Hon.d Sir

Calvert County Aug.t 21st 1777

I hope you.d excuse the trouble of this which send to requist y.r Excell.cys pardon for a very young negro Man Call.d Holliday Condem.d on tuesday last in our County Court for horse stealing — He was born in my Father Wheellers family and has liv.d with me ever since his death, and has always behav.d him self as well in every respect as most of this Col.y till this affair, which he tell.s me was circumstanc.d thus, He and a negro Man belonging to my Bro.r (who does not bear a good char.r) went to visit their wives on a Saturday night & stay.d so late on Sunday that they cou.d not get home in time on monday Morn.g — that d.d Other fellow has keept d.d horse in his masters pasture ever since they took him & had occas.n to Exchange him in that neighb.d hood and did lend him the horse to come down here at the time his Owner met with him on d.d horse — I hear.d of his being taken up, & sent for a witness in Anneard.l County who did not get down till tuesday night, w.ch prevented my attend.g that day, being also persuaded in my mind his tryall wou.d not come on till y.e wednesday, had I been pr.sent, from what have heard cou.d prevented his Condemn.n & put d.d Sadle on d.d right horse But as there is now no saving his life but by your clemency have hopes from y.r well known Human disposition you will pardon this his first Offence which will highly oblige

Your Exc.y's most Obed.t and Humble servant

Francis Weems

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.