

we anticipate while being here, through the kind Providence of God, to enjoy "Civil Liberty" in all its various branches, according to Laws & Const.

We are not (of which you are acquainted) a law breaking People. we have to the best of our abilities, paid due respect to all Ordinances, given to us by you, yet without they were, and are, oppressive. We, therefore, You, Militiamen, from a sense of peace and good order, Humbly Pray, Your Honorable Board, that our requests be granted.

Firstly That, we from a deep sense of our poverty, beg the grant of a certain amount of money, imposed on by a majority, of Vets of the Council, in presentation of the claims of the Governor from Agent. We, loaned, or supplied the Commonwealth, with the amount in demand, for the construction of our Jail, and according to the agreement, entered into by said Council, we are to refund the same, as the Council has determined, when we shall have become able. The sum are One thousand and twenty one Dollars Currency. And one hundred and fifteen Cash. which amount, we in our present state, and condition; are not, and may venture to say, will never be able to pay.

Secondly. That the "License Law" Granted page 115, of Sec 11, which we believe to be exorbitant, and a chief impediment to our welfare, and comforts, it shuts out a great many means, which would eventually flow in the Colony; provided, the present Ordinance, were so altered and amended, to meet the circumstances of the more contracted port, as regards pecuniary means, that would enter into business; and the charges for Licenses, not so exorbitant. Its demands being as it is, brings a direct Tax upon us as a Community, who are the purchasers. The Merchant must exact enough, of those who buy, to cover the high per cent. license per centage on goods, Duties &c. proper and reasonable per cent. we think, is but right, but with the present exactment of the License Law granted, is, an over bearing weight. To satisfy the present Law, who is able, or can spare the amount? As far as we are acquainted, one individual say two, at this number, the wholesale dealers stop. In this terrible Monopoly of business, the Mass are taxed, you, oppressed by high charges. Again - That it is a prohibition of various things, which in our opinion, would render the Colony more populous, if it were so arranged, as to meet the income of some, who are disposed to make themselves usefull & happy.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1849