Col. Forrest
May 14th 1784

superintendance of it through all its stages as it is made just by Governor Sprigg who he lives not unlike a Gentleman — Chase & Col. McKenzie will do nothing — probably they are both to blame — I am sorry for it but I am sure the latter has been — for the former without any authority that I know of — Reason and justice proposed that the M.R. should retain his own valuation of property confiscated & transfer the remainder to which in my opinion he ought in point of justice & policy to have acceded — Though Chase had no power to make the offer I am free to own I recommended the measure. — Is it impossible but that I may have the pleasure of seeing Mrs Lee & yourself in London — our country must have a Minister and however the eyes of people at home may be turned here they are on you, for your administration is spoken of in high terms and in France it is admired. — you know me too well I hope to suppose I can flatter those I love and therefore will know that what I say is true. Present me with the respectful attachment to Mr Lee and the little people Mrs Lee & Eliza & faithfully. A Lowell

My dear Sir, London 14. May 1784

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I had two days ago a letter from my little friend at large it is dated 28th April and coming by a private hand was a fortnight on its passage. He was perfectly well. I find that Mr Howard has lately died after a long illness. I have written to Mr Mattingly to know if his successor or other person is in the possession of the letter Mary brought for him. I have given Mary a little scold for not writing to his friends particularly his Mamma and have mentioned ~~in consequence~~ Mr. Mattingly the anxiety of his friends frequently to hear from him.

I cannot express to you my gratitude for the fresh instance you have given me of your regard to my prosperity every action of mine shall prove how sensibly I feel your friendship. I have gone but by the direction of Modder) too largely into the shipping goods to the Rivers I have shipped almost none to Baltimore altho I have had orders to an incredible amount. I have shipped none without his order but a small cargo to Mesrs Hendricks in Alexandria and a few Hundred Pounds to Messrs Somervilles on Patuxent and I have countermanded from him always from there were two houses who knew of the mere fact of communicating with him I knew them did not choose to let them pass me. I have had nothing from your friend W. Brookes when he comes he shall be made sensible

MdHS 1974 [690-207]