

any Building or work is advanced
for. These people generally write me
making their Tender, and of course
there is no competition. But after ^{all,} should
it be contracted for, the foundation having
been dug out, & materials collected, will
of course be taken into calculation & allowed for.

I don't know whether Milne has mentioned
to you, the escape of a Mr. Lamphell, late
Master of the Prison from Prison at
Philadelphia, where he was confined
amongst others as an Hostage. He went
to New York, where he learnt that a vessel
of peculiar construction was laying at
the horse yard, & suspecting that it was
intended to be employed against our
ships, he succeeded by a little bribery
& in a disguise to get a sight of it, & then
brought away a drawing of it, which I