New London, Jan. 28th, 1808.

Sir,

impressed with the deepest sense of the impropriety of the step I am now taking in prescribing to address myself immediately to your Majesty in my Country; a step to which I feel myself every way unequal, and which nothing could have induced me to have found till the Character I have heard from the late reasonable and mild Administration in the Lamb of the Worthy good, or any descending Policy, of your Excellency's Character and Affairs of obtaining redress in any other way, and the lofty understanding of the mighty Cause, that at this Momentous period, may appear to your majesty and engage every moment of time. To preserve to your Country; yet if I have the good will of your heart, you will induce you to attend for a few moments to the petition of an unfortunate, and friendless man—these times before this (25 years past) had the honor of addressing your Excellency by letter, but by some unsuccessful mistake, the person who undertook to deliver it to the care of your Excellency. I left it out of my pocket, and the other was put in the post office at New York—and on I have never heard from its receipt, I concluded it should the same fate in those I took the liberty to state to your Excellency, the Services of Mr. Lamb and a Commission from Congress, the lost work, his bringing a large quantity of course the States into Boston—his gratitude, and that he had suffered in Property by adhering to them—one instance only I will mention he had the offer of exchanging a large sum of Continental Money $25,000 to the Bank at Boston for Gold at 3 for 1 as many as at that time—but he replied he would like his whole property and every drop of his blood, rather than doing any thing to impair his Country and the Money line in his hands—and regard to his most unfortunate Mission to Other's, it is unnecessary to say much as he bore the honor of steering his Constitution's part and transplanting his genius to principally with your Excellency and if he had always the trust refered to him by Congress and your Excellency, would have shown it honorable to himself...
to his Conduct, by saying (as I was informed by two Gentlemen then present) that he did not fail, through want of application, abilities nor address, but merely from want of Money — and surely that could never be attributed to him as a Vice — but his own was the consequence of his failure — for supporting himself he had to Congress until he had A Settlement and regular Pay — he 7 times attended Congress while sitting in New York, at an expenses, he could by no means afford — as may be seen by a letter he wrote Mr. Jay, and on the plea of Congress — but could not obtain a passing — in the mean time he entrusted his baggage to Men; who either from Unfaithfulness, or ignorance, involved him in such Embarrassments, as obliged him to go abroad to endeavor to retrieve his losses — but Misfortune preferred him in every step — and after ten years heavy struggling with his fate — he returned to his native country, with an incurable Wound, which finally terminated his life — but hope, the lastCandle of the World — to induce him to believe (at least to the last) that he should recover, and go on to Congress himself, when he had no doubt, but venerable age put an Administration, justice would be done him — and in his last hours he despaired of present application to your Excellency — and the reason it was not longer made use of, was the loss of some papers, which were in the hands of Mr. Washington, and which it was supposed he had retained as the papers were never examined, until I employed a Gentleman (then a member of Congress) to put them in proper order to send on — when he found, a number of important items missing — and it was his opinion, that it would be unwise to send away without the whole — thus unhappily circumstant — I can pretend to no Claim — but wish to leave Myself, upon the Clemency of Congress, and implore relief — I have been forced to leave on myself to Congress and place my own safety — but found were the fatal consequences of Mr. Lamb's long detention from business, that we had been stripped by creditors, of all sorts, and I have now, nearly, Means of health, to undertake such a journey — I have been obliged to part with, not only every ornament of my happiest years, but with My Clothing and Furniture, and to add to My misfortunes — my only child in a long, sick in the Mercantile line — of a Constitution to impair and sickly
as to be unable to pursue any other business without a capital—and without friends, to enable him to prosecute business to advantage; those in my neighbourhood I have wrote to Mr. Dana, who is a distant relation, the personally unknown to me, and desire him to interest himself in my favor—but my Chief hope is in Your Excellency’s interposition in my behalf—as I firmly believe that Divine Philanthropy, and all the Heaven-born Charities are inherent in Your Excellency’s bosom—and that you will not let your Poet petitioners sink below—and that you will not let your Poor petitioners sink below.

I do not know the Woes that opprest her—I should suppose that Mr. Lamb’s past services—his vijourneying his life among barbarians—his loss of an Eye—and his Consequent Misfortunes—would plead in behalf of his family—all which I beg leave to submit to Your Excellency’s Consideration—and remain with

Sentiments of Veneration, and respect

your Excellency’s Most Hum’d Servt.

Lucy Lamb