

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To JAMES MADISON

Mount Vernon, November 17, 1788.

My dear Sir: It has so happened, that the letter which you did me the favor of writing to me on the 5th, did not get to my hands until the 15th. instant; owing, in part, to the uncertainty of the Mail (on account of the change from the Summer to the Winter establishment of the Stages) and partly to some engagements which prevented my sending to the Post Office agreeably to my usual custom.

I wish it was in my power to be as precise and satisfactory in answering your enquiry respecting the value of the purchase made by Colo. Lee at the Great Falls of this River as your purposes require, and my inclination would prompt me to give you. But however deficient they may be, I will hazard the best information I am possessed of on this subject.

Of the quantity of Land in this purchase, and the incumbrances thereon, it should seem you have been apprized. It only remains therefore for me to add (as far as I am able) an Account of its *situation*, and the probable *advantages* which are to be derived from it. With respect to the first, if my ideas of the matter (for I do not speak from absolute certainty) are just, it includes the entire Canal, Bason &ca. at the Great Falls; and the Mill Seats (for there are more than one) of which Governor Johnson and a Company connected with him, in

this business, had formed very sanguine hopes, till the unexpected purchase by Colo Lee, arrested the prospect. For Water works of *any* kind these Seats must be exceedingly valuable if the navigation obtains; of which no one I believe entertains a doubt, at this time.

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How far they may be impeded, or even endangered at times by remarkable freshes, I am not a competent judge. The opinion of better informed persons in these matters than I am, is, that they may be rendered secure. Another advantage to be derived is, that under all possible circumstances a town must be established there (it is now much wished for by Mercantile people) whether the navigation is extended from thence to tide water, or not. In the last case, the lotts will be of great value; in the first very desirable; because all *Water* borne produce *must* pass by, if it is not deposited here; which must take place, if the difficulties from hence to tide Water (about nine miles) should prove insurmountable; and between you and me it is the *most* doubtful part of our Work. Having gone so far, I will hazard another idea in proof of my opinion of this navigation; and consequently of the importance of this pass. It may be a singular one, but I am not less clear

in it on that account. It is, that the Navigation from the Great Falls and through the Shenandoah falls, will not be opened *five* years before that of the latter River will be improved *at least* 150 miles; and the whole produce of that rich and extensive vale between the Blue ridge and the Alligany Mountains be brought through *it*, and the *South Branch*, as far South Westerly as Staunton into the Potomack; and thence by the Great falls to the place or places of Exportation. Add this to what will be drawn from the upper part of Maryland, and parts of Pensylvania (which at present go to Baltimore by an expensive Land transportation) and then annex thereto the idea of what may come (under a wise policy) from the Western waters, and it opens a field almost too extensive for imagination; and will induce the Merchants of Alexandria, George Town and perhaps other places, to establish their advanced Posts at the Falls to catch the produce on its passage.

From these premises; but I beg leave to subjoin they may be too sanguinely dilated; I leave you to draw your own conclusions of the property which is offered to you; the profits of which, as you will readily perceive, cannot be immediate. Not much I believe can be said in favor of the 500 Acres (if there is that quantity of it); or of the growth thereon; but to

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this tract if I have been rightly informed, a privilege (but under what conditions I know not) is annexed of cutting wood from a large

body adjoining. It has also been said that in the vicinity of this tract another purchase (connected with the expanded designs of Semple)⁵⁴ has been made by Colo. Lee of a most valuable Mine bank. These, I presume, are included in the offer to you, for as much as they were parts of the Original plan.

With respect to the Sulla, before I attempt to give you an acc't of my cultivation of it, and the result, I must request the favor of you to apologize for me to Mr St John⁵⁵ for not having acknowledged the receipt of it before. The truth is, that until I was informed by you from whence the Seeds came, I knew not to whom I was indebted for them. In my room at Mr. Morris's (where papers addressed to me were generally laid, during my attendance in Convention) I one day found a bundle containing these Seeds; unaccompanied by a letter, card, or clue of information to direct my acknowledgement of the receipt, or application. I remember to have received a letter from Mr St. John whilst I was in Philadelphia, written in French, the purport of which I got Mr. Gouv'r Morris to explain to me in English; but if any mention of Sulla was made therein, he omitted, or I have forgot it. Thus much by way of exculpation of myself. And now I am sorry to

54. John Semple.

55. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur.

add that, this plant (for want perhaps of knowing the nature and uses of it, and possibly from mismanagement) came to nothing. The Seeds vegetated partially, and not being able to find the name in any botanical list of Plants in my possession, or to come at the properties of it; and it appearing moreover, ungrateful for the *first* attentions I gave it, it was neglected afterward.

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The Accts. from Richmond are indeed very impropitious to foederal measures. The whole proceedings of the Assembly, *it is said* may be summed up in one word, to wit, that the Edicts of Mr H—56 are enregistered with less opposition by the majority of that body, than those of the Grand Monarch are in the Parliaments of France. He has only to say let this be Law, and it is Law. With my very sincere esteem etc.⁵⁷

To JOHN DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, November 18, 1788.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th. Ult. came duly to hand, but company and other occurences have with-held my acknowledgement of it till now.

It is not my *wish* to add Land or Slaves to my present possessions but much less is it my desire to distress your father's Estate by

56. Patrick Henry.

57. From the printed text in the *Washington-Madison Papers* (McGuire Collection, 1802).

insisting on Cash in discharge of his Bonds. Western Lands, however valuable and productive they may be to residents have been found an incumbrance to me, although in point of quality, situation and natural advantages, mine are exceeded by none, the tract therefore on Elk-horn would by no means suit me; but if you will inform me in whose occupation the Gloucester tract is and on what terms; Who was the former Proprietor of it, and how it is employed, and at the same time furnish me with a plat, or the courses of it that I may see the shape and to have it examined, I will, as soon after as it can well be done, give you a decisive answer with respect to your proposal.

Your Aunt and sister offer their love to you, the rest of the family unite in every good wish but none with more sincerity than, Dear Sir Yr. etc.⁵⁸

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58. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To BUSHROD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1788.

Dear Bushrod: Mr. Packet handed me your letter of the 20th. In one thing my sentiments perfectly coincide with your own, and that is, to manage our Virginia Estates *well* there can not be a divided attention, for with all the attention that can be bestowed, they are seldom productive.

How far Alexandria, above other places, may claim a preference in prospective, for your place of residence, is a matter that requires better information with respect to circumstances and professional competetors than I am master of. Though this place is under a cloud at present, I am of opinion that Phœnex like, it will again, from its own ashes, grow into consequence, and being in the vicinity of several important Courts in the State of Maryland, may, in those respects be considered as an eligible place for a person in your way. The merits and abilities of the Practitioners at the Bar of this, and the Courts adjacent, are as well, perhaps better known to you than myself; consequently you can form a better judgment than I (who never go to Court, and am little acquainted with them) of the stumbling blocks wch. are in your way to an extensive practice; but this may not be peculiar to Alexandria for the same difficulties might occur any where out of your present walks.

It is unnecessary I hope for me to add, that if you can make it convenient in an interested point of view,

that no place on which you could fix would be more agreeable to me than Alexandria, and should this be the case, if you could accomodate yourself in my small House in Town (where Doctr. Brown formerly lived) you shall be very welcome to the use of it rent-free, till you can find a more convenient one on such terms as would suit you. Your Aunt, and the

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family under this roof, join me in every good wish for you and Nancy, and with very sincere esteem and affection I am etc.⁶⁰

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

My dear Count: Expecting you might be in your command at Calais, when Mr. Gouverneur⁶¹ shall pass through that place on his way to England, I seized the occasion of recalling myself to your remembrance, in commending him to your protection. Though I am sensible you must be personally acquainted and favourably impressed with Mr. Morris's character; I would not, however, let him depart without the feeble addition which my testimony might give to the former impression.

Here we have all peace,

⁶⁰. From the original in the possession of W. Albert Smoot, of Alexandria, Va., who kindly permitted a copy to be made.

⁶¹. Morris, inadvertently omitted.

and a happy prospect that the New Government will soon be carried into execution. On your side of the Atlantic I am sorry to find, that there is some probability of a general War. You will, I know, My dear Count, applaud the wish which humanity makes to prevent the effusion of blood; even though you are a military man, and might have a better chance than most others to gather fresh laurels in the field of death. Wherever you may be, in peace or in war, be assured my best wishes attend you and that I have the honor to be with unalterable Sentiments of consideration and friendship Your etc.⁶²

To ARTHUR YOUNG

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

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Sir: Mr. Gouverneur Morris, an American Gentleman of a very good family and reputation, will have the honour of presenting this letter to you. As it is designed merely to be introductory of him, I shall confine myself to say, that this gentleman (exclusive of having been much addicted to scientific, commercial, and political investigation) is particularly fond of farming. He possesses a farm, very finely circumstanced for receiving improvements, in the neighbourhood of

62. From the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

New York. As he is not only inquisitive for knowledge, but also intelligently communicative; I think you will be pleased with his acquaintance. And I shall be much indebted to you for any civilities and attentions, which you may have it in your power to shew him.

With great esteem I am, etc.63

To JOSEPH MANDRILLON

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

Sir: I make no apology for introducing to your acquaintance Mr. Gouverneur Morris a true American, full of vivacity and talents; because I am persuaded you will derive great satisfaction from an acquaintance with him. He will be able to inform you much about the circumstances of America: so that you may gain more knowledge on that subject, perhaps, in an hour's conversation, than you could from reading a folio.

If, in return, you should have the complaisance to bring him acquainted with anything import, relative to men, sciences, arts or commerce in your world, or to render him any attentions; those favours will be

63. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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considered as particularly done to him who is with great consideration and esteem, Sir
Your etc.⁶⁴

64. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 27 Washington wrote a letter of the same import to Richard, Lord Fairfax, a copy of which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE CHASTELLUX

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

My dear Marqs: Although I know you are well acquainted with Mr. Gouverneur Morris yet finding he was about to embark for France, I thought it might not be unacceptable for you to hear from me, and of the welfare of my connections, by a person for whom I entertain so good a regard. Besides I thought I should have a convenient opportunity of addressing the Compliments of Mrs. Washington and myself, to you, to your good Lady, and, if it was not presuming too much, to the amiable Princess with whom she is so intimately connected. As for Mr. Morris, only let him be once fairly presented to your French Ladies, and I answer for it, he will not leave the worst impression in the world of the American character, for taciturnity and improper reserve. I rely upon it he will make his way good.

In the meantime, with sincere wishes for the felicity of you and yours, I embrace you, my dear Marqs. and am now, as ever With Sentiments of esteem and Friendship.⁶⁵

65. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

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Dear Sir: I have now before me your letters of the 16th and 26th of October and 16th of November. The articles sent by Captn. Ellwood arrived in good order and agreeable to the Invoice. Captn. Ingraham has not yet arrived but is hourly expected. I think the Irish Linen @ 8/2 is very high, and as there has been a late importation of Linens into Alexandria I will endeavour to supply myself at that place; if I should not be able to do it I must then thank you to procure some for me in Philadelphia. If there are any Hollands in Philadelphia of a quality equal to the pattern of linen sent you, I will thank you to let me know the price of them.

I have lately been informed by Embree & Shotwell of New York that the quantity of Cloverseed which I shall want, and of the best quality may be procured at that place, @ 9d. per lb. New York currency, and perhaps at less. But if it can be obtained at Philadelphia upon the same terms, and equally good, I should prefer getting it from thence. I must, at any rate, request you to send me five bushels by the next opportunity, as I shall want to sow a quantity upon my wheat with the first proper snows in January, and also to inform me, with certainty, of the lowest terms upon which the quantity mentioned in a former letter

may be had. It is hardly necessary for me to mention that the goodness of the seed should be particularly attended to, as a disappointment in that will be of very considerable detriment to me. The loss of the seed would be but a small part of what I should suffer by it; as my great object is to get my lands well seeded, and if I fail in this thro' the badness of the seed, the season, and my labour upon the land will be lost. Last year I received some seed from New York and some from Philadelphia; it was sown indiscriminately, and no memorandum made, as it was sown, to distinguish from which place it came. Some part of it came up very well, and part very thin or not at all; but from its not being noted I was unable to determine from which place the bad seed came.

The piece of Sattin sent by Captn. Ellwood will supercede the necessity of purchasing a ps. of Padusoy which Mrs. Washington wanted. With great esteem I am etc.⁶⁶

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[H.S.P.]

66. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

My dear Marquis: I wrote to you on the 15th day of September last, a very long letter, mostly on speculative and political topics. But as I knew that communication, by going through the French Post-Offices might be exposed to the inspection of other eyes besides yours, I was careful not to suggest any thing, which it might be imprudent to divulge to the world. A little after sending off that letter, we were first in doubt and then under great anxiety, about your personal liberty; as an ugly story prevailed respecting your having broken into the Bastille. Since that time I have been made happy by hearing, that public affairs have taken a more favorable turn in France.

A few weeks ago, I was favored with a visit from the Minister of France, his sister, her son, and M. du Pont. They have made great journeys this fall, having traversed the whole distance between New Hampshire and this place, and been at the Indian treaty at Fort Schuyler. I can with pleasure inform you, that the Count de Moustier seems at present to be perfectly well satisfied with the country and to be persuaded that some little uneasinesses about etiquette, originated from misunderstanding alone, and not from intention. He appears, also, to be heartily inclined to promote the interests of the two Countries, by

improving and extending their commercial intercourse. A little after the departure of this party, two other gentlemen of your recommendation, viz. Mr. Warville and M. St. Frie68 came likewise to Mount Vernon. I found them intelligent, discreet and disposed to receive favorable impressions of America.

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I must now refer you, My dear Marquis, for every species of News here, and for the actual state of politics on this Continent to Mr. Gouverneur Morris, who will have the honor of delivering this letter, and with whose abilities and merits you are too intimately acquainted to require that I should enlarge upon them.

Mrs. Washington, and all with us make it a point to annex their compliments to mine, for Madame la Fayette, yourself, my name-sake, and the other children. You will not forget, my dear Sir, that I have your promise for bringing Madame la Fayette to America, whenever you shall gratify it with another visit. I am, &c.⁶⁹

68. Saint Tries (Saint Tres, Saint Frie).

69. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ROBERT DICK

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 15th. inst.⁷⁰ and as I am desirous of giving every encouragement in my power to that useful class of men who understand agriculture, and wish to settle in this country, I am sorry that you was not sufficiently explicit in your letter to enable me to answer you more decidedly upon the subject of your enquiries. If your view is to purchase a large tract of land and introduce a number of settlers upon it from Scotland, this country certainly offers itself under every advantage for that purpose whether you consider the facility of the terms upon it, can be obtained, the climate, soil, or local situation. I have myself large tracts of Land in the western parts of this State, equal in point of soil and situation to any in the world, which I would either dispose of, or lease out, upon such terms as might be very advantageous to the settler, and as the emigrations to that part of the country are so very consider. able there is little danger to be apprehended from the Indians on the Eastern side of the Ohio. I have also a number of tracts of very excellent land on this side of the Allegany Mountains in the Counties of Berkley, Fauquier,

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Frederick and Loudoun in this State, but they do not lie in one body so as to accommodate a number of persons together; and I believe it would

70. Dick had written from Philadelphia. His letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

be difficult to find a single tract large enough for this purpose in the possession of any one person on this side of the Alegany mountains.

If your design is to superintend and direct the management of some Gentleman's Estate it is necessary for you to be furnished with testimonials of your abilities for that purpose of your sobriety and good conduct and recommendation from some Character or Characters known in this Country.

If you will let me know more particularly what your intention and plans are, I shall perhaps be able to give you an answer more to your satisfaction. I am, etc.⁷¹

To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mount Vernon, November 27, 1788.

Dear Sir: Notwithstanding I had the pleasure to write to you somewhat largely on the 31st. day of Augt. last, I would not dispense with transmitting a line by so good an occasion, as that which is now offered to me by the departure of Mr. Gouverneur Morris for France. And the rather was I induced to this because

71. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I did not know whether you might have been much acquainted with that Gentleman, and because (in that case) I could wish to be the medium for bringing such an acquaintance more fully to effect. You will find full of affability, goodnature, vivacity and talents. As you will also find in him a deportment calculated to do credit to the national character, I cannot hesitate to believe that you will be desirous of having opportunities of being useful to him.

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Referring you to him for the state of affairs in America, I will add no more, except the most sincere protestations of being with very great esteem. etc.⁶⁷

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1788.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to receive by the last Mail your letter dated the 12th. of this month. I am much obliged by your offer of executing commissions for me in Europe, and shall take the liberty of charging you with one only. I wish to have a good gold watch procured for my own use; not a small, trifling (nor finically ornamented one) but a watch well executed in point of workmanship; and of about the size and kind of that which was procured by Mr. Jefferson for Mr. Madison (which was large and flat) I imagine Mr. Jefferson can give you the best advice on the subject, as I am told this species of watches, which I have described, can be found cheaper and better fabricated in Paris than at London. To defray the cost I enclose a Bill for 25 Guineas on London, payable at sight. Should the expense be greater (for I would have a good watch) I will take care to reimburse it to you. I want nothing more with it but a handsome key.

In conformity to your suggestion, I enclose to your care letters for the Count de Rochambeau, the Marquis de Chastellux, the Marquis de lafayette, and Mr. Jefferson, in France; to Lord Fairfax, Mr. Wakelin Welch of London: and Mr. Arthur Young, in England: and to the Baron Van der Capellan and M. Mandrillon, in Holland. You must be sensible, that my acquaintances with persons in Europe must either have been formed while they were in this

Country, or by literary communications. Tho' there are very many persons, from whom I have casually received letters; yet, I conceived that an acquaintance with some of them would not be desirable, and that I had scarcely sufficient intimacy with others to send

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letters of recommendation to them. As it is many years since I have seen the present Lord Fairfax, I have alluded to that circumstance in a letter to him. The character and usefulness of Mr. Young, with whom I have corresponded since the peace, you know perfectly well. M. Mandrillon is a Merchant and a man of letters. He has written many things in favour of America, and seems to be an enthusiast as to the prosperity of this Country. The Baron Van der Capellan may be in the Land of Spirits for aught I know not having had a letter from him these five years. I could have addressed a line to Mr. Dumas the former agent of the United States at the Hague, but he is too much under a cloud to be of any utility to you. In case your travels should lead you to Ireland, I have given a letter to Sir Edward Newenham. But I apprehend you will have, for all places, as many as you can find occasion for. I have delivered your letter to Colo Humphreys who writes by this conveyance. You will be pleased to

accept my thanks for the exotic animals which you are meditating to send.⁷²

As to what you hint respecting myself, towards the close of your letter; I have really but little leisure or inclination to enter on the discussion of a subject so unpleasant to me. You may be persuaded, in the first place; that I hope the choice will not fall upon me. And, in the second, that, if it should, and if I can with any degree of propriety decline, I shall certainly contrive to get rid of the acceptance. But if after all, a kind of inevitable necessity should impel me to a different fate; it will be time enough to yield to its impulse, when it can no longer be resisted.

Mrs. Washington joins me in wishes that you may have a prosperous voyage; and that, when your objects shall be accomplished, you may have an equally happy return to your friends. You will always do me the justice to believe, that I remain with sincere regard,
&c.⁷³

72. Chinese pigs and geese.

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73. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 28 Washington wrote very brief notes of introduction for Morris to Wakelin Welch, Baron Van der Capellan de Pol, and Sir Edward Newenham. Copies of these notes are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, November 30, 1788.

Dear Sir: We are informed that this is the day appointed for the departure of Mrs. Fendall for Norfolk, if rightly so it is not probable I shall have the pleasure of seeing you before your embarkation; and in that case, our proposed exchange of Magnolia for 500 Acres of Kentucky Land stands upon uncertainty.

It is true I am not fond of buying a Pig in a Poke (as the phraze is) especially too of a sort which may be expensive to me, but under the circumstances attending the choice of the Land you offer me for Magnolia,⁷⁴ there can be no doubt of the quality of it I am willing to confirm the bargain because it is my intention to breed Males *only* and for that reason wish to avoid expence of keeping Magnolia: he is in high health, spirits, and flesh, can be delivered in good order.

If we should not have the pleasure of seeing any of your family before their departure, Mrs. Washington, and all under this Roof, unite in the most affectionate Compliments to Mrs. Fendall and Mrs. Lee accompanied with fervant wishes for the perfect recovery of their health. I am, etc.⁷⁵

74. Magnolio (or Magnolia).

75. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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To THOMAS LEWIS

Mount Vernon, December 1, 1788.

Sir: Your letter of the 27th of August, and the papers therewith transmitted, did not reach me till very lately.

If the fear of deceiving me, by not being able immediately, to procure tenants for my Lands, was the only cause that prevented your accepting the agency which I requested you take upon yourself, I am very sorry that you declined it, for the same reason would operate, with equal force, upon any other person; and your local situation, and the confidence which I place in you are such as to induce me again to request that you will accept this trust, and I therefore enclose my former terms and the plats of the Land.

It is not my wish or desire that you should put yourself to any inconvenience in this business, neither do I expect that you will procure tenants for my land in preference to your own which is under the same predicament, but as it is necessary for me to have some person in the neighbourhood empowered to act in my behalf in case any opportunities of seating, or otherwise disposing of the land, should occur, who could take care that my property was not encroached upon,

and who would from time to time, inform me of the State of it, I must again beg the favor of you; Sir, to take charge of this business, and for your trouble and agency therein a compensation will be cheerfully made.

As my great object in wishing to settle those Lands is, that they may be profitable to me at a future period, I have not an idea of deriving any immediate advantage from them, and the terms therefore, might be very easy to settle, no further than to exonerate myself from any expences arising from taxes &c. provided the time for which they were leased be limited, and not unreasonably extended, that I might know when they will revert to me.

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You conceive that the division of some of the large tracts of land held by individuals into small parcels, and their being sold, would greatly facilitate the settlement of them. I do not know that I should have any objection to such a division and sale of mine, provided it was laid off in such a manner as that the sale of one part or parcel should not interfere with, or impair the value of the other. The tract which lays on the Ohio, near the little Kanawa, I would not wish to dispose of, nor to lease if for a term exceeding ten years, because its vicinity to the Settlement formed on the Muskingum will, in my opinion render it peculiarly valuable at no very distant period.

There is now a regular post established between Pittsburg and Philadelphia, any letters, therefore, put into the post office at the former place

or sent to Richmond and lodged in the office there; will be sure to reach me, and I shall be much obliged to you Sir, to let me hear from you by the first opportunity which offers of depositing letters in either of the above mentioned offices after this (which Mr. Clandenning is so good as to take charge of) gets to your hands, and shall also thank you for such after communications upon the subject as you may find it convenient or necessary to make.

With very great esteem etc.76

To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, December 2, 1788.

Dear Sir: A house rarely without Company, and many other matters which claimed my attention, have prevented my acknowledging in the manner I wished to do, the receipt of your two favors of the 15th. and 25th. Olto. and *now* it is rather out of Season to touch upon matters which have been finally decided on in the Legislature of the State.

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That that body has displayed the most malignant (and if one may be allowed the expression, the most unwarrantable) disposition

76. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

toward the New Government, in all its acts respecting it, need no other evidence than their public records; but upon what ground they have undertaken to assert things which the Representatives of the people, chosen for the express purpose in Convention, have not authorized them to do; lays with the wisdom of the Majority of that Assembly to explain: nor will it redound much to their honor I conceive if in the ultimate appeal to the people, there should (as you have intimated) be seven out of the ten Representatives on the fœderal side. But excuse me, my dear Sir, when I give it to you as my opinion, that you are reckoning without your host as the phrase is; not but that there may be such a proportion through the state who are friends to the adopted Constitution, but they either do not see the necessity, are too indolent or too much engaged in other pursuits to come forward, or too much disunited among themselves to act in unison, while those of the other description (or I am much mistaken) will be formed into one solid Phalanx. Need I go out of this district for proof? In my opinion Chatham Fitzhugh or yourself are the characters most likely to unite the suffrages of the federal Interest in it. Neither will serve. What is the consequence? Why, a third is proposed in whom all cannot agree, a fourth, and a fifth will have advocates, and neither will be chosen. This is my idea of the matter. I give it to you however in confidence for I have been already dragged into public view on these occasions more than is agreeable to me.

It would seem to me, good policy if the

Fœderal delegates (now in Assembly) of each district to confer freely together and resolve to support the fittest character therein; at any rate not to be disunited. Sorry indeed should I be, if Mr. Madison meets the same fate in the district of which Orange composes a part, as he has done in the Assembly; and to me it seems not at all improbable.

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A day or two ago I wrote you a hasty line (being unwilling to miss the conveyance afforded by the Green brier Members) enclosing a packet for Colo. Thomas Lewis I hope it got safe to your hands, and in time to be forwarded by Colo Clendenning. On a reperusal of Colo Lewis's Letter it would appear as if his *only* objection, or at least the principal one, to his acceptance of the trust proposed, was a doubt (under the peculiar circumstances of that part of the Country) of his executing it to my satisfaction. But as this may be made by any man anxious to perform well, an agency under similar circumstances, I have requested him (if this be all) to enter upon the discharge of it. Notwithstanding, if by any indirect enquiries, you can discover that he is too indolent, or in other respects unfit to be entrusted, and will inform me of it in time to recover my Letter, and name another, I certainly shall do it. There is one objection to Colo Lewis, but it is not confined to him alone, to every

Man of property, who by his local situation has it in his power to serve me with conveniency it may apply with equal force. I mean his having much Land of his own to Rent or Sell, a preference to which it must be expected will be given.

The expensive manner in which I live (contrary to my wishes, but really unavoidable); the bad years of late, and my consequent short crops have occasioned me to run in debt, and to feel *more sensibly* the want of money, than I have ever done at any period of my whole life. And obliges me to look forward to every source from whence I have a right to expect relief. Under these circumstances I must ask you what prospect I have, and in what time (after it becomes due) I may expect to receive the present years annuity from the Estate of Mr. Custis? In a letter which I wrote to you sometime ago I requested the favor of you to procure for me (and I wish it to be brought up when you come that I may be in no suspence about it) some Tobacco seed of the sort called little Frederick. That in my first essay, will be approaching as near Sweet scented as I dare venture. Permit me to remind you of this request.

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Mrs. Stuart is not returned from Mount Airy that we know of, all of this family join in best wishes for you and I am etc.⁷⁷

77. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Mount Vernon, December 4, 1788.

Sir: I have been favored with the receipt of your letter dated the 1st. day of July; and have to express my thanks for the three additional Volumes of the Annals which have also come safely to hand.

The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs the better I am pleased with them. Insomuch that I can no where find so great satisfaction, as in those innocent and useful pursuits. In indulging these feelings, I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth, than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests. The design of this observation is only to shew how much, as a member of human Society, I feel myself obliged by your labours to render respectable and advantageous an employment, which is more congenial to the natural dispositions of mankind than any other.

I am also much indebted to you for the enquiries you was so kind as to make respecting the threshing machines. Notwithstanding I am pretty well convinced from your account that the new invented Scotch Machine is of superior merit to Winlaws; yet

I think to wait a little longer before I procure one. In the intermediate time, I am not insensible to your obliging offers of executing this or any other Commission for me; and shall take the liberty to avail myself of them, as occasions may require.

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I would willingly have sent you a lock of the wool of my sheep, agreeably to your desire, but it is all wrought into cloth, and I must therefore defer it until after the next shearing. You may expect it by some future conveyance. A Manufacturer from Leeds, who was lately here, judges it to be of about the same quality with the English wool in general, though there is always a great difference in the fineness of different parts of the same fleece. I cannot help thinking that encreasing and improving our breed of Sheep would be one of the most profit, able speculations we could undertake; especially in this part of the Continent, where we have so little winter that they require either no dry fodder, or next to none; and where we are sufficiently distant from the frontiers not to be troubled with Wolves or other wild vermen which prevent the Inhabitants there from keeping flocks. Though we do not feed our sheep upon leaves, as you mention they do in some parts of France; yet we cannot want for pastures enough suitable for them. I am at a loss therefore to account for the disproportion between their value and that of black cattle; as well as for our not augmenting the number. So persuaded am I of the practicability and advantage of it, that I have raised near 200 lambs upon my farm this year.

I am glad to find that you are likely to succeed in propagating the Spanish breed of sheep in England, and that the wool does not degenerate. For the multiplication of useful animals is a common blessing to mankind. I have a prospect of introducing into this Country a very excellent race of animals also, by means of the liberality of the King of Spain. One of the Jacks which he was pleased to present to me (the other perished at Sea) is about 15 hands high, his body and Limbs very large in proportion to his height; and the Mules which I have had from him appear to be extremely well formed for Service. I have likewise a Jack and two Jennets from Malta, of a very good size, which the Marquis de la Fayette sent to me. The Spanish Jack seems calculated to breed for heavy, slow draught; and the others for the Saddle or lighter carriages. From these, altogether, I hope to secure a race of extraordinary goodness, which will stock the Country. Their longevity and cheap keeping will be circumstances much in their favor. I am convinced, from the little experiments I have made with the ordinary Mules, (which perform as much labour, with vastly less

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feeding than horses) that those of a superior quality will be the best cattle we can employ for the harness. And indeed, in a few years, I intend to drive no other in my carriage: having appropriated for the sole purpose of breeding

them, upwards of 20 of my best Mares.

Since I wrote to you formerly respecting the objection made by my labourers to the weight of the Ploughs; I have had sufficient experience to overcome the ill-founded prejudice, and find them answer the purpose exceedingly well. I have been laying out my farm into fields of nearly the same dimensions, and assigning crops to each until the year 1795. The building of a Brick Barn has occupied much of my attention this Summer. It is constructed somewhat according to the plan you had the goodness to send me: but with some additions. It is now, I believe, the largest and most convenient one in this Country. Our seasons in this Country (or at least in this part of it) have been so much in the two opposite extremes of dry and wet for the two summers past that many of my experiments have failed to give a satisfactory result: or I would have done myself the pleasure of transmitting it to you. In the first part of last Summer, the rains prevailed beyond what has been known in the memory of man; yet the Crops in most parts of the United States are good. They were much injured, however, in those places on my farm, where the soil is mixed with clay and so stiff as to be liable to retain the moisture. I planted a large quantity of Potatoes, of which only those that were put in as late as the end of June, have produced tolerably well. I am notwithstanding more and more convinced of the prodigious usefulness of this root and that it is very

little, if any thing of an exhauster. I have a high opinion also of Carrots. The same unfavorableness of the Season has rendered it unimportant to give a detail of my experiments this year in flax, though I had sowed 25 bushels of the seed. In some spots it has yielded well, in others very indifferently, much injured by weeds and lodgits.

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As to what you suggest at the close of your letter, respecting the publication of extracts from my correspondence in your Annals, I hardly know what to say. I certainly highly approve the judicious execution of your well-conceived project of throwing light on a subject, which may be more conducive than almost any other to the happiness of mankind. On the one hand, it seems scarcely generous or proper that any farmer, who receives benefit from the facts contained in such publications, should withhold his mite of information from the general stock. On the other hand, I am affraid it might be imputed to me as a piece of ostentation, if my name should appear in the work. And surely it would not be discreet for me to run the hazard of incurring this imputation; unless some good might probably result to Society, as some kind of compensation for it. Of this I am not a judge. I can only say for myself, that I have endeavoured in a state of tranquil retirement to keep myself as much from the eye of the world as I

possibly could. I have studiously avoided, as much as was in my power, to give any cause for ill-natured or impertinent comments on my conduct: and I should be very unhappy to have anything done on my behalf (however distant in itself from impropriety) which should give occasion for one officious tongue to use my name with indelicacy. For I wish most devoutly to glide silently and unnoticed through the remainder of life. This is my heart felt wish; and these are my undisguised feelings. After having submitted them confidentially to you, I have such a reliance upon your prudence, as to leave it with you to do what you think, upon a full consideration of the matter shall be wisest and best. I am &c.⁸⁰

80. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

To JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, December 4, 1788.

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My dear Trumbull: It is some time since I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 28th of October; but, as I had nothing particular to send in return, I postponed writing until the present time, to see if any thing new would turn up. Nothing of importance has occurred. But in the mean time, I was extremely happy to find that your State was going on so well as to foederal affairs; and you will permit me to say that I have been not a little pleased with observing that your name stood so high in the nomination of Representatives to Congress.⁷⁸

In general the appointments to the Senate seem to have been very happy. Much will depend upon having disinterested and respectable characters in both Houses. For if the new Congress should be composed of characters in whom the citizens will naturally place a confidence, it will be a most fortunate circumstance for conciliating their good will to the government. And then, if the government can be carried on without touching the purses of the people too deeply, I think it will not be in the power of its Adversaries to throw every thing into

78. Trumbull was elected a Representative from Connecticut from 1789 to 1795. In 1795 he was elected a Senator, from which he resigned in June, 1796, to become Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut.

confusion by effecting premature amendments. A few Months will, however, shew what we are to expect.

I believe you know me sufficiently well, my dear Trumbull, to conceive that I am very much perplexed and distressed in my own mind, respecting the subject to which you allude. If I should (unluckily for me) be reduced to the necessity of giving an answer to the question, which you suppose will certainly be put to me, I would fain do what is in all respects best. But how can I know what is best, or on what I shall determine? May Heaven assist me in forming a judgment: for at present I see nothing but clouds and darkness before me. Thus much I may safely say to you in confidence; if ever I should, from any apparent necessity,

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be induced to go from home in a public character again, it will certainly be the greatest sacrifice of feeling and happiness that ever was or ever can be made by him, who will have, in all situations, the pleasure to profess himself yours, &c.79

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MRS. ANNA WELSH

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1788.

Madam: I received your melancholy letter by the last mail and could not delay to express my sympathetic condolence on your unhappy Situation. It is indeed distressing to me to find that a lady whose Husband and Brother perished in the service of their country should be reduced to a precarious dependence on others for that support which she might otherwise have received from them. Your affecting case and others of a similar nature make me almost weary of living in a world where I can do little but pity, without having the power to relieve such unmerited misfortunes. If my means were as ample, as my wishes, be assured, Madam, I am too well persuaded of the hardship of your condition and the merit of your Brother not to exert myself effectually for your Succor. A private Citizen as I am, I know not what I can do (without the appearance of assuming too much upon myself) except to give a Certificate of the facts, respecting the brilliant service which your Brother performed, at the moment when he met with the wound that occasioned his death, together with a private opinion annexed to it. Of that Certificate you may make such use as you shall think proper in

application to the board of Treasury, the commissioners for settling the accounts of the army or any other persons to whom the business may appertain. Recommending you most devoutly to that being, who will take care of the Widow and the Fatherless, even though they should be neglected by an ungratefull Country, I remain with ardent wishes for your happiness Madam your etc.

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P.S. there can be no doubt but that as Heir to your Brother you are entitled to that proportion of Land, promised to all Officers of his Rank, who served thro the war or died in the Service.⁸¹

***CERTIFICATE**

December 8, 1788.

I do hereby certify to all whom it may concern, that Captn. George Hurlbut of the Second Regiment of Light Dragoons received a wound in the gallant performance of his duty at Tarry Town in the summer of 1781, of which after having languished in the most exquisite pains until the 8th. of May 1783, he expired: And I do hereby farther make known (as my private opinion) from the very brave manner in which he saved a considerable quantity of Stores, by swimming on board a vessel and extinguishing the flames that

81. The text is from a combination of the "Letter Book" and a copy in the collection of Judge E. A. Armstrong of Princeton, N. J. Where the spelling differed the more correct orthography was followed.

had been kindled by the enemy amidst a severe fire from their Ships (for which he then received my particular thanks in the public orders of the Army) as well as from his having survived until after the war was in fact concluded by the Signature of the provisional Treaty of Peace, that the Heir or Heirs of the said Captain George Hurlbut ought, in point of Justice and the reason of the case, to be entitled to the Commutation of his half-pay, in as full a manner as if he had not dyed until after the signing of the definitive Treaty of Peace, or until after the formal disbanding of the Army by a Resolution of Congress.⁸²

82. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

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On December 10 William Garner entered into agreement with George Washington to serve as overseer to the plantation in Clifton's Neck for one year from December 10. This agreement, in the writing of Tobias Lear and signed by Washington and Garner, is in the *Washington Papers*. It is continued by signed memoranda of Garner and George Augustine Washington until Dec. 10, 1792. Upon the Lear text George Washington has made sundry pencil interlineations, showing that a similar agreement was made with William Stuart, as overseer of the River Farm. No date, however, is indicated.

To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, December 12, 1788.

Dear Sir: If you wish for a more formal Pedigree than the enclosed, return the one sent and an other shall be framed by the time you send for Magnolia, when a Bill of Sale shall also be forwarded. And as you have it not in your power at present (for want of the Papers) to pass a deed of Conveyance to me, for the 5000 Acres of Land in Kentucke agreeably to your Memorandum. I should be glad to receive some instrument (in case of accidents) by which to establish my claim to it,

Your intention to decline offering yourself for the Westmoreland district since you have received advice of Mr. John Page's doing it, is an unequivocal proof if proof was wanting, of your friendly dispositions to the New Government; but whether it is the most effectual way of serving it, is another question. Whether Mr. Page's interest, or yours, is best in the district (I am not sufficiently informed to decide) but of one thing I am sure and that is, that these matters (to stand upon equal ground with the opponents of the Constitution) ought to be the result of previous consultation and arrangement. I am, etc.⁸³

83. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To ELÉONOR FRANÇOIS ÉLIE, COMTE DE MOUSTIER**

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Mount Vernon, December 15, 1788.

Sir: I am now taking up my pen to acknowledge the receipt of the two letters, which your Excellency did me the honor to write to me on the 21st. and 26th. of last Month. While I request you to receive my thanks for the Memoirs on the trade to the West Indies, for the memorandum concerning the different kinds of Coal Tar, and for the dissertation on Cements proper for the preservation of perishable substances; I must entreat you to be more especially persuaded of my sensibility for the flattering place I have the satisfaction to hold in your remembrance.

From the badness of the weather after your departure from Mount Vernon, we were all under great anxiety, lest your journey should have been attended with distressing inconveniences, particularly to the delicate constitution of Madame de Brehan. The two Mrs. Washington's rejoice with me that it has not been followed with fatal consequences and hope that, having had so severe a seasoning, she will find less detriment to her health from the rigours of the approaching winter, than she did from the last. We pray you to make our most cordial good wishes for her health and happiness acceptable to her, with a renewal of our assurances, that we

anticipate the purest satisfaction in cultivating the acquaintance which has been so happily formed, and which was only rendered the less perfect, hitherto, on account of the shortness of your visit.

I was in hopes that on your arrival at New York you would have received official and satisfactory intelligence from your Country. But, agreeably to the English adage "that no news is good news," we should flatter ourselves that affairs are taking a favorable turn and that every thing will end to the mutual content of the King and Nation.

Your observations on the revival of the regular communications between France and America: and on the importance of having a precise knowledge of the interests of the

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two nations more generally diffused, are certainly very just. I cannot but accord with you in earnest expectations, that a good system for the purpose will be speedily instituted. I believe I told your Excellency before, I was so little conversant in commercial matters, that I desired but small stress might be placed upon my opinions. It may be necessary to repeat this observation in apology for what I am about to say on the Commerce between this Country and the West India Islands. I have every reason to wish that this trade might, if possible, be made reciprocally beneficial. Of that however, I entertain some doubts. For hitherto I have thought it of much less importance to the United States, than people commonly imagine it to be. My reasons for this opinion were, first,

because I could not learn upon enquiry, that it turned out much, if any, to the advantage of those concerned in it; and secondly because all, or nearly all, the produce imported from thence (cotton excepted) might be considered as articles of luxury, and the use of which would in a great measure be dispensed with, if they were not so easily to be obtained. But my greatest reason for supposing the trade to be detrimental to us was, that Rum, the principal article received from thence, is, in my opinion, the bane of morals and the parent of idleness.

I have been informed that before the War, while all the British Islands were wholly open to our Vessels and some of those of other nations partly so, the trade (by enabling the Adventurers to make a circuitous remittance to Europe) was attended with pretty certain, but very small profits: and that since the war it has been generally a losing speculation, even in the State where it has been carried on to the greatest extent, and with more œconomy in the out-fits and navigation than elsewhere. But it will be asked whether the States which produce Horses &ca. for this trade, would not be greatly injured, in case of its annihilation, for want of a Market to dispose of that produce? I answr. that, in my judgment, it would be better to alter the mode of

farming; and to raise Sheep and black Cattle instead of Horses. There can be no want of sufficient demands for Wool and Beef, nor can I conceive that it would be a difficult affair

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to substitute the growth of these, in the room of less useful articles. Then, I could wish to see the direct commerce with France encouraged to the greatest degree; and that almost all the foreign spirits which we consumed should consist of the Wines and Brandies made in that Country. The use of those liquors would at least be more innocent to the health and morals of the people, than the thousands of Hogsheads of poisonous Rum which are annually consumed in the United States. And, upon further reflection, it seems obvious to me, that there are articles enough in France, which are wanted here; and others in turn produced here, which are wanted in France; to form the basis of a beneficial, extensive, and durable Commerce.

The discovery of extracting Tar from Coal is a proof of the investigating genius of the present age. In whatever Country useful inventions are found out, and improvements made; I rejoice in contemplating that those inventions or improvements may, in some way or another, be turned to the common good of mankind. The Season will be so far advanced before I shall have compleatly finished covering my Barn, that I can be able to do nothing more to it this year.

I have formerly been somewhat curious in making experiments relative to Cements, particularly

in that which derives its name from Lorial; but have never been able to succeed to my wishes. I was delighted with the idea that the [Cement used by the Antients had been in all probability rediscovered. Some time in the late war, I employed three or four of the principal French Engineers in our army, to make some mortar into a consolidated Mass, according to the printed directions for making Lorial's Cement; with a copy of which they were furnished. But the result, after very many trials, was infinitely distant from what we had been led to expect. As the process was strictly in conformity to the prescribed rules, I know not to what cause the failure of success should be attributed. With sentiments of esteem &c.]89

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89. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. The portion within brackets is supplied from the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, December 17, 1788.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 5th. Ultio. The last load of Shingles arrived safe, and as it is not in my power to remit the Cash to discharge your Account and Mr. Brents for the freight of the Shingles I have shipped 50 Bbls. of flour on board his Vessel which I have requested him to dispose of immediately and pay your Account of £25.15.9 which I presume will be done.

The scarcity of Cash is such at present that I find it almost impossible, with the greatest exertions, to obtain sufficient to answer my ordinary and necessary demands; this naturally leads me to have recourse to my old debts; and among others I should be glad if there was a prospect of obtaining any part of those contracted by the sale of my flour &c. sent to you to dispose of on Commission. I am, etc.⁹⁰

90. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN BRENT

Mount Vernon, December 17, 1788.

Sir: Enclosed is a Bill of Lading for 50 Blbs. of flour which I have shipped on board of your Sloop, and would wish you to dispose of for me upon the best terms you can. From the proceeds thereof you will please to receive the Amount of your Account of £20.1.9 for freight of Shingles, pay Thomas Newton Junr. Esqr. £25.15.9 for 64,450 Shingles at 6/per M , and after deducting what charges may arise from the flour, if you can so accommodate

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it as to have the balance passed to my Credit in Account with Colo Fitzgerald it will save the trouble of remitting it to me.

As the sale of this flour is the only means which I at present have to discharge these accounts you will dispose of it as speedily as may be. I am, etc.⁹¹

91. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To PAUL BENTALOUR

Mount Vernon, December 19, 1788.

Sir: I have received your polite letter of the 11th. Inst. accompanied by the nuts &c. which you were so obliging as to send me, and for which I must beg you to accept my thanks. I shall plant them at a proper season, and shall be very happy; if they can be propagated in this Country, but I doubt very much whether they will thrive here or not, for I have, within' these few years, planted several kinds of seeds, trees &c. which are natives of a warmer climate and have had the mortification to find them destroyed by the severity of our winters. These, however may have better success.

I am much obliged to you Sir, for your polite offer of executing any Commission that I might wish in the Isle of France or that part of the Globe where you say your partner is bound; but there is nothing, that I at present know of, which I am desirous of having executed there. I am, etc.⁹¹

91. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WARNER LEWIS

Mount Vernon, December 19, 1788.

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Dear Sir: As it has happened that the only mode by which a pretty considerable debt which is due to me, can be discharged with any convenience to the Estate that owes it, is to receive a small tract of Land in Gloucester County and I believe not far from you in payment; May I take the liberty of requesting the favor of you to give me your opinion of its worth with a short detail of the quality of the Soil growth thereon, proportion and sort of Wood-land to that which is cleared, Improvements (if any), with the advantages and disadvantages attending its local situation.

The following description of it I have had from the Gentleman man who wishes me to take it, see Mr. John Dandridges letter dated 6th. December 1788.⁹²

Of two evils which present themselves to my view in the present case namely to distress a worthy family, or take Land which I do not want in lieu of Money which I really do want I prefer the latter. The gentleman thinks worth £1000. For a farthing less than it is worth, I do not desire to possess it: but I wish this to be ascertained by a disinterested Gentleman in whose judgment I can confide, for this reason I appeal to you without offering an apology for

92. In the *Washington Papers*.

the trouble it must necessarily give you to comply with my request.

Butler says “everything is worth what it will fetch”, but in these times of scarcity everything will not fetch what it is worth, and it is for that reason I have asked your opinion respecting the latter; to which I pray you to add to what amount you conceive it would be rented, for as to selling, I presume it is entirely out of the question I mean for cash at the sum fixed for, or it would not have been offered to me, it being well known to the present proprietor that to take the land is solely to accomodate the Estate for which he acts. With very great esteem etc.⁹³

To ROBERT DICK

Mount Vernon, December 22, 1788.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 8th. Inst. and shall answer your several quæries with as much precision as the nature of the subject will admit in giving a general idea of the matter.

The great body of my lands in the western Country lay on the River called the Great Kanawa not far from its confluence with the Ohio. I have also a tract of about 10, 000 Acres laying on the Ohio between

93. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

the mouth of the great and Little Kanawa Rivers, and about 10 miles below the Settlement on the Muskingum. All these lands are of a very excellent quality, being what are called bottoms or intervals, the soil of which is perhaps, equal to almost any known. The price of these lands, if sold, would depend much upon the terms of payment, and I am not inclined to sell them in separate parcels unless they could be so laid off in such a manner as would prevent the injuring any part or lessening its value by the division. The terms upon which I am willing to lease them are to permit the settler to live three years upon the land free from Rent, and after that time shall require one third part of whatever is raised upon the Land (which I am informed is customary in that Country) or £5 per hundred Acres annually if payment is made in Cash. The latter mode of payment would be much the most agreeable to me, and I should suppose must be more advantageous to the settler than the former, for a man of any industry can certainly make more than £15 from 100 Acres of that land. The leases may run from 10 to 20 years. Markets, I should imagine would readily be found at the settlement on the Muskingum, or in the vicinity of the land, to take the produce off the farmers hands; the surplussage of the produce, after reserving sufficient to support the

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inhabitants in that Country, must be transported by persons who attend particularly to that business. The

most convenient landing place for foreigners who are desirous of going into that Country is at Alexandria or George Town upon the Potomack River which will, probably, in a short time be rendered navigable water on the western side of the Allegany mountains, is but about 30 miles of land carriage, so that through this channel persons and effects may be water borne to any part of the western country, except the 30 miles of land carriage above mentioned.

My lands on this side the Allegany Mountains are, I believe, all occupied, or if any part of them is untenanted it is too small to draw the attention of immigrants. I am, etc.⁹⁴

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Mount Vernon, December 23, 1788.

Dear Sir: Your letter dated in London the 24th. of September⁹⁵ has been duly forwarded to me by your friend Mr. Hazard. As I shall be able to notice the contents but generally and briefly, I request, in the first place, that you will be pleased to accept my best thanks for your good wishes for my happiness here and hereafter. I am pleased to learn, that your

94. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

95. Gordon's letter is decidedly vague; but apparently referred to Washington's letter to Col. Lewis Nicola, May 22, 1782. In speaking of the first President to be of the United States, Gordon wrote: "the good of your country is a law that you must submit to, when you are called upon to possess a power in the more honorable way by all professions and ranks of people, and which, to your everlasting credit when known, you honestly declined with the truest patriotism, when offered in an irregular manner. This is a secret which will remain till you are dead, unless I could be certain of not offending through the publication

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of your letter, with the suppression of the party to whom it was addressed." Gordon's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

History is at length completed. I conclude by the spring we may expect to be favored with a sight of it. Your mention of the several objects, you judge of national consequence to the United States, is to be esteemed among the tokens of your kind remembrance of America, and regard to its interests.

How far I may ever be connected with its political affairs is altogether a matter of uncertainty to me. My heartfelt wishes, and, I would fain hope, the circumstances are opposed to it. I flatter myself my countrymen are so fully persuaded of my desire to remain in private life; that I am not without hopes and expectations of being left quietly to enjoy the repose, in which I am at present. Or, in all events, should it be their wish (as you suppose it will be) for me to come again on the Stage of public affairs, I certainly will decline it, if the refusal can be made consistently with what I conceive to be the dictates of propriety and duty. For the great Searcher of human hearts knows there is no wish in mine, beyond that of living and dying an honest man, on my own farm.

I had quite forgotten the private transaction to which you allude: nor could I recall it to mind without much difficulty. If I now recollect rightly, and I believe I do (though there were several applications made to me)

I am conscious of only having done my duty. As no particular credit is due for that, and as no good but some harm might result from the publication, the letter, in my judgment, had better remain in concealment.

The prospect, that a good general government will in all human probability be soon established in America, affords me more substantial satisfaction; than I have ever before derived from any political event. Because there is a rational ground for believing that

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not only the happiness of my own countrymen, but that of mankind in general, will be promoted by it.

As it is really so long since I have had any occasion to make use of a cypher or key to communicate my sentiments to my Correspondents; and as it was so little probable I should ever have any occasion to express them by such modes in future, I have absolutely mislaid or entirely lost yours, with others. Besides, I have not a single idea to communicate to any person while in Europe; the knowledge of which could give any advantage to those who should be curious enough, or mean enough, to inspect my letters.

Thus much I thought it might be well to say, in apology for my not being able to comply with your request. Indeed when you consider the domestic walk of life in which I pass my days, the multiplicity of private concerns in which I am involved, the numerous literary applications from different quarters, the round of company I have at my house, and the avocations occasioned by my being at the head of the

Company for clearing the Potowmac, you will do me the justice to suppose that I can have few topics or little time for correspondencies of mere friendship, ceremony, or speculation. This, I entreat, may be accepted as the true reason, why I am not able to write to you very fully, or very regularly. Mrs. Washington joins with me in compliments to Mrs. Gordon. I remain, &c.96

To EMBREE & SHOTWELL

Mount Vernon, December 26, 1788.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 3d. Inst. came duly to hand. The price of the Clover seed is such as will induce me to take 2000 lb. provided you can wait a few months for the payment, as I cannot make it with convenience until I can dispose of produce or something else to obtain the cash. If you incline to furnish me with the above quantity upon these terms I desire it may be shipped and sent round by the first opportunity. Should it not be

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convenient for you to do it you will not fail to let me know it immediately that I may obtain a supply from some other quarter. If you can get me six Bushels of good fresh

96. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Timothy Seed upon the same terms of payment, I should wish it to accompany the Clover. I am, etc.98

98. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 26 Washington wrote to Clement Biddle that "the Vessel on board of which the Clover seed was shipped has not yet arrived, and as the River is shut up it is uncertain when she will reach Alexa." This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

To THOMAS SMITH

Mount Vernon, December 26, 1788.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 29 Ult. and have forwarded the one enclosed to my Nephew Bushrod Washington who will undoubtedly give you every information in his power respecting the land of which I am wholly ignorant.

As you have not acknowledged the rect. of my letter of the 15th. of September I fear it has miscarried and therefore enclose you a duplicate.

Any money that you may have received on my account may be lodged in Philadelphia as heretofore, and I can assure you it would never come more opportunely than at present. I am, etc.99

99. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN CANNON

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Mount Vernon, December 26, 1788.

Sir: As I have not recd. an Answer to my letter which I wrote to you on the 15th. of September 1 have reason to suppose that it never, reached your hands, and have therefore enclosed you a duplicate of it, adding, at the same time, that I have never before felt the want of Cash so severely as at present, and of course any monies that may arise from my property under your care could never come more oppertunely than at this time. I am, etc.⁹⁸

To JOHN ARMSTRONG

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1788.

Dear Sir: From some cause or other which I do not know your favor of the 20th of February did not reach me till very lately. This must apologize for its not being sooner acknowledged. Altho' Colo Blaine forgot to call upon me for a letter before he left Philadelphia, yet I wrote a few lines to you previous to my departure from that place; whether they ever got to your hands or not you best know.

I well remember the observation you made in

98. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 26 Washington wrote to Clement Biddle that "the Vessel on board of which the Clover seed was shipped has not yet arrived, and as the River is shut up it is uncertain when she will reach Alexa." This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

your letter to me of last year, "that my domestic retirement must suffer an interruption." This took place, notwithstanding it was utterly repugnant to my feelings, my interests and my wishes; I sacrificed every private consideration and personal enjoyment to the earnest and pressing solicitations of those who saw and knew the alarming situation of

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our public concerns, and had no other end in view but to promote the interests of their Country; and conceiving, that under those circumstances, and at so critical a moment, an absolute refusal to act, might, on my part, be construed as a total dereliction of my Country, if imputed to no worse motives. Altho' you say the same motives induce you to think that another tour of duty of this kind will fall to my lot, I cannot but hope that you will be disappointed, for I am so wedded to a state of retirement and find the occupations of a rural life so congenial; with my feelings, that to be drawn into public at my advanced age, could be a sacrifice that would admit of no compensation.

Your remarks on the impressions which will be made on the manners and sentiments of the people by the example of those who are first called to act under the proposed Government are very just; and I have no doubt but (if the proposed Constitution obtains) those persons who are chosen to administer it will have wisdom enough to discern the influence which

their example as rulers and legislators may have on the body of the people, and will have virtue enough to pursue that line of conduct which will most conduce to the happiness of their Country; as the first transactions of a nation, like those of an individual upon his first entrance into life, make the deepest impression, and are to form the leading traits in its character, they will undoubtedly pursue those measures which will best tend to the restoration of public and private faith and of consequence promote our national respectability and individual welfare.

That the proposed Constitution will admit of amendments is acknowledged by its warmest advocates; but to make such amendments as may be proposed by the several States the condition of its adoption would, in my opinion amount to a complete rejection of it; for upon examination of the objections, which are made by the opponents in different States and the amendments which have been proposed, it will be found that what would be a favorite object with one State, is the very thing which is strenuously opposed by another; the truth is, men are too apt to be swayed by local prejudices and those who are so fond of

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amendments which have the particular interest of their own States in view cannot extend their ideas to the general welfare of the Union; they do not consider that for every sacrifice which they make they receive an ample compensation by the sacrifices which are made by other States for their benefit; and that those very things, which they give up operate to their advantage through the medium of the general interest.

In addition to these considerations it should be remembered that a constitutional door is open for such amendments as shall be thought necessary by nine States. When I reflect upon these circumstances I am surprised to find that any person who is acquainted with the critical state of our public affairs, and knows the variety of views, interests, feelings and prejudices which must be consulted in framing a general Government for these States, and how little propositions in themselves so opposite to each other, will tend to promote that desirable end, can wish to make amendments the ultimatum for adopting the offered system.

I am very glad to find, that the opposition in your State, however formidable it has been represented, is, generally speaking, composed of such characters, as cannot have an extensive influence; their fort, as well as that of those in the same class in other States seems to lie in misrepresentation, and a desire to inflame the passions and to alarm the fears by noisy declamation rather than to convince the understanding by sound arguments or fair and impartial statements. Baffled in their attacks upon the constitution they have attempted to vilify and debase the Characters, who formed it, but even here I trust they will not succeed. Upon the whole I doubt whether the opposition to the

Constitution will not ultimately be productive of more good than evil; it has called forth, in its defence, abilities which would not perhaps have been otherwise exerted that have thrown new light upon the science of Government, they have given the rights of man a full and fair discussion, and explained them in so clear and forcible a manner, as cannot fail to make a lasting impression upon those who read the best publications on the subject, and particularly the pieces under the signature of Publius. There will be a greater weight

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of abilities opposed to the system in the convention of this State than there has been in any other, but notwithstanding the unwearied pains which have been taken, and the vigorous efforts which will be made in the Convention to prevent its adoption, I have not the smallest doubt but it will obtain here.

I am sorry to hear, that the College in your neighbourhood.²⁰ is in so declining a state as you represent it, and that it is likely to suffer a further injury by the loss of Dr. Nisbet²¹ whom you are afraid you shall not be able to support in a proper manner on account of the scarcity of Cash which prevents parents from sending their Children thither. This is one of the numerous evils which arise from the want of a general regulating power, for in a Country like this where equal liberty is enjoyed, where every man may reap his own harvest, which by proper attention will afford him much more than is necessary for his own consumption, and where there is so ample a field for every mercantile and mechanical exertion, if there cannot be money found to answer the common

20. Dickinson College at Carlyle, in Pennsylvania.

21. Dr. Charles Nisbet.

purposes of education, not to mention the necessary commercial circulation, it is evident that there is something amiss in the ruling political power which requires a steady, regulating and energetic hand to correct and control. That money is not to be had, every mans experience tells him, and the great fall in the price of property is an unequivocal and melancholy proof of it, when, if that property was well secured, faith and justice well preserved, a stable government well administered, and confidence restored, the tide of population and wealth would flow to us, from every part of the Globe, and, with a due sense of the blessings, make us the happiest people upon earth. With sentiments of very great esteem &c.²²

22. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Mount Vernon, January 1, 1789.

My dear Sir: I have received by the last Mail your favor dated the 21st. of December, and hasten to return this acknowledgment, together with the enclosed Certificate of Service¹ for Major Haskell.² I give that testimony with the greatest alacrity, because it always affords me satisfaction, when I can gratify the wishes of a worthy man, in perfect conformity to my own judgment.

I am much pleased to find that the accounts, which I had heard from different quarters of the encrease of federal sentiments, are confirmed by your letter. The appointment of senators taken collectively is certainly very happy. I suppose the two gentlemen appointed by this State are looked upon at the eastward as being included in that class of antifederalists, who wish to cause such great and premature amendments, as will render the government abortive. This idea, I have the best reason to believe, will be found untrue. My belief is founded upon the unequivocal assertions of Colo Grayson previous to the election; and those of Mr. R. H. Lee posterior to his election. It is also pretty well ascertained, that, if any considerable proportion of the pains shall be taken by the federalists, which will be by the antifederalists, a majority of the representation from this State to Congress would undoubtedly be composed of the former description. At present, however, it appears very uncertain whether that will be the case or not: as several federalists, who might in

1. A copy of the certificate is entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this letter.
2. Elnathon Haskell. He had been aide to Maj. Gen. Robert Howe.

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all probability be chosen, have, on account of their private affairs, declined standing as Candidates; insomuch, that it is to be feared, in some instances, the Votes of the Advocates for the Constitution will be scattered and lost.

From different channels of information, it seemed probable to me (even before the receipt of your letter) that Mr. John Adams would be chosen Vice President. He will doubtless make a very good one: and let whoever may occupy the first seat, I shall be entirely satisfied with that arrangement for filling the second office. I am &c.³

3. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To JAMES MADISON**

Mount Vernon, January 2, 1789.

My dear Sir: The letters which will accompany this, for you, came to my hands by the Post on Tuesday. The direction of them is altered; and they are forwarded to Alexandria to receive a conveyance in the mail tomorrow.

Is there any safe, and tolerably expeditious mode by which letters from the Post Office in Fredericksburgh are conveyed to you? I want to write a private⁵ and confidential letter to you, shortly, but am not inclined to trust to an uncertain conveyance, so as to hazard the loss or inspection of it. With the most sincere and perfect friendship, etc.⁶

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 4, 1789.

Dear Sir: I shall want to procure about 250 Bushels of Buck Wheat, in addition to what I now have, to sow the ensuing spring and summer, and will thank you to inform me (as soon as may be after receiving this) upon what terms I could

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5. Madison has starred the work "private" and entered a footnote at the bottom of the letter: "The letter being peculiarly confidential was returned or rather left with its enclosure at Mt. Vernon on my way to N. York. The return tho not asked nor probably expected, was suggested by a motive of delicacy, nor was any copy of my answer to the communication retained." Neither the private letter nor Madison's answer are now found in the *Washington Papers*.

6. From a photostat of the original in the British Museum, Add. Ms. 39908. (See Washington's letter to James Madison, Feb. 16, 1789, *post.*)

obtain the above quantity in Philadelphia, and what would be the freight of it round here, that I may know precisely the cost of it; and determine, upon the receipt of your answer, whether it will be best for me to procure it there or in this neighbourhood. I found I could obtain Clover-seed in New York upon much better terms than it could be had in Philadelphia and have therefor written for a supply from that place, you will, however, accept my thanks for the trouble you have been at in making inquiries about it. With great esteem etc.

P.S. By a letter that I lately recd. from Mr. Smith I expect he will shortly deposit some money in your hands on my acct.⁷

7. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

[H.S.P.]

To SAMUEL HANSON

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1789.

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Sir: The letter with which you favored me on Wednesday was handed [to me] whilst I was at Dinner at Page's when it was not in my power to give it an acknowledgment. and this is the first day since, that I have had an occasion to send to Town.

It is painful to me to be called upon to give an opinion upon a matter, to which I feel myself incompetent. The first wish of my Soul is to spend the evening of my days in the lot of a private citizen on my farm but if

8. Sparks prints this letter as January 18. Washington was at Alexandria, Wednesday, January 7, at the election of the presidential elector for that district. According to his "Diary" he dined with "a large Company on Venisen at Page's Tavn. and came home in the evening."

circumstances which are not yet sufficiently unfolded to form the judgment or the opinion of my friends, will not allow me this last boon of temporal happiness and I should once more be led into the walks of public life, it is my fixed determination to enter there, not only unfettered by promises, but even unchargeable with exacting or feeding the expectation of *any man living* for my assistance to Office. And sure I am, a Gentleman of your candour and judgment will approve the resolution; first because all Offices are to be created by Law, and consequently are, as yet uncertain. 2dly. because the appointment of Officers may, possibly be left to the heads of departments, or in many instances referred to the Executives of the respective States. And 3dly. because the ear of the nominator ought to be open to the Comments on the merits of each candidate and to be governed primarily by the abilities which are most peculiarly adapted to the Nature and duties of the Office which is to be filled. If unhappily for me it should be my lot to have any share in the execution of the government it will be under the influence of these sentiments, and the best knowledge I can obtain of characters, that I shall invariably act with respect to appointments. And with respect to my conduct as a private man I do *verily* believe I never shall interfere in the appointment to any Office whatsoever,

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beyond a general certificate of facts.

The candid and cautious line of conduct which has been the rule of my past life, and which I mean shall be my government to the end of it, must apologize for the frankness of this declaration; not Sir, that I wish it to be considered as any dereliction on my part to promote your interest in any matter wherein I can do it with perfect consistency and propriety but rather because I will never put it in the power of any [man] to say that I have deceived or misled him by assurances or hopes which on the completion I *might* find myself embarrassed. With very great esteem etc.⁹

To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1789.

Dear Sir: I pray you to receive my thanks for your favor of the 5th. and for the obliging attention which you have given to the Floor matting from China. The latter is not yet arrived at the Port of Alexandria nor is the navigation of the River at this time open for the Passage of any Vessel; while, the frost has much the appearance of encreasing and continuing.

In every wish that can contribute to the happiness of Mrs. Morris yourself and family

9. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I am most cordially joined by Mrs. Washington and all under this Roof, and with Sentiments of sincere regard etc.¹⁰

To GARRETT COTTRINGER

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1789.

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Sir: Your letter of the 22d. of October, having with some others been mislaid, is the best, indeed the only apology I can make for this long delay in acknowledging the receipt of it.

Let me request the favor of you now to transmit me the cost of the sattin, and of the Floor matting which Mr. Morris advices me has been sent by the Sloop Polly Captn. Harrison, and the amount shall be remitted immediately by Sir Your etc.¹⁰

10. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SAMUEL HANSON

Mount Vernon, January 16, 1789.

Sir: Your letters of the 10th. and 12th.¹¹ came duly to hand. In answer to the latter, I have only to observe that, it would give me pleasure to indulge my Nephew George Washington¹² in any attainment which would contribute to his improvement or innocent gratification were *his* funds, or *my* convenience adequate thereto. But as his Estate is either unproductive or the Produce incompetent to the payment of his Fathers debts, and my money and credit has been his and brothers principal support for some time past, the object of his present wish (communicated by you) must be suspended till I can (having set on foot an enquiry) be made acquainted with the cause.

With esteem and regard I am, etc.¹³

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, January 18, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 19 Ulto. and in compliance with your request have taken from Colo. Fairfaxes ledger a copy of Colo. Warner Washington Acct. which is here enclosed. There is no Acct. in his Book with Mr. Lee (neither father nor Son).

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11. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.
12. George Steptoe Washington.
13. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I am very sorry that indisposition, or any other cause should have prevented you from coming down at the time you proposed for it is my earnest wish and desire to have the account of my Lands &c. which are under your care brought into a degree of regularity that will enable me to see upon what footing they stand and what my expectations from that quarter may be. It is so long since this request was first made to you, it has been so often repeated, and the time which would be required to do it is so trifling that it would even justify a suspicion that this delay arose from some cause which ought not to exist; however I trust that a speedy compliance with my repeated requests in this particular will place the matter in such a situation as to make it perfectly satisfactory to us both. The immediate payment of such rents as are due to me would be essentially serviceable at this time and I doubt not therefore that you will use your best endeavours to collect them as soon as possible. I am, etc.¹⁴

14. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1789.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 17th. enclosing two Patents for 5000 Acres of Land on Rough Creek in Jefferson County (and rough indeed they appear principally to be) came duly to hand, but I am sorry to say that the *specialty* of the conveyance proposed by you neither meets my inclination nor expectation, (I neither buy nor sell and I have done both) without a *general* Warrantee. If there is no dispute with respect to the title, no possible injury can result from giving a general Warrantee. contrary to your knowledge and belief there should

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appear another and better claimants of these Lands of what avail, to me, is a special Warrantee? Will that afford compensation when it is against the claim of yourself and heirs only that I am indemnified? In that case shall I get anything for the horse, the original cost of which was five hundred pounds and with the hire of the groom, their keeping and other incidental charges cannot I should suppose stand me in much if any less than Seven hundred pounds? There would be no equality in such a Bargain; you say if I have any doubt of your Title to these Lands you will give others in place of them. I have nothing but report of the general confusion of Landed property in that Country to form any opinion on, and this with me operates equally with respect to all, having made no enquiry into the rights of any; never having speculated in an Acre there.

I thank you for the information respecting Elections. A little time now will bring the whole to a close. It gives us much pleasure to hear that Mrs. Lee is better, and will always do so to see you at Mount Vernon. Being with sincere friendship etc. 15

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1789.

Dear Sir: I have received your letters of the 27th Ulto. and 4th Inst. the former enclosing an Acct. of the Herrings, which I am sorry did not turn out better, however I am certain there was nothing wanting on your part to dispose of them to the best advantage.

Neither of the Vessels on board of which you shipped articles for me have arrived. If they got out of the Delaware they could not have reached Alexandria, for the River has been impassable for several weeks; but there is now a prospect of its being soon open.

Enclosed is a Memorandum from Mrs. Washington respecting some shoes which she

15. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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wishes Mr. Palmer to make for her, and I have sent you a slipper herewith as a pattern which she will thank you to send to Mr. Palmer.

If there are any homespun Cloths in Philadelphia which are tolerably fine, that you can come readily at, I would be obliged to you to send me patterns of some of the best kinds; I should prefer that which is mixed in the grain, because it will not so easily discover its quality as a plain Cloth. With great esteem etc.

The Memo. mentd. above is in the Slipper, for Mr. Palmer.¹⁶

[H.S.P.]

16. In the writing of Tobias Lear. The added note is in the writing of Washington.

To ROBERT CHAMBERS

Mount Vernon, January 28, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 14th. Instt. enclosing your account against Mr. Ferdinand Washington¹⁷ which is herewith returned, and must inform you that I have repeatedly refused, and am determined not to have anything to do in the settlement of his affairs; for his conduct, while living, was such as I totally disapproved of, and left no means or advice unessayed to counteract. His extravagance could not be unknown to those who had dealings with him, and particularly for any length of time; they therefore who gave credit, and especially for such Articles as were not necessary for his support, must have been sensible, at the time, of the risque which they took upon themselves, and consequently can have no person to reproach with having drawn them into it. The Administrators must settle his affairs in the manner which appears most proper to them without my interference in any respect. I am, etc.¹⁸

17. Son of Samuel Washington.

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18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY AT WAR**

Mount Vernon, January 29, 1789.

My dear Sir: Having learnt from an Advertisement in the New York Daily Advertiser, that there were superfine American Broad Cloths to be sold at No. 44 in Water Street; I have ventured to trouble you with the Commission of purchasing enough to make me a Suit of cloaths. As to the colour, I shall leave it altogether to your taste; only observing, that, if the dye should not appear to be well fixed, and clear, or if the cloth should not really be very fine, then (in my judgment) some colour mixed in grain might be preferable to an indifferent (stained) dye. I shall have occasion to trouble you for nothing but the cloth and twist to make the button holes. If these articles can be procured and forwarded, in a package by the Stage, in any short time your attention will be gratefully acknowledged. Mrs. Washington would be equally thankfull to you for purchasing for her use as much of what is called (in the Advertisement) London Smoke as will make her a riding habit. If the *choice* of these cloths should have been disposed off in New York, quere could they be had from Hartford in Connecticut where I perceive the manufactory of them is established. With every sentiment of sincere friendship etc.19

19. From a facsimile in the *Washington Papers*.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, January 29, 1789.

My dear Marquis: By the last post I was favored with the receipt of your letter, dated the 5th of September last. Notwithstanding the distance of its date, it was peculiarly welcome to me: for I had not in the mean time received any satisfactory advices respecting yourself

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or your country. By that letter, my mind was placed much more at its ease, on both those subjects, than it had been for many months.

The last letter, which I had the pleasure of writing to you, was forwarded by Mr. Gouverneur Morris. Since his departure from America, nothing very material has occurred. The minds of men, however, have not been in a stagnant State. But patriotism, instead of faction, has generally agitated them. It is not a matter of wonder, that, in proportion as we approach to the time fixed for the organization and operation of the new government, their anxiety should have been increased, rather than diminished.

The choice of Senators, Representatives, and Electors, which (excepting in that of the last description) took place at different times, in the different States, has afforded abundant topics for domestic News, since the beginning of Autumn. I need not enumerate the

several particulars, as I imagine you see most of them detailed, in the American Gazettes. I will content myself with only saying, that the elections have been hitherto vastly more favorable than we could have expected, that federal sentiments seem to be growing with uncommon rapidity, and that this encreasing unanimity is not less indicative of the good disposition than the good sense of the Americans. Did it not savour so much of partiality for my Countrymen I might add, that I cannot help flattering myself the new Congress on account of the self-created respectability and various talents of its Members, will not be inferior to any Assembly in the world. From these and some other circumstances, I really entertain greater hopes, that America will not finally disappoint the expectations of her Friends, than I have at almost any former period. Still however, in such a fickle state of existence I would not be too sanguine in indulging myself with the contemplation of scenes of uninterrupted prosperity; lest some unforeseen mischance or perverseness should occasion the greater mortification, by blasting the enjoyment in the very bud.

I can say little or nothing new, in consequence of the repetition of your opinion, on the expediency there will be, for my accepting the office to which you refer. Your sentiments,

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indeed, coincide much more nearly with those of my other friends, than with my own feelings. In truth my difficulties encrease and magnify as I draw towards the period, when, according to the common belief,

it will be necessary for me to give a definitive answer, in one way or another. Should the circumstances render it, in a manner inevitably necessary, to be in the affirmative: be assured, my dear Sir, I shall assume the task with the most unfeigned reluctance, and with a real diffidence for which I shall probably receive no credit from the world. If I know my own heart, nothing short of a conviction of duty will induce me again to take an active part in public affairs; and, in that case, if I can form a plan for my own conduct, my endeavours shall be unremittingly exerted (even at the hazard of former fame or present popularity) to extricate my country from the embarrassments in which it is entangled, through want of credit; and to establish a general system of policy, which if pursued will ensure permanent felicity to the Commonwealth. I think I see a *path*, as clear and as direct as a ray of light, which leads to the attainment of that object. Nothing but harmony, honesty, industry and frugality are necessary to make us a great and happy people. Happily the present posture of affairs and the prevailing disposition of my countrymen promise to co-operate in establishing those four great and essential pillars of public felicity.

What has been considered at the moment as a disadvantage, will probably

turn out for our good. While our commerce has been considerably curtailed, for want of that extensive credit formerly given in Europe, and for default of remittance; the useful arts have been almost imperceptibly pushed to a considerable degree of perfection.

Though I would not force the introduction of manufactures, by extravagant encouragements, and to the prejudice of agriculture; yet, I conceive much might be done in that way by women, children and others; without taking one really necessary hand from tilling the earth. Certain it is, great savings are already made in many articles of apparel, furniture and consumption. Equally certain it is, that no diminution in agriculture has taken

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place, at the time when greater and more substantial improvements in manufactures were making, than were ever before known in America. In Pennsylvania they have attended particularly to the fabrication of cotton cloths, hats, and all articles in leather. In Massachusetts they are establishing factories of Duck, Cordage, Glass, and several other extensive and useful branches. The number of shoes made in one town and nails in another is incredible. In that State and Connecticut are also factories of superfine and other broad cloths. I have been writing to our friend Genl. Knox this day, to procure me homespun broad cloth, of the Hartford fabric, to make a suit of cloaths for myself. I hope it will not be a great while, before it will be unfashionable for a gentleman to appear in any other dress. Indeed we have already been too long subject to

British prejudices. I use no porter or cheese in my family, but such as is made in America: both those articles may now be purchased of an excellent quality.

While you are quarrelling among yourselves in Europe; while one King is running mad, and others acting as if they were already so, by cutting the throats of the subjects of their neighbours, I think you need not doubt, my dear Marquis, we shall continue in tranquility here. And that population will be progressive so long as there shall continue to be so many easy means for obtaining a subsistence, and so ample a field for the exertion of talents and industry. All my family join in Compliments to Madame la Fayette and yours. Adieu.²⁰

20. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Mount Vernon, January 29, 1789.

My dear Count: By some unusual delay in the conveyance of your kind letter dated the 15th. of June last, I had not the satisfaction of receiving it before this time. As I am always happy in hearing of your prosperity, I would not defer expressing my obligations, by the first occasion.

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I had long judged from the different public accounts I had seen, relative to the affairs of France, that you were nearly in the moment of a Crisis; when your Constitution would assume, in some respects, a new form. By intelligence of a more recent date than your letter, I learn there has been a change in the administration, and that an Assembly of the States was to be convoked on the first of January. The upright intentions, which I have always been taught to believe were possessed by the present King of France, and the unbounded affection, which the Inhabitants of that country are accustomed to entertain for their monarch, persuade me that affairs will all go right, and that the temporary derangement will ultimately terminate in the permanent welfare of the Kingdom. For if the interests and resources of that Kingdom should be judiciously managed, you can hardly fail of being the happiest and most powerful people in the world.

In the strange situation of political affairs in the North of Europe, and in the midst of the various changes of alliances which have taken place, among the most considerable nations in your quarter of the globe, one is left to wander in a labyrinth of uncertainties in regard to the result. The Nations seem to be so entangled by different ties, that it will require all the skill of their Statesmen to *dissolve* or all the force of their Warriors to cut the *Gordian knots* . Calculating upon the known superiority of civil institutions and discipline over ignorance and brutal force; I am astonished to find, that the two Imperial Powers have made so little progress against the Turks in their first Campaign. As to the general issue, though we should use all the fixed principles for making the calculation, much will doubtless depend upon contingency. For example, the fate of the King of England may make some important alterations in the European system. Notwithstanding it might probably, in a commercial view, be greatly for the advantage of America that a war should rage on the other side of the Atlantic; yet I shall never so far divest myself of the feelings of a man, interested in the happiness of his fellow-men, as to wish my country's prosperity might be built on the ruins of that of other nations. On the contrary, I cannot but hope, that the Independence of America, to which you have

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so gloriously contributed, will prove a blessing to mankind. It is thus you see, My dear Count, in retirement, upon my farm, I speculate upon the fate of nations; amusing myself with innocent Reveries, that mankind will, one day, grow happier and better.

I had the honor of writing to you some time ago, by Mr. Gouverneur Morris. He will have told you every thing important concerning the affairs of this Country untill his departure. Since which, little worthy of notice has happened. Our prospects have been gradually meliorating. Unanimity encreases. Economy has succeeded to profusion. Industry prevails. Such is the general picture of the United States. We are on the point of seeing the completion of the new Government, which, by giving motives to labour and security to property, cannot fail to augment beyond all former example the *capital Stock*: that is to say, the *aggregrate amount of property* in the Country. I speak with the more confidence, because so many of the elections of Senators and Representatives to Congress are already made, that there is the best reason to believe, the wisdom, the patriotism, and the virtue of America will be conspicuously concentrated in that Body. I am &c.21

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1789.

My dear Sir: Your two letters of December 20th and January 4th are before me. I am much obliged to you for the intelligence contained in them: because it enabled me to contradict a report in circulation among the Antifederalists, that your State had made choice of only one Representative to Congress, that no more would probably be appointed and that every thing was in very great confusion. Though facts will ultimately become known; yet much mischief to the federal cause may be done, by suffering misrepresentation to pass unnoticed or unrefuted. Last winter the Antifederalists in Philadelphia published, that Connecticut had been surprised into an adoption of the Constitution, while a great majority

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of the freemen were opposed to it. Now it is certain, nothing can fix the stigma of falsehood upon that assertion better than the late respectable appointments in that State. Much the same thing has happened in Maryland. The Federal Ticket has been carried by a Majority of thousands. In the County which bears my name, there was not a dissenting vote.

By the best information I can obtain, federal sentiments are spreading

perhaps, faster than ever in this Commonwealth. It is generally supposed that six, if not seven, of the Representatives from it to Congress, will be decided friends to the Constitution. I will only add, that, in Maryland and this State, it is probable Mr. John Adams will have a considerable number of the votes of the Electors. Some of those gentlemen will have been advised that this measure would be entirely agreeable to me, and that I considered it to be the only certain way to prevent the election of an Antifederalist. With sentiments of the greatest esteem &c.²²

To GOVERNOR JOHN EAGER HOWARD

Mount Vernon, February 2, 1789.

Sir: I have been duly honored with your polite favor of the 23d. Ulto. enclosing your Excellency's proclamation of the Representatives and Electors returning by the State of Maryland.²⁵

The whole number of Representatives being federal and the large majority by which they were chosen, is the most decisive proof that could be given of the attachment of the people of your State to the general Government, and must effectually silence any assertions that may be made in future

22. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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25. A broadside of this proclamation is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Jan. 21, 1789.

declaring that the sentiment of the People was not in unison with that of the Convention which adopted the Constitution by so large a majority. It is somewhat singular that among so large a number of votes as you mention to have been found opposed to the federal ticket, it was a circumstance not to be expected in any County.

The Election of Representatives to Congress takes place in this State today, upon the most moderate calculation it is thought at least one half of the number will be friends to the Constitution, the more sanguine speak with confidence of 6 or 7 out of the ten. I have the honor etc.²⁶

26. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SAMUEL POWEL

Mount Vernon, February 5, 1789.

Dear Sir: The letters which you did me the honor of writing to me on the 6th. and 26th. last Month came duly to hand; and their enclosures were safely delivered to my Nephew Bushrod Washington, who has lately become a Resident of Alexandria; where, and at the Courts in its vicinity he means to establish himself in the practise of the Law. No apology, my dear Sir, on this or any other occasion was, or will be necessary for putting any letter you may wish to have safely conveyed to a Friend in these parts under Cover to me.

All the Political Manœuvres which were calculated to prevent or to impede the execution of the new Government are now brought to a close until the meeting of the new Congress; and although the issue of *all* the Elections are not yet known, they are sufficiently
Displayed to

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authorize a belief that the opposers of the government have been defeated in almost every instance. Although the Elections in this State are over it will be some time from the extent of it before the Representatives to Congress can be finally announced. From Conjecture however, it is supposed the majority will be federalists; some are so sanguine as to suppose that Seven out of the ten will be so; but this, as I have already said is altogether conjecture, and vague conjecture; for much pains has been taken, and no art left unessayed, to poison the mind and alarm the fears of the people into opposition. In the list of the Electors which has been published by the Executive authority of the State I think there is to be found the names of 8 Gentlemen who are decided friends to the New Government. Be the cause of the British Kings insanity what it may, his situation, if alive, deserves Commiseration. Better perhaps would it have been for this Nation though not for ours (under present prospects) if these events had happened at the time, Doctr. Franklin you say supposes his Majesty's Constitution was tinged with that Malady.

Mrs. Washington, the Major and Fanny, and all others under this roof, unite in best wishes and affectionate regard for Mrs. Powel

and yourself and I am etc.²⁷

To FRANCIS HOPKINSON

Mount Vernon, February 5, 1789.

Dear Sir: We are told of the amazing powers of musick in ancient times; but the stories of its effects are so surprizing that we are not obliged to believe them unless they had been founded upon better authority than Poetic assertion; for the Poets of old (whatever they may do in these days) were strangely addicted to the Marvellous; and If I before *doubted* the truth of their relations with respect to the power of musick, I am now fully convinced of their falsity, because I would not, for the honor of my Country, allow that we are left by Ancients at an immeasurable distance in everything; and if they could sooth the ferocity

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of wild beasts, could draw the trees and the Stones after them, and could even charm the powers of Hell by their musick, I am sure that your productions would have had at least virtue enough in them (without the aid of voice or instrument) to melt the Ice of the Delaware and Potomack, and in that case you should have had

27. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

an earlier acknowledgment of your favor of the 1st. of December which came to hand but last Saturday.

I readily admit the force of your distinction between " a thing *done* and a thing *to be done* ", and as I do not believe that you would do "a very bad thing indeed" I must even make a virtue of necessity, and defend your performance, if necessary, to the last effort of my musical Abilities.

But, my dear Sir, if you had any doubts about the reception which your work would meet with, or had the smallest reason to think that you should need any assistance to defend it, you have not acted with your usual good Judgement in the choice which you have made of a Coadjutor; for should the tide of prejudice not flow in favor of it (and so various are the tastes, opinions and whims of men that even the sanction of divinity does not ensure universal concurrence) what, alas! can I do to support it? I can neither sing one of the songs, nor raise a single note on any instrument to convince the unbelieving, but I have, however one argument which will prevail with persons of true taste (at least in America), I can tell them that it is the production of Mr. Hopkinson.²⁸

28. This was the publication "Seven Songs" (November, 1788) which Hopkinson dedicated to Washington. A photostat of his letter of Dec. 1, 1788, is in the Library of Congress.

With the compliments of Mrs. Washington added to mine for you and yours, I am, etc.²⁹

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

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Mount Vernon, February 13, 1789.

Dear Sir: Having found that there is a vessel on the point of sailing from Alexandria for Havre de Grace I would not forego so good an opportunity of addressing a letter to you, although nothing very material has occurred since the date of my last, which was transmitted by Mr. Gouverneur Morris. As you will doubtless have seen in the Gazettes the measures taken by the different States for carrying the new government into execution, I will not, therefore, enter upon any report of News or discussion of political topics.

Exclusive of these things, the greatest and most important objects of internal concern, which at present occupy the attention of the public mind, are manufactures and inland navigation. Many successful efforts in fabrics of different kinds are every day made. Those composed of Cotton, I think, will be of the most immediate and extensive utility.

29. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Mr. Milne, an English Gentleman, who has been many years introducing those manufactures into France, and whose father is now carrying them on (under the protection of government) at the Royal Château of Muette in Passy, was at my House this Week and is of opinion that they may be prosecuted in America to greater advantage than in France and England. He has been almost two years in Georgia stimulating and instructing the Planters to the production of Cotton. In that State, and So. Carolina, it is said, that Cotton may be made of a most excellent quality, and in such abundt. quantities as to prove a more profitable species of agriculture, than any other Crop. The encrease of that new material and the introduction of the late-improved Machines to abridge labour, must be of almost infinite consequence to America.

A desire of encouraging whatever is useful and œconomical seems now generally to prevail. Several capitol artists, in different branches, have lately arrived in this Country. A factory of Glass is established, upon a large scale on Monocasy, near Frederick-Town in

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Maryld. I am informed it will this year produce Glass of various kinds, nearly to the amount of ten

thousand pounds value. This factory will be essentially benefitted, by having the navigation of the Potomac completely opened. But the total benefits of that navigation will not be confined to narrower limits, than the extent of the western territory of the U: States.

You have been made acquainted, my dear Sir, with my ideas of the practicability, importance and extent of that navigation, as they have been occasionally, though fully expressed, in my several letters to you, dated the 29th. of March 1784, the 25th. of Febry. 1785, the 26th. of Septr. 1785, the 30th. of May 1787, the 1st. of Jany. 1788, and the 31st. of Augt. in the same year. Notwithstanding my constant and utmost endeavours to obtain precise information, respecting the nearest and best communication between the Ohio and Lake Erie, I am not yet able to add any thing more satisfactory to the observations, which I had the honor to make on the subject, in my letter of the 1st. of January 1788. But I have lately received a correct Draught executed principally from actual Surveys, of the Country between the sources of the Potomac and those navigable waters, that fall into the Ohio. The Roads; and Rivulets at the places where they are crossed by these roads; together with the mouths of the latter (but not the meanders) are laid down from actual surveys. Hence the approximation of the Eastern and western waters in those parts, is discovered with *certainty*. It is, however, supposed by some, not professional men I should add, that the navigation of Potowmac from the mouth of Savage to Stoney river, is impracticable; on account of the many falls, rapid water, and rugged banks which are to be found in its course: But as there is an abundance of water, I should conceive that with the aid of Canals and Locks, it might be accomplished. From hence thro' the Glades, to the principal stream of the Yohiogany River, the portage is not more than 8 or ten miles: and this distance, if little Yough affords water sufficient, might be reduced to five miles. From the mouth of little Yough to Pittsburgh there is no want of water: but it is said there are falls, and many rapid places in the River (not insurmountable one would suppose). It is conjectured by many that Savage River and Green glade Creek, or the former and

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little Yough, are capable of being improved; if so, the course is more direct; but of this I can say nothing for want of better information, or a more accurate examination of these streams. Of the Draught wch. has been sent me, I enclose you such a rough sketch, as my avocations would permit me to make: my principal object therein being to shew, that the distance between the Eastern and Western Waters is shorter, and that the means of communication are easier, than I had hitherto represented or imagined. I need

not describe what and how extensive the rivers are which will be thus in a wonderful manner connected, as soon as the Potomac shall be rendered entirely passable. The passage would have been opened from Fort Cumberland to the Great Falls (nine Miles from tide-water) before this time, as I mentioned in my letter of the 31st. of Augt. last, had it not been for the unfavourableness of the Season. In spite of that untoward circumstance, I have the pleasure to inform you, that two or three boats have actually arrived at the last mentioned place; one with 50, and another with near 100 Barrls. of flour.

I am going on Monday next to visit the works, as far as the Seneca Falls. Could I have delayed writing this letter until my return from thence and afterwards availed myself of the same conveyance, I might have been more particular in my account of the state of the several works, and especially of the situation of the Land adjoining to the Canal at the Great Falls. Whensoever the produce of those parts of the Country bordering on the sources of the Potomac and contiguous to the long rivers that run into it (particularly the Shenandoah and South Branch) shall be water-borne down to Tide-water for exportation, I conceive this place

must become very valuable. From the conveniency of the Bason a little above the Spot where the Locks are to be placed, and from the inducements which will be Superadded by several fine Mill-Seats, I cannot entertain a doubt of the establishment of a Town in that place. Indeed mercantile People are desirous that that event should take place as soon as possible. Manufactures of various commodities and in iron particularly will doubtless be carried on to advantage there. The Mill Seats, I well know, have long been considered

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as very valuable ones. How far buildings erected upon them may be exposed to injuries from freshes, or the breaking up of Ice, I am not competent to determine from my own knowledge: but the opinion of persons better acquainted with these matters than I am, is, that they may be rendered secure. On the commodiousness of Alexandria for carrying on the Fur trade throughout the whole western Country, I treated, in a very, minute and I may say almost voluminous manner, in my communication to you on the 30th. of May 1787. Probably George-Town and the place which I have just mentioned, will participate largely and happily in the great emoluments to be derived from that and other valuable articles, through the inland navigation of the upper and Western Country. With sentiments of the highest esteem etc.³¹

31. From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, February 13, 1789.

My dear Sir: I send you the letter you requested for Mr. Jefferson under a flying seal, which, after perusal, you will be pleased to have dosed for transmission. After revolving the subject in many different points of view, I could find no expedient for communicating the information in question, in so unexceptionable a manner, as by making the latter a continuation of my correspondence on the inland Navigation of America. I hope that the sentiments contained in it, which are the result of some reflection, will not be the less useful to you, for being delivered in this Manner; and at the same time, in case of any undesirable event, that I shall avoid the imputation of having interfered in the business from selfish or improper motives. For I hold it necessary that one should not only be conscious of the purest *intentions* ; but that one should also have it in his power to demonstrate the disinterestedness of his *words* and actions at all times, and upon all occasions. I am etc.³²

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32. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, February 14, 1789.

Dear Sir: I shall pass through Alexandria Monday on my way to George-Town, and thence to the Great and Seneca Falls. And shall bring with me the Plats and Patents for the Land on Rough Creek in Kentucke; in order to receive a Conveyance in the usual and accustomed mode, or to return them to you. With my usual esteem etc.³²

To JAMES MADISON

Mount Vernon, February 16, 1789.

My dear Sir: Having heard of your Election by a respectable majority of the suffrages of the District for which you stood; and conceiving it probable that you would soon be on your journey to New York; possibly before my return from the Seneca Falls; for which place, by appointment, I am this moment setting off by the way of George Town; where I expect to meet Governors Johnson and Lee. I take the liberty of submitting the papers

32. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

herewith enclosed, for your perusal, in case of that event.

You have a rough draught only of the letter I had in contemplation to write to you;³³ so soon as I should have received your answer to the one I had written to you, soon after you left this. But having heard nothing from you since, I concluded that the intercourse between this and Orange was not very regular although, ultimately, it might be safe. Therefore, and because I expected you would soon be on, I gave up the intention of forwarding the enclosures you will now receive.

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I shall certainly be back on Friday; probably on Thursday; when if you should in the meantime have arrived, it would give me much pleasure to see you at this place; being always with the sincerest regard and friendship etc.

P.S. If it should be your *own* desire, I have not the smallest objection to your conversing freely with Colo. H—34 on all matters respecting this business.³⁵

33. See Washington's letter to James Madison, Jan: 2, 1788, *ante*. The confidential rough draft is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

34. Benjamin Harrison(?).

35. From the printed text in the sales catalogue of the *Washington-Madison Papers* (McGuire Collection, 1892).

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, February 19, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 7th. Inst. together with your account, a List of my Tenants,³⁶ and £8.19.4 in Cash.

It was not my intention to have wounded your feelings by my last letter, as you say I did. I only meant to express my earnest desire to have a Rent Roll of my lands under your care, and not knowing the causes which prevented its being made out, I conceived that so long a delay of it was improper.

I have examined the statement of my tenants which you sent me, and will be applicable to every individual, as the tenor of the leases are the same, or nearly the same. In those cases where you have desired my particular direction I will give it now; but request that in

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future, the leases may govern your conduct, as I am determined to adhere strictly to the covenants of them and will not relinquish anything therein specified.

When I gave leases of those lands my great object was to have such improvements made on them as would encrease their Value and enable me to dispose of them to advantage hereafter, the Rents were consequently very low. Now, as the Rent of Land in that part of the Country has risen to 3 or 4 times the amount of the rent required

36. The list of tenants for the year 1788, drawn up, signed, and dated, Feb. 6, 1789, by Battaile Muse, is in the Morgan Library. A photostat is in the Library of Congress.

by my leases, I shall not only be frustrated in my main design with respect to improvements, if the covenants of the leases are not complied with, but am likewise deprived of the benefit which I could draw from the land by leasing it at this time if it was unoccupied: and shall very probably suffer greatly by its being impovrished I am therefore determined to set aside every old Lease where the covenants, with respect to the Orchards and buildings, are not complied with; *if there is reason to believe that the Lotts will let for more than their present Rent* ; and I desire that you will have this done: But previous to your attempting it. I would have you take the opinion of some eminent Lawyer upon the matter (not that of a young County Court Lawyer but that of some man who has been much conversant with business of this kind and whose Judgment can be depended upon) and if you should be advised to put the leases to issue, the determination upon one will be a [rule] by which you can govern yourself with respect to the others. The sooner this matter is determined the better, and if these leases are set aside and new ones given I will not have them for lives, because it can never be determined (without disputes) when they end, neither would I give them for a longer term of years than will be sufficient to

induce the tenant to make such improvements and cultivate the land in such a manner as may redound to the advantage of the Landlord as well as himself; for I think there can be

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no doubt but the Rent of land in that and every other part of the Country, will rise in a few years much above what it is at present.

If any of the tenants pretend that they have been released from any covenant in their leases by me, or any person acting for me, let them produce proof of it, and without that you must pay no regard to assertions. Certain I am I have never released any, and as certain that Lund Washington never did.

I observe (by your notes) that several tenants have agreed to pay the Land tax in consequence of their being released from complying with some covenant in their leases with respect to improvements, where this composition has been made it must, I suppose, be complied with on my part; but I had rather that nothing of this kind had taken Place, for it is my wish and desire to comply with everything that is incumbent on me, and it is my intention to oblige them to do the like. When the matter is any ways disputable whether the Land tax is to be paid by the Landlord or Tenant, I had much rather pay it than relinquish any part of the lease, for they on the other, may suppose that the smallest concession is adequate to it.

I would, henceforward, have you give no indulgences in the Collection of the Rents; but destrain as soon as they become due, unless the Tenant, by some act of Providence, Fire or unavoidable events is disabled; for I am convinced that a delay in the payment of the Rent from year to year is as prejudicial to the Tenant as the Landlord. To indulge a person whose inability to pay arises from laziness would only encourage him to continue in it, and the final distress for Rent After it has been accumulating 3 or 4 years may compleatly ruin the Tenant without satisfying the Landlord; whereas, when it is known that no favor will be granted (except under the circumstances above mentioned) every man will make an exertion to pay his rent when it becomes due, and the sum is so small that it will hardly be felt if paid annually.

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I would wish you to settle the Arrears of Rent in the best manner you can where the persons owing cannot pay the whole take such a part as you can get and make a final settlement of them, and in future let there be no arrears; whenever a Tenant is disabled by some act of Providence, Fire, or unavoidable event from paying the whole of his Rent, you must settle with him upon the best terms that his situation will admit of, but those who delay payment from any other cause must expect no favor.

I will never take anything but

the specific Rents. This will avoid disputes, and suspicion of allowing too little for the Commodity. The Tenant may as well dispose of this produce as for me to do it.

The foregoing is my General determination with respect to the lands under your care, and a reference to the leases will always direct you what to do when any obstacle arises in the collection of the Rents or management of the business.

Thomas Freeman Greenfield's reserve must be laid off at my expence, but previously endeavour to annul his lease if he will not comply with the covenant for planting Orchards.

If John Dimmitt does not work more than the No. of hands allowed, and the lease does not restrain him from keeping subtenants nothing is to be done in the case.

If Joseph Winsor thinks he has not got his quantity of land, let him employ the County (sworn) Surveyor, at his own expence; and if the payment by the lease is according to the quantity of land he holds, it must govern.

Abner Grigs³⁷ quibble with respect to the error in filling up the blank is inadmissable, put the lease to issue.

Get what arrears you can from Lemart,³⁸ the whole, if he is able to pay it.

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Furr³⁹ must be made to comply with the Covenant of the lease.

Robert McWhorter⁴⁰ is not to have the place gratis to encourage laziness, if he is sickly it may be

37. Abner Grigg.

38. Lewis Lemert's Sons. Muse's list states he was deceased and that his widow remarried and moved away.

39. Enoch Furr.

40. Robert McWhorter.

a reason for favouring him in the back rents, and in that case he should quit the place or I shall always be plagued with him.

It is of little avail what Hansbury says. Let him produce from under mine, or Lund Washington's hand what he asserts, and the matter will be then ascertained. Without proof pay no regard to his assertions.

Let Lott No. 9 in Fauquier upon the best terms you can.

No. 1 on Chattins Run may be divided and leased for a number of years as proposed.

I am willing to refer my dispute with Scott to the Gentleman mentioned in your letter viz Colo Francis Peyton, Colo Leven Powell and Mr. Muse D.C. S. of Fauquier.

Ten per Cent (Charges) is, in my opinion a very high commission to be given for the Collection of Rents, and such an one as I never heard of before but if it is given by others I cannot expect to have my business done for less.⁴¹

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There is another part of the business no less essential than the collection of the rent, and which, I trust, you pay a proper attention to viz, that of visiting each tenement once or twice

41. According to a copy in the Toner Transcripts, taken from a sales catalogue, at this point in the letter sent was added: "Quere: Are not some extra Services required for this 10 p Ct."

a year to see that no waste is made by the Tenants or others, and that every thing is kept in due order agreeably to the tenor of the Leases. But for this I should have no occasion for a Collector for if the Rents were not punctually paid at a given time the Sheriff would answer the purpose.

As you have now furnished me with a statement of my lands I shall have them entered agreeably to their Numbers, and I expect that you will transmit me annually (in the month of March, for instance when I suppose all collections for the preceeding year will be settled) an account of the receipts for each tenement, the charges which may arise from distraining &c. (which must be paid by the Tenant), together with any changes that may take place in the Tenants; I shall then have them entered in their proper places, and shall always be able to see upon what footing they stand.

As you express yourself much hurt by the report of your having been concerned in locating some lands of Colo Fairfax's which were under your care, and have requested me to give you my opinion upon the mode which you propose to take for finding out the author of it, or to obviate any aspersions which might have been thrown upon your character in consequence of it, I have enclosed you the form of a publication⁴² which I conceive will either bring forth the propagator or Sufficiently clear you from the charge.

It is my duty to deliver whatever papers

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42. The form follows immediately after this letter to Muse in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

are in my hands belonging to the Estate of the late Colo Fairfax whenever required by an order from the Exets. but as there are among them many papers of considerable consequence, which do not relate immediately to the Estate that is under your care, I should advise you to have the desk in which they are contained put into the hands of the Revd. Mr. Bryan Fairfax, Father to the young Gentleman who is heir to the Estate, and receive from time to time such papers only as you may have occasion for, at least till the above mentioned report is fully obviated, for although these persons for whom you act may have the highest confidence in you, yet if any papers of consequence should by any means be lost you must feel yourself very much hurt at not being able to account for it.⁴³ With due regard I am etc.⁴⁴

43. According to the copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress a P.S. was added to the letter sent, as follows: “You have herewith the Leases which you requested might be sent. Whatever cash you have, or may collect for me, I should be glad to have on or before the 10th of March.”

44. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CHEVALIER D'ANNEMOURS⁴⁵

Mount Vernon, February 20, 1789.

Sir: The letter which you did me the honor of writing to me on the 11th. came to my hands at George Town the 16th. at a time when it was not in my power to give it an answer: but my sentiments on the purport of it were fully delivered to Captn. Zollickoffer⁴⁶ to whom I beg leave to refer you. Briefly they were, that Major Cottineau de Kerloguin⁴⁷ was either a member, of right of the Society of the Cincinnati agreeably to the letter of the Institution, or

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his admission as an honorary one depended according to the Spirit of it, upon the merits of his particular case. If the first (for I have not the institution by me

45. Charles François Adrien Le Polinier, Chevalier d'Annemours, French Consul at Baltimore, Md.

46. John Conrad Zollickoffer, of North Carolina.

47. Denis Nicolas Cottineau de Kerloguin (or Kerloguen). He was a captain in the French Navy.

to refer to; and therefore have referred Captn. Zollickoffer to the Secretary General, Genl. Knox, or to the Assistant Secretary, Genl. Williams⁴⁸ for information) there remains nothing more for him to do than to comply with the Requisites and send his Diploma to me (first Countersigned by the Secretary Genl. Knox) for my signature. If the second, it rests not with me, but with the General Meeting of the Society to be holden in Philadelphia the first Monday of May 1790 to decide on his case, at which meeting it is not expected I shall attend because it was agreed at the last Genl. Meeting that I should be leased of the duty of the President which were to be executed by the Vice President now Governor Mifflin. To whom, [or] to the Secretary General, I will transmit your letter with that of Major Cottineau de Kerlogcion in order that the merits of his pretensions (if they do not give him a *legal* claim from the tenor of his Commission and length of Services) may be taken into consideration at the first General Meeting of the Society. I have the honor etc.⁴⁹

48. Otho Holland Williams.

49. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CAPTAIN DENIS NICOLAS COTTINEAU DE KERLOGUIN

Mount Vernon, February 21, 1789.

Library of Congress

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 4th. September 1788 which was handed to me by your friend Captn. Zellickoffer, to whom I fully delivered my sentiments upon the purport of your letter, and who will undoubtedly take every necessary step towards your *legal* or *honorary* admission into the Society of the Cincinnati.

It is not in my power to say

anything decidedly upon the propriety of your claim, as I was at the last General Meeting of the Society, exonerated from the duties of the Presidency, have not the Institution by me, and it will not be expected that, I shall attend the next General Meeting, which will take place on the first Monday in May 1790 in the City of Philadelphia, nor perhaps any future meeting of the Society. I have therefore transmitted your letter to the Secretary General Genl. Knox to be laid before the next Genl. Meeting where the merits of your pretensions will claim that attention which they deserve. I have the honor etc.⁵⁰

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Mount Vernon, February 23, 1789.

Dear Sir: In a letter which, I had the pleasure of addressing to you lately, I mentioned my private business and numerous avocations as an apology for the conciseness and irregularity that might be

50. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 21 Washington sent the letters of D'Annemours and Kerloguin to Knox with a brief note. All three of these letters are in the Papers of the Society of Cincinnati, in the Library of Congress.

observable in my correspondence. I shall therefore be excused for only acknowledging the receipt of your favor dated the 28th. of Octr. last, and thanking you for the Maps enclosed

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in it. Not having been able to compare them minutely with other plans of the same places, or to bestow that attention upon them which would be requisite for forming a correct Judgment; I am not at liberty to give any opinion as to their accuracy. They appear to be engraved with sufficient neatness, and to augur well as to the execution of the mechanical part of your publication. I shall only add, that the present state of tranquility in this Country affords no topics of importance for communication, and that I remain, With great respect and consideration Dr. Sir, etc.⁵¹

To JAMES MONROE

Mount Vernon, February 23, 1789.

Dear Sir: I received by the last Mail your letter dated the 15th. of this month, accompanied with your printed observations on the new Constitution,⁵² and am much obliged by this token of your polite attention. However I may differ from you in sentiment on some of the points, which are advocated in your Treatise, I am pleased in

51. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

52. A copy of Monroe's *Observations Upon the Proposed Plan of the Federal Government* by a native of Virginia (Petersburg: 1788) is in the *Madison Papers* in the Library of Congress.

discovering so much candour and liberality as seem to predominate in your style and manner of investigation. That a Spirit of unanimity, accommodation, and rectitude may prevail so extensively, as to facilitate the means for removing any well grounded apprehensions of the possible future ill consequences, which may result from the general government, is the sincere wish of, dear Sir &c.⁵¹

To REVEREND WILLIAM WEST

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Mount Vernon, February 28, 1789.

Sir: The late Colo Thomas Colvill, in his will appointed his Widow, your Brother and myself his Executors. Some persons in Britain, who consider themselves, under, a Clause in the Will, as residuary Legatees, have been very importunate to have the residue of that Estate remitted them, and some of the applications have been made in a very rude manner; this together with the necessity of making a Close of such Transactions at some time, makes me

51. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

very desirous of bringing to a Close every thing respecting that Estate. What the Residue will be, or whether any, cannot be ascertained but by a final Settlement with the Court. The Transactions of Mr. Colvill and your Brother were entirely distinct from and unconnected with my Accounts, this renders it necessary that there should be a seperate Account rendered by. each Executor. As your Brother did not live to render an Account of his Acts, it becomes the duty of his Executors to do it from the papers left by him; those papers have been put into my hands by his Son, from them I have had an Account stated, and procured an order of Court appointing Commissioners to examine the several Accounts, so that little remains now to be done, only producing those papers by his Executors to the Commissioners for their Inspection. I must therefore request you as soon as the weather will permit, to come over, that I may see a finishing hand put to the business. It is not necessary that you should come at this time of a Court as the persons appointed can go upon the Business at any time. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.⁵³

53. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM PERSSE⁵⁷

Mount Vernon, March 2, 1789.

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Dear Sir: Your polite letter, dated the 11th. of October last, has been duly received; and merits my particular acknowledgment. I have also to thank you very sincerely for the Gooseberry plants, which have arrived at Baltimore, from whence I have not yet been able to obtain them on account of the ice in our river. I shall have your directions as to the mode of culture particularly, observed, and hope the plants may succeed as happily as in your climate. For you may be assured the greater care of them will be taken, because it is a natural circumstance for us, to feel a predilection for whatever comes from one, whose ordinary pursuits and political principles are consonant to our own.

I am not without hopes that Sir Edward Newenham and yourself will find time, at some period in your lives, to make a visit to America, for which you have both witnessed so ardent an attachment.

I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my great obligations for your kind offers of contributing, by the transmission of other natural

57. Of Ireland.

Productions of your Country, to my rural amusement; and assuring you that I have the honor, etc.⁵⁸

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Mount Vernon, March 2, 1789.

Dear Sir: I am taking up my pen to present my acknowledgment for your letter of the 10th. of October last; and wish I had any thing to communicate in return, which might make mine equally acceptable to you. Notwithstanding my various endeavours to procure the articles I was desirous of transmitting to you, I have only been able to succeed in obtaining a couple of opossums, of the different sexes. I have been prevented from sending them, for some time, for want of a direct opportunity. They will be forwarded by the first conveyance.

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We had last summer, in some parts of this country, as rainy a season, I believe as you had in Ireland; though it was not perhaps attended with such destructive consequences here, as it was with you. Indeed the seasons with us have been uncommonly in opposite extremes for two years past. The summer before the last was

58. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

so dry, and last summer so wet, as to prevent me from acquiring any accurate result from many of my agricultural experiments. I have only been made more sensible, upon every new tryal, that this *country* is susceptible of various and great improvements in its agriculture. It is on *that resource* it must depend essentially for its prosperity. The useful arts and commerce ought not, however, to be altogether neglected. Nor are they, though they have been hitherto a subordinate concern, in comparison with the tillage of the earth. Much good to the community is predicted from the spirit of industry and economy, which begins to prevail (by the best information I can obtain) more extensively, than it has ever before done. Our direct trade to the East Indies, which has increased very considerably, I am led to believe has been successful in every instance. More Manufactures of cotton, wool, and iron have been introduced within eighteen months past, than perhaps, ever before existed in America. Our settlements on the Western waters are progressing with unexpected rapidity. We are surrounded by the blessings of nature: and, in short, it seems as if we should want little, besides common sense and common honesty, to make us a great and a happy People.

I have just been returning

my thanks for his Gooseberry plants to your friend Colonel Persse, who I perceive is a fond admirer of a Country life, as well as myself.

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The request that you will have the goodness to offer the joint respects of Mrs. Washington and myself to Lady Newenham concludes me. With sentiments of the highest regard etc.⁵⁹

To THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Mount Vernon, March 2, 1789.

My dear Sir: I beg you to accept my acknowledgment of and thanks for your obliging favors of the 12th. 16th. and 19th. of last Month and particularly for the trouble you had in procuring, and forwarding for me, a Suit of the Hartford Manufacture. It is come safe, and exceeds my expectation, I will take an early opportunity of paying the cost of it.

The result of the late Elections will not only soon be known; but the effect of them must soon be discovered. Of the nine Representatives (annon'd) for this State, 6 are decided friends to the Government and the 10th. (yet unknown) from Kentuckey it is expected from the Account which has been received from thence will carry with

59. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

him a similar disposition. To hear that the Votes have run in favor of Mr. Adams⁶⁰ gives me pleasure.

The severe weather and uncommonly bad condition of the Roads in this quarter will prevent the members from this State, giving there attendance in time. One of them went from hence this Morning only, and two yesterday.

I hope this will find you perfectly recovered from your late painful disorder and Mrs. Knox and the rest of the family in good health. Our Affecte. Compliments are offered to them, and with sentiments of the sincerest friendship etc.⁶¹

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To HUGH YOUNG⁶²

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1789.

Sir: Your letter of the 16th. Ult^o. came duly to hand and I must beg you to accept of my thanks for your polite attention to the little commission which you was so good as to offer to execute for me. I am very glad that the Gooseberry slips are in so good a condition, and hope they will arrive here

60. John Adams.

61. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

62. Of Baltimore, Md.

without any injury.

You will be so kind as to thank Captn. Dyer, in my name, for his attention to the slips and his politeness in refusing to accept any freight for them, which, however is contrary to my wishes.

Mrs. Washington joins me in Compliments to Mrs. Young and yourself. I am etc.⁶³

63. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 3 Washington wrote a brief acknowledgment to Robert Adams, Of Galway, Ireland, for his care in shipping these gooseberry slips for Sir Edward Newenham. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To FRANCIS PEYTON

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1789.

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Sir: I have received your letter of the 12th. Ult. enclosing your Account with me. The Balance of £12.9.4½ due to you, I shall direct to be paid as soon as I can make it convenient. The reason of its not having been discharged before must be owing to the order being involved in my book's) with the Account of Colonel Mercers Estate from whence the wheat was brought and of course not coming so immediately under my observation as it would have done if not connected with that Account. I am etc.63

***To RICHARD CONWAY64**

Mount Vernon, March 4, 1789.

Dear Sir: Never 'till within these two yrs. have I experienced the want of money. Short Crops, and other causes not entirely within my Controul, make me feel it now, very sensibly.

To collect money

63. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On March 3 Washington wrote a brief acknowledgment to Robert Adams, Of Galway, Ireland, for his care in shipping these gooseberry slips for Sir Edward Newenham. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

64. Of Alexandria, Va.

without the intervention of Suits (and these are tedious) seems impracticable. And Land, which I have offered for Sale, will not command cash at an under value.

Under this statement I am inclined to do what I never expected to be reduced to the necessity of doing, that is, to borrow money upon interest. Five hundred pounds would enable me to discharge what I owe in Alexandria &ca.; and to leave the State (if it shall not be permitted me to remain at home in retirement) without doing this, would be exceedingly

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disagreeable to me. Having thus fully and candidly explained myself, permit me to ask if it is in your power to supply me with the above, or a smaller Sum? Any security you may best like, I can give; and you may be assured, that it is no more my inclination than it can be yours, to let it remain long unpaid. Could I get in one fourth part of the money which is due to me by Bonds, or sell any of the landed property which I am inclined to dispose of, I could do it with ease; but independently of these, my Crops and Rents if I am tolerably successful in the first, or have common justice done me in the latter would enable me to do it. Your answer will much oblige Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

[M.L.]

To RICHARD CONWAY

Mount Vernon, March 6, 1789.

Dear Sir: I am much obliged by your assurance of Money. Mr. Lear waits upon [you] for it, and carry's a Bond, drawn in the manner you requested. I am very well satisfied to allow 6 per Cent (the Interest of Maryland) because I have not the smallest doubt of the readiness with which you could lend any sum on those terms. If it is necessary that the Bond should

be taken *in* Maryland I will exchange the one now sent for another to be given at George Town or opposite to Alexandria (at which ever Ferry I may pass). I would have done it this day but being to set off tomorrow for Fredericksburg in order probably to discharge the last Act of *personal* duty, I may, (from her age) ever have it in my power to pay my Mother, it would be very inconvenient for me.

Upon collecting my Accounts by Mr. Lear the other day, it was found that though 500 £ will enable me to discharge them, yet it is incompetent to this and the other purpose, the expences of my Journey to New York if I go thither; If therefore you could add another hundred pound to the former sum it would be very acceptable. Mr. Lear is provided with a Bond for this sum also.

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As you said nothing about security, in your letter, none is given, but I am not less willing and ready notwithstanding to include it in another Bond if you desire it. I am etc.⁶⁷

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

These two loans were repaid, the £ 100 on Sept. 22, 1789, when £ 100 was also paid on the £ 500 loan. The remaining £ 400 was discharged Dec. 15, 1790.

To BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, March 9, 1789.

My dear Sir: My friendship is not in the least lessened by the difference, which has taken place in our political sentiments; nor is my regard for you diminished by the part you have acted. Men's minds are as varient as their faces, and, where the motives to their actions are pure, the operation of the former is no more to be imputed to them as a crime, than the appearance of the latter; for both, being the work of nature, are equally unavoidable. Liberality and charity, instead of clamor and misrepresentation (which latter only serve to foment the passions, without enlightening the understanding) ought to govern in all disputes about matters of importance: whether the former have appeared in some of the leaders of opposition, the impartial world will decide.

According to report, your individual endeavors to prevent inflammatory measures from being adopted, redounds greatly to your credit. The reasons, my dear Sir, why I have not written to you for a long time are two; first, because I found it an insupportable task to answer the letters, which were written to me, and, at the same time, to pay that attention to my private concerns which they

required; and there being lately little besides politics worthy of notice; secondly, because I did not incline to appear as a partisan in the interesting subject, that has agitated the public mind since the date of my last letter to you. For it was my sincere wish that the

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Constitution, which had been submitted to the People, might, after a fair and dispassionate investigation, stand or fall according to its merits or demerits. Besides I found from disagreeable experience, that almost all the sentiments extracted from me in answer to private letters or communicated orally, by some means or another found their way into the public Gazettes; as well as some other sentiments ascribed to me, which never had an existence in my imagination.

In touching upon the more delicate part of your letter (the communication of which fills me with real concern) I will deal by you, with all that frankness, which is due to friendship, and which I wish should be a characteristic feature in my conduct through life. I will therefore declare to you, that, if it should be my inevitable fate to administer the government (for Heaven knows, that no event can be less desired by me; and that no earthly consideration short of so general a call, together with a desire to reconcile contending parties as far as in me lays, could again bring me into public life) I will go to the chair under no pre-engagement of any kind or nature whatsoever. But, when in it, I will, to the best of my Judgment,

discharge the duties of the office with that impartiality and zeal for the public good, which ought never to suffer connections of blood or friendship to intermingle, so as to have the least sway on decisions of a public nature. I may err, notwithstanding my most strenuous efforts to execute the difficult trust with fidelity and unexceptionably; but my errors shall be of the head, not of the heart. For all recommendations for appointments, so far as they may depend upon or come from me, a due regard shall be had to the fitness of characters, the pretensions of different candidates, and, so far as is proper, to political considerations. These shall be invariably my governing motives.

You will perceive, then, my dear Six, that I cannot with propriety say any thing more on the subject, than that several applications have been made to me for the *Office immediately in question*, without having received any answer.⁶⁸ I wish you had pursued the policy, which the Gentleman who now occupies it has done, of obtaining the appointment from the

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Executive of this State. Although that Gentleman was an Officer, yet he is quite unknown to me; and therefore, I cannot speak at all upon the ground of comparative claims of personal merits. I conceive, however, it will be found no pleasant

68. Harrison had applied for the appointment of naval officer of the Norfolk district. His letter to Washington, Feb. 26, 1789, is in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

thing possibly very much the reverse to displace one man, under these circumstances of actual occupancy; merely to make room for another, however considerable his abilities, or unimpeached his integrity may appear to the public eye.

Mrs. Washington joins me in every good wish for Mrs. Harrison and your family. I am
&c.69

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, March 12, 1789.

Sir: Your Letters of the 16th and 25th. Ultos are before me. The draft upon Mr. Wales for £20 enclosed in the former was duly discharged by him. The order for one hundred barrels of flour enclosed in the latter is herewith returned. Altho' the Cash, or anything that could produce it, would be very acceptable to me at present, yet I am not so much in want of it as to sink 20 per Cent to obtain it, which I must have done, had I taken your flour at 26/ when the highest price that can be got for it in Alexandria is 21/6 or 22/ if the cash is paid immediately.

As I do not yet know what will be the Amount of my taxes for this year and have some certificates of my own I must decline your offer to lodge a sum in the hands of the Sheriff in Interest

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69. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Warrants to discharge my taxes.

I wrote to you on the 21st. Ult. by Colo Willis, and gave you my instructions very fully with respect to the management of my Lands under your care. I must therefore refer you to that letter for any information you wish upon this head.

I have enclosed you a bond of Kennedy's and Speake's which I would wish you to put in suit immediately if there is any prospect of recovering either from the principal or Security. I have also sent you the draft of an advertisement which I will thank you to have inserted in the Winchester paper for four weeks and pay the printer therefore.

I mentioned in my last my acceding to ten per Cent on your collection of my Rents &c. if that rate was allowed by others of the same business, but I presume that you are to get in what is now due on the usual rate of 6 per Cent, and that the ten per cent will commence upon the collection of future Rents. I am etc.⁷²

72. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 15, 1789.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your letters of the 16th Ult. the 5th and 8th Inst. Mrs. Washington's Slippers and Clogs have come safe to hand, the latter, however, are not such as she wished to have, she intended to have had leathern Gloshees made, and will, by the first convenient opportunity, return the Clogs to Mr. Palmer and get a pair of Gloshees.

I am very sorry that you did not get the quantity of Buck wheat which I wrote for in time to ship on board the Sloop which you say has sailed for Alexandria. The season

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is now so far advanced that I have not time to procure it from any other quarter, and must therefore have it from Philadelphia at any rate. A disappointment would be of inconceivable detriment to me. I should sustain a loss of its utility as a manure and derange my system of Crops thereby. I must therefore request that you will delay no time in procuring it, that it may be sent round by the next vessel.

I will thank you to send me four flax wheels, and a box of the Havannah Sugar containing 150 lb. or 200 lbs., as the box may be, if there is any to be had on reasonable terms with you.

As Mr. Smith has not remitted any money to you on my Acct. I have enclosed

a bank Note for One hundred dollars which you will pass to my Credit. With great esteem I am etc.⁷⁸

[H.S.P.]

To EMBREE & SHOTWELL

Mount Vernon, March 15, 1789.

Gentlemen: I wrote to you on the 28th of January, according to the terms upon which you proposed to procure a quantity of Clover seed for me, and have lately become very impatient for its arrival. A disappointment in obtaining the Seed seasonably would lay me under an unspeakable disadvantage, much greater than the total loss of the seed would do, for I shall not only be deprived of the benefit which might accrue from it this year but shall be deranged in the system of Cropping which I have determined to pursue, and the ill effects thereof would be severely felt for many years to come. I must therefore beg Gentlemen that you will not fail to ship the Clover and Timothy Seed on board the first Vessel bound for Alexandria as my fields are prepared for

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78. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

receiving the spring grain with which they are to be sown and will wait for them. I am etc.79

To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1789.

Sir: I have taken the liberty to enclose a protested bill of Exchange drawn in 1763 by the Exts. of William Arrested Esqr. in my favor; which I will thank you to take the necessary steps to recover; and as a compensation for your trouble therewith I will allow you ten per Cent upon whatever you may obtain of the debt. The letters &c. which accompany the bill will serve to shew that the matter has not been totally neglected by me between the time of its being protested and the present period; Applications have been also made by Colo. Fielding Lewis and Lund Washington on my behalf in my absence during the war, but without effect. If this Debt can be recovered without a suit it will be infinitely the most agreeable to me.

I have been frequently troubled with applications to serve summonses in the dispute (which was supposed to exist) between the

79. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Heirs of Michl. Cresap and myself concerning a piece of Land on the Ohio. I cannot see what prevents this matter from being closed, for, I presume the Heirs never had an idea of a claim to that land after the nature of my right to it had been explained to them. The substance of the matter is this: When I was engaged in the public service, Michl. Cresap had a piece of Land surveyed on the Ohio which had been *previously* surveyed on Military claims for me; but in 1764, when I was in the western Country, I met with a Mr. Jacobs who married the widow of the said Michael and upon an explanation of the matter he was

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fully convinced of the priority of my claim and readily gave up his pretensions, since which I have heard nothing of the claim from the Heirs, neither do I believe that they have the least intention of persisting in it. The person concerned in the Land office, upon finding that a warrant had been taken out for a part of the land contained in my survey and a Survey thereof returned me might think it was done by the party with an intention of disputing my claim thereto, and has therefore advised the entering a caveat, when *I believe* there is no intention on the part of any one to contend the Validity of my Patent which has been granted several years. I will thank you Sir, to have the business finally settled. I am etc.⁸⁰

80. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM CRAIK

Mount Vernon, March 19, 1789.

Dear Sir: This letter will be handed to you by Mr. Dunnington (my tenant in Charles City) who can, more fully than I, explain to you the nature and circumstances of some disputes in which the land he lives on is involved. To enable him to do it more clearly I enclose you a plot of the Land. Two matters it seems will call for your attention, namely to dispossess one Perry of part of my property which he holds under a younger Patent, and to secure for my benefit vacant land within the heart of my tract, which one Stromat has surveyed; but not having complied with the tenor of your Laws is subject to a Proclamation warrant, by which I may still avoid the evil which his possession of the Land would incur. To effect the last, will require secrecy and dispatch; for should it transpire that I am about to take out a Proclamation Warrant he would no doubt be beforehand with me.

I submit these matters to you, under the uncertainty of not knowing what Steps are proper for me to take, and indeed, circumstanced as I am at this moment, because I have not time to take them. The Proclamation Warrant Mr. Dunnington says will cost 31/3 but as I

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have no certainty that it can be obtained; as I mean to proceed upon sure ground in both cases; and for a stronger reason than either, because I have it not,

I send you no money at this time, to prosecute these matters if in your Judgment it shall appear advisable to prosecute them. For the fact is, it would have been for my interest to have sunk my demand altogether upon Adams rather than to have taken his Land, having paid more than the worth of it to others to relieve it from the Incumbrances which were on it. Under these circumstances I feel sore and very unwilling to open more sources of expenditure. I am etc.⁸²

To JOHN CANNON

Mount Vernon, March 22, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 29th Of January enclosing a statement of the Rents paid by the tenants occupying my Land which is under your care. The price of flour in your neighbourhood (which I am informed by Majr. McCormack is 25/ Virginia currency per bbl.) will make me some amends for receiving the Rents in wheat instead of Cash which could not be obtained from the tenants for the rate at which those Lands are leased is so low,

82. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

that it would require a considerable number of years to reimburse the monies which I have been obliged to pay to recover my property, if the prices of produce was not higher than it has generally been in those parts.

I am not inclined to incur any more expences upon my mill in Fayette County, for it has already been such a source of expence and vexation to me that I am discouraged from making any attempt to repair it if money must be laid out for that purpose. However if it can be put in order and made profitable to me by allowing the person who repairs it a share of the profits for a limited time, I should have no objection to its being done, provided an

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unreasonable length of time was not demanded for the person to receive a share of the profits.

The great distance that I am from my Land, and the little knowledge I have of its present state will not enable me to give you any particular instructions respecting the management of it. As you are upon the spot, are acquainted with the particular circumstances, and, I have no doubt, are desirous of promoting my interest, you will take such steps as will conduce to the advantage of my property which is under your care. I would only observe generally, 1st. That I would not wish to have the land incumbered with long leases (ten years is the extent of time that I am inclined to give a lease for) because it is probable

that the rate at which it would now rent will not be so high as it may command a few years hence, or if I dispose of it, long leases will injure the sale very essentially. 2dly. I have found from long experience, that a punctual payment of the Rent, and a pointed compliance with the covenants of the leases are extremely beneficial both to the Landlord and Tenant, for if the latter omits the payment of the Rent from year to year he will find it very difficult to accumulate enough at the end of 3 or 4 years to pay off his arrearages; where as, if he is convinced that he must do it at the expiration of every year he will exert himself for that purpose, and the Rents are so low that an industrious man will never feel it, and no indulgence that can be given to a lazy person will ever be to his advantage; it will rather encourage his idleness. I would therefore never have the Rents postponed unless in some particular cases where the Tenant has suffered by fire, or is disabled by some act of providence. 3dly. I observe in your Statement of the rents that some of the tenants have a deduction made in consequence of their getting, and putting up a number of Rails. I cannot see the propriety or Justice of this, because it is a matter by which the tenant *alone* is to

be benefited; if improvements of a durable kind were made there would be some plea for an abatement of the rent because I might receive an advantage by its inhancing the real value of the property; but it should always be certain that the allowance made does not exceed the value of the improvements.

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You will be so good as to transmit me an annual account of the Rents. The disposal of the produce, and the money you may from time to time send me. This will enable me to keep a regular account of my Tenements and see in what situation they stand, you may remit money to me when safe opportunities offer either to my Nephew Majr. George A. Washington at this place, or to New York, and give me leave to add, that it can at no time be more acceptable than the present. With due regard and esteem I am etc.⁹¹

91. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To GEORGE STEPTOE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, March 23, 1789.

Dear George: As it is probable I shall soon be under the necessity of quitting this place, and entering once more into the bustle of public life, in conformity to the voice of my Country, and the earnest entreaties of my friends, however contrary it is to my own desires or inclinations, I think it incumbent on me as your uncle and friend, to give you some advisory hints, which, if properly attended to, will, I conceive, be found very useful to you in regulating your conduct and giving you respectability, not only at present, but thro' every period of life. You have now arrived to that age when you must quit the trifling amusements of a boy, and assume the more dignified manners of a man.

At this crisis your conduct will attract the notice of those who are about you, and as the first impressions are generally the most lasting, your doings now may mark the leading traits of your character through life. It is therefore absolutely necessary if you

mean to make any figure upon the stage, that you should take the first steps right. What these steps are, and what general line is to be pursued to lay the foundation of an honorable and happy progress, is the part of age and experience to point out. This I shall do, as far as in my power with the utmost cheerfulness; and, I trust, that your own good sense will shew you the necessity of following it. The first and great object with you

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at present is to acquire, by industry, and application, such knowledge as your situation enables you to obtain, as will be useful to you in life. In doing this two other important advantages will be gained besides the acquisition of knowledge: namely, a habit of industry, and a disrelish of that profusion of money and dissipation of time which are ever attendant upon idleness. I do not mean by a close application to your studies that you should never enter into those amusements which are suited to your age and station: they can be made to go hand in hand with each other, and, used in their proper seasons, will ever be found to be a mutual assistance to one another. But what amusements, and when they are to be taken, is the great matter to be attended to. Your own judgement, with the advice of your *real* friends who may have an opportunity of

a personal intercourse with you, can point out the particular manner in which you may best spend your moments of relaxation, better than I can at a distance. One thing, however, I would strongly impress upon you, vizt. that when you have leisure to go into company that it should always be of the best kind that the place you are in will afford; by this means you will be constantly improving your manners and cultivating your mind while you are relaxing from your books; and good company will always be found much less expensive than bad. You cannot offer, as an excuse for not using it, that you cannot gain admission there; or that you have not a proper attention paid you in it: this is an apology made only by those whose manners are disgusting, or whose character is exceptionable; neither of which I hope will ever be said of you. I cannot enjoin too strongly upon you a due observance of œconomy and frugality, as you well know yourself, the present state of your property and finances will not admit of any unnecessary expense. The article of clothing is now one of the chief expences, you will incur, and in this,

I fear, you are not so œconomical as you should be. Decency and cleanliness will always be the first object in the dress of a judicious and sensible man; a conformity to the prevailing fashion in a certain degree is necessary; but it does not from thence follow that a man should always get a new Coat, or other clothes, upon every trifling change in the mode, when perhaps he has two or three very good ones by him. A person who is

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anxious to be a leader of the fashion, or one of the first to follow it will certainly appear in the eyes of judicious men, to have nothing better than a frequent change of dress to recommend him to notice. I would always wish you to appear sufficiently decent to entitle you to admission into any company where you may be; but I cannot too strongly enjoin it upon you, and your own knowledge must convince you of the truth of it, that you should be as little expensive in this respect as you properly can. You should always keep some clothes to wear to Church, or on particular occasions, which should not be worn everyday; this can be done without any additional expence; for whenever it is necessary to get new clothes, those which have been kept for particular occasions will then come in as everyday ones, unless they should be of a superior quality to the new. What I have said with respect

to clothes will apply perhaps more pointedly to Lawrence than to you; and as you are much older than he is, and more capable of judging of the propriety of what I have here observed, you must pay attention to him in this respect, and see that he does not wear his Clothes improperly or extravagantly. Much more might be said to you, as a young man, upon the necessity of paying due attention to the moral virtues; but this may, perhaps, more properly be the subject of a future letter when you may be about to enter into the world. If you comply with the advice herein given to pay a diligent attention to your studies, and employ your time of relaxation in proper company, you will find but few opportunities and little inclination, while you continue at an Acadimy, to enter into those scenes of vice and dissipation which too often present themselves to youth in every place, and particularly in towns. If you are determined to neglect your books, and plunge into extravagance and dissipation, nothing I could say now would prevent it; for you must be employed, and if it is not in pursuit of those things which are profitable,

it must be in pursuit of those which are destructive. As your time of continuing with Mr. Hanson will expire the last of this month and I understand Dr. Craik has expressed an inclination to take you and Lawrence to board with him, I shall know his determination respecting the matter; and if it is agreeable to him and Mrs. Craik to take you, I shall be

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pleased with it, for I am certain that nothing will be wanting on their parts to make your situation agreeable and useful to you. Should you live with the Doctor I shall request him to take you both under his peculiar care; provide such clothes for you, from time to time, as he shall judge necessary, and do by you in the same manner as he would if you were his own children. Which if he will undertake, I am sensible, from knowledge which I have of him, and the very amiable character and disposition of Mrs. Craik, that they will spare no proper exertions to make your situation pleasing and profitable to you. Should you or Lawrence therefore behave in such a manner as to occasion any complaint being made to me, you may depend upon losing that place which you now have in my affections, and any future hopes you may have from me. But if, on the contrary, your conduct is such as to merit my regard,

you may always depend upon the warmest attachment, and sincere affection of Your friend and Uncle.⁹²

To GEORGE MASON

Mount Vernon, March 23, 1789.

Sir: Your Coachman applied to me yesterday (through my Nephew) for employment. I informed him it was not my custom to treat with any one in the service of another unless it was well ascertained that a separation was about to take place, nor then unless sufficient testimonials could be produced of sobriety, of Skill, honesty and industry in the occupation that was followed. To the First, he replied that last fall he had given you notice of his intention to leave you, and that his design (before he made application to me) was to have gone to the Northward next month; Moreover that he had taught one of your own Servants to drive and his services now were of little use to you. And with respect to the latter, that he had no doubt of obtaining a character from you.

As the mans person and

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92. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

character are entirely unknown to me, I take the liberty of enquiring if this account be true? for I shall make no overtures to him, nor will I employ him (altho' I want a Coachman) unless it is with your knowledge and consent he leaves you, nor then, as I have observed before, unless he can obtain such a character as will satisfy me. A perfect one is not to be expected. Information in this matter would, at this time, be very acceptable to me. I send therefore on purpose to obtain it, and if the man is at liberty to engage I should be glad (if it is convenient to you) to see him immediately. From motives of delicacy when he was here, I refused to have any conversation with him, untill I first knew from you on what footing he stands. If to part, I would in that case thank you for information with respect to the wages and priviledges you allow him and the services expected for them. To *enter* my service three weeks or a month hence would answer my purposes but to be *ascertained* of it, is immediately necessary, that I may either depend upon him, or look out elsewhere. With compliments in which Mrs. Washington Join. I am, etc.⁹³

93. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Mason's answer, dated Mar. 23, 1789, is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, March 26, 1789.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letters will shew you the reason of my not having written to you sooner upon the subject of the Land which you offered me. If the valuation mentioned by Colonel Lewis is agreeable to you I will take it at that; but if you think the price too low I am willing to wait for the payment of the debt due from your fathers Estate until you can discharge it by some other means more agreeable to yourself at a more convenient time.

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Your Sister Patty is well and joins your Aunt, myself and the others under my roof in love and best wishes to you and the family. With very sincere regard etc.96

96. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM CRAIK

Mount Vernon, March 27, 1789.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 22d. has been handed to me, and I beg you to accept my thanks for the prompt and decisive measure you have taken with respect to the Proclamation Warrant, and other matters relative to my Land in Charles County. I have no particular direction to give concerning the first except to proceed *safely* but not precipitately, as the latter though it may not involve greater expence than *safe* delay, may yet throw me into an advance of Money before I am prepared for it, for the truth, my expences have run so high of late years that I want a little time to breathe. But I would not be understood by this to hazard anything. I therefore leave the matter to your own Judgment. In a little Time, if the call for Taxes, do not devour what is expected from my Rents, &c., My Nephew George A. Washington will be enabled to comply with the calls as they may arise.

The Surveyor, it is presumed, notwithstanding from Survey of the Vacancy will recharge, tho' I do not see that he will have occasion to stretch a chain on the land; perhaps in this case some compromise may be made with him. I do not however mean by this to be exempt from common usage, with esteem I am, etc.99

99. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 30, 1789.

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Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 23d. Inst. and am in hopes that the buck-wheat will arrive in season.

I will thank you to send me, by the first post after this reaches you, fourteen yards of Livery lace agreeably to the enclosed pattern; and let it be directed to me, or, in my absence, to Major George Augne. Washington at this place. With great regard, I am etc.¹

[H.S.P.]

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letters of the 17th and 21st Insts. the latter containing a draft on Mr. Josiah Watson for £100 which he informed shall be paid agreeably to the sight mentioned.

I have no objections to the Gentlemen who are proposed to settle the line between Mr. Scott and myself; and

1. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

On March — (the date is mutilated) Lear sent a letter to Biddle, to be forwarded and added a P.S. "The General will thank Colonel Biddle to desire a Mr. Parish (a Hat [maker in] Philadelphia who made a hat for him some years since) to have a cock'd Hat made of [mutilated] fur; the fur upon the hat to be short; and let it not be made in the *extreme* of the fashion. It must be ready for the General when he may call for it in passing through Philadelphia." The original of this letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

I think, with you, that the sooner it is done the better; and when it is accomplished I would wish you to lease my vacant Lots on the best terms you can, if a term less than 21 years will not enable you to rent them to advantage you may do it, for that time. I shall leave

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some blank leases with my Nephew Major George A. Washington who will be empowered to transact my business during my absence from home, and to whom you will, from time to time remit the Rents which you may collect on my Account. The best information I can give you respecting the line between the Belvoir Estate and me (without having recourse to papers which are put up and which I have not time now to examine) is, that the Road leading from my Mill to Colchester divides us on the hill and descending the hill towards my Mill to a Gully near the spring from thence down the creek to a tree the original corner of the [tract] giving me the whole of the creek. I am etc.⁴

4. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THOMAS LEWIS

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1789.

Sir: The bearer of this, Mr. Caleb Stone, is desirous of settling on some of my lands on the Kanawa, and will probably carry several others out with him to settle thereon; As I would wish to hold out such terms to settlers as will induce them to set clown upon my lands (provided the terms are not very unreasonable for the Landlord) I will thank you to let him view the land; and if he should incline to fix there, and will bring a number of others to do the like, I would willingly give them such encouragement as may induce them to go out. With great esteem I am etc.⁵

5. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THOMAS GREEN

(A Rough and incorrect Drought of a letter⁶)

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1789.

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Thomas Green: I am about to leave my home whether for a length of time, is more than I can tell at present. But be this as it may I expect the agreement to which we have subscribed, will be as strictly complied with on your part as it shall be punctually fulfilled on mine. To enable you to do this, you would do well to keep two things always in remembrance. First that all Bargains are intended, for the Mutual benefit of and are equally binding on both the Parties, and are either binding in all their parts or are of no use at all. If then a man receives [pay] for his labour and he withholds that labour or if he trifles away that time for which he is paid, it is a robbery; and a robbery of the worst kind, because it is not only a fraud but a dishonorable, unmanly and a deceitful fraud; but it is unnecessary to dwell on this because there is no Man so ignorant of the common obligations of Justice, as not to know it; altho' there are hundreds who do not scruple to practice it at the same time that they would think hard, on the other hand if they were to be deprived of their money. The other matter which I advise you to keep always in remembrance is the good name which common policy as well as common honesty, makes it necessary for every workman who wishes to pass thro' life With reputation and to secure employment.

6. So entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

Having said thus much by way of exhortation I shall inform you in the most serious and positive terms that I have left strict orders with the Major my Nephew, who is vested with full powers to transact all my business, that if he should find you unfaithful to your engagements, either from the love of liquor from a disposition to be running about, or from proneness to idle when at your work to discard you immediately and to remove your family from their present abode. The sure means to avoid this evil is, first to refrain from drink which is the source of all evil, and the ruin of half the workmen in this Country; and next to avoid bad Company which is the bane of good morals, economy and industry. You have every inducement to do this. Reputation the care and support of a growing family and society which this family affords within your own doors which may not be the case with some of the idle (to say nothing worse of them) characters who may lead you

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into temptation. Were you to look back, and had the means, either from recollection, or accounts, to ascertain the cost of the liquor you have expended it would astonish you. In the manner this expence is generally incurred that is by getting a little now, a little then, the impropriety of it is not

seen, in as much as it passes away without much thought. But view it in the aggregate you will be convinced at once, whether any man who depends upon the labour of his hands not only for his own support, but that of an encreasing family can afford such a proportion of his wages to that article. But the expence is not the worst consequence that attends it for it naturally leads a man into the company of those who encourage dissipation and idleness by which he is led by degrees to the perpetration of acts which may terminate in his Ruin; but supposing this not to happen a disordered frame, and a body debilitated, renders him unfit (even if his mind was disposed to discharge the duties of his station with honor to himself or fidelity to his employer) from the execution of it. An aching head and trembling limbs which are the inevitable effects of drinking disincline the hands from work; hence begins sloth and that Listlessness which end in idleness; but which are no reasons for withholding that labour for which money is paid.

I have no other inducement for giving you this advice (in this my hour of hurry) but your own good; for the wages and privileges which you have I well know would obtain for me the best workmen in this Country which [without] the charges of such a family as yours; but as it has been a custom with me through life to give a preference to those who have long lived with [me] and my wish to see them do well I have taken the trouble of writing you this letter. If you have gratitude,

or a mind capable of reflection, it will make such an impression on it as may be serviceable to you thro life; if not, I have my labour for my pains.

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Whilst the Negro Carpenters work at the same spot where you are, they will be subject to your inspection and orders; and at other times if it should be found necessary to put them under yr. care it will be expected that you see that they do their duty. I am &c.7

***To JOHN FAIRFAX**

Mount Vernon, March 1789.

Mr. John Fairfax: As I am now in the Act of bidding an adieu to my home, for a longer time perhaps than I wish, I will inform you that it is my intention (if your exertions shall appear to deserve it) to make the wages of the year you are now engaged for Fifty pounds instead of Forty although I consider myself under no legal or honorary obligations to do so; my only motives for it being, to encourage you to use every endeavour in your power to promote my

7. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

interest, under the orders and directions of my Nephew the Major, who will be entrusted with the general management of all my concerns, during my absence.

I have a very good opinion of your honesty, sobriety and industry, and now is the time to give me proofs of your capacity and skill. For however necessary and important the three first are, they will not be sufficient without the latter. I have often remarked to you, and I repeat it once more; that contrivance in the arrangement of business, and a happy knack in having it executed by an observance of method; are the distinguishing characteristics of a good Manager. Indeed they are of such infinite consequence, that no Estate can be well conducted without; for unless the different kinds of business which occupy the labourers of every Plantation, or Farm, can be brought into one view, and seen in time; and a due proportion of work is exacted from the hands, that are to perform it, the different kinds of work will forever be interfering with, and in the way of each other. Nor is there any way to avoid it but by looking forward in time, by judicious arrangements., and by making those who

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are to execute it do what is reasonable and proper without suffering so much time to be spent in the house, under pretence of sickness; which is, in many cases, no other than the effect of Night walking and fatigue.

It is with pain I receive the Saturday Nights reports, for no week passes away without a diminution of my stock. Nor is it less painful to me to see the condition of my work Horses, some dying, and others scarcely able to walk alone. And to these I might add, as a matter of no less concern and astonishment, that it is idle and vain for me to attempt to stall feed any kind of Meats; when I have only my expence for my trouble, without a joint of meat which is fit to appear at a Gentlemans Table. But I will rest in hope, that all these things will undergo a change for the better.

I am not inclined to your bringing any horse here of your own. Mine are adequate to all the services that my business will require, and more would only add expence without profit; for I need not tell you, that there must be no more running about whilst I am absent than if I was on the spot. Indeed I have too good an opinion of you to suppose it necessary to remind you of this act of justice.

As I have already given you plans of those Plantations which are placed under your immediate care, and have detailed the business of each in the best manner my time and judgment would enable me to do; I shall add nothing more on this head than briefly to observe to you, that it is from the Major, with whom I shall corrispond, that you will receive further directions with respect to such matters as have not been detailed, or concerning any alterations in those which have.

If you have any matrimonial scheme in view, I do not wish to be a let or hindrance to the accomplishment of it, or to your bringing a wife into the family. She may eat with, and in all respects fare as you do. In all things that are reasonable and not inconvenient I am ready and willing to indulge you being your friend.⁸

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8. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Thomas F. Madigan, of New York City.

To WILLIAM HARTSHORNE⁹

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1789.

Sir: As it seems that it will be my unavoidable lot to be again brought into publick life, however contrary to my inclinations, I must prepare myself to meet with many occurrences which will be painful and embarrassing; but I can truly say that few events would distress me more than the realizing of the apprehensions of so respectable a body of my fellow Citizens, as the Quakers of Philadelphia, as mentioned in your letter of the 28th. Ult^o.¹⁰

If I must go on to New York, and my wishes and inclinations were consulted on the occasion, they would lead me to proceed in as quiet and peaceable a manner as possible. But, situated as I am at present, and knowing nothing of the intentions of the people respecting my passing through the several towns, more than what the publick papers inform me of, [and these may be conjecture,] I do not see how I can, with any degree of propriety or delicacy, interfere, at this moment, to prevent the ill effects which are feared from an illumination of the City of Philadelphia. Could any way be pointed out to me by which I might ward off the evil dreaded by the Quakers, I would, with peculiar pleasure, take every proper step to prevent it; for altho' I have no agency in these matters, yet nothing would be more painful to me than to be the *innocent* cause of distress or injury to any individual of my Country.

9. Of Strawberry Hill, Alexandria, Va.

10. In the *Washington Papers*. It contained an extract of a letter from Philadelphia which stated that a mob might get beyond control on the occasion of the illumination of the city, as it did, his letter stated, on a former occasion.

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I must beg you to accet of my best thanks and warmest acknowledgments for your kind wishes for my happiness, and believe me to be, with very great esteem etc.11

[HD.C.]

To JAMES MERCER

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 25th Ult. and likewise one from your Brother Colo. J. F. Mercer of the 29th. As nothing can be more disagreeable to me than to put the securities which I have against the Estate of your deceased father John Mercer Esqr. in suit, I have provided he shall fulfill the terms of payment, which he has proposed himself: Namely £200 by the 20th of May; half the remainder by the first of March 1790; and the residue in twelve months from that date. But I must still beg of you my good Sir to use your influence to urge a pointed performance of this proposal, for to be candid, I must confess that I do not rely implicitly upon these promises, having been repeatedly disappointed after these,

11. In the writing of Tobias Lear. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

the most unequivocal assurances from that quarter; and I have moreover, good reason to believe that monies have been applied to other purposes which should, agreeably to promises, have been solely appropriated to the discharge of this debt; I am therefore determined, if there should be any failure in either of the payments mentioned above, to put the securities in suit without delay.

The deed which you mention to have delivered to Major Washington was by him it seems put into the Clerk's Office, but why it has not been sent to me (as I lately requested the Clerk to send *all* my deeds in his Office) I do not know.

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I will thank you to get the deed for the Land bought of your brothers Estate from the Clerk of the General Court, which you was so obliging as to offer to do, and to send it to my Nephew Major George A. Washington (who will transact my business in my absence).
With very great esteem etc.15

15. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1789.

Sir: The letter with which you was pleased to favor me, dated the 29th. Ult. came to hand. For proof of my unwillingness to put the securities I have for the debt due to me for your fathers estate, in suit, I need only appeal to the length of time the money has been due, to the frank and friendly manner in which I have, from time to time, exposed my want of it; and to the returns which have been made me. What passed between us in Philadelphia on this subject will not, I am persuaded, have escaped your recollection; for I was then assured, in unequivocal terms, that as soon as you returned to Annapolis I might expect to receive £200 *cash* which you had by you, or could command in a few hours, as part of a large Sum. Instead of which I need not remind you of the small part of this sum which was paid in the month of March following; and that no further notice was taken of the matter till now.

Having seen, you say, the letter which I wrote to your Brother, it is unnecessary for me to add ought to it, to prove the urgency of my present wants.

Notwithstanding, to give one more, and the last proof of my disinclination to put the securities in suit, I will suspend the matter upon the payments which are proposed in your letter of the above date, and which you say I may *absolutely* rely on. Namely, £200 by the 20th. of May, or, as I mean to be pointed, say the first of June next, half the remainder by the first of March 1790, and the residue in twelve Months from that date. This being your

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own proposal, proceeding from resources, you add, entirely within yourself; and on which I may punctually and faithfully rely. I accede to them; with this assurance, that if there is a failure in either of the payments, I shall not consider myself as bound by this consent. I am etc.16

16. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1789.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 26 Ult. and am sorry to inform you that it is not in my power to furnish the proof which you require of Mr. Armsteads executors having had *regular* notice of the protest. The only person (Colo Fielding Lewis) who could have been adduced to prove that fact, is dead. Upon my going to Congress in 1774 I left that among other debts, with him to collect for me, and there is not the smallest doubt but that he took the necessary and proper steps to recover it; indeed the several payments which were made by the Executors, or their order upon Acct. of the bill sufficiently proves, in my opinion, that proper notice was given them, but if this should not be sufficient I can recollect no *absolute* proof of the fact at this time. I will thank you Sir, if you will, at your leisure inform me what will be the consequence of the dismissal of my caveat against Cresap's heirs. I am etc.17

17. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1789.

Sir: In an overhaul, and arrangement of my Papers, I have found an agreement (and Bond for performance of it) with your father; by which he was to convey all the right, title, and interest which he had in a tract of 7,276 Acres of Land on the great Kanhawa, to me. This,

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I believe was accordingly done; but it runs in my Mind (though Colo Pendleton undertook to see to the recording of it) that the Deed has not been *fully* proved in the General Court. If this be the case, I have no doubt, if anything remains to be performed in order to secure the legal (for the equitable title is already passed) that your father, if living, or you if, he is not, as his heir at Law, will fulfil the agreement by a conveyance of the Land. As part of this Land was obtained by exchange for 2000 Acres I was to have from Colo William Bronaugh in a tract of 7894 Acres adjoining to the above tract of 7276 Acres, and I have also found Colo Bronaugh's Bond to me, for making this Conveyance; I should be glad to know whether such conveyance has ever passed from Colo. Bronaugh to your father or his representative, or Devise if dead. If it has not already been done Colo Bronaugh I am persuaded is ready, and willing to do it. If not, his Bond in the penalty of £2000 which

I have, will compel him, and the sooner these matters are settled the better. Not knowing whether your father be living, and even in that event having no mode of communication with him, I have taken the liberty of addressing you on the subject, and shall be obliged by your enquiry into the last mentioned matter; with respect to the first, I am now writing to the Clerk of the General Court to be informed in what shape the Conveyance from your father to me lies, and what steps are necessary for me to pursue if it is not fully proven in the Court. I am etc. 18

To JOHN BROWN¹⁹

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1789.

Sir: I would thank you for informing me, when it is convenient to you, whether a Deed of Conveyance from George Muse to me for 3323 Acres part of a large tract of 7276 Acres lying on the Great Kanhawa is fully proved, and admitted to record, and if not, what steps are necessary

18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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19. Clerk of the General Court of Virginia.

for me to pursue to effectuate it. In the first case I should be glad to receive the Deed. In the Second your advice will Oblige Sir Yr. etc.¹⁸

To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1789.

Dear Sir: Sometime ago Mr. Muse informed me by letter, that he expected an order for the delivery to him of the Papers belonging to the Estate²⁰ in my possession. I answered they were subject to, and ready for that order whenever presented; but as a friend I would advise him to let them remain in your hands and draw out such *only* as he might want. To this he seems perfectly agreeable and I mention the matter before I leave home, that if you incline to take charge of them they will be delivered by my Nephew Majr. George A. Washington at anytime you may call for them.

Old as the date of the enclosed letter is, it has been but lately received. It is my sincere wish that this tedious and irksome business could be brought to a close; but less than ever will it be in my power now, to afford any aid towards the

18. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

20. The Fairfax estate.

accomplishment of it., Mrs. Bomford must therefore turn her attention to some others as an Attorney, for the purpose of receiving her money, if it ever should be recovered. With best wishes for Mrs. Fairfax and your family, and with sentiments of sincere regard and friendship. I am etc.²¹

To JAMES DUNLOP²²

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Mount Vernon, April 6, 1789.

Sir: Your letter of the 3d has been duly received. The Bond of Messrs. Montgomerie, Wilson, Stewart &c. is in the possession of Mr. Keith of Alexandria, along with other papers belonging to the Estate of the decd. Colo Colvil, and the £600 which you propose to pay, towards the discharge of it may go into the hands of Colo Robert T. Hoe (the attorney of Lord Tankerville and his brother Mr. Bennett, to the last of whom a considerable debt is due).

For whatever *Sterling* Sum Colo Hoe shall pass his rect. the bond will be credited, further than this I dare not go;

21. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

22. Of Georgetown, Md. (now District of Columbia).

because as the Bond is for Sterling it can hardly be expected that I should convert the payments into currency at the par of Exchange, if that par should be below the selling price of Bills; or that I can *pay* as I *receive* unless there is some Law of *this State* that will authorize such an act, of which I have had no opportunity, since the receipt of your letter, to make enquiry.

If after the above sum of £600, and a further sum of one hundred pounds sterling, is paid to Colo Hoe in the manner above mentioned, more money should come into your hands on the above Acct. and advice thereof is given to me, I will, if it should suit at the time, receive a draft on Philadelphia or New York, as proposed. I am, etc.²³

To THOMAS MONTGOMERIE²⁴

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1789.

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Dear Sir: Your favor of the 29th Ult. came duly to hand, since which I have received a letter from Mr. Dunlap informing me that he had about £600 Sterling which he was ready to pay on account of the Bond of Messrs. Montgomerie, Stewart, Wilson &c. but that he had been instructed to do this in

23. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

24. Of Dumfries, Va.

Current Money at the *par* of Exchange. The meaning of which I know not unless there is an act of Assembly authorizing of it (of which, having had little to do in matters of this sort of late years, I profess myself ignorant). For I conceive if the Exchange was *below* par this instruction would not have been given and if *above* it, that it was improper; unless, as I have said before there is an operative law of *this* State to that effect equally applicable to Debtor and Creditor. As I am only an agent in this business, and shall pay as fast I receive the money it behoves me to act with circumspection; I have, therefore, requested Mr. Dunlap to pay the sum he has in hand to Colo Hooe, who is the Attorney of Lord Tankerville and his Brother Mr. Bennett; to the last of whom there is due from the Estate of Colo Colvil £700 Sterling independent of interest; informing him, that for whatever Sterling sum Colo. Hooe shall pass his rect. the Bond shall be credited; for it matters not with me in what manner they settle so I can charge what is receipted for.

In order that there may be a clear understanding of the parties with respect to the payment of interest, on this Bond, I should be glad to know whether it is the determination of the Obligeors to dispute this point, or not?

and upon what principle if they do? Between Citizen and Citizen, I am told there is not a single instance in this State, or Maryland that denies it on the contrary, that in the latter some late law has passed expressly recognizing and directing it: In what then does this case differ from the latter? The Assignees of Mr. Semple now the Obligeors in the Bond,

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are in this case as I conceive his Representatives; was Semple then, in this bargain considered as an alien? or, does others, by becoming paymasters for him, make it a British debt? And even in this supposition, is there any decision in point, by which interest has been stopped? I ask these questions for information, for the principal object of my enquiry is to know, decidedly, the intention of the Obligeors whether they do, or do not mean to allow it. With very great esteem etc.²⁵

25. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM SHOTWELL

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1789.

Sir: To promise what one does not perform is at all times wrong but in the delay of the Grass-seeds with which you undertook to supply me, I have sustained an irreparable injury in as much as that my whole system of husbandry is deranged by it. £500 would be no compensation for this disappointment. My spring grain with which these seeds were to be sown, are now almost entirely in the ground and a large part of it up. I have therefore but two alternatives to choose from, viz, not to sow them this spring, and thereby to have my whole system entirely deranged or by Scattering them over ground which has got hard have little prospect of their vegetating; or to be exposed in that case with little root to injuries from spring or Summer droughts, or the frosts of Winter. The difference of price between which you *were* , to furnish these Seeds at, and what you say you have *now* given is no object; though at less than the latter I could with certainty have been supplied from Philadelphia by a Gentleman who has never deceived me. And strange it is that at this late period the seed should go to

Baltimore when I have been informed two Vessels have arrived at Alexandria from New York within a few days. I am etc.²⁶

To RICHARD CURSON

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Mount Vernon, April 7, 1789.

Sir: I have just received a letter from Mr. Shotwell of New York, surviving partner of the House of Embree and Shotwell, informing me that he had shipped a quantity of Clover and Timothy seed to Baltimore for me (no vessel offering for Alexandria) and had directed it to you. As soon as it may arrive I will thank you to have it sent round here in any manner that will be most expeditious; for it is necessary that it should get to hand in a very short time or the season for sowing will be over and an unspeakable disadvantage accrue to me thereby. I have expected it for more than a month past and have delayed my farming business unreasonably for want of it. I should therefore wish to have it immediately, and am willing to allow any *reasonable* extra expence which may arise from sending it immediately. I am etc.²⁷

26. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

27. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To DANIEL HINSDALE²⁸

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1789.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 23d. Ulto²⁹ accompanied with the Cloth which the Directors of the Woollen Manufacture of the City of Hartford were so polite as to send me. I must beg you to accept of my best thanks for your agency in forwarding the Cloth to me, and likewise make my warmest acknowledgments acceptable to the Directors for this mark of their politeness and attention. I am extremely pleased to find that the useful manufactures are so much attended to in our Country, and with such a prospect of success. The patterns of Cloth which I have seen, and particularly the price which I have lately received, exceed in fineness and goodness whatever the most sanguine expectation could have looked for at this period. I am fully persuaded that if the spirit of industry economy and patriotism, which seems now beginning to dawn, should exert itself

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to a proper latitude, that we shall very soon be able to furnish ourselves at least with every necessary and useful fabrick upon better terms than they can be imported without any extraordinary

28. Agent for the Woolen Manufacture of Hartford, Conn.

29. In the *Washington Papers*.

legal assistance; I shall always take a peculiar pleasure in giving every proper encouragement in my power to the manufacturers of my Country. I am etc.²⁷

To HECTOR ST. JOHN DE CREVECŒUR

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1789.

Sir: I had the honor to receive, by the last post, your very polite letter, and must beg you to accept my warmest acknowledgments for the felicitations and good wishes which were contained in it.

A Combination of circumstances and events seems to have rendered my embarking again on the Ocean of public affairs inevitable. How opposite this is to my own desires and inclinations I need not say. Those who know me are, I trust, convinced of it. For the rectitude of my intentions I appeal to the great Searcher of Hearts; and if I have any knowledge of myself I can declare that no prospects however flattering, no personal advantage however great, no desire of fame however easily it might be acquired, could induce me to quit the private walks of life at my age and in my situation.

27. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

But if by any exertion or services of mine my Country can be benefitted I shall feel more amply compensated for the sacrifices which I make than I possibly can be by any other means.

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I am very happy to find, by the translations which you were so polite as to send me, that there is so essential a change in the political opinions of the French Nation; indeed the American Revolution, or the peculiar light of the age seems to have opened the eyes of almost every nation in Europe, and a spirit of equal liberty appears fast to be gaining ground everywhere, which must afford satisfaction to every friend of mankind. I am &c.31

To JOHN DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, April 11, 1789.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 2d Instr. and in replying to it, again assure you, with great sincerity, that whatever my own wants of money may be if you think more than £800 can (by

31. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

waiting till times get a little better) be had for your Land in Gloucester County it will be perfectly agreeable to me to let the debt due to me from your fathers Estate remain on its present footing. For I do not wish you to part from the land for one shilling less than you think it is worth, nor that you should put the estate to the least inconvenience to raise money for me by any other means. If after making this declaration which you may rely on is sincere, you are still more disposed to part with the land at the price mentioned in Colo Lewis's letter than to keep it, or to sell it on credit I can, and shall rely on you to make me a good and secure title to it and for having it recorded in the General Court. The doing of which will exonerate the Estate from so much of the debt due from it to me.

Your Aunt, Sister, and others of the family are all well, and join me in every good wish for your Mother &ca. with very great regard etc.32

32. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, April 11, 1789.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 8 Instr. From a bad memory, I can recollect nothing of the circumstances relating to the payment of the money by Colo Pendleton more than what is stated in my books. The Acct. with the Executors of Mr. Armstead was transmitted to you, and I find the entry of the Cash paid by Colo Pendleton to stand thus on my *Cash Acct.* 1765 May 10th. To Cash of Mr. Edmd. Pendleton on Acct. of Armsteads Executrs. protest, £100 Virginia Currency, and the payment made by Mr. Montgomerie was on the same acct. I do not know of any act by which I have discharged the Executors and taken Mr. Armsteads for my debtor; if any such thing has been done the Executors will certainly be able to shew it.

I have been lately informed that Mrs. Armsteads sons are dead and have left their families not in very good circumstances. If this is the case, and the payment of the debt due to me would distress them I must beg that you will not proceed any further in the matter, for however pressing my want of money is at present I had much rather lose the debt than that the widow and fatherless should suffer by my recovering it.

You will please to accept of my thanks for your attention to the letter which I wrote to your father. And believe me to be, with very great esteem etc.³³

To ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF

Mount Vernon, April 13, 1789.

Sir: I have in my possession a bill of Exchange for 333 24/72 Dollars drawn upon you by Mr. Donald of Richmond in favor of David Smart Esqr. payable five days after Sight, and will thank you to have the money ready for me to receive when I pass through Baltimore. I am etc.³⁴

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33. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

34. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To VINCENT GRAY

Mount Vernon, April 13, 1789.

Sir: I duly received your letter of the 8th. Inst. and must inform you that it is not at present in my power to accept of any offers of services which may be made me, not consistant with the line of conduct which I have hitherto pursued, and am determined to persist in, to make any promises of appointments. If I should go into public life, I shall be better able, upon my entrance therein, to judge of such arrangements as may be necessary to be made in my family, than I am now; and shall then endeavour to get such persons as will best fill their particular departments; but you will give me leave to observe the office of Steward which you are desireous of filling will [sic] equal *experience* in that line as a recommendation for the person, who applies for it. I am etc.³⁴

34. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, June 3, 1789.

Dear Sir: The President will thank you to put into the hands of Mr. William Hunter of Alexandria Thirty five guineas, for him to deliver to Mr. John Campbell of Bladensburg (on his way to Alexandria) in payment for a Horse sent by Mr. Campbell to the President. The reason of giving you this trouble is because the President desired me to inform Mr. Campbell that he would receive the money by Mr. Hunter, but Mr. Hunter leaving this place before I had an opportunity of delivering it to him, and understanding that he will be several days in Philadelphia the President thought best to have the Money delivered to him there.

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There is a Balance due from Mr. Hunter to the President and perhaps he will be desirous of paying the 35 guineas to Mr. Campbell without receiving them from you; but this would not be agreeable to the President for he engaged to *send the money* by Mr. Hunter, you will please to let the Guineas be sealed and directed to Mr. Jno. Campbell. Mr. Hunter may be paid in Philadelphia by applying to Mr. Clough. I am etc.²⁹

29. This letter, signed "T. Lear," is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. He was Secretary to the President of the United States.

On June 4 Washington began "to read the Letters from the American Minister (Mr. Jefferson) at the Court of France to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs—Mr. Jay." The first letter briefed is that of Aug. 20, 1788, and the last is Mar. 15, 1789. "Finished reading and making the above and foregoing extracts June 8th." This was the beginning of a practise which Washington continued, more or less throughout his presidency. The extracts fill 8 folio pages and are in the *Washington Papers* under date of June 8, 1789. All the letters noted are found in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, June 15, 1789.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your obliging favours of the 8th. 10, and 12 Int. The President is much obliged to you for your trouble and attention in making inquiries respecting the table ornaments, and if the large and small Glasses of M. Dela Croix are of the same set, he will thank you to procure them for him, and have them sent on in the most careful and expeditious manner possible, either by the Stage or otherwise as you may think best. The President has a Frenchman with him who is said to be a compleat Confectioner, and professes to understand everything relative to those ornaments, so that the Glasses only are wanting. The intention of having the Glasses in several pieces to adopt them to the size of the Table which you may wish to spread, and therefore, if the 5

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Smaller Glasses of M. dela Croix are not parts of the two large, or such as to answer to them, the whole will be useless, and it will not be necessary to get them. I am etc.³⁶

36. This letter was signed by Lear, and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 15 Washington sent a message to the Senate, announcing that Thomas Jefferson had applied for and been granted a leave of absence to return home from France for a few months. William Short was nominated to take charge during Jefferson's absence and Washington requested "your advice on the propriety of appointing him." A copy of this message is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 19 Washington answered an address of the Governor and Council of North Carolina, dated May 10, in which he wrote in part: "A difference of opinion on political points is not to be imputed to Freemen as a fault since it is to be presumed that they are all actuated by an equally laudable and sacred regard for the liberties of their Country. If the mind is so formed in different persons as to consider the same object to be somewhat different in its nature and consequences as it happens to be placed in different points of view; and if the oldest, the ablest, and the most virtuous Statesmen have often differed in judgment, as to the best forms of Government, we ought, indeed rather to rejoice that so much has been effected, than to regret that more could not all at once be accomplished." The address and answer are copied into the "Letter Book." Sparks prints the answer as of June 15, and it is so dated in the "Letter Book"; but the *American Museum* (July, 1789) gives the date as June 19.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, June 22, 1789.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letters of the 15th 17th and 19th Inst. Billy arrived here safe and well on Wednesday Morning he seems not to have lost much flesh by his

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misfortune. The President thinks those Ornaments will not answer the purpose as the two sets are not made to loin each other and neither separate are large enough for his table.

He begs you to accept his thanks for the trouble you have had in this business.

The President has been much indisposed, for a week past with a fever and a tumor on his thigh. I have however, now the pleasure to inform you that the former has left him and the latter is in a fair way of being removed, from its size it will be some time before he will be relieved from the inconveniences of it. I am etc.³⁷

37. This letter was signed by Lear, and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 22 Lear also wrote to John F. Mercer, acknowledging a bill of exchange on London for £75 sterling. "The set is now disposed of at 3½ p. cent above par, which is the current exchange here at 60 days on London, so that your account will have credit for £77. 12/6. Sterling or £103. 10/. Virginia currency, and for the cash remitted by you to Major Washington." A copy of Lear's letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, September 16, 1789.

Dear Sir: The President has sent to Virginia a German who is to be a Gardener for him there.³³ As he cannot speak the English Language and is unacquainted with the Country, I have paid his passage in the Stage to Philadelphia and have written to Mr. Inskoop, proprietor of the Stage there, to forward him from thence to Alexandria, and have informed him that the Amount of his Passage to the latter place would be paid by you upon his delivering this Letter, which I request you to do and charge

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33. According to Washington's "Diary" (Nov. 14, 1788) this gardener, John Christian Ehlers, had been sent from Germany by Henrick Wilmans, of Bremen.

the same to the Acct. of the President of the United States. I am, etc.

P.S. The man has a Trunk which I presume will require to be paid for also.³⁴

34. This letter was signed by Lear, and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, December 21, 1789.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge your three favors of the 22d. and 30th. of November, and 10th. of Decr. All of which have been duly laid before the President, who now directs me to request that you will be so good as to inform me in your next, at what price per bushel 350 bushels of Buckwheat could be delivered at Alexandria if sent in bags, including the cost of the buckwheat, the bags, commission on purchasing, freight and every incidental charge, and what would be the cost per bushel if sent in *barrells* including every expence as above. He wishes this particular calculation to determine whether he shall procure in from Philadelphia or from the back Counties in Virginia, and requests the information to be given if it can be obtained, in the course of this week, that he may; in his letter of next week to Major Washington direct him to procure it from the back country or wait its arrival from Philadelphia. From your last letter it is not probable the Buckwheat could be got in time to send (if it should be ordered) before the Rivers close, therefore the calculation, I suppose must be made with an idea of its being forwarded as early in the Spring as possible.

Mrs. Washington will be much obliged to you to get from Mr. Reinagle⁶⁰ who taught Miss Custis Music last summer, such music as he may think proper for her to progress

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with through the winter, and pay for him for the same, which you will be good enough to forward to New York.

Present my Respects to Mrs. Biddle and tell her I shall give her compliments, to Mrs. Lear, on the day of my marriage whenever that may be. And I shall also, my Dear Sir, apply your kind congratulations in their proper train. I am etc.⁶¹

60. Alexander Reinagle.

61. This letter, signed "Tobias Lear," is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 22 the General Assembly of Georgia delivered an address to Washington, to which he replied at some unknown date. This reply is entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following the copy of the address. In it Washington wrote:

"I am naturally led to reflect on the unlimited gratitude which we owe, as a nation, to the supreme Arbiter of human events for his interposition in our favor; as well as on the singular obligations which are due from me as an individual, for the indulgent sentiments, which my fellow-citizens have always had the goodness to entertain of my conduct.... I am not ignorant how much the local situation of your State exposed its inhabitants to suffer the distresses of the late war in a severe manner; nor how manfully they exerted themselves in the common cause during the struggle which established our independence. Wasted as your country was at the return of peace, and exposed as your frontiers have since been to the ravages of the Indians, I cannot but flatter myself that you will ere long realize the blessings, which were to be expected from your natural resources, and find a compensation for your sufferings in the benefits of an efficient general government.

"It will not be expected I presume, on this occasion, that I should enter into the merits of the delicate subject to which you allude. It may be sufficient to say, that, while I regret extremely the failure of the late negotiation for peace with the Creek Indians: I am satisfied

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that the explanations which have been received through authentic channels will be of eminent service. I am also convinced that nothing will be wanting on your part to concur in the accomplishment of a pacification: and I still hope that under the influence of the general Government that desirable object may be effected. With respect to this subject in general, as well as to the other calamity which you mention as resulting from your being the south frontier of the Union, I request you will be persuaded, that I shall make such use of the powers vested in me by the constitution as may appear to me best calculated to promote the public good." The Georgia Legislature's address had spoken of the injury to private persons from their slaves escaping into Spanish territory: "This has already been productive of much injury to private persons and if not speedily restrained may grow into an evil of national magnitude."

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, February 10, 1790.

Dear Sir: The President wishes to get a Carpet of the best kind for a Room 32 feet by 22. A Pea Green Ground, with white or light flowers or spots would suit the furniture of the Room, and Carpet as the former would be made to fit the Room exactly when it would be difficult to find one of the latter of the precise size; the length of the Room, *32 feet*, is the full extent, but at each end there is a fire place which projects into the room perhaps $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet including Hearths. We can get no Carpet in New York to suit the Room, nor Carpeting of the best kind. Scotch Carpeting is almost the only kind to be found here. If you would be so good as to inform me if anything of the above discription can be had in Philadelphia you will oblige me. The price is also necessary to be known. I am, etc.²⁰

20. This letter, signed "Tobias Lear," is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

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New York, February 14, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your two letters of the 9th and 10th. inst. the latter enclosing the Presidents acct. as it then stood with you.

In reply to your wish to know the Presidents birthday it will be sufficient to observe that it is on the 11th of February *Old Style* ; but the almanack makers have generally set it down opposite to the 11th day of February of the present Style; how far that may go towards establishing it on that day I dont know; but I could never consider it any otherways than as stealing so many days from his valuable life as is the difference between the old and the new Style. With very sincere esteem etc.²⁶

26. This letter was signed "Tobias Lear." and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On February 15 the President in a routine message to the Senate and House of Representatives laid before them a copy of New Hampshires satisfaction of the amendments to the Constitution. As the various States sent in their ratifications, the President sent copies of them in the same brief formal message to Congress. These messages are duly recorded. according to dates, in the "Letter Book."

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, March 5, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letters of the 16th and 23d Ultimo. We are furnished with a Carpet for the Room which I had described to you; but are therefore no less obliged to you for the trouble you have had in making inquiries respecting it. The President will thank you to make an addition of two hundred Bushels to the quantity of Buckwheat which you have procured for him. It is probable that it can be carried to Virginia in bulk which will save the expence of Bags or barrels. Major Washington informed the

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President that Capt. Ellwood had told him that for the freight [of] a quantity, he would make bulk heads and carry it free from expence of bags or barrels, if this can be done it will be agreeable to the President as the number of bags which you have already are as many as will be useful, and barrels are of little or no use at Mount Vernon where they have always a number on hand. I am, etc.³⁷

37. This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, June 3, 1790.

Dear Sir: My absence from this place since the middle of April is the cause of my not having duly acknowledged the receipt of your favors of the 24th of March and 27th of April, both of which are now before me.

The Cook⁸³ arrived and entered upon his duty on the first of May; he gives us good dinners, and the Steward says he conducts himself well. We are much obliged by your Agency in obtaining him.

I am happy to inform you that the President recovers his strength and flesh very fast.

Will you, Sir, be kind enough to have the enclosed letter handed to Mr. Wignall, and thereby oblige, Your etc.⁸⁴

83. Thor Vicare.

84. This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

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New York, June 20, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your favor of the 16th. Inst. enclosing the Presidents Account which stands right. In the charge of May 20th., I observe there is mentioned Coach hire, Expenses and *Express* to New York for Dr. Jones,⁴ if by this *express* is meant the person who went from this place to Philadelphia for Dr. Jones, I imagine there must have been some misunderstanding in the demand, for I have pd. Colo Brauman the post Master here 25 Dollars for an express sent by Colo Cummings⁵ to Philadelphia on that occasion I will therefore thank you for an explanation of the matter in your next. Will you be so good as to desire Mr. Hare to have if he continues to make the best Porter in Philadelphia 3 gross of his best put up for Mount Vernon? as the President means to visit that place in the recess of Congress and it is probable there will be a large demand for Porter at that time. I will take care to have some money transmitted to you in season for that purpose as the ballance in your hands will not be sufficient. Mrs. Washington requests you to be so kind as to inform me if any handsome blue and white china Tea and Coffee Cups and Saucers can be had in Philadelphia and the price per Dozn. She does not want

4. Dr. Gardner Jones.

5. John Noble Cumming(?).

a sett of china but Cups and saucers only to match some which she has at Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Lear Joins me in thanks to you and Mrs. Biddle for your congratulations on our marriage and requests her best compliments may be presented to Mrs. Biddle.

With very great regard etc.⁶

6. This letter was signed "Tobias Lear," anti is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, July 18, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have received your much esteemed favor of the 14th. Inst., and will thank you to get the Waiter which you mentioned³² and keep it with you till we call for it. Silver Waiters can be had here of Warranted silver and best workmanship at 13/10 per oz. this currency, which is lower than with you, we shall therefore have them made here. Your attention to this matter, Dear Sir is highly obliging and deserves our best thanks, as well as your information respecting the China and Muslin. Of the former Mrs. Washington wishes to get 2 dozn. Tea Cups and saucers and a dozn. Coffee Cups and saucers with 3 or 4 Slop bowles to match them; all of blue and white China, handsome, but not of the highest price, as they are for common use, and send them to Mount Vernon by the first Vessel. She will likewise thank you to send her some patterns of plain India Jaquinett Muslin of the finest kind from which she may chuse a piece.

I have to beg your pardon my dear Sir, for neglecting to forward a draft as I promised to do in a former letter, and the day (Sunday) prevents my

32. Lear had described these waiters in a letter to Biddle of July 11, which is in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, as “plated waiters, suitable for carrying tea round to company...with Japanned bottoms and a silver or plated rim of openwork around them.”

getting one now from the Treasurer, but I will not fail to do it in the course of the week. With very great regard etc.³³

33. This letter is signed “Tobias Lear” in the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*.

CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, July 25, 1790.

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Dear Sir: I have before me your favors of the 21st and 23d Inst. If blue and white China cups and Saucers can be procured (as you observed in your last was probable) and agreeably to my former letter you will please to get three dozen of Tea cups and Saucers and 2 dozn. of Coffee ditto with the bowls Should these not be found you will get the same number of the enameld which you mentioned in your letter of the 21st.

Mrs. Washington desires me to inclose some patterns of Muslin, that if the peice which is sent should not suit, you will be good as to see if any like the patterns can be had and the prices.

I will thank you to let me know the price of white lead ground in Oil, and also the price of painters Oil fit for immediate use. The President will probably want a considerable quantity of both to be sent to Mount Vernon, and we shall procure it here or in Phila. as may be cheapest. I am, etc.³⁵

35. This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington's Papers*.

On July 26 Lear wrote to Capt. — Hollis to deliver to Francis Parman 3 mares belonging to the President which had been sent to be served by Mr. Jay's horse Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

An undated congratulatory address from the convention of the Universalist Church, lately assembled in Philadelphia's recorded in the "Letter Book" With it is entered Washington's reply. also undated: but which has been assigned to the date of July, 1790 Sparks prints it as of August, 1790.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, August 8, 1790.

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Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 5th. Inst. inclosing a bill of the China sent to Mount Vernon.

I will agreeably to your request, inform you of the time when the President intends setting off for Mount Vernon, which I imagine will be in about 8 or 10 days after the adjournment of Congress. I will, however just hint to you that the President would not like more parade on his Journey titan what may be absolutely necessary to gratify the People. It is to him a most fatiguing thing. With great esteem, I am, etc.

P. S. I will thank you to inform me if any Vessel is bound to London from Phila. what are her accommodations for Passengers, and when she sails.⁴⁰

40. This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To CLEMENT BIDDLE

New York, August 26, 1790.

Dear Sir: I have now before me your favor of the 24th. inst. inclosing the bill and receipt for a dictionary.⁷² The waiter you will be so good as to take on the Presidents Acct. and keep it with you till we remove to Philadelphia.

The President will probable be in Philadelphia about the 3d. of Septr. and as he intends to carry there 2 or 3 days he has directed me to request that you will engage lodgings for him, during that time, at Mrs. Houses,⁷³ if she can accommodate all of his family who will attend him. They are as follow, The President and Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Washington's two little grand Children, Mr. Nelson and Major Jackson, two maids, 4 White Servants and 4 black do. if Mrs. House can accommodate this number, the Horses of which there are 16 will be sent to Mr. Hiltzimers⁷⁴ Stables of which you will be so good as to give him Notice. Should Mrs. House not be able to accommodate this number of persons The President then wishes you to engage lodgings for all at the City Tavern, and in that case, the Horses

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72. A German and English dictionary which the President obtained for the use of the German gardener.

73. Mrs. Mary House. Her establishment was at Fifth and Market Streets.

74. Jacob Hiltzheimer.

will be kept at the same place and notice need not be given to Mr. Hiltzimer. The President would prefer Lodgings at Mrs. Houses if they can be obtained.

I will now, Sir, agreeably to your request inform you of the arrangement, as to time, which the President has made for his Journey. He is detained in New York to complete some business in the Treasury and War departments which the Heads of these departments inform him will be finished by Saturday; in which case he will leave this place on Monday noon,⁷⁵ reach Elizabeth Town that Night, Brunswick on Tuesday night, Trenton on Wednesday Night, Breakfast at Bristol on Thursday and proceed from thence to Philadelphia. This I know is his present intention and if the business which detains him, is completed on Saturday, and no unforeseen circumstances occur to retard his progress, it will be carried into effect. He will travel slow in the beginning of his Journey as he has a Number of horses some of which are young and all in that State, as to exercise, which requires moderation at first setting out.

I give you this information in compliance with your request; but at the same time I must repeat what I observed in a former letter, that as little ceremony and parade may be made as possible; for the President wishes to command his own time, which these things always forbid in a greater or less degree, and they are

75. Aug. 30, 1790.

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to him fatiguing and oftentimes painful. He wishes not to exclude himself from the sight or conversation of his fellow citizens; but their eagerness to show their affection frequently imposes a heavy tax on him.

I shall not accompany the President, but remain in New York until arrangements are made, for the President directs me to observe, that two lodging Rooms will accommodate himself, Mrs. Washington, the children and two maids; and one Room will serve the two Gentlemen. The servants she knows how she can best accommodate. You will be good enough to give the President timely information of the House in which he is to lodge that he may drive directly there on his arrival. I am, etc.⁷⁶

76. This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 26 Washington replied to a congratulatory address of the Governor and Council of North Carolina, dated June 25. Both the address and the reply are entered together in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.