

him who now acts as my second Lieutenant (M^r. Moses Lecompte Junr)
and if y^r. Honours have not in view a person more worthy to act as second
Lieut. take the liberty of naming M^r. Matthias Travers, if you approve
of him.

I am Gentlemen with due Respect.

Y^r. obed^t. Serv^t
Joseph Robson.

P.S. as I cant possibly march until the officers are complete, I hope
the messenger will be dispatched as quick as possible.

To the Hon^{ble} The Council of Safety.

Head Quarters Annapolis, Jan 26th 1777.

The Humble Petition of James Lacey, to the Honorable the Council of Safety.

" Humble sheweth. That your poor Petitioner hath been confined these five
weeks past, in the Guard House, and for what he is confined, he knoweth not
as he is not guilty of any thing in the least, tending to the prejudice of the pre-
-sent state. Likewise, most honourable gentlemen, I am to communicate
to your Honours that I have been taken once up to your Honours but never
has had any hearing or examination, the reason why, I know not, I am in a
strange place most considerate gentlemen, and, as I was taken off in a hurry
or on a war, has not the second shirt or thing with me for to shift myself
" with therefore I must of course, sirs, be in a shocking condition - Also, most
considerate gentlemen I am to inform your honours that I have wanted a
good deal of Provisions since my unhappy confinement, the officers, who
is to get it for me not looking properly after it, and of course, in a long du-
-ration of time most honourable gentlemen, I must die in the present
situation I am in. Therefore most honourable and considerate Gentlemen
hopes that your Honours will take the low and distressed situation of your
poor Petitioner into your most serious considerations and grant him some
relief from the present exigency that he is in - And your poor Petitioner,
shall ever be in duty bound to pray.

James Lacey.

So God bless the Congress, and direct our General.

To the Hon^{ble} The Council of Safety.

In Committee of Safety Virg^a Jan 27th 1776.

Resol^d: as we are so closely connected by inclination as well as interest and our
situations strongly points out the propriety of attending to the operations which
may be necessary for our mutual defense, we are desirous of establishing & kee-
-ping up a constant intimate correspondence with you. We think it proper
to inform you that we have resolved to build for the protection of Patuxent River
two row galleys one of them to carry one 24 pounder, the other a twelve pounder
& both swivels - also three vessels carrying one of them four six pounders & some four
pounders the other two vessels four pounders & swivels, we do not conceive this
adequate to the importance of that great river, but as we have three other
rivers to which we must extend the like care, and as your province is equally
(interested)