suffer the most excruciating calamities of war, as you will observe from the letter of Capt. Gordon commanding Officer, in the newspaper sent you. They have been there two days past busily engaged in loading their vessels with flour, tobacco, cotton, spirits, food &c. Nothing spared but houses, household furniture & persons - Surely no enemy ever imposed more cruel terms - But there was no remedy, as they can at any moment fire the whole town. The conduct of Capt. Gordon & his squadron to Alex.a is as merciless & disgraceful, as the conduct of Ross & Cockburn in Washington was honourable and lenient — They openly threaten to deal with Georgetown in the same way, but we are completely prepared to beat off double their force, unless they be supported by an army - Commodore Porter is arrived with 200 of his crew - Rodgers & Perry are within a few miles with a considerable number of sailors & marines - We have 3500 under arms - Numbers flocking in hourly - Formidable batteries are constructing at Greenleaf's Point - at the abutment of the Potomac bridge, at Peter's Point opposite to the southern extremity of Mason's Island, & on the Island itself - We are perfectly secure at this place unless Gen. Ross should return with his army - The Government appear to be just at this time sensible of their danger, after having lost the Capital - The enemy have taken 22 vessels at Alex.a which they load with their booty — Baltimore, I have no doubt, will fall before the close of September - & be given up to indiscriminate plunder - Nothing new from Europe - Every thing is dreary & desolate here - Archy is well, - William with his family -

With sincere love,
your dutiful son,
John Lee

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