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Baltimore 8th Aug. 1778

Sir

From a sight of your Letter or order to Capt. Dashiell Respecting the Sloop Molly, Directing him not to deliver her to the Consignee Him, but to hold her agreable to your orders, I am induced to address myself to you on the subject I need not mention to you Mr. Harrisons nice Situation that oblig'd him to sell that Vessel, and believe you will admitt he has claim, a great Price for her in the Situation she was in, Viz, in want of a full Load of Masts Rigging and Cable — This Sloop was exactly in the same Situation of Capt. Stone's Brig, and poor Harrison has acted as his circumstances oblig'd Erring only in placeing too much Confidence in the executive Power of his Country, I knew your Sentiments of Stone on the like occasion and I am with you in opinion, I dread the Consequences that must befall that poor unhappy Harrison, should you take the same step with the Molly that has been taken with the Brig, of Course if you do she is to ride the Same Quarantine If you will admitt that private People has the same right to with hold under the same pretenses with the publick, you must know none of this States Property can be let to Return under his immediate Circumstances, nor is it necessary to make more than already has been made acquainted with his distress and ill treatment from this State, in which I have shared plentifull sufferings, for which I shall Curse some in it to the day of my Death, I have often wrote your Excellency and the Councill on the Subject of the Publick Debt & offer my services & propositions to pay that Debt, but have always been unanswered as well as when I have apply'd in person — I again make a tender of my services to fitt and send out either or both the Ship Defence or Brig Friendship, and know myself equal to the Task Town with dispatch, without being furnish'd with any other Necessary except a bare and moderate Sufficiency of Cash for the Need full —

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.