

that river but under countenance of a Naval power superior to that of the enemy; and indeed they are so trifling that they could not venture up the bay were they out of James river from the best accounts I have received, the enemy have three Ships of force within the bay, in addition to those Arnold had before, the French squadron has withdrawn from the bay some considerable time. We are doing our utmost to procure the boats necessary for landing the cannon & troops, that is we are taking every one in James river, but they will fall very far short of what Baron Steuben deems necessary, the boats in the upper part of the river cannot navigate the lower parts, nor can any be carried round from the other rivers. We feel ourselves so much interested in the enterprize meditated that we have set every instrument into motion which can possibly avail us, our exertions are much circumscribed by the want of means.

[Th: Jefferson, In Council, Richmond, to Governor Lee]

March 12

The Prisoners of convention & those taken at the Cowpens having been ordered on the late approach of L^d Cornwallis to move on to our Northern boundary, while Congress could be consulted as to what should be done with them, I have received a Letter from the President from which the inclosed is extracted they have I believe reached as far as Winchester from which place they are now ordered to move on to Knowlands ferry, where the President in another Letter informs me your Excellency will have made provision for subsisting & guarding them further on. According to the desire of the Congress expressed in the Presidents Letter I have taken the liberty of communicating this to your Excellency.

[Thomas Beall of Geo. for T. Richardson, Com^y Geo. Town, to His Excellency, Tho. S. Lee Esq^r.]

March 13

As Cap^t Richardson is not yet Returned but expected daily, have herewith inclosed a Scetch of this purchase made by M^r Richardson under his former Appointment, & likewise what & where he is deposited the same,—all the Provisions sent to this post, by M^r Jn^o Smith Brookes were sent on to Geo. Murdock at F. Town without any delay—there has not been any Provisions sent from Charles & S^t Mary's Counties, when M^r Richardson Returns do not Doubt but he will give you a full & Satisfactory Acc^t in ans^r to your last Request.

[Chas. Blake, Corsica, to Governor Lee]

March 13

I receiv'd y^r Excell^{cys} of the 7th the day before yesterday, and have rode about all day yesterday in search of provisions, I believe these may be had near the quantity desird 10,000 weight and perhaps the full quantity but it must be fresh I find Salt meat very scarce. And from an apprehension that the fresh beef might spoil this warm