

St Paul 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 1780

Sir,

I received your favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. for  
did to me via St. Croix.

Your Situation as a Prisoner of War, and  
a vicinity of military Operations, & deprivation of the  
Means of procuring yourself necessary, is peculiarly  
distressing, & I can assure you that it is indeed  
extremely unhappy, to be deprived of the Power  
of relieving you.

I have endeavored but in vain, to  
establish an Exchange of Prisoners with the  
Spaniards of Antigua, but unfortunately found  
them incorrigibly averse to liberating a  
detachment which cannot but be attended with  
most Effects essentially beneficial to both  
Parties.

Perhaps the Disadvantage that  
he must observe will daily attend his Non-  
Compliance, may relax his Severity towards  
our Unfortunate Prisoners, & enable him to listen  
to reasonable Terms of Exchange.

The Arrival of the Continental Fleet

will perhaps

Confederacy demonstrated you the greatest Distress,  
will deprive you of the Power of making any  
Advances on the private Side, as it is with the  
greatest Difficulty that I can procure sufficient  
Funds for the Supply of her immediate Necessities,  
until Remittances are received for the Pension  
from America.

I flatter myself therefore that you  
will attribute my Refusal to its true Cause,  
the Impossibility of complying with your Request,  
& not to the Want of Inclination, as no one  
can take a greater Pleasure in obliging his  
Countrymen in Distress, than

I am with all  
Respectful  
Wishes that attend  
the

Yours truly  
Wm. Bingham

William Bingham