

Dear Sir,

Williamsburg. July 7th 1776.

I rec^d. of 29th Ult^o. from Bumpies. your request for some Highland prisoners can't be complied with, the Congress have order'd it otherwise, & directed that they shall be maintained at the Enemy's expence, which, tho' borne in the mean time by us, will be refunded before they are exchanged: They will not be permitted to work unless they please. Among those sent to Lord^o. you may probably get weavers, if so, you are at liberty to hire, remembering to make such a bargain with them as that you will not loose or be disappointed by their Return, wch L^d. is extremely desirous to effect. No reinforcement is arriv'd, nor will any of consequence come this Summer; so that I may with Safety to my Country & Honour to myself resign in Sept, time enough to be up at the Election for of our Senator. My presence at the Camp would not permit me to

Speaks our Delegates about the Man; Let not Elzey be
even mentioned, his lukewarm, procrastinating Temper added
to his attachment to the sinking party renders him at this time
the most unfit Man alive; an active, resolute honest
Man tho' with moderate abilities will better reconcile the
People to the new Governm^t. The Governour is already too
much hampered, his Council ~~ought~~ ^{& the} Senate ought there-
fore to assist his moves, instead of throwing every obstacle
in his way. Candour & Friendship oblige me to inform
you that I wish to serve in the Lower house, which I will
not attempt, nor indeed can it be effected, unless one of our
Delegates be appointed the Senator. of the two Col^o Peyton
is the Man. If you concur with me, speak to him on the
occasion; if not I will cheerfully acquiesce — Excuse your-
self in getting a general Meet^g of the People at the Elect^o-
Gen^l Lee has ordered the 3^o 16th Reg^t to continue here; he
has 8,000 Men in Ch^l Town; & concludes it probable that our
Climate cannot make an Impression there, he will push to

Virginia; If so we stand a Chance of seeing each other again
as Soldiers. Our address to the Govern^r has offended Col^o W^h,
he did not see it, & thinks himself much injured by it, that in
order to do justice to his Character he intends to publish to
the world his disapprobation. This may bring on a Paper
War. Judge how it will end. An Inquiry is making into
his Conduct by about of the 3^o 16th. It will comprehend
the History of last winter's Campaign; if I can procure a bo-
dy of the Proceedings, you shall have the valuable present.
My Sentiments about Maj^r Lestot are mine. If the
rule of Succession I can't complain. Some of our best
men next Week, & the week after you may perhaps read their
fate in Purdie's paper. Col^o Stephens is going on merrily at
Portsmouth. Capt. Ball of the 5th arrested for permitting a Ja-
maica man with 3^d M^r Punches Rum to be retched, was
tried yesterday & honourably acquitted. I can't efficiently
acknowledge your friendly attention to my family — God
bless you. I am D^r Sir Y^r most affectionately
M^r Smith

Wm. M. L.

July 7 1776

To

Maj: Leven Powell

London

