

we are Oblidge to keep a gard Constantly Over him, and he is all the October 6 prisoner that is now in Our Gaol.

NB. The public Corn in this County will all be lost if it is not Dispos'd of I rote you about it sum time ago should be Glad of your answer.

[John Gordon, James River, Trebells Landing, To The Honorable James Brice, Esq. Annapolis.] (By the Hetty, Capt. Cramphin) October 6  
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Letter 17

I make no doubt but his Exelency with the H. Council is much surpriz'd with the detention of the Plater. She came safe as far as the enterence of the River where wee met with a Ship which had on board his Exelency General Washington, our delay by Gen<sup>l</sup> Lincoln was so late in the night that I refus'd to proceed without a Pilot up the River when he order<sup>d</sup> me to follow Cap<sup>t</sup> Hall who had on board one of the first Pilots belonging to the River with his Exelency's Baggage & that there was no danger, but after a few hours the Plater with many others were run on shore by mistake of the Pilot, where she now lays in a most dangerous situation. I have done everything in my power to git her a float, but with out effect, I have made application to Gen. Lincoln & his Exelency for Assistance but can git none they being employed on other matters, the inhabit<sup>ts</sup> will not suffer their Negroes to assist, they themselves being disaffected, the consequence from every apper<sup>s</sup>; I am afraid is against the Boats ever geting off I have continued by her 16 days expos'd to every sort of weather (& yet could git her a flot if asst<sup>s</sup> could be obtain'd) without the least damage. I likewise have made application to Comodore Barron, but to no purpose. (I am distrest in every respect) neither Victuals or drink, or Credit, nor am I allow'd to draw.

As this opportunity is in a moment going for Baltimore I cannot observe to you any farther particulars, but shall with every possible effort endeavour to git her on Float, as I am about to git some negroes to assist to the approbation of their masters. There is nothing prevents her giting off but the want of some nails to stop a leak in her Gar board seem, as she is now a float allmost every high Water, the leak was occasion'd by being washt off the Blocks after raising her out of the Sand.

I shou'd have been more particular but the Boat is under Way

P. S. Every thing here is a profound secret with respect to when the Siege will open, but it is generally believ'd will be on Monday, when a Batt<sup>y</sup> on our side will open with 200 (or near that) pieces of 18<sup>pds</sup> & 24<sup>pds</sup> w<sup>t</sup> 10. 13<sup>inch</sup> morters which will fire 10 times a minute. This is on the American side. The French has a far superior Artill<sup>y</sup>