

[Sam. Huntington, President of Congress, Philadelphia, to  
Gov. Lee.]

January 9  
Red Book  
No. 9  
Letter 115

You will receive herewith enclosed, Copies of two Acts of Congress of the 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Instant

By the former you will be informed that from the unwarrantable & cruel Treatment which our People who are Prisoners with the Enemy have of late received from them, in the opinion of Congress an Exercise of the Law of retaliation has become necessary and it is especially recommended to the Executives of the States respectively to take effectual Measures for carrying into Execution the Acts of Congress of the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1780 respecting Prisoners taken by the Citizens Troops or Ships of particular States

By the other Act (of the 8<sup>th</sup> Instant) it is earnestly recommended to the several States from New Hampshire to North Carolina inclusive to procure for the Use of the Officers in Captivity at New York & on Long Island to be charged to the United States their respective Quotas therein mentioned in Specie or Bills of Exchange on New York.

It is presumed the necessities of those Officers, the Distresses they have already suffered and the more disagreeable Situation they must yet be reduced to for want of the Means of Subsistence unless those supplies are obtained will be sufficient to induce a Compliance with this requisition as speedy as possible.

[Joseph Bruff, Talbot Court house, His Excl<sup>y</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Sim Lee.]  
(fav<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Capt. Howard)

January 10

The Leut<sup>nt</sup> of Dorchester County, having sent Eight of the Prisoners Taken on Board the Active Privateer to me with a Request, that I would send them under a proper Guard to Annapolis; I have committed them to the care of Capt. Howard, who happen'd to be at this Place on his return home, and willingly undertook the charge of them. I make no doubt he will deliver them safe. I thought it better, to send them by him than any other way as it appear'd not only safe but Attended with less Expence to the State

[Thomas Johnson, Jr. Sec<sup>y</sup> to the Counl. Annapolis Mary<sup>ld</sup> to  
Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Board of Admiralty Phil<sup>a</sup>]

January 10  
Red Book  
No. 8  
Letter 45  
(Draft)

Having heretofore received blank Commissions, Bonds and Instructions for Private Armed Vessels, from the Secretary of Congress, on my last Application to him he requested me in future to apply to the Secretary of the Board of Admiralty.

I have therefore to request you will as soon as possible send a supply having Issued all those received of him. Many Inconveniences have attended the Owners of Vessels for the want of Commissions, to remove which I hope there may be no delay in sending them. All the Bonds in my Possession shall be transmitted to you by the next Post