

C. S. C.

[George Cook to Council.]

Hon^d Gent.Baltimore January 19th 1777.

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you last I saw one of those unfortunate men that was in the Prize Snow George : taken by the *Camelia* a British Frigate, he made his escape from a prison Ship at New York and travel'd to this place, he informs me that the prisoners are us'd extremely ill, and no respect to rank, that officers and men are all tumbled into the hold together and oblidg'd to dress what little provision they have allow'd themselves or its not done at all. I have applied to M^r Chase and M^r Carrol for their assistance to get them exchange'd, but they say its a business particularly belonging to this State. I do not doubt was your Honorable Board to write the Congress, but what they would get them exchange'd as soon as possible. There is Capt. Glasby and M^r Lyons his mate here were they secur'd they might be of service in exchanging for the master of the *Defence*, M^r Cordrey and M^r Carter a midshipman. Capt. Campbell will wait on you, and will be able to acquaint you more fully of each circumstance. Our men who are taken by the Enemy are very likely to be kept as prisoners a long time unless we fall on some method to have them exchange'd. I'm in great hopes some speedy method will be put in execution for that purpose.

I intend for Frederick on Wednesday morning next and doubt not but the officers belonging to Ship will do every thing in their power to make dispatch. I shall wait on you in the time of the Assembly's being at Annapolis.

I am, Hon^d Gent. Your very Humb^l Servant,
 The Honble the Council of Safety Geo. Cook.
 of Maryland, Annapolis.

The names of those taken in Snow George, viz.

James Cordrey, Master, William Carter, Midshipman. Seamen, Alex. Stanton, John Power, Collin Brown, Alex. Nicholson, Dennis Larkens, Edward Gibbons, John Halfpenny, Patrick Cole, Timothy Kelley the person made his escape.

I laid a petition from Capt. Campbell before Congress, they declined having any thing to say to it. All persons taken by the Ships of War or privateers of any State, are deemed the prisoners of such State, and are generally applied to the redemption of their own Subjects ; on the contrary all persons taken by Continental vessells are deemed the prisoners of the Congress and subject to their disposal.

The Georgia delegates object to the discharge of the Gentlemen, whose cases you referred to Congress.