

Original.

[Petition of Castle Haven Company.]

To the Honourable Convention of Maryland. The humble petition of a majority of Castle Haven company sheweth: That your Petitioners have laboured under repeated impositions from their Captain Joseph Byus which in their opinion render him unworthy of the office which his country has intrusted in his hands, and we knowing of no other justifiable method of redress then presenting our petition; we hope and trust that the honourable convention will either remove him from his Captaincy or oblige him to appear before you, that your petitioners may have an opportunity of proving their accusations against him, which we doubt not are of such a nature that the moment they are heard, they will be adjudged sufficient cause for removal. To mention some of our accusations to your Honours, which we charge him with, is, we were called on duty, which he our said Capt. provided for us thirty four pounds of pork, three bushels of Indian corn meal, as also thirty six pounds of bacon, thirty three pounds of pork, and three gallons of rum, got from Capt. John Tripp, and as sum of the neighbouring gentlemen was so good as to bestow their charity upon us, by giving us sundry provisions, that out of the above provisions we made use of only thirty six pounds of pork twelve small loaves of bread, and three gallons rum, the remainder of the provisions our Captain carried home and converted to his own use, and charged us with the whole, which charge was five pounds ten shillings, common money, so that he stoped out of our wages and rations four shillings from each officer, and two shillings from each private. when we found ourselves thus treated with, we complained to our field officers, which caused him to repay to each officer three shillings and six pence, and eighteen pence to each private. it was by mear chance that we got possession of a true accompt of the provisions found, made use of and carried away, such a chance as we cannot expect to meet with every time we are thus used: which gives us great reason to believe that we shall never be honestly dealt with, by a man that no trust can be reposed in, and that requires a constant over-looking in order to have justice don: he has also given orders to his non-commissioned officers, that for the smallest offence to knock down any man belonging to his company, and he will support him in it contrary (as we view it) to the millitary resolves of convention: these and sundry other threats and useages gives uneasiness to your petitioners.

Till we have the determination of your Honourable Body we shall continue to obey our Captain has we have hitherto done, but as we are extremely unhappy in our present situation, we