(67) Camp Middlebrook March 28 1779

Sir

I must beg your Excuse for obtruding my ~~Private~~ Private affairs upon your Excellency, but my fortune must suffer in a very Material degree unless I can be favoured with your Indulgence of a passport to go ~~to~~ into New York in order to secure, (by the Assistance of a friend who is going to England and is now in New York by permition) a Donation granted me by the Board of Longitude in England as a Reward for an Instrument presented them before the commencement of the War,

The precarious tenure by which Americans now hold property in Britain, urges me to make this Request conscious that my general conduct would warrant such favour, I should have done myself the Honor of applying to your Excellency sooner, but being misinformed with respect to the true mode of address on this Occation, I was lead to believe that a passport might have been obtaind from his Excellency Genl. Washington, but on application his Excellency informd me he had not powers sufficient to permit the Subject of any particular State to go within the Enemies lines without a permit from the Governor of the State

Being thus incomodanced I must beg your Excellency will indulge me, if there should appear no Impropriety in the case

I have the Honor to be your Excellencies
Most Obedt Humbl Servt
Jas. Hopkins

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.