

August 11 sent to Annapolis on purpose with This Letter, and I shall be Exceedingly happy to receive your answer as soon as Possible, as I mean to Send The Troops down as soon as he returns.

August 12 [Wm. Baker, Potomack, to Gov. Lee.] (Fav<sup>d</sup> by Mr. Nich<sup>s</sup> Waters)

Give me leave to trouble your Excellency with the Circumstances of a draught in the 4<sup>th</sup> Class of the Middle Battalion of This County wherein the Bearer my apprentice thinks Himself injur'd and begs permission to have your determination. In this Class were Twenty men and when the drawing was finish'd it appear'd that Will<sup>m</sup> Fenley and a M<sup>r</sup> Club were the two who were to go; Col. Beall was then told that Fenley had gone on Board a Vessel at Alexandria upon which He had the Class drawn over again when the Bearer and a M<sup>r</sup> Vermillion were the two drawn and Chose your Petitioner as the Person who was to serve. It must be observ'd that Col Beall was told before the draught that Fenley and many other young Fellows who had been Class'd had gone out of the way (and it can be prov'd merely to avoid the draught) yet He did not alter the Classes. Now as Club was fairly Ballotted surely Fenleys secreting Himself did not annul his draught, or if it was necessary to have two the remaining part of the Class were not bound to find more than one because Clubs Election was undoubted, yet Col. Beall Chose to have a second draught when Club got entirely clear. That the above is a true state can be attested by many reputable men. If your Excellency thinks He is properly draughted He is willing to render as much service as His constitution will admit I must However beg leave to declare that He is a very weakly youth, of a very delicate Frame and has been bro<sup>t</sup> up in the tenderest manner. He has liv'd with me for near Two years and I find Him so promising a youth in every respect, that it gives me pain not only on Acc<sup>t</sup> of his risqueing his life, but that his Studies should be broke in upon at so critical a period. He has by his diligence and application made such a rapid progress in his Profession, that if He should go at all I am well convinc'd He would render very essential services in the Physical department; He has for that purpose procur'd a recommendatory Letter from Doct<sup>r</sup> Brown the late Physician General. If there should be a Vacancy for a Mate I could wish Him to be examin'd by some Gentleman in Annapolis; I flatter myself He will be found perfectly qualified for that duty, and I must in Justice to his merits say every thing for his Virtue, and diligence. I have only to add that neither his Circumstances or mine will admit of paying the high demands of Substitutes or you would not have been troubled with so long a Letter