

New York Jan. 17th 1799.

Dear Sir,

I Enclose you agreeably to my Promise a Copy of Mr. Wolcotts Letter to the Keeper of the Prison -

On an attentive Perusal It appears clearly to me that the Indulgence granted by Mr. Wolcott was in Consequence of the Epidemic prevailing in the Jail, and it may be construed to terminate with the Detention of the Contagious Persons. The Stipulation proposed in the Letter is, That I should be released when required after the Contagion had Ceased - and the Engagement transmitted to the Secretary, pursuant. That this Requisition shall be made by proper Authority derived from the U. States - The Fact is, That no Counter Order have been transmitted - and the Keeper having permitted me to go on the Liberty day the Sickness (though I was still detained on private Suits) conceives himself ~~authorized~~ not authorized to detain me, when it can be done without Contravening the United States, as to Individual Claims. -

It is not difficult for me to Conjecture what Mr. Wolcotts Motives were for Expressing his Letter in the Manner which he has done. In a Government constituted as ours, where Administration is constantly opposed and vilified by a virulent and Wicked Faction, it is hardly possible for an Officer to be either just or humane to one who has become the unhappy Object of public Censure and whose Exposure himself to the Suspicion of being actuated by

7 Jun 1799
William Owen

N^o
1

1