept back, or lost, part of the Vouchers. entrusted with him, I have in vain been trying to find them for some years past, and I am inform'd by a Gentleman, lately a member of the house, that it will answer no purpose to send on the acc<sup>ts</sup> unless I have all the vouchers - Mr Lamb always suppos'd there was a considerable sum due him from Congress, and often declar'd, on his dying bed, that he did every thing in his power to do, for the service of his Country - and the situation of his family is a sufficient proof that he did not appropriate the public money, to his own use - but I pretend to no Claim upon their justice, as we have lost the papers, which would suppose that Claim; but chuse to throw myself entirely upon Your Excellency's Mercy, and imploring you to afford your protection to an Unhappy Woman, who thro' brought up in the very lap of indulgence, and never knowing a want, till since that most unfortunate Mission to Algiers, is now in the decline of life, bereft of property, of health, and unable to apply for medical assistance, as in Mr Lamb's long and expensive sickness I was oblig'd to dispose of my plate, best clothing and furniture with every Ornament of my happier days, to make him comfortable - and to add to my afflictions



My only Son, who has been bred for the Mercantile line  
and is now out of his time, is unable to go into business  
to support himself and family, and so unhappily are  
we circumstanced, that he cannot leave us, to seek for  
business abroad, would his health admit of it, which  
is very infirm - Oh Sir let me intreat you to Commiserate  
our helpless and wretched situation, and exert your power  
and influence in our behalf, so shall the Blessing  
of the Widow and fatherless rest upon the head of  
you and yours - if Your Excellency is pleas'd to com-  
mand it, the papers shall yet be sent on, in their  
present Mutilated State, - You will be pleas'd Sir  
to remember, the great rigour Mr Lamb ran in  
going among such a savage people, the loss of his  
eye - his Disappointment in not going to Morocco, and  
Tunis, as he expected - the Shock his Constitution receiv'd  
- his Detention at Congress on his return, and the  
Consequent ruin of his affairs, and the Distress in which  
it has involv'd his family - I humbly hope Sir that  
this unexaggerated picture of our misfortunes, will induce  
you to pity, and afford us relief - and oh let it be  
speedy, for I cannot long support, my present Sorrows.  
- I trust to Your Excellency's Goodness to excuse my  
importunate boldness, and take leave to subscribe  
myself, with Sentiments of Veneration and respect  
Your Excellency's Most Hum<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Lucy Lamb

If Your Excellency may be surpris'd at the lateness  
of any application, I woud on some time since, but  
was inform'd last evening, that by some accident my  
letter was lost and never put into the mail



Lamb Lucy, Boston, Mar. 1, 1806.

recd Mar. 22.

His Excellency  
Thomas Jefferson Esq

Dear Sir

Your Excellency may be surprised at the length  
of my application, made on this 11th inst, but  
was informed last evening that you were  
about to leave for the west  
I therefore waited till the 11th inst  
to apply to you in person  
I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst  
and in reply to inform you that  
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