

[John S. Gerock, Min. Balt<sup>re</sup> Town to His Excellency Sim Lee, Esq.  
Gov and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council]

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Letter 15

Honourable Gentlemen. Your Excellency and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Members of the Council kind Condescension to comply with my own & Capt. Furnivals humble & joint request, regarding the enlargement of my Son now grievously confined these Seven weeks past on information and mere suspicion, could not but impress us with Sentiments of the profoundest respects and grateful Acknowledgment which we beg leave cordially to express and testify by these presents.

As in our own humble opinion, to be bound in the penalty of one thousand pound Specie for good behaviour during this present War between America and great Britain and to stay in a Single County only, seems to be a most grievous and Severe punishment, and willingly to submit to it previously to a Lawful trial and judgement of the general Court, to be nothing less than a voluntary Acknowledgment of guilt: We think it therefore a mere impossibility for us or any body else to comply with terms the fullfilling of which is out of our own or any mortals power because the present destructive & impoverishing War between America & great Britain might continue for another Seven years and my Son by Providence be called or led to another Town County or even State he being already 28 years of age, Single & no where fixed or Settled as yet, but in conscience bound, to provide honestly for himself and as a free Subject to use all Lawful means for his own Self preservation and competent Subsistence; when it would of course be merely impossible for myself or any man to answer for his Conduct and behaviour, should he be absent distant and out of my Sight reach inspection influence or direction.

But as we are most willing and ready to do every thing in our power for the Safety and Satisfaction of our State, we in humble Submission offer the proposed and herewith inclosed Bond to Government, which as we hope, being approved of, we humbly beg Your Excellency and Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council will be pleased to make out an order to the Sheriff of Frederic County for the imediate discharge and release of my Son Sam<sup>l</sup> Gerock After his trial at the next general Court, where we suppose and have just reason to hope nothing will be found against him and the charge be declared groundless, we humbly beg and hope, my Son will then have this bond returned and see himself restored to the full enjoyment of all the Rights Liberties and privileges of a free Citizen, he being from thence forward by his Loyalty and the obligations of all the Laws Sufficiently bound to good behaviour and restrained from doing any wrong or harm, in comon with all the other Subjects of the State.

We therefore humbly entreat and request Your Excellency and Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council to favour this our Cause to grant our joint prayers for the release & enlargement of my unhappy Suffering Son, to allow