Dhij

West River Maryland Decemr. 20. 1783

You favor of the 6th of September covering copy of an agreement between You Mr Wm Jones & Mr Jno. Q Vaughan, ~~commissioning~~ me to purchase 400 Hhds of Tob.o for them came to hand this day — The Purport of which I shall most carefully observe — I am a good deal surprized that two Letters, one of the 2d the other of the 16th July had not reached You before the Date of Your Letter — The Ship arrived in London the last of August, time enough I am satisfied if the Letters by her had been duly forwarded — If you had rec.d it, You & the other two Gentlemen would have perceived by the prices of Tob.o Quoted at that time, that there would have been little probability of executing a commission at the limits mentioned in Your Agreement. The price of Tob.o in Maryland has Not been lower than 30/- ~~pHd~~ for the ordinary kinds & 35/- for the better Sort, Since that time & at present 35/- is the current price, for Kites foot 40/- or I believe even higher could be got — Under these circumstances, If your Ship Arrives, I shall endeavor to procure a Freight to London for her with in the mean time I should receive any new orders from You — I have Not the least Expectation the price will lower here, before the New crop comes in, as the price in London early in October was from 4½ to 9d — & the Quantity Sent home, I think Not enough to lessen it very materially.

I am Not a little chagrined, that matters are so circumstanced that I cannot execute this commission, which Yr Friendship has thrown in my way — The profit of it I do not so much regard, as the prospect of beginning a Business, which perhaps might have been Much extended to the benefit of all parties — However I hope altho' a Disapointment has happened, it will not be a Discouragement to a further Trial, when the prices of our Commodity here may come Nearer to Yr expectation & limits —

With respect to Lumber, I must mention for Yr Government, that all kinds of Pine, are at least 100 ⅌ Ct higher than they were before the War, Masts are More so, owing to the Scarcity that prevails ~~along~~ near the Water Side — Large ones are obliged to be brought from Some Distance in the Country & Plank for Decking Ships costs as Much as it does with you — Staves are at £3.10 - £7 - & £10, Such as used to be Shipd from hence, Quantities of them I have No Doubt might be procured — West India Rum is Now selling at 5/- Molasses