Wilmington 31. Aug. 1812.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 22.d inst. I really feel at a loss what to do for the best with Elegas Negroes. I do not think it would be safe or proper to bring them into this State. Our laws are strict on this subject. Indeed were the act of bringing in those I have sentiz=ntized it is doubtful whether it would bear the test of legal investigation. The number however being small and only for domestic purposes no investigation has or is likely to take place. But were I to remove the whole of them or any considerable part, it would probably offend public sentiment here, and no favors would be shewn me by those opposed to any increase of black population in this State. — Indeed were the law clear giving me the right to remove I should be unwilling to do an act to which I know the general sentiment to be so much averse. I must therefore indeed your to dispose of them in Maryland and shall esteem it a particular favor if you will with your advice aid William Lee in the performance of this office to whom I have written & who I trust will have the goodness to intercolate for me. — I propose selling force

Thomas S. Lee Esquire
Near Upper Marlboro
To be sent to Freeman's Store
Maryland

Aug. 31 1812
D. Conway

MdHS 1974 [1165-1362]