which I shall have the Honor to lay before you at Annapolis —— I have rec'd various reports which furnish apprehensions that my Slaves were landed from the French Fleet before they left Chesapeake The first was, that a Boy nam'd Ben with his Mother Sukey, & Sister Sarah, were captur'd on their way to N. York & carried into Philadelphia — that the Mother Sukey Died there & the other two were Sold at Publick Vendue — In this report not a Word of George or his other Sister, Rachel — And yesterday, I was Informed by an Eastershore Man, that he met with a Captain Dowson at Bonadict — a resident of Baltimore, who told him that he knew George Wilks, & went to the Goal in Baltimore, & See him there in Irons, being taken in the Bay a few days before, with a Scotchman & Irishman, who were both prisoners in Goal with him — I wish this report may be true, but have my fears that he is at Large — I sent Mr. Walker an Overseer of mine to Virginia in Search of my Slaves which I was informed were there — on his return I shall probably know. If George Wilks & his Family were landed from the French Fleet — If so the two reports before mentioned are Plausible, or that George is probably among the Pirates now in our Bay.

The Indisposition of Mrs. Tilghman & my Family, & being unwell myself has prevented my attending the Assembly — these obstacles being now removed I intend to Annapolis on Monday next — Mr. Tilghman my son & his Lady join with me in compliments & best wishes to you, your Lady & Family.

I have the Honor to be with perfect Esteem & respect
Your Excellency's Most obedt. & Hble. Servt. Wm. Tilghman

MdHS 1974 [561-607]