

[Joshua Johnson, Nantes, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1780 to His Excellency  
Thomas Sim Lee, Esq<sup>r</sup>.]  
(P<sup>r</sup> the Lady Lee, Capt. Dashiell)

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Letter 36

I am extremely sorry to inform you that I have not been able to succeed to the Commission the State of Maryland honored me with on the receipt of those papers I made application to his Excellency Benjamin Franklin for his assistance & support he gave me fair promises but before I had obtained the Loan similar application was made him by the agent of the other States & which caused this alteration in his Sentiments that every loan obtained on public account ought to be on account of Congress Since then he has set his face against those negotiations & which has cuffed my most Sanguine expectations my particular Friend Edmund Jennings Esq<sup>r</sup> then resided at Paris & did me the Honor to negotiate much of this Business he will at any time Convince your Excellency & the Honble Committee that our facture was not through negligence By the Conveyance I forward you a Letter from D<sup>r</sup> Franklin on the Subject of the Maryland Funds in England his Letter will shew you the State of that business & which makes it needless for me to enlarge. I am much indebted to your & the States of Delegates friendship & good opinion in nominating me one of the six to be approved by D<sup>r</sup> Franklin for the Sales & application of your Funds in England at present, can see no prospect of Being needfull in that part but when anything in which I can serve the state present itself I shall esteem it the highest honor to receive their Commands. I beg leave to tender your Excellency my best Services

Nantes 20 Feb<sup>ry</sup> '81

The foregoing is a Copy of my last which now confirm & not having heard from you since leaves me very little to communicate to you. The Trustees in England continue to Protest the Bills drawn by virtue of an Act of your State on them, when at the same time M<sup>r</sup> Osgood Hanbury has paid those drawn on him as Trustee to the Free school, I do not know the exact situation of the latter Funds but should suppose that they are pretty near similar. In respect to Public matters I can give you nothing pleasing on that Score, it is reported here that the British Fleet is out while that of the French remains in their Ports. I am also informed that a Reinforcement of Ten thousand Men have Embarked for New York [damaged] English are determined at all events to carry on the War with America. The Dutch are striving hard to accomodate matters with the British & I am fearfull that they will do it & leave us to fight out the Battle. I will do myself the honor to drop you a Line whenever I have anything particularly interesting to the United States