

1786, July 8  
Tforzheimer Collection  
Box 1

Wm. A. McLaughlin  
to Samuel Chase, Esq.

Samuel Chase Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir ---

I have taken the liberty of laying before you the distrefs'd Situation of the Inhabitants of this County, hoping that your influence with his Excellency and the Honourable Council may operate so far, as to get an indulgence to the Collectors until sometime after Harvest, and thereby in a great measure alleviate the distrefses of the people at large.

I have Acted as Collector of this County for six Successive years, and in that time have made as good Collections as perhaps any other in the State; to have my Bond put in suit at this Critical Juncture , when the most Strenuous exertions have been made by me to inforce the Collections, would answer no other purpose whatever, than to ruin those unfortunate people, who happen to be in arrears---Considerable Balances are due, which I find impofsible to Collect from the people, I have seized their effects, and exposed them to public sale, but no person will purchase, or even bid except in Baltimore Town, where the property sells at not more than one half its value---This misfortune arises from a Real (not an Imaginary) scarcity of Cash, which so generally and unhappily prevails throughout every part of the State.

(cont'd.)

I therefore most earnestly entreat you Sir, to State this matter and my perplexing Situation to his Excellency and the Honble. Council, confiding that their goodnefs, and humanity will prompt them to extend a further indulgence to the people, by which means a Number of worthy Citizens, with their families, will be preserved from inevitable ruin.

Be afsured, Sir, that many of them at present, have not bread to eat, but what is purchased with difficulty, and on Credit; Added to this the gloomy prospect of loosing one third of their present Crops by the Worm, renders their Situation Truly deplorable. I am Confident no good man would wish to see his fellow Citizens devoted to ruin.

I have the honour to be Sir with the greatest respect  
your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. . . .

Wm. McLaughlin

Balt.<sup>o</sup> 18th July 1786