

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

***To WILLIAM TILGHMAN**

Philadelphia, March 31, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d. instt. came duly to hand.

The laws, in the cases of both Mr. George and Mr. Chalmers, must regulate my conduct. To do all that these will permit, is enough for my justification, more I shall not covet. If, however, as I conceive the fact assuredly is, the latter Gentleman has actually received, and did not pay a hundred pounds which was put into his hands as *part of a Bond* due to the estate of Colvill (and was then bearing interest) it would seem but justice that he should allow interest for that sum when applied to his own use; but if there is a principle arising from analogy or reciprocity opposed thereto I must be content with what Mr. Chalmers will pay, and this I am disposed to in order that my Administration of the estate of Colo. Colvill may be finally closed.

With respect to Mr. George, I had rather his acct. should be settled and a new bond taken for the *whole* balance payable at a given time (when he will be punctual, and by which the money can be drawn from Mr. Chalmers) than to receive part this spring and the residue in the Fall; because the demands upon Colvills

estate (except the residuary legacy) have all been discharged; and because the money that is due had better remain at interest than lye dead in my hands or subject me perhaps to the payment of it.

If the law of Maryland has stopped interest during a certain period of the War, the estate of course must (as I have observed before) lose it. The case however, was otherwise in

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Virginia for there I have lately recovered a pretty heavy debt with interest from the date of the bond which was taken before the war.

With very great esteem I am etc.

To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Philadelphia, April 8, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your private Letters of the 31st of March and 3d instant,³⁸ have been duly received. Altho' it is a rare, if not an entire new thing with me, to answer letters applying for appointments; yet from motives of esteem and regard, and our former connexion in public life, I shall acknowledge the receipt of yours on this head; altho' I can say nothing more

38. McHenry's letter applied for an appointment as a commissioner to effect the release of Lafayette. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

on the subject, than to explain the motives, which have imposed silence upon me on these occasions. They are:

1st. because letters of this sort are so numerous, that to give them civil answers would employ too much of my time.

2d. because civil answers might be construed to mean more than was intended; and

3d. because coeval with my inauguration, I resolved firmly, that no man shou'd ever charge me *justly* with deception. Abundant reason I have had to rejoice at this determination; for I have experienced the necessity in a variety of instances, of hardening my heart against indulgences of my warmest inclination and friendship; and from a combination of causes, as well as more fitness of character, to depart from first

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impressions and first intentions with regard to nominations; which has proved most unequivocally, the propriety of the maxim I had adopted, of never committing myself, until the moment the appointment is to be made; when from the best information I can obtain, and a full view of circumstances, my judgment is formed.

With respect to your second letter of the 3d. of April, I have only to add, and this in confidence, that every thing which friendship requires and which I could do without committing my public character, or involving this Country in embarrassment, is, and has been for some time in train,

tho' the result is as yet unknown. I am very sorry to hear of your bad state of health, but hope the approaching pleasant season will restore you. With very great esteem I am &c.39

***To GEORGE MINOR**

Philadelphia, April 13, 1794.

Sir: From a letter which I have lately received from Doctr. Stuart, I learn that depredations continue to be made upon my land on four mile run, in the County of Fairfax; and that you were so obliging as to inform him, that you would use your endeavours to rescue

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

it from further injury if I should request it.

The offer is kind, and I thank you for having had the goodness to make it; and do hereby vest you with power to watch-over, and punish in any manner the laws will authorise, any, and every person whatsoever who shall be found trespassing thereon.

The growth on the land, I always considered as the most valuable part of the property; stripped of this, as there appears to be a strong disposition to do by lawless people, and the value of it is reduced in the ratio of the Trespasses.

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Sometime since, perhaps two or three years, I desired my Nephew Mr. Bushrod Washington to bring suits against those who had been detected in taking off Wood, Hoop poles &ca., but what, or whether anything resulted from it, is unknown to me at this moment. Nothing short of vigorous measures, I am now persuaded, will stop the injustice I am sustaining, and these I am resolved to pursue. any reasonable expence therefore which may be incurred in carrying this resolution into effect, and for your trouble, will be cheerfully paid by Sir etc.

PS. I have directed Mr. Win. Pearce my Manager to converse with you on this business when he shall see you in Alexandria.

***To DAVID STUART**

Philadelphia, April 13, 1794.

Dear sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 4th. instt., and thank you for the information respecting the depredations on my land, lying on four miles run. Mr. Bushrod Washington a year or two ago, was desired to commence a suit or suits against some of the Trespassers; but whether he did, or not, or what the result was, I do not recollect ever to have heard. The growth of the land, is more valuable than the land itself; to protect it therefore, is important.

Not knowing the christian name of Mr. Minor, or whether there may not be more than one of that name I am at a loss how to direct to him; and indeed for a safe mode of conveying a letter to him; and therefore take the liberty of putting the enclosed under cover to you, with a request (after putting a wafer in it) that you would be so good as to have it safely conveyed to the right person.

The accounts which I receive from Mount Vernon, respecting my Wheat, are very unfavorable. They could not, indeed, be otherwise, after the effect, occasioned by the

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drought in the fall had become apparent, which was the case before I left home in the latter part of October.

The appointment of a Martial, for the District of Georgia, had taken place before your letter came to my hands: but if the case had been otherwise, Mr. McCrea, however well known in Virginia, was too new a settler, and too little known in Georgia to have become an exceptable man for that office when half the State (in a manner) was in hot pursuit of it. and many of the ancient inhabitants and respectable characters were pressing forward by themselves, and friends, on this occasion.

My best wishes attend Mrs. Stuart and the rest of the family, and with very great esteem etc.⁵⁴

***To JOHN JAY**

(Secret and confidential)

Philadelphia, April 29, 1794.

My dear Sir: Receive I pray you the suggestion I am going to impart with the friendship and caution the delicacy of it requires.

You are already informed, that I am under the necessity of recalling Mr. Gouver. Morris from France; and you can readily conceive the difficulty which occurs in finding a successor that would be agreeable to that Nation, and who, at the sametime, would meet the approbation of the friends of that Country in this.

These considerations, have induced

54. From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by Alwin J. Scheuer, of New York City.

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me to ask you, if it could be made to comport with your inclination after you shall have finished yr. business as Envoy and not before to become the Resident Minister Plenipotentiary at London, that Mr. Pinckney, by that means, might be sent to Paris? I mean no more than simply to ask the question, not intending (although the measure would remove the above difficulty) to press it in the smallest degree.

If you answer in the affirmative be so good as to return the enclosed letter⁷⁹ to me, and corrispondt. arrangemts. shall be made. If in the negative,⁸⁰ I pray you to forward it through the Penny Post, or otherwise accordg. to circumstances to the Gentleman to whom it is directed without delay; and in either case to let the transaction be confined entirely to ourselves. With much truth and regard I am etc.

To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, April 30, 1794.

Dear Bushrod: Your Letter of the 22d. instant came to my hands yesterday afternoon. I thank you for the information contained in it and for your kindness in offering to draw

79. See Washington's letter to Robert R. Livingston. Apr. 29, 1794, *post*.

80. Jay declined the permanent appointment, April 30, and returned Washington's letter, which was probably destroyed.

my answer to Henshaw's bill, now in the High Court of Chancery, before whom it seems I am to appear.

It is really hard that I am so often called before Courts in matters in which I have no interest; but am continually saddled with the expense of defence.

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To the interrogatories of the bill, I answer from my best recollection, having no papers by me to resort to.

That John Tayloe, George Mason and myself were appointed Attornies by George Mercer, and others, in England, to whom he had mortgaged his estate in Virginia, or part thereof, with directions to sell the same:

That John Tayloe and myself accepted the trust, but Mason declined doing it.

That a dispute with respect to the priority of the mortgage under which we were to sell; and one given by the former attorney of George Mercer, in Virginia, ensued, was carried into the high Court of Chancery in that State, and an interlocutory decree obtained.

That pursuant to the said decretal order Tayloe and myself (or rather myself alone, for I had the whole trouble of it) sold the mortgaged estate in November 1774; and to the best of my recollection, on the terms and in the manner set forth in the bill. The money when received to be subject to the future order of the Court.

That in the month of May following I attended the Congress which sat in

Philadelphia. In June of the same year was appointed to the command of the American army, then assembled at Cambridge; and remained with it, in its different movements, for several years before I returned to Virginia.

That finding, about the time the bonds had become due, there was no prospect of my returning to Virginia in any short time, or having it in my power to render any further service in discharge of the trust which had been committed to us, I informed Tayloe thereof, requested him to place the bonds in the hands of a proper person to collect, and to take the whole matter on himself; for as I was unable to render any further assistance, I should no longer consider myself responsible for anything which might happen thereafter.

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Thus stood the matter about the period when the bonds became due. After the death of Tayloe, and my continually refusing any agency in the business, further than to report what had been done by myself, and which no other was competent to in a legal sense, it was, by a decree of the high Court of Chancery in Virginia, put into the hands of John Francis Mercer, for purposes mentioned therein, and by him were the bonds put in suit thereafter.

That Henshaw may have become a purchaser at the sale in 1774 on the terms, and to the amount set forth in the bill, is

highly probable. But I have no recollection of his ever having made a tender of payment to me at Cambridge, or of the conversation which he has stated; and conceive, if application had been made to me for the purpose mentioned, he would have received an answer to the effect I have here mentioned.

If I am not mistaken the Bill of Henshaw, which you have now sent, or one similar to it, has been before me once or twice already; and my answer obtained through Mr. John Mercer, to whom, when served with the summons, I sent it, and by whom it was drawn. I pray you if it be practicable in time, to enquire into the matter. There must be neglect somewhere, if it is not to be produced. With much truth, I am etc.⁸⁵

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Philadelphia, May 6, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th. of Jany. with a Postscript of the 30th. of the same month, by Captn. Truxton,⁸⁸ and another of the 12th. of Feby. by a Vessel to New York, I have safely received. But neither the one from Glasgow (with the box) nor the other by the

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

88. Capt. Thomas Truxtun (Truxton).

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Peggy, referred to in the above letters, are yet come to hand.

The Watch, and Portrait of the Earl of Buchan, were received in very good order. The first pleases, and for your attention to it Mrs. Washington prays you to accept her thanks. The extra: cost, together with the prices of the other articles from Glasgow and London shall be paid so soon as I can find a person disposed to receive the amount; and this I shall know, probably, when I converse with Mr. Dalton;⁸⁹ who, I believe is on a visit to the Federal City, as he proposed to set out for it on Monday last.

The reception you met with from the Earl of Buchan and Sir John Sinclair, gives me sincere pleasure, and I am glad to find they have introduced you to characters which may not only contribute to your present gratifications, but which, in the revolution of events, may be of service in a future walk of life; without a possible disservice that results not from imprudence; against which your own good sense will always secure you.

I am much obliged to you for the several communications in your letters which have come to hand. I place great reliance on them. The opportunity you derive from mixing with people in different walks, high and low, of different descriptions, and of different political sentiments, much have afforded you an extensive range for

89. Tristram Dalton. Later (1801) he was appointed a Justice of the Peace of the District of Columbia by President Adams.

observation and comparison: more so, by far, than could fall to the lot of a Stationary character, who is always revolving in a particular circle.

I am equally well pleased to hear that the concerns in which you are more immediately interested, are in as promising a state as the peculiarly disturbed state of matters in Europe would allow you to expect. I hope they will continue, and that your plans may be accomplished to the fullest extent of your wishes.

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Mr. Pearce, my present Manager at Mount Vernon, has been directed to send for your fruit Trees the moment he hears of the Peggy's arrival at George Town; and my Gardener is instructed to take particular care of them until they are otherwise disposed of by you; but as the Vessel had not arrived the 29th. Ulto. (when I heard from Mr. Pearce) there is too much reason to fear they will come too late, as a mild and placid March and pleasant April (except the first days of it) has caused a most luxurient vegetation this Spring, with us, from North to South.

Not knowing where you may be when this letter shall have reached London, nor the hazard it might run in following of you if you should have left that metropolis, I shall do little more than *touch* political Subjects.

To tell you that the order of his Britannic Majesty in Council of the 8th. of June last, respecting Neutral Vessels had given much discontent in the United States, and, that that of the 6th. of November, and its results had thrown them into a flame, will hardly be News to you when you shall have received this letter. The subsequent order of the 8th. of Januy. has, in a degree, allayed the violence of the heat; but will by no means satisfy them without reparation for the Spoliations on our Trade, and the injuries we sustain from the non-performance of the Treaty of Peace. To effect these, if possible, by temperate means, by fair, and firm negotiation, an Envoy extraordinary is appointed, and will, I expect, sail in a few days. Mr. Jay is chosen for this trust?90 Mr. John Trumbull goes as his private Secretary.

Many measures have been moved in Congress in consequence of the aforementioned orders of the British Cabinet. Some have passed into Acts, and others are yet pending. Those which have become Laws are; one for fortifying our principal Seaports (which is now in vigorous execution) and for raising an additional Corps of 800 Artillerymen for the defence of them, and for other purposes. The Bills which are pending are to complete our present military establishment. To raise an Army of 25,000 in addition thereto. and to

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organize, put in training, and to hold in readiness at a minute's warning, a select Corps of 80,000 Militia. Of the passing of the first and last of these, no doubt seems to be entertained

90. Randolph wrote to Washington (May 6): "The secretaries of the treasury and war department being of opinion, that it is constitutional and expedient to empower Mr. Jay to conclude a treaty of commerce with Great Britain, the powers are drawn, conformably with those ideas. But as they entertain sentiments, different from mine, and have committed them to paper, permit me to assign a few of the most operative reasons on my mind.

"1. To permit such a treaty to be signed by Mr. Jay, and transmitted for ratification, is to abridge the power of the senate to judge of its merits. For according to the rules of good faith, a treaty, which is stipulated to be ratified, ought to be so, unless the conduct of the minister be disavowed and punished.

"2. If he be permitted to sign a treaty of commerce, No form of expression can be devised to be inserted in it, which will not be tantamount to a stipulation to ratify, or leave the matter as much at large; as if he had no such power.

"3. Tho' I believe, that the people of the U.S. desire a proper treaty of commerce with G. Britain; and we could enumerate so many articles, as to insure their approbation; yet am I persuaded, that no man can undertake to say, that they would be contented with one or two articles only; as is proposed by the gentlemen." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The written opinions of the other gentlemen of the Cabinet are not now found in those *Papers*.

on either side of the House; but those who are fearful of what they call a standing Army, will give all the opposition they can to the other. The result therefore none will predict in the present stage of the business.

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Besides these, a Bill passed the House of Representatives by a large Majority, founded on the following preamble and resolution.

Whereas, the injuries which have been suffered, and may be suffered by the United States, from violations committed by Great Britain, on their neutral rights and commercial interests, as well as from her failure to execute the seventh article of the treaty of peace, render it expedient for the interests of the United States, that the commercial intercourse between the two Countries should not continue to be carried on in the extent at present allowed:

Resolved, That from and after the first day of November next, all commercial intercourse between the Citizens of the United States, and the subjects of the King of Great Britain, or the citizens or subjects of any other nation, so far as the same respects articles of the growth or manufacture of G: Britain or Ireland, shall be prohibited.

This measure was arrested in the Senate, at the third reading, by the casting vote of the Vice-President; not, as it is said, and generally believed, from a disinclination to the ulterior expediency of the measure, but from a desire to try the effect of Negotiation previous thereto. Sequestration of British property

(exclusive of that in the funds) and other expedients of a similar kind, have been agitated in the House of Representatives; but seem I think to be talked off the Stage.

The Packet from Mr. Bartrand to Mr. Jefferson was forwarded by the first Post after it reached my hands. Mr. Jefferson resigned the Office of Secretary of State the first of January, and was succeeded by the late Attorney General Mr. Randolph whose place of Attorney General is filled by Judge Bradford of this State (Pennsyla.).

Enclosed I give you the trouble of receiving the copy of a letter which I wrote to Mr. Arthur Young, by Mr. Willm. Morris, on the 12th. of december last. At the time that letter was written I had no knowledge of Mr. Youngs late appointment, as Secretary of the National

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board of Agriculture, nor of the change of his political sentiments. It is not improbable but that he has, already, or will, make you acquainted with the purport of the above letter.

Be this however, as it may, my inducement to send you a copy of it, is, that if the case should be otherwise, if there appears to be any dereliction on his part to comply with my wishes, and a *fair* occasion should occur of mentioning the matter in the course of your peregrinations through England, Scotland or elsewhere and you see no impropriety from circumstances, or your views of the subject at the moment I should be glad

if you were to do it. My wish further is, to dispose of the lands I have had restored to me by Mr. De Barth, and in short my settled lands in the Western parts of this State, in the Counties of Fayette and Washington. I have raised the price of my lands on the Ohio and great Kanhawa to twenty shillings Virga. currency pr. Acre; the tract in Fayette (about 1700 acres) to forty, and that in Washington to thirty shillgs. pr. Acre Pennsylvania Curry.

I have no scruple to disclose to you, that my motives to these sales (as hath been, in part, expressed to Mr. Young) are to reduce my income, be it more or less, to specialties, that the remainder of my days may, thereby, be more tranquil and freer from cares; and that I may be enabled (knowing precisely my dependence) to do as much good with it as the resource will admit; for although, in the estimation of the world I possess a good, and clear estate, yet, so unproductive is it, that I am oftentimes ashamed to refuse aids which I cannot afford unless I was to sell part of it to answer the purpose. (Private) Besides these, I have another motive which makes me earnestly wish for the accomplishment of these things, it is indeed more powerful than all the rest. namely to liberate a certain species of property which I possess, very repugantly to my own feelings; but which imperious necessity compels; and until I can substitute some other expedient, by which expences not in my power to avoid (however well disposed I may be to do it) can be defrayed⁹¹ You are so well acquainted with the situation and quality of the lands which are here mentioned for Sale, that it is almost unnecessary to go more into detail respecting them, with you. Those however on the Ohio, between the Mouths of the little and Great Kanhawa, are in three

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tracts; first containing 2314 Acres, laying on the Banks of the River abt. 12 Miles below Mariatte,⁹² the 2d. 2448. acres, still lower down (being the 4th.

91. This "Private" paragraph is supplied from the facsimile in Bixby's *Letters from Washington to Lear* (New York: 1905). The "certain species of property" was slaves.

92. Marietta, Ohio.

large bottom on the east side of the River), and the 3d. on the same side opposite to the Great Bend in the River, containing 4395 acres. all of which are of the first quality. The Lands on the Great Kanhawa are in no respect inferior. They are contained in four Patents, the first, beginning within two miles of the mouth of that river, and contains 10990 Acres of the richest bottom; stretching 17 or 18 Miles along the river. The next of 7276 Acres is a little above the last, on the opposite side of the River, and the other two are still higher up, at the Mouth of, and on Coal River, both of the first quality and containing about 5,000 Acres.

Although it is my wish to convert these lands into Cash on the terms, and for the purposes mentioned, yet, for reasons which will readily occur to you, I would not hawk them about as some do if they were never to be sold.

I wish most sincerely that some inducement could be offered Professor Anderson⁹³ which would bring him to this Country. His labours are certainly ingenious and worthy of encouragement; but I fear it will not be in my power to avail these States of them. His communications however are under consideration.

Often through the medium of Mr. Langdon,⁹⁴ we hear of your son Lincoln, and with pleasure that he continues to be the healthy and sprightly child he always was.

93. John Anderson. He was professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, University of Glasgow.

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94. John Langdon.

He declared if his Ticket should turn up a prize he would go and live in the Federal City. He did not consider, poor little fellow, that some of the prizes would hardly build him a Baby house, nor foresee that one of these was to fall to his lot. Having drawn ten dollars only. Mr. Bl—ts95 Agency in this lottery will, it is feared, be more productive of thorns than roses; the matter is not yet wound up, and the Commissioners appear to be uneasy. In all others respects, matters, as far as the acct. of them have come to my knowledge are going on well.

My public avocations will not, at any rate, admit of more than a *flying* trip to Mount Vernon for a few days this Summer; this not suiting Mrs. Washington I have taken a house in Germantown to avoid the heat of this City in the months of July and August. She, Nelly and the rest of the family, unite with me in every good wish for your health, prosperity and safe return; than whom none, you may be assured, offers them with more sincerity. With Affection and regard I am and always shall be, Yours.

95. Samuel Blodget.

***To REVEREND JEREMY BELKNAP**

Philadelphia, May 9, 1794.

Sir: Your letter of the 14th. Ult. and the first Vol. of an American Biography, came safe to my hands. For both I pray you to accept my thanks; and to consider me as a subscriber for the latter.

I wish it was in my power to afford you any aid in the prosecution of so desireable a work. But I do not see wherein I can; and if I did, my avocations are of such a nature as to allow me no time to profit by the means. My good wishes therefore seems to be all that is left

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me, on this occasion. These, with great sincerity I offer you, with assurances of being, Sir etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Philadelphia, May 18, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 7th. instt. came duly to hand, with the Rental enclosed.

As there are no houses, or anything standing on my lots in the Town and Common of Winchester, it is of no great moment what is done with them. I am not disposed to sell them, nor to part with them on lease for a long term; but if you could obtain an annual Rent for either, or both, without running me to any expence, it would, however small, be clear. With respect to my lots in Bath, something ought to be done *with them* . The Buildings thereon, together with the lots, stand me in at least £200: but whether *common* interest can be obtained in a rent for them, you, who know the state of things in that quarter can judge better of than I am able to do; and therefore I leave it to you, to act for me as you would for yourself. If they were even let to some one who would keep the buildings in repair it would be more desirable by far than, without a tenant, or some person to take care of them, to suffer them to fall to ruin.

I do not know whether I clearly understand your proposition of an exchange of the Land on Potomac for a Lot in Berkeley County. The first contains 240 acres instead of 140, as mentioned in your letter; 200 of which is rich River bottom, which must, as the Navigation of the River improves, become extremely valuable from the produce it is capable of; besides the fine black Walnuts which grow thereon, and would fetch a good sum at the Federal City; if others can be restrained from pilfering them. On the other hand, I know of no land I hold at the mouth of Bullskin, nor any lease that was ever given to a person

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of the name of Dimmett. No such name I am pretty sure, is to be found in the original list of my Tenants, and equally sure I am no Leases have been given of late years (with my consent) for three lives. When you explain this matter more fully, it will be more in my power than it is at present to speak to you on this particular point. Speaking of Leases for lives, I am led to observe to you, that the lives will never decrease, nor the leases fall in, unless the Occupants, where they are not the Lessees, are put to the proof of the existence of those who were originally inserted. I do not recollect any instance of my changing names where the leases have been transferred, and but few of my consenting to transfers; which makes

me more desirous of knowing how a Person of the name of Demmitt (which I do not recollect at all) should be possessed of a lease, for three lives. I hope Muse has not abused my confidence in putting blank leases into his hands, signed, in order to be filled up thereafter by, doing it improperly.

Although I can very illy spare the money arising from the Rents you have collected; yet, if the Lots are susceptible of such augmentation in the annual income, by purchasing in the Leases as you think of I consent to your applying the money in your hands to this purpose, in cases where there is a moral certainty of a considerable increase of Rent; and, that the purchases are made by the first of next November. You will ascertain *precisely* before you attempt these purchases. 1st. what lives are *certainly* existing in them; and 2dly. whether the Covenants in them, have been complied with on the part of the Tenants, for in the first case I may be purchasing *that* which belongs to me of right, and in the second case, *that* which they have forfeited by a non-compliance with the conditions on which the leases were granted. You will recollect also, that by the terms of all, or most of the leases, the Tenant is not at liberty to sell to any one without my consent.

I am sorry you should meet with any difficulty about the land I gave you, near the Accocek old Iron works.³ I am not possessed of any Papers belonging to it, nor

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3. An account of the Accoceek lands is in Worthington C. Ford's *Wills of George Washington and His Immediate Ancestors*. 1891.

is it in my power to point you to any Office where they axe to be found; but I should conceive that the tract is so well known that all the adjoining landholders axe able to shew you the bounds of it. There was one John Honey that knew it well; and I believe Colo. Charles Carter of Ludlow has some knowledge of it. I have been told, that some person in Falmouth (whose name I do not recollect) had pillaged the Land of the most valuable Pines thereon; and that either he, or some other, talked of escheating it; but I never supposed injustice would prompt any one to such a measure. Perhaps this, or some such mode might be advisable for you, as the title Papers are not to be found, nor the manner in which my Mother came by it, to be traced with precision. By Will (I have understood) it was left to her by her Father (Ball)⁴ but what his Christian name was I am not able to tell you; nor the County he lived in with certainty, but presume it was Lancaster. This Will seems to me to be the only clue by which the title can be traced; the bequest, probably, may as usual contain some description of the Land.

Your Aunt and the family join me in best regards for Mrs. Lewis. I am &c.

[N.Y.P.L.]

4. Joseph. He was second son of William Ball, of "Epping Forest," Lancaster Count, Va.

***To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON**

Philadelphia, May 26, 1794.

Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to favor me, dated the 15th. of August last year, accompanying sevl. pamphlets on interesting subjects, came safe; though long after its date, as you will perceive by the enclosed note from a Mr. Callender; which serves

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as a wrapper of six guineas which I sent for the vols. of the Bee (15 in number) which have come to my hands. As you have never authorised any one to call upon me for the cost, I am uncertain as to the amount. If the sum herewith sent is short of it, I will pay the balance at anytime, to your order; if over, it may remain in your hands for the succeeding numbers, as they shall be published.

I thank you as well for the Seeds as for the Pamphlets which you had the goodness to send me. The artificial preparation of Hemp, from Silesia, is really a curiosity; and I shall think myself much favored in the continuance of your correspondence. When I have more leizure than at present, (just at the winding up of a long, laborious and interesting Session of Congress) I may write you more fully than it is in my power to do under such circumstances, relatively to the subjects you have touched upon.

This letter, and another which I have taken the liberty of putting under cover to the Earl of Buchan, is directed to the particular care of the American Minister in London. I wish them safe to hand, and that you wd. do me the justice to be assured of the esteem with which I am etc.11

11. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

To EARL OF BUCHAN

Philadelphia, May 26, 1794.

My Lord: It is no uncommon thing to attempt, by excuses, to atone for acts of omission; and frequently too at the expense of as much time as (seasonable employed) would have superceded the occasion of their presentment. Sensible as I am of this, and ashamed as I am of resorting to an apology so common; yet I feel so forcibly the necessity of making

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one for suffering your Lordship's very polite and obliging favor of the 30 of last June, to remain so long unacknowledged, that I cannot avoid falling into the error I am reprobating.

The truth is, the malignant fever which raged in this City during the months of August, September and October of last year (of which at least 5,000 of its inhabitants were swept off) occasioned my retreat therefrom on the 10th of September, and prevented my returning until sometime in November; between which and the meeting of Congress (the first Monday in December) I had hardly time to prepare for the session. The session has been long and interesting, and is not yet closed. Little leisure therefore have I had, during the period of its continuance, for the indulgence of private correspondences.

I did however, from Germantown in the early part of November, give your lordship the trouble of receiving a few

lines from me introductory of my friend Mr. Lear; and am exceedingly flattered by the polite attention with which he was honored, on my account, by your Lordship and the Countess of Buchan. He speaks of it (in a letter I have lately received from him in London) in the highest terms of respect and gratitude.

The sentiments which are expressed in your lordship's letter of the 30th of June, do honor to the goodness of your heart, and ought to be engraved on every man's heart. And if, instead of the provocations to war, bloodshed and desolation, (oftentimes unjustly given) the strife of nations, and of individuals, was to excel each other in acts of philanthropy, industry and œconomy; in encouraging *useful* arts and manufactures, promoting thereby the comfort and happiness of our fellow men, and in exchanging on liberal terms the products of one Country and clime, for those of another, how much happier would mankind be.

But providence, for purposes beyond the reach of mortal scan, has suffered the restless and malignant passions of man, the ambitious and sordid views of those who direct them, to keep the affairs of this world in a continual state of disquietude; and will, it is to be

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feared, place the prospects of peace too far off, and the promised millenium at an awful distance from our day.

In the disturbed state at which most nations seem to have arrived, and from which it is my earnest wish to keep this Country free (if it can be done consistently with honor, and the respect which every nation owes to itself as well as to others) I shall avoid all details on political subjects, and having no other at present worthy attention, I shall conclude with asking your lordship's forgiveness for the liberty I have taken in putting the packet for Dr. Anderson, under cover of this letter to you, directed to the care of the American minister in London: assuring you at the same time of the sentiments of high respect and esteem with which I have the honor etc.10

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

On May 25 Washington wrote to Thomas Pinckney, consigning this letter to his care "It is my wish that it should go safe, without much loss of time; but I am not willing to saddle his lordship with the Postage of it, from an opinion that he can receive it as well without this expence as with it; of this however you will be the best judge." The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The "Letter Book" copy is dated May 26.

To DOCTOR JAMES MEASE

Philadelphia, May 29, 1794.

Sir: The President of the U States has recd. your Letter together with a copy of your essay on the disease produced by the bite of a mad-dog. The President has directed me to assure you that his sincere wishes are offered for the useful effects of a work calculated to throw light on a subject so interesting; and to make his acknowledgements for your politeness in presenting it to him. I am etc.16

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***To CHARLES CARTER**

Philadelphia, May 29, 1794.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 14th. instant.

16. Signed "Bw. Dandridge" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The inclosed to Mr. John Lewis, left open for your perusal, will shew what I require for myself, and am willing to do for others. Do you and he therefore, after full enquiry into facts point out what this ought to be, and no delay shall be experience from me.

The two hundred pounds for which you endorsed an order upon a Merchant of this place, has been duly paid. The remainder of the money due me for the purchase of the lots (amounting to about two hundred pounds more) I give, as I desired Mr. Howell Lewis to inform you, to my niece Mrs. Carter.¹⁵ And by these presents I confirm the gift. Give my love to her. With great esteem and regard. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To JOHN LEWIS**

Philadelphia, May 29, 1794.

Dear Sir: The letter of which the enclosed is a copy, renders further explanation on my part in a manner unnecessary. I must beg leave notwithstanding to add that when mistakes happen the sooner they can be rectified the better.

All I recollect of this matter (and that but imperfectly) is, that Colo. Lewis (your father) purchased from a Michael Robinson for, and on my account, the lots in

15. Elizabeth (Lewis) Carter. She was a daughter of "Betty" (Washington) Lewis.

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Fredericksburgh on which my mother lived. Robinson (I believe) bought them of him; and no Deeds having been made for them, *he* to avoid trouble, and the expence of double transfers, conveyed them to me.

If this was done by wrong numbers it is incumbent on you as heir at law, to correct the error; and it may be necessary that I should, for the same reason, convey the lots 111 and 113 to the rightful owner of them.

I wish that you and Mr. Carter wd. examine into this matter *thoroughly* , and whatever is proper to be done on my part, shall be executed without delay. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, June 1, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d. ulto. I have recd. and thank you for your kind attention to the trees which were imported for my use in the Peggy, particularly for your having sent them to Mount Vernon, altho' I fear the season was too far advanced to entertain much hope of their living.

The purport of the enclosed, which I pray you to forward by a safe conveyance, is to ask the favor of your brother to take charge of my moiety of the manor

of Woodstock. With esteem and regard, I am etc.17

To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Philadelphia, June 1, 1794.

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Sir: The north part of Woodstock manor in Montgomery County (lately the property of Richd. Sprigg Esqr.) has fallen to my lot by the division thereof which was made by you and Mr. Jones.

Colo. Wm. Deakins, at your request and for which I thank you, has informed me that the tenants are committing trespasses thereon. Will you permit me therefore to request the favor of you to cause, on my behalf, a stop to be put to them. You would oblige me also by furnishing me with the names of the tenants who live on my part of the manor; what rents they pay; what kind of tenements they occupy, and the order they are kept in. In a word, I wou'd thank you for paying some attention to my interest therein. With esteem etc.18

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

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

To JOHN FITZGERALD

Philadelphia, June 13, 1794.

Dear Sir: A week rarely passes without bringing me a letter of similar contents with the enclosed. As a common centre I am addressed by all those who know not where else to apply. Altho' it is apart from my public duties, and I have very little leisure for private occupations, yet I have never failed (either by myself or some other) to make a response to the request which has been received.

This must be my apology for asking your aid in the present case, of such details as will enable me to satisfy the enquiries of Mr. Smith. These details, and his letter,²⁵ you will be pleased to forward at your convenience to Dear Sir etc.²⁶

***To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**

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(Private)

Baltimore, June 19, 1794.

My dear Sir: The difficulty (under existing circumstances) of knowing what to write to you, had determined me to write nothing, but to let the matter rest altogether

25. Fitzgerald's answer and Smith's letter are not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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

"Had a meeting with the Chiefs of the Cherokee Indians, now in Philada. at my house. The Secretaries of State. Treasury and War, and Colo. Pickering were present. the great pipe was smoaked by all. delivered a speech to them in writing several of them spoke. and after having eaten and drank plentifully of Cake and wine, they departed seemingly well pleased: being referred to Genl. Knox for further communication."— *Journal of the Proceedings of the President*, June 14, 1794.

upon the public communications from The Secretary of State. Coming to this place, however, (on a flying trip to Mount Vernon) and finding the Vessel in which Mr. Monroe is on board, had not left the River, I have so far departed from my determination as to be seated in order to assure you that my confidence in, and friendship and regard for you, remains undiminished. To time, and your own observations, if you should return immediately to this country, I commit the rest; and It will be nothing new to assure you that I am always and very sincerely Yours etc.

***To JAMES MONROE**

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1794.

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Dear Sir: I expected to have put the enclosed³⁹ into your hands at Baltimore, on my way to this place; but you had left it in the morning of the day I got there. I now beg leave to trouble you with the delivery, or the forwarding of it.

I hope you and Mrs. Monroe have had a pleasant passage and are well. My best respects attend her, and I am etc.⁴⁰

39. Washington's letter to Gouverneur Morris, June 29, 1794, *q. v.*

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

***To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1794.

My dear Sir: The sole object of the enclosed letter⁴⁴ was to evince to you, that notwithstanding your recall, you held the same place in my estimation that you did before it happened. I expected to have got the letter into Colo. Monroes hands before the Vessel in which he was, had left Patapsco River; but a fresh and fair wind coming up, prevented its reaching him.

Since my arrival at this place I have been favored with your private letter of the 12th. of March, enclosing duplicate of the 5th. of Feby. For both I thank you. To common accidents, or to the interception of letters for purposes to be guessed, are to be ascribed those disappointments of which you complain; for I am almost certain, information of what was going forward in this country, was regularly transmitted to you: possibly, and probably, not by duplicates, which ought to have been the case, for the greater certainty of getting it to you.

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The uncertainty (where letters are not entrusted to confidential persons, or sent by special messengers) of their getting to hand, will restrain me from going into detail at this time. I shall only

44. Washington's letter to Gouverneur Morris, June 19, 1794, *q. v.*

add therefore to the acknowledgment of the receipt of the above letters, that I am entirely ignorant of the source from whence, or the foundation on which, Major Jackson has erected the fabrics of your recall, and your successor. Directly nor indirectly, could he have derived them from me, for the best of all reasons, viz, that not until some considerable time after Mr. Fauchet had arrived in this country, did I entertain an idea of the first; or contemplate the latter; for until then, I had supposed you stood well with the powers that were. Sure I am, nothing short of evidence to the contrary (with the request that accompanied it) would have induced the measure. To Major Jackson I have never written a line since he left this Country, nor received one from him.

The prospective you have drawn is not very pleasing; but it serves to make one more anxious for a nearer view.

The affairs of this country *cannot go amiss*. There are *so many watchful guardians of them*, and such *infallible guides*, that one is at no loss for a director at every turn. But of these matters I shall say little; if you are disposed to return to it, leave you to judge of them from your own observation. My primary objects, and to which I have steadily adhered, have been to preserve the country in peace if I can, and to be prepared for war if I cannot. To effect the first upon terms consistent with the

respect which is due to ourselves, and with honor, justice and good faith to all the world, Mr. Jay (and not Mr. Jefferson as hath been suggested to you) embarked as Envoy extraordinary for England, about the middle of May. If he succeeds, well. If he does not, why, knowing the worst, we must take measures accordingly. I am yours affectionately.

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To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, July 1, 1794.

The letter with which you were pleased to favor me dated the 12th ultimo, I received at George Town on my way to this place.

I am much obliged to you for your ready compliance with my request, and for the trouble you have taken to examine into the trespasses which have been committed on my part of Woodstock manor. The footing on which you have placed the collection and deposit of the rents, on my behalf, is very agreeable to me; and I thank you for the assurance that you will have an eye to my interest in your neighbourhood.

I should greatly prefer the cultivation of wheat to Tobacco, on those lands, and I should have thought myself happy in

having such a tenant as Mr. Oneil; but it is long since I have formed a fixed resolution never to let land to any one who does not live on it, but adjoining thereto; because I have found from experience, in all these cases, that my land has always been pressed hard to save their own; and of the improvements which it ought to receive from the stock, litter &c., it hath been robbed for the benefit of the other. I mean by no means to suggest that this would be the case with Mr. Oneil, but to shew the principle on which my resolution has been founded. Besides it might be inconvenient perhaps to the tenants that are on the land to be dispossessed. With great esteem etc.50

***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Philadelphia, July 18, 1794.

Dear Sir: If in a letter, not long since written to you, you were authorized to rent the Small tract of land I hold on Difficult run, in Loudoun County, I now desire that you will not do it.

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I have had some Overtures for the purchase of it; and have been offered five pounds an Acre, giving credit, which I was willing to do; but the thing that parted us at that time, and may possibly do

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

so forever, was interest, the person wanted credit without paying this, to which I would not consent. But as land thereabouts is rising fast in values, I have no doubt of obtaining the price and terms, and even more, by keeping it up; provided it is not incumbered with a Lease.

I authorised you in my last, to lay out the money, collected on my behalf, for Rents due me, in purchasing in the Leases; but restricted this operation, not to exceed (if I recollect rightly) the first of November. I now prolong it until the first of January (which closes the present year;) beyond which you are not at liberty to apply money to this purpose, without further instructions from me.

You must be very particular in examining into the real state and condition of the Leases; for if the accounts of the Tenants (without this enquiry) is to govern; the lives will never expire. It is essential also to know, if transfers have taken place, under what authority it has happened; as there is a clause, or covenant in the leases (if my memory serves me), restraining this, without written permission of the Landlord. And if it shall appear, by any of the leases, that an alteration of names, from the original instrument, has taken place, to learn with precision, by what means it has taken place. I shall expect written evidence of these facts. a verbal explanation

without, from the Tenants, will not satisfy me. My love to Mrs. Lewis in wch. your Aunt joins. With affecte. friendship I am etc.

[M.H.S.]

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***To RICHARD POTTS**

Philadelphia, July 20, 1794.

Sir: A person has just called upon me (by direction he says) for an answer to your letter of the 17th. Instt.

I can do no more than acknowledge the receipt of it. It conveys the first information of the death of the late Collector of the Port of Baltimore; and I never decide in the first moments of such information, on a Successor; being desirous (and having so determined from the beginning of my administration) always, to obtain a full knowledge of circumstances before I either nominate, or in the recess of the Senate, appoint, Persons to Office. with great esteem, I am etc.⁶⁶

***To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR**

Philadelphia, July 20, 1794.

Sir: I am indebted to you for your several favors of the 15th. of June, 15th of August and 11th of September of the last; and for that of the 6th. of February in the present year; for which, and the Pamphlets accompanying them my thanks are

66. From a photostat of the original in the Boston Public Library.

particularly due. To say this and to have suffered them to remain so long unacknowledged, needs explanation. The truth is, they came to hand, the first of them, about the opening, and the second set towards the close of a long and interesting Session of Congress, during which my time was very much occupied, and at the end thereof I had a pressing call to my estate in Virginia from whence I have not been returned more than ten or twelve days.

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I have read with peculiar pleasure and approbation, the work you patronise, so much to your own honor and the utility of the public. Such a general view of the Agriculture in the several Counties of Great Britain is extremely interesting; and cannot fail of being very beneficial to the Agricultural concerns of your Country and to those of every other wherein they are read, and must entitle you to their warmest thanks for having set such a plan on foot, and for prosecuting it with the zeal and intelligence you do. I am so much pleased with the plan and execution myself, as to pray you to have the goodness to direct your Book-seller to continue to forward them to me, accompanied with the cost which shall be paid to his order or remitted so soon as the amount is made known to me. When the whole are received I will promote, as far as in me lays, the reprinting of them here.

I know of no pursuit in which

more real and important service can be rendered to any Country, than by improving its agriculture, its breed of useful animals, and other branches of a husbandmans cares; nor can I conceive any plan more conducive to this end than the one you have introduced for bringing to view the actual state of them, in all parts of the Kingdom; by which good and bad habits are exhibited in a manner too plain to be misconceived; for the accounts given to the British board of Agriculture, appear in general, to be drawn up in a masterly manner, so as fully to answer the expectations formed in the excellent plan wch. produced them; affording at the sametime a fund of information useful in political œconomy, serviceable in all countries.

Commons, Tithes, Tenantry (of which we feel nothing in this country) are in the list of impediments I perceive, to perfection in English farming, and taxes are heavy deductions from the profit thereof. Of these we have none, or so light as hardly to be felt. Your system of Agriculture, it must be confessed, is in a stile superior and of course much more expensive than ours, but when the balance at the end of the year is struck, by deducting

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the taxes, poor rates, and incidental charges of every kind, from the produce of the land, in the two Countries, no doubt can remain in which Scale it is to

be found. It will be sometime I fear, before an Agricultural Society with Congressional aids will be established in this Country; we must walk as other countries have done before we can run, Smaller Societies must prepare the way for greater, but with the lights before us, I hope we shall not be so slow in maturation as older nations have been. An attempt, as you will perceive by the enclosed outlines of a plan, is making to establish a State Society in Pennsylvania for Agricultural improvements. If it succeeds, it will be a step in the ladder, at present it is too much in embryo to decide on the result.

Our domestic animals, as well as our Agriculture, are inferior to yours in point of size but this does not proceed from any defect in the stamina of them, but to deficient care in providing for their support; experience having abundantly evinced that where our pastures are as well improved as the soil and climate will admit; where a competent store of wholesome provender is laid up and proper care used in serving it, that our horses, black cattle, Sheep &ca. are not inferior to the best of their respective kinds which have been imported from England. Nor is the wool of our Sheep inferior to that of the *common* sort with you: as a proof, after the Peace of Paris in 1783, and my return to the occupations of a farmer, I paid particular attention to my breed

of Sheep (of which I usually kept about seven or eight hundred). By this attention, at the shearing of 1789, the fleeces yielded me the average quantity of 5¼ lb of wool; a fleece of which, promiscuously taken, I sent to Mr. Arthur Young, who put it, for examination, into the hands of Manufacturers. These pronounced it to be equal in quality to the Kentish Wool. In this same year, i.e. 1789 I was again called from home, and have not had it in my power since to pay any attention to my farm. The consequence of which is, that my Sheep, at the last shearing, yielded me not more than 2½ lbs.

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This is not a single instance of the difference between care and neglect. Nor is the difference between good and bad management confined to that species of Stock; for we find that good pastures and proper attention, can and does, fill our markets with beef of seven, eight and more hundred weight the four quarters; whereas from 450 to 500 (especially in the States South of this where less attention hitherto has been paid to grass) may be found about the average weight. In this market, some Bullocks were killed in the months of March and April last, the weights of wch., as taken from the accounts which were published at the time, you will find in a paper enclosed. These were pampered Steers, but from 800 to a thousand, the four

quarters, is no uncommon weight.

Your general history of Sheep, with observations thereon, and the proper mode of managing them, will be an interesting work when compleated; and with the information, and accuracy I am persuaded it will be executed, under your auspices, must be extremely desirable. The climate of this Country, particularly that of the middle States is congenial to this species of animal; but want of attention to them in most farmers, added to the obstacles which prevent the importation of a better kind, by men who would be at the expence, contributes not a little to the present inferiority we experience.

Mr. Edwards would have it as much in his power as most of our farmers, to solve the queries you propounded to him; In addition to which a gentlemen of my acquaintance (who is also among the best farmers of this Country,) to whom I gave the perusal of your propositions, has favored me with some ideas on the subject, as you will find on a paper, herewith enclosed.

The sample you were so obliging as to put into the hands of Mr. Lear, for me, of a Scotch fabric, is extremely elegant, and I prey you to accept my thanks for it, as I entreat you also to do for the civilities shewn to that gentlemen, who has a grateful sense of them.

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Both Mr. Adams and Mr. Jefferson had the perusal of the papers which accompanied your note of the 11th of Sept.

With great respect etc.67

***To BURGESS BALL**

Philadelphia, July 27, 1794.

Dear Sir: Eight or ten days ago I wrote to you concerning a Manager for the Tilt hammer which you contemplated the erection of; since which I have received your letter of the 15th. instant; in which, doubts of going on with it are expressed. As I am equally ignorant of the expence of erecting, and the profit when erected, I can say nothing encouraging or discouraging of the measure: but if from an apprehension that the tract you bought is sickly, or from any other cause, you are disposed to part with it, it is possible the United States would become the purchaser, on which to establish an Arsenal. The person who was employed by the War department, to explore the water conveniences on the Margin of the River, above the Great Falls, (best calculated for this work) seems to have given a preference to yours, although others are favorably mentioned.

67. From a facsimile in *Letters on Agriculture from His Excellency George Washington to Arthur Young and Sir John Sinclair* (Washington: 1847).

With respect to your enquiries into the character of Crow, as an Overseer, I will relate what I know of him, fully; but it ought to be premised, that he became the Overlooker of my Union farm after I left home in 1789, and that my only opportunities of forming an opinion of him, has been from the occasional visits I have made to Mount Vernon since. The ideas I have formed of him are these. That he has good and bad qualities; but if he is to act under your own eyes, the former would preponderate, if you are strict, and will keep him with your people; and others from his house. With me (who could not look into my own

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business, and his disregard of those who superintended it) he was too often from home, and had too much company with him when at it; although rigidly restricted from both, by written articles; the consequence of wch. (supposing the negros had been idle during his absence) was, that he and his charge were perpetually at variance. This, and inattention to the Stock, and farming impliments (not more however than usual with Men who have these things provided at the expence of another) are the exceptionable parts of his character. On the other hand, he is active, understands farming full as well, perhaps better, than most of his Countrymen who have not been regularly trained to it; and possesses more judgment in conducting the business of a farm than you generally meet with among that class of people. In a word,

my best crops have been raised by him; but from the causes I have mentioned (and possibly from a hasty temper) I had too frequent complaints of ill treatment, though I must acknowledge I never discovered any marks of abuse, and the whole may be summed up in this: if you can keep him *always* with your people he will make you a good Overseer; and without it, neither *he* or *any other man* will. With me, it is an established maxim, that an Overseer shall never be absent from his people but at night, and at his meals; and if he is intended to be under your own eye I do not conceive it would be any difficulty to accomplish this, having it so expressed in a written agreement, with a penalty annexed.

I am glad to hear that you are getting much better, and that your family are well. My love to them, in wch. Mrs. Washingtons joins. I am etc.⁶⁹

***To ISRAEL SHREVE**

Philadelphia, July 28, 1794.

Sir: Your letter of the 29th. Ult. came to my hands a few days ago only.

69. From the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.

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Mr. Samuel Jackson (if that is the name of the person who asked me sometime in the course of last winter, if I would dispose of my land in Fayette, and at what price) must very greatly have misunderstood my answer if he conceived thirty shillings an acre was the value I had set upon it.

The truth is, that at no period since I dissolved my partnership with Simpson, and had any idea of parting with this, and my other Lands West of the Alliganey Mountains, did I ever fix a less value than forty shillings pr. Acre on the tract you live. It is not to be presumed then that I should lower my price when it was encreasing twenty five, fifty, and even an hundred pr. Ct. in almost every direction.

Mr. Jackson must have mistaken the tract in Washington County for that in Fayette, from the price; for thirty shillings pt. Acre was the value I put on that. The conversation I had with that Gentleman was very short; for when I found he did not mean to be the purchaser himself, but was making enquiries merely to satisfy his own curiosity or to gratify that of others, I told him I had rated them at such and such prices, 40/ I think for that in Fayette, and 30/ for the other; and being asked if I would allow any credit, he was answered yes; provided a certain part of the purchase was paid at the time of ensealing and delivery; and interest paid on the residue. But he was told at parting,

that as nothing final had taken place between him and me, he was not to consider anything that passed between us, as binding upon me at a future day.

Mentioning this matter to a Gentleman well acquainted with the value, and prices of land in that Country, he told me he thought the Land on wch. you live (the whole tract I mean) would fetch Six dollars an Acre: accordingly, Mr. Ross of Washington (one of your Senators) has been authorised by me to sell both tracts; Not knowing therefore what he may have done in this matter, I cannot be more precise with you, at this time. If the land is not already under engagement, and I do not believe it is, as it is but lately the power to dispose of it was given; it would give me pleasure that you shd. have the preference, if Mr.

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Ross and you can agree on the price. And if you would pay a fourth of the purchase down, you might have credit for the residue four, five, or even Six years, giving the Land, and your Bond bearing interest, as security. With esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To JOHN COWPER

Philadelphia, July 30, 1794.

Sir: By Saturday's post I recd. a Letter from Mr. Chris: Cowper dated the 18. instant, enclosing one from you of the 23d. of June. The Letter alluded to in the last, has been recd.

It is a very singular occurrence that the Capt.— Waglam, to whose care £140 was committed for my use, should rather choose to hazard the conveyance of it back, than deliver it to my Secretary; whom I left in this City to transact my business during my absence; who pays and receives all monies for me, and who having my books in his possession, and knowing on what acct. the money would have been paid, would have passed a rect. accordingly. And equally singular I think is, that *now* I should be asked by Mr. C. Cowper (who I presume, tho' he does not say so, writes by your order) if I will take a bill drawn by Messrs. Watson Stott & Co. at 15 days sight on Messrs. Hartshorne & Co. of Alexandria, adding, "should any other mode of payment be more agreeable, be pleased to point it out."

My former Letters I conceive were pointedly expressive of my want of the money, and the bond would shew that it ought to have been pd. in May 1793. Where then is the propriety of such procrastination,

when the money so idly and unaccountably returned by Capt. Waglam wou'd at any time purchase a bill on this City for the amt. without the delay of writing to enquire whether

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I wou'd accept a Dft. on a Gentlen. living 150 miles from me, payable in 15 days after sight; receivg. my answer; forwarding the bill to this place; sendg. it back to Alexandria; and finally, if accepted, to wait 15 days for paymt. However, Sir, if the money cannot be pd. me without all these evolutions, I will receive a Dft. on Messrs. Hartshorne & Co. for whatever sum you are pleased to allow on the bond, for wch. you will be credited as soon as the money is pd. agreeably to the tenor of the Dft. I presume (for in fact I know nothing of the state of this business) that the discharge of the bond wch. is assigned me for £ 70 compleats the last paymt. for the Land you bot. of Mr. Jno Lewis; otherwise there cou'd have been no pretext for withholdg. any part of the sum due thereon: but havg. been led into this correspondence from the assignmt. of the Bd. without the least intention on my part of meddling at all in the business; I must now once for all, pray you to pay so much of the sd. bond as you choose; inform Mr. Lewis of your reasons for withholdg. the balce., and of the disputes abt. boundaries. It was

70. Left blank in the draft.

he who sold the land to you, much against my judgmt. (for I thot. at the time it was, in a manner given away) and without my consent. Be this however as it may and under all the disadvantages attendg. it, the contract must be fulfilled with good faith accordg. to the expression of the written instrument. This Mr. Lewis has more leisure, and no doubt has the disposition to do; and what he does respectg. the disputed land, or disputes of any other kind, will meet my acquiescence. I am etc.⁷¹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES WILKINSON

United States, April 2, 1794.

Sir: I have received the letter which you addressed to me, accompanied by a new map of the present theatre of war, north west of the Ohio; which I consider as the best description extant of the Country to which it relates.

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The value of the object is greatly enhanced in my estimation by its being the production of the officer second in command of the American Legion.

This desire of being useful in the highest degree to the service, in which you

71. From a photostat of the draft in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge kindly furnished by the Huntington Library.

are employed, affords me great satisfaction. Nothing should have prevented my having it published, but an apprehension that an improper use may be made of the information it contains in this apparently eventful moment. This apprehension however may be obviated at a future period. I am etc.³⁰

***To THE CHIEF JUSTICE⁵⁵**

Tuesday Mornng., April 15, 1794.

Dear Sir: At as early an hour this morning, as you can make convenient to yourself, I should be glad to see you. At eight o'clock we breakfast. Then, or after, as suits you best, I will expect to have the satisfaction of conversing with you on an interesting subject. Yours etc.

30. The draft is in the writing of a War Department clerk.

55. John Jay.

***To JOHN JAY**

Philadelphia, May 7, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of Sunday came to my hands yesterday,⁹⁶ and for the Pamphlet enclosed, I thank you.⁹⁷

Library of Congress

The purport of my last to you, with the enclosure, are incontrovertible evidences that no offer had been, or could be made to the Gentleman you mention,⁹⁸ until you had decided on the proposition which was made to yourself. The report therefore, of its having been so made, could be no other than mere conjecture.

I take the liberty of troubling you with a packet for Mr. Lear. Where he may be when you shall have got to London, is more than I can say; but to your care I comit the letter. I do, most sincerely wish you a safe and pleasant passage, a fortunate result to the business entrusted to you, and a speedy return to your family and friends, being with the most Affecte. regard Yours etc.

96. Jay's letter of May 4 is in the *Washington Papers*.

97. The pamphlet was by Noah Webster, jr. The title of it was not mentioned by Jay, but it probably was Webster's *French Revolution*.

98. Jay's letter of May 4 also stated that the news of the offer to Livingston had somehow leaked out and was being discussed before Livingston received Washington's letter of April 29 *q. v.*

On May 9 Washington wrote to Webster, thanking him for the copy of the pamphlet which Webster had sent. This letter is in the New York Public Library; but no letter from Webster to Washington inclosing a pamphlet is now found in the *Washington Papers*, and the title of the pamphlet is not mentioned by Washington.

On May 9 Washington sent to the Senate for confirmation a long list of names of officers for promotion and appointment in the Legion of the United States, as also in the Cavalry and Artillery. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The names are printed in the *Executive Journal*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Library of Congress

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1794.

Dear Sir: Monday's Post brought me your letter of the 18th. instant, with its enclosures. The Minister of his Britanic Majesty,⁴¹ seems more disposed to be captious than conciliatory. Whether it proceeds from *his* ideas of policy, the advice of his counsellors, or a natural petulance of temper, remains to be developed.⁴²

The enclosed letter, from Mr. Reuben Harvey,⁴³ is similar to one I recd. from him some time ago, and which I either gave, or intended to give, to you. Do, as shall appear to you right with them. I shall endeavor to be back by the time I allotted, before I left Philadelphia, if I am able; but an exertion, to save my horse and self from falling among rocks at the lower Falls of the Potomac (whither I went on Sunday mornng. to see the Canal and Locks) has wrenched my back in such a manner as to prevent my riding; and, hitherto, has defeated the purposes for which I came home. My stay here, will only be until I can ride with ease and safety, whether I accomplish my own business or not. I am&c.

41. George Hammond.

42. Secretary of State Randolph had written to Washington (June 20) that "from the whole tenor of his [Hammond's] correspondence, he seems to be exceedingly perulent; exposes many weak sides; does his cause an injury; thinks that it is something to say the last word. however unimportant it may be; and endeavors to keep up a fog, until he sees the course which his court may take." Randolph's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

43. Of Cork, Ireland.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Library of Congress

(Private)

Tuesday Morning, August 19, 1794.

Dear Sir: I sincerely condole with you and Mrs. Randolph on your late loss; but as it was an event which had been long expected, I hope she will meet the stroke with fortitude.

Under the circumstances wch. exist, it is by no means my desire that you should attend to the duties of yr. Departmt. Lt the City today, unless it accords *perfectly* with your convenience and inclination. In that case and that only It is my wish that the files of your Office may be thoroughly examined to set if such communications are on them as Mr. Jaudenes⁹⁰ refer to. and that you, and the Secy. of the Treasury wd. give this matter full consideration between this and tomorrow when at ten O'clock I will meet you both at my house in town to know the result and to converse further on this subject which from present appearances, I think undignified, and highly insulting on the part of Spain. Yours etc.

90. José Jaudenes, Spanish Chargé to the United States.

To MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE¹

Philadelphia, August 30, 1794.

My Lord: I have had the pleasure of receiving your Lordship's letter introducing to me M. Taillerand Perigord.²

It is matter of no small regret to me that considerations of a public nature, which you will easily conjecture, have not hitherto permitted me to manifest towards that Gentleman, the sense I entertain of his personal character and of your Lordship's recommendation. But I am informed that the reception he has met with in general, has been such as to console him, as far as the state of society here will admit of it, for what he has relinquished

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in leaving Europe. Time must naturally be favorable to him every where, and may be expected to raise a man of his talents and merit above the temporary disadvantages, which in revolutions result from differences of political opinion.

It would be painful for me to anticipate that the misfortunes of Europe could be the cause of an event which on every personal account would give me the truest satisfaction, the opportunity of welcoming you to a Country, to the esteem of which you have so just

1. Sir William Petty, Marquis of Lansdowne and Earl of Shelburne.

2. Lansdowne's letter was one of the many abstracted by Sprague from the *Washington Papers*. It is now in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A photostat of it is in the *Washington Papers*.

a title, and of testifying to you more particularly the sentiments of respect and cordial regard with which I have the honor etc.³

***To JOHN JAY**

Philadelphia, August 30, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 23d of June from London (and the duplicate) have both been received; and your safe arrival after so short a passage gave sincere pleasure, as well on private as on public account, to all your friends in this Country; and to none in a greater degree, I can venture to assure you, than it did to myself.

As you will receive letters from the Secretary of States Office giving an official account of the public occurrences as they have arisen, and progressed, it is unnecessary for me to re-touch any of them: and yet, I cannot restrain myself from making some observations on the most recent of them, the communication of which was received this morning *only* . I

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mean the protest of the Govr. of Upper Canada (delivered by Lieutt. Sheaffe,⁴ against our occupying Lands far from

3. The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, The date line is in that of Washington.

4. Roger Hall Sheaffs.

any of the Posts which, long ago, they ought to have surrendered; and far within the known, *and until now*, the acknowledged limits of the United States.

On this irregular, and high handed proceeding of Mr. Simcoe, which is no longer *masked*, I would rather hear what the Ministry of G. Britain will say, than pronounce my own sentiments thereon. But can that government or will it attempt, after this *official* act of one of their governors, to hold out ideas of friendly intentions towards the United States, and suffer such conduct to pass with impunity?

This may be considered as the most open and daring act of the British Agents in America, though it is not the most hostile or cruel; for there does not remain a doubt in the mind of any well informed person in this country (not shut against conviction) that all the difficulties we encounter with the Indians, their hostilities, the murders of helpless women and innocent children along our frontiers, results from the conduct of the Agents of Great Britain in this Country. In vain is it then for its Administration *in Britain* to disavow having given orders which will warrant such conduct, whilst their Agents go unpunished; whilst

we have a thousand corroborating circumstances and indeed almost as many evidences (some of which cannot be brought forward) to prove that they are seducing from our alliances (endeavouring to remove over the line) tribes that have hitherto been kept in peace and friendship with us, at a heavy expence, and who have no cause of complaint except pretended ones, of their creating; whilst they keep in a state of irritation the tribes who are hostile to us, and are instigating those who know little of us, or we of them, to unite in the War against us; and whilst it is an undeniable fact that they are furnishing the

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whole with Arms, Ammunition, cloathing, and even provisions to carry on the war; I might go further, and if they are not much belied, add men also, in disguise.

Can it be expected I ask, so long as these things are known in the United States, or at least firmly believed, and suffered with impunity by G. Britain, that there ever will, or can be any cordiality between the two Countries? I answer NO! and I will undertake, without the gift of prophecy, to predict, that it will be impossible to keep this Country in a state of amity with G. Britain long if the Posts are not surrendered. A knowledge of these being *my* sentiments, would have little weight I am persuaded with the British Admn; nor perhaps with

the Nation, in effecting the measure: but both may rest satisfied that if they want to be in Peace with this Country, and to enjoy the benefits of its trade &ca. to give up the Posts is the only road to it. withholding them, and the consequences we feel at present, continuing, war will be inevitably.

This letter is written to you in extreme haste, whilst the Papers respecting this subject I am writing on are copying at the Secretary of States Office to go by Express to New York, for a Vessel which we have just heard Sails tomorrow: you will readily perceive therefore I had no time for digesting, and as little for correcting it. I shall only add that you may be assured always of the sincere friendship and Affection of your &c.5

5. The press copy has been re-inked by Washington in several places and minor verbal changes made.

On September 5 Washington inclosed a copy of this letter to Jay, with the following note: "This encloses a copy of my last; written, as you will readily perceive, with much haste; as one indication of it, I omitted the stamp of privacy; but you would not, I am persuaded, consider it as official nor in any other light than as the private sentiments very hastily thrown together of Yours etc." The press copy of this is in the *Washington Papers*.

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***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, September 30, 1794.

Dear Sir: Under the circumstances which exist to exceed your proposed time of absence so long, is to be regretted. but hearing nothing from you for a considerable time has given alarm, lest some untoward accident may have been the cause of it.

Having occasion sometime ago to write to Colo. Ball on business, I observed that the land of which he was possessed was reported as a favorable spot on which to establish an Arsenal and desired to know if he was disposed to part with it. He answered, that he had not entertained any thoughts of doing it; but he would take twenty or twenty five (I am not sure which) thousand dollars for the whole tract; containing, I think one thousand Acres. I replied the sum, I was sure, was much more than the appropriation would allow, if the land was worth it. and therefore

it was needless to think more of the matter. Since that I have received the enclosed letter, from him to you on the subject under cover to me. Ten days ago I wrote him that when you returned, his letter should be presented, and I presumed an answer would be given; thus stands the matter.

The other letter from General Wilkinson, enclosed for your perusal, you may think, and say what you please, respecting it.

I am in the moment of my departure for Carlisle, where my ulterior movements will be resolved upon; this prevents me from adding more at this time than that, with sincere esteem, regard and friendship I am etc.²⁰

***To MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL MORGAN²⁸**

Carlisle, October 8, 1794.

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Dear Sir: In the moment I was leaving the City of Philadelphia for this place, your letter of the 24th Ult. was put into my hands. Although I regret the

20. The following entry is recorded in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* (September 30): "Tuesday the 30 September 1 set out on a journey into the western parts of Pennsylvania, and returned to the City of Philada on Tuesday 28 October."

28. Of the Virginia Militia.

occasion which has called you into the field, I rejoice to hear you are there; and because it is probable I may meet you at Fort Cumberland, whither I shall proceed, so soon as I see the Troops at this rendezvous in condition to advance. At that place, or at Bedford, my ulterior resolution must be taken, either to advance with the Troops into the Insurgent Counties of this State, or to return to Philadelphia for the purpose of meeting Congress the 3d. of next month.

Imperious circumstances alone can justify my absence from the Seat of Government whilst Congress are in Session; but if these, from the disposition of the People in the refractory Counties, and the state of the information I expect to receive at the advanced Posts, should appear to exist the lesser must yield to the greater duties of my office and I shall cross the mountains with the Troops; if not, I shall place the command of the combined force under the orders of Governor Lee of Virginia and repair to the Seat of Government.

I am perfectly in sentiment with you, that the business we are drawn out upon, should be effectually executed; and that the daring and factious spirit which has arisen (to overturn the laws, and to subvert the Constitution,) ought to be subdued. If this is not done, there is, an end of and we

may bid adieu to all government in this Country, except Mob and Club Govt. from whence nothing but anarchy and confusion can ensue; for if the minority, and a small one too, are suffered to dictate to the majority, after measures have undergone the most solemn

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discussions by the Representatives of the people, and their Will through this medium is enacted into a law; there can be no security for life, liberty or property; nor if the laws are not to govern, can any man know how to conduct himself with safety for there never was a law *yet made* , I conceive, that hit the taste *exactly* of every man, or every part of the community; of course, if this be a reason for opposition no law can be execd. at all witht. force and every man or set of men will in that case cut and carve for themselves; the consequences of which must be deprecated by all classes of men who are friends to order, and to the peace and happiness of the Country; but how can things be otherwise than they are when clubs and Societies have been instituted for the express purpose though clothed in another garb by their diabolical leader Gt29 whose object was to sow sedition, to poison the minds of the people of this Country, and to make them discond. with the

29. Genet.

Government of it, and who have labored indefatigably to effect these purposes.

As Arms &ca. have been sent on from Phila. in aid of those from New London,³⁰ I hope, and trust, your supplies have been ample. I shall add no more at present but my best wishes and sincere regard for you, and that I am &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Carlisle, October 9, 1794.

Dear Sir: Yesterday at 11 O dock your dispatches of the 7th. were delivered to me less than 23 hours from the rect. of them by the Express from Philadelphia.

Little, of moment, has occurred since mine of the 6th. A meeting of the Committee of 60, at Parkinson's ferry the 2d. inst. have resolved that if the signature of the submission,³¹

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be not universal, it is not so much owing to any existing disposition to oppose the laws as to a want of time or information to operate a corresponding sentiment &ca. &ca. That *they* the Committee (unanimously) resolve to submit to the Laws of the United States and will support them &ca. &ca.

30. Virginia.

31. The submission varied slightly in wording, but the printed form, dated Sept. 1794, reads: "I do solemnly promise, henceforth to submit to the Laws of the United States; and I will not directly nor indirectly oppose the execution of the Acts for raising a Revenue on Distilled Spirits and Stills, and that I will support as far as the Laws require the civil authority in affording the protection due to all officers and other Citizens." In the signed submissions in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, the words "solemnly" and "henceforth" are crossed out by pen or pencil.

On October 9 Bartholomew Dandridge, who was with Washington, wrote to Knox from Carlisle: "Before the Presidents departure from Philadelphia he requested Mr. Hodgdon to prepare and hold in readiness for his use sundry Articles such as tents, &ca. &ca. which would be necessary for him in case he should find it expedient to go into the Western Counties with the troops...Tomorrow the President goes on from this to William's Port and Fort Cumberland on the Potomac; thence to Bedford and he directs me to request you to cause the waggon, tents &ca. &ca...to be sent on to this place with all possible dispatch, and that you will add to the Articles which Mr. Hodgdon was desired to prepare such others as you conceive will be *absolutely* necessary for the President's accommodation, more than which he does not wish...he wishes, however, three single matrasses with Blankets to be among them...from every information, however, which he is possessed of at present, it does not appear necessary that he shou'd cross the mountain; but shou'd the event prove otherwise, it would then be too late for the Articles...to overtake him in time... As the President will be going, if he proceeds, into the Country of Whiskey he proposes to make use of that liquor for his drink, and presuming that beef and bread will be furnished

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by the contractors he requires no supply of these Articles from you." Dandridge's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. A list of the articles to be forwarded is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Oct. 11, 1794.

A manuscript copy of "a sketch of a course of an Indian Pea fallow, and the succeeding Crop; the mode and observations, with the proceeds" is noted by Washington: "The above is taken from a publication in the *Fredericksburgh Advertiser* Extra: 9th Oct 1794. Note,— It does not appear from the foregoing account, nor from the Letter which enclosed it, that the Pea Crop is Ploughed more than once after Planting, or sowing them; but that there is a disagreement as to the *manner* of doing. By the first, the mould is thrown *to*, and by the latter *from* the Pease. An explanation is necessary."

That in the four western Counties of this State, in their opinion, there is a general disposition to submit to all Laws of the U S and a determination to support the Civil authy. in their execution. That Win. Findley of Westmoreland Cry. and David Redick of Washington Cry. be Commrs. to wait upon the President of the U.S and the G. of Pennsa. with a copy of these Resolns.; and to explain to Governmt. the present State of that Ctry. that the Prest. may judge whether an armed force be now necesy. to suppt. the Civil authy. there.

These Commissioners have not made their appearance yet. The Insurgents are alarmed, but not yet brought to their proper senses. Every mean is devised by them and their associates and frds elsewhere to induce a belief that there is no necessity for Troops crossing the mountains; altho' we have information at the sametime that part of the people there are obliged to embody themselves to repel the insults, of another part. The Troops at this rendezvs. will commence their march for Bedford tomorrow; at which time I shall set out for Wms. Port, thence to Fort Cumbd. and from thence to Bedford where from the information I shall receive in the interem my

ultimate resolution will be taken to proceed, or to turn my face towards Phila.

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I must, for the reasons assigned in my letter of the 6th. remind you of the request therein; my moving situation, and other interruptions when in Camp, will render it almost impracticable to compose anything fit for the public eye under so much expectn, and as the mind of it is filled at present; and the time would be too short after my return to the City (if that should be the result) before the meeting of Congress to do it there. I am etc.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Carlisle, October 9, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 6th. came to hand last night. It would have given me pleasure to have had you with me on my present tour, and advantages might have resulted from it, if your return, in time, would have allowed it. It is now too late, as we shall be in the Act of crossing the mountains, or I shall be on my return to Phila. (according to circumstances and the information I shall receive) at the head of the line, before

you could arrive with any tolerable ease and convenience to proceed and when the latter, from present appearances is most likely to happen.

I am very glad to hear of your safe return. We were apprehensive something more than common had happened from no one having received a line from you for a considerable time before I left the City.

Our Accts. from the Insurgent Counties are neither distinct or satisfactory, the only occurrence of consequence I have mentd. in a private letter to Mr. Randolph. Tomorrow, if I can get the Troops at this place in motion, I shall set out for Wins. Port; thence to Cumberland, and from thence to Bedford; where, about the 18th or 20th my ultimate measures will be determined on. In haste I am etc.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

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(Private)

Carlisle, October 11, 1794. past 3 O'clock P M

Dear Sir: When I wrote to you yesterday, I did not expect to be in

this village at this hour. But finding it difficult to get even part of the Troops off, that were ordered to March yesterday, I resolved to see the residue in motion to day before I left this place, myself. This dilatoriness does not proceed from any disinclination in the Troops themselves, to proceed; but for want of arrangement, and system in some of the principal characters among the Officers of this State, and the disjointed manner in which the former have arrived here. Those however which marched yesterday, with what have followed to day, will make a respectable corps. An Officer of respectability will be left to Organize the remaining detachments of this State's Troops as they shall arrive, and to forward them on. The Jersey Troops came on in Compe. Corps but are badly cloathed.

I had scarcely dispatched my letter to you yesterday, when the Commissioners or deputies (Findley and Redick) from the Insurgent Counties arrived.¹ My Public letter, written by Colo. Hamilton will inform you of the result. I believe they are scared.

All the Papers which may be deemed necessary and proper to accompany my address to Congress, at the Opening of the Session, I pray you to have ready; for there will not be time to do it between my arrival in the City, and the meeting of that body. From present appearances It is not likely I shall proceed beyond

1. At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "with the resolves of the meeting at Parkinsons ferry on the 2d instant; and their ideas of the sentiments of the people in the four Western Counties of this State. From which it is very evident they are not a little panic struck but not yet come to thr propr Senses, this I hope will soon happen and that they will be ready to do any thing and every thing that is required of them. But it is to be feared all those of whom fit examples ought to be made will have left the Country; as they are

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disposing of their property *at any rate* and many have actually (according to their accts.) fled.”

Bedford. My return to Philadelphia even in that case can be but a day or two before the first Monday in next month. Sincerely and Affectionately &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Fort Cumberland, October 16, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 11th. instt. were received this morning at my stage 15 miles short of this place. We arrived here in the afternoon of this day; and found a respectable force assembled from the States of Virginia and Maryland; and I am informed that about 1500 more (from the former state) either is or will be at Frankfort (ten miles on our left) this evening or tomorrow at farthest. Nothing more precise, than you were informed of in my last, from Carlisle, has been heard from the Insurgent counties. All accts. agree however, that they are much alarmed at the serious appearance of things: The truth of which I expect to be better informed of to morrow, or next day, by persons

whom I have sent amongst them and whose return may be looked for about that time.

I do not expect to be here more than two days; thence to Bedford, where, as soon as matters are arranged, and a plan settled, I shall shape my course for Philadelphia; but not because the impertinence of Mr. Bache,² or his corrispondents has undertaken to pronounce, that I cannot, constitutionally, command the Army whilst Congress are in Session.

I believe the eyes of all the *well* disposed people of this Country will soon be opened, and that they will dearly see, the tendency if not the design of the leaders of these self created societies.³ As far as I have heard them spoken of, it is with strong reprobation. I should be

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extremely sorry therefore if Mr. M—n4 *from any cause whatsoever* should get entangled with them, or their politics.

As the Speech will be composed of several distinct subjects, my wish was that each of these shd. receive its final dress; subject however to revision; that part especially which relates to the insurrection and the proceedings thereupon. The subjects themselves, will naturally point to the order, in which they ought to follow each other; and the throwing them into it cannot, at any time, be more than the work of a few minutes after the materials are all provided. It will appear

2. Benjamin Franklin Bache.

3. The Democratic societies.

4. James Madison.

The Secretary of State (Randolph) had written to Washington from Philadelphia (October 14): "Governor Mifflin's conduct at Carlisle has been represented here in colours, so full of contempt, that the general observation is, 'how unfit would he have been to command the army.'" Randolph's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

evident, on a moments reflection, that the continual interruptions in a militia camp, where every thing is to be provided, and arranged, will allow no time to clothe the speech in a correct or handsome garb; nor will there be time to do it after my return.

My mind is so perfectly convinced, that if these self created societies cannot be discountenanced, that they will destroy the government of this Country that I have asked myself whilst I have been revolving on the expence and inconvenience of drawing so many men from their families and occupations as I have seen on their march where wd. be the impropriety of glancing at them in my Speech by some such idea as the following;

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That however distressing this Expedition will have proved to individuals, and expensive to the Country, the pleasing spirit which it has drawn forth in support of Law and Govt. will immortalize the American character and is a happy presage, that future attempts of a certain description of people will not, tho' accompanied by the same industry, sow the seed of distrust and disturb the public tranquillity will prove equally abortive.⁵

I have formed no precise ideas of what is best to be done or said on this subject, nor have I time to express properly what has occurred to me, as I am now writing

5. As first written this portion read "the American character notwithstanding the infinite pains which have been taken by certain descriptions of men and incendiary writers to disturb the public mind and lead it astray impress it with the most unfavorable ideas of its government."

at an hour when I ought to be in bed; because all the day, from business or ceremonious introductions I have been unable to do it sooner. I am, &c.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Fort Cumberland, October 188, 1794.

Dear Sir: I have directed Mr. Dandridge to acknowledge the receipt of your public despatches of the 13 Inst, whilst I enclose those of our Envoy to you, which came under cover to me in a letter from him dated the 5. of August,⁶ with the following P. S.:

I shall enclose with this my dispatches for Mr. Randolph. If the William Penn shou'd be stopped by a *belligerent* vessel, they will respect a letter directed to you, more than one directed to him on opening it, I find duplicates only.

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His private letter to me of the date above, and which he wishes may be considered as confidential, (which, and the possible risque, prevents my sending it to you by the returning Express) is a very pleasing one; as it is more indicative of a hope and expectation of *general* good success in his mission than any that had come from him before. He conceives,

6. John Jay's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

that there is no indisposition in the present ministry to settle the *several* matters in dispute upon what *they* conceive to be just and liberal terms. But what these may appear to be, when they come to close discussion, no one can prognosticate; to give and take I presume will be the result. I am led to draw more favorable inferences from this letter however than from any of his preceding ones. I am, &c.⁷

***To JOHN JAY**

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 1 [-5], 1794.

My dear Sir: On tuesday last I returned from my tour to the Westward; on monday, Congress, by adjournment, are to meet; and on the day following, Mr. Bayard,²⁵ according to his present expectation, is to leave this city for London.

Thus circumstanced (having so little time between my return, and the opening of the Session, to examine papers and to prepare my communications for the Legislature) you will readily perceive that my present address to you must be hurried; at the sametime my

7. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

On October 18 Dandridge wrote to the Secretary of State: "By information which has been received thro' several channels it appears that the people in the western counties of

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Pennsylvania are at length convinced of the approach of the army, and are truly alarmed at the consequences which may attend its passage thro' their country....The President will leave this place [Fort Cumberland] early tomorrow morning on his way to Bedford, where 'tis likely he will be detained three or four days." Dandridge's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

25. Samuel Bayard.

friendship and regard for you, would not let an opportunity, so good as the one afforded by Mr. Bayard, pass without some testimony of my remembrance of you; and an acknowledgment, of the receipt of your private letters to me, dated the 23d of June, 21st of July, and 5th and 11th of August. These comprehend *all* the letters I have recd. from you since your arrival in England, to the present date.

That of the 5th. of August, dawns more favorably upon the success of your mission than any that had preceeded it; and for the honor, dignity and interest of this country; for your own reputation and glory; and for the peculiar pleasure and satisfaction I shd. derive from it, as well on private, as on public considerations, no man more ardently wishes you *compleat* success than I do. But, as you have observed in some of your letters, that it is hardly possible in the early stages of a negociation to foresee all the results, so much depending upon fortuitous circumstances, and incidents which are not within our controul; so, to deserve success, by employing the means with which we are possessed, to the best advantage, and trusting the rest to the all wise disposer, is all that an enlightened public, and the virtuous, and well disposed part of the community, can reasonably expect; nor in which will they I am sure be dis

appointed. Against the malignancy of the discontented, the turbulent, and the vicious, no abilities; no exertions; nor the most unshaken integrity, are any safeguard.

As far as depends upon the Executive, measures preparatory for the worst, while it hopes for the best, will be pursued; and I shall endeavor to keep things in statu quo until your

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negotiation assumes a more decisive form; which I hope will soon be the case, as there are many hot heads and impetuous spirits among us who with difficulty can be kept within bounds. This, however, ought not to precipitate your conduct; for, as it has been observed, there is a "tide in human affairs" that ought always to be watched; and because I believe all who are acquainted with you, will readily concede, that considerations both public and private combine to urge you to bring your mission to a close with as much celerity as the nature of it will admit.

As you have been, and will continue to be, fully informed by the Secretary of State of all transactions of a public nature, which relate to, or may have an influence on the points of your mission, it would be unnecessary for me to touch upon any of them in this

letter; was it not for the presumption, that, the insurrection in the western counties of this State has excited much speculation, and a variety of opinions abroad; and will be represented differently according to the wishes of some, and the prejudices of others, who may exhibit it as an evidence of what has been predicted "that we are unable to govern ourselves." Under this view of the subject, I am happy in giving it to you as the general opinion that this event having happened at the time it did, was fortunate, altho' it will be attended with considerable expence.

That the self-created Societies,²⁶ wch. have spread themselves over this country, have been labouring incessantly to sow the seeds of distrust, jealousy, and of course discontent; thereby hoping to effect some revolution in the government, is not unknown to you. That they have been the fomenters of the Western disturbances, admits of no doubt in the mind of any one who will examine their conduct. But fortunately, they have precipitated a crisis for which they were not prepared; and thereby have unfolded views which will, I trust, effectuate their annihilation sooner than it might otherwise have happened; at the sametime that it has afforded an occasion for the people of this country to shew their abhorrence of the result, and their attachment to the Constitution and the laws; for I believe that five times

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26. The Democratic societies.

the number of militia that was required, would have come forward, if it had been necessary, in support of them.

The Spirit which blazed out on this occasion, as soon as the object was fully understood, and the lenient measures of the government were made known to the people, deserved to be communicated: for there are instances of General Officers going at the head of a single Troop, and of light companies; of field Officers, when they came to the places of rendezvous and found no command for them in that grade, turning into the ranks and proceeding as private Soldiers, under their own Captains. and of numbers, possessing the first fortunes in the Country, standing in the ranks as private men and marching day by day with their knapsacks and haversacks at their backs; sleeping on straw, with a single blanket, in a Soldiers tent, during the frosty nights which we have had; by way of example to others. nay more, many young Quakers (not discouraged by the Elders) of the first families, charactrs. and property having turned into the Ranks and are marchg. with the Troops.

These things have terrified the Insurgents, who had no conception that such a spirit prevailed; but, while

the thunder only rumbled at a distance, were boasting of their strength, and wishing for, and threatening the militia by turns; intimating, that the arms they should take from them, would soon become a magazine in their hands. Their language is much changed indeed but their principles want correction.

I shall be more prolix in my speech to Congress, on the commencement and progress of this insurrection, than is usual in such an instrument, or, than I should have been, on any other occasion: but, as numbers (at home and abroad) will hear of the insurrection, and will read the speech, that may know nothing of the documents to which it might refer, I

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conceived, it would be better to encounter the charge of prolixity, by giving a cursory detail of facts (that would show the prominent features of the thing) than to let it go naked into the world, to be dressed up according to the fancy or the inclination of the readers, or the policy of our enemies.

I write nothing in answer to the letter of Mr. Wangenheim (enclosed by you to me). Were I to enter into correspondencies of that sort (admitting there was no impropriety in the measure) I should be unable to attend to my ordinary duties. I have established it as a maxim, neither to envite, nor to discourage emigrants. My opinion is, that they will come hither as fast as the true interest and policy of the United States will be benefited by foreign population.

I believe many of these, as Mr. Wangenheim relates, have been, and I fear will continue to be, imposed upon by Speculators in land, and other things. But I know of no prevention but caution, nor any remedy except the Laws. Nor is military, or other employment so easily obtained as foreigners conceive, in a country where offices bear no proportion to the seekers of them. with sincere esteem &c.

PS. Novr. 5th. Your corrisponde. with New York is, I have no doubt, too frequent and regulr. to render any acct. of Mrs. Jay from me necessary; yet as I was told yesterday by Mr. King²⁷ that she and all yr. family were well, I chose to mention it. For want of a Senate, Congress cannot proceed to business.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 15, 1794.

Dear Sir: For the reasons mentioned to you the other day, viz: the Virginia Assembly being in Session, and a plan being on foot for establishing

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27. Rufus King.

a Seminary of learning upon an extensive scale in the Federal city; it would oblige me if you and Mr. Madison would endeavor to mature the measures which will be proper for me to pursue in order to bring my designs into view, as soon as you can make it convenient to yourselves.

I do not know that the enclosed, or sentiments similar to them are proper to be engrafted in the communications which are to be made to the Legislature of Virginia, or to the Gentlemen who are named as Trustees of the Seminary which is proposed to be established in the federal city, but as it is an extract of what is contained in my Will, on this subject, I send it merely for consideration.⁵⁰

The Shares in the different Navigations to be located, and applied, in the manner which has been the subject of conversations. Yours Affectionately

***To JOHN JAY**

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 18, 1794.

My Dear Sir: Since writing to you by Mr. Bayard, about the first of November, I have been favored with your letters of

⁵⁰. The extract from the will is with this draft. As it varies considerably in words, but not in sense, from the will of July 9, 1799, *post*, it is here given as the only known surviving part of the will which was destroyed by Washington's direction, when he was dying, Dec. 14, 1799:

“It has always been a source of serious reflection, and of sincere regret with me, to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of

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education (perhaps, before their minds are formed, or they have any correct ideas of the blessings of the country they leave). Where, besides contracting habits of dissipation and extravagance, principles unfriendly to republican government, and to the rights of Man, may be imbibed and found difficult to eradicate.

“For these reasons, it has long been an ardent wish of mine, to see some plan adopted by which a general and liberal diffusion of learning could be disseminated, systematically, through all parts of this rising empire; thereby, and as far the nature of the thing will admit and in itself would be proper, to do away local attachments, and State prejudices from our public councils.

“Hoping that so desirable an object will 'ere long be viewed in the important light I think it merits, my mind is unable to contemplate any measure more likely to effect it than the establishment of a University; where young men from *all parts* of the United States (after having passed through a preparative course of education) may, under Professors of the first reputation in the different branches of literature, Arts and Sciences, complete their studies; and get fixed in the principles of the Constitution, understand the Laws, and the true interests and policy of their Country, as well as the professions they mean to pursue. And moreover (which is not the least, among the advantages of such a plan) by forming acquaintances with each other in early life, avoid those local prejudices and habitual jealousies which, when carried to excess, are never failing sources of disquietude in the public mind, and but too pregnant of mischievous consequences.

“Under these impressions I give and bequeath for ever, the shares I hold under an Act of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the navigations of the Rivers Potomac and James towards the endowment of a University to be established within the limits of the Federal district, provided a well digested plan for the same shall be adopted for the purpose before the year 1800. If not then &ca. &ca. &ca.

“*The shares in the James River Navigation to be otherwise disposed of.”

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the 13th. of September, and 2d. of October. As the sentiments contained in the first of these, respecting the communications of Mr. M—51 to the National Convention of France, were also transmitted in a *private* letter from you to the Secretary of State, and replied to by him (both of which I have seen) I shall dwell no longer on that subject than just to observe 1st, that considering the place in which they were delivered, and the neutral policy this country had resolved to pursue, it was a measure that does not appear to have been well devised by our Minister, 2d, Aware of this himself, and that his conduct would be criticised, he has assigned reasons for its adoption; a summary of which are, that the Navy Officers, and Privateersmen of France, who had resorted to our Ports, and had been laid under such restrictions as neutral policy required from us altho' disagreeable to them; had represented this country (and not without effect) as unfriendly to the French revolution; to do away which, he found himself necessitated to counteract them by strong assurances of the good dispositions of the people of these U: States towards that Nation. and 3dly, Although I think with you, that he stepped over the true line, to accomplish this, yet under the

51. James Monroe.

then existing circumstances, the expression of such reciprocal good will was susceptible of two views, one of which, even in the pending state of the negotiation (by alarming as well as offending the B. Ministry) might have no unfavorable operation in bringing matters to a happy, and speedy result; Than which nothing is more desirable, or can be more ardently wished for by the friends of peace and good order, in this country.

As the Secretary of State has written to you several times since the receipt of your statement of the Negotiation, on the 13th. of Septr, I shall add nothing to the observations wch. are contained in his letters, on the subject thereof.

The business of the Session, hitherto, has been tranquil, and I perceive nothing, *at this time* , to make it otherwise, unless the result of the negotiation (which is anxiously

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expected, by all) should produce divisions. As yet no details have been handed to Congress on this subject; indeed no communication of that business has been made to anybody ex[c]ept those about me in the Executive departments.

A paragraph of which the enclosed is a copy, is running thro' all our gazettes; accompanied with a *report* that the United States are contemplated as Mediator between France and England. To ascertain by what authority the

first was inserted, Bache, in whose paper it first appeared, has been called upon by the Secretary of State; but no satisfaction has been obtained from him as yet. (*)⁵² With respect to the other, it seems to have originated on the other side of the water, and is of a delicate nature; the very idea of which, under the present successes of the French Arms (admitting it should be agreeable to the other power) would, it is conceived, convey unpleasant sensations, and be considered in an evil light, by that nation, unless an intimation to the contrary should first come from them.

The Virginia escheats of British property do not, as I am informed, stand upon the ground, as related to you; but as I am not accurately enough read in the law respecting these escheats to be precise in my recital of it, I will request the Secretary of State to give you the principles thereof.

As I expected, and as you were informed the result wd. probably be, so it has happened; that the western insurrection has terminated highly honorable for this country; wch. by the energy of its Laws and the good disposition of its citizens have brought the rioters to a *perfect* sense of their misconduct without spil

52. (*) "Since writing the above, an unsatisfactory explanation has been given." This note, in Washington's writing, is at the bottom of the page.

ling a drop of blood. In the eyes of foreigners among us, this affair stands in a high point of view. With great truth I am etc.

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***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

Philadelphia, February 25, 1795.

Dear Sir: The Gentleman who will have the honor of delivering this letter to you; is Doctr. Tare, who is possessed of the valuable secret of curing Cancerous complaints.

A call to England for some purpose of that sort, or with a view to derive benefit from his discovery, affords me an occasion to inform you (at his request) that I have, myself, experienced the fruits of his skill, in this art; being cured by him of an irritable spot on my right cheek which had for years been encreasing in pricking and disagreeable sensations; and in June last assumed the decided character of a Cancer; of which I was perfectly relieved by Doctr. Tate in about two months by an easy course, under the operation of which I felt no confinement, or other inconvenience at the time, nor

any injury to my constitution since.

As he is going to a foreign country, and I am enabled from my own experience to bear testimony of his skill, in this particular, justice required I should do so; and it is with pleasure also that I embrace the opportunity of assuring you of the esteem and regard with which I am etc.

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Philadelphia, March 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: I received your letter of the 23d. Ult.; but not at so early a period as might have been expected from the date of it. My mind has always been more disposed to apply the shares in the inland navigations of Potomac and James Rivers (which were left to my disposal by the legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a *University* in the U States, than to any other object it had contemplated. In pursuance of this idea, and

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understanding that other means are in embryo, for establishing so useful a seminary in the federal city; I did, on the 28th. of Jany.

last, announce to the Commrs. thereof, my intention of vesting, in perpetuity, 'the fifty shares I hold under that act in the navigation of Potomac; as an additional mean of carrying the plan into effect; provided, it should be adopted upon a scale so liberal, and so extensive, as to embrace a *compleat* system of education.

I had but little hesitation in giving the federal dist.²⁴ a preference of all other places for this Institution, and for the following reasons. 1st. on account of its being the permanent Seat of the government of this Union, and where the laws and policy of it must be better understood than in any local part thereof. 2d, because of its centrality. 3d, because one half (or near it) of the district of Columbia, is within the Commonwealth of Virginia; and the whole of the State not inconvenient thereto. 4th, because as *part* of the endowment, it would be useful; but *alone* , would be inadequate to the end. 5th, because many advantages, I conceive, would result from the Jurisdiction which the general government will have over it, wch. no other spot would possess. And, lastly, as this Seminary is contemplated for the *completion* of education, and study of the sciences (not for boys in their rudiments) it will afford the Students an opportunity of attending the debates in Congress, and thereby becoming more liberally,

24. The press copy has "city," but the letter sent (in the *Jefferson Papers*) was changed to "dist." after the press copy was made.

and better acquainted with the principles of law, and government.

My judgment and my wishes point equally strong to the application of the James River shares to the same object, at the same place; but considering the source from whence they were derived, I have, in a letter I am writing to the Executive of Virginia on 'this

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subject, left the application of them to a Seminary, *within the State* , to be located by the Legislature.

Hence you will perceive that I have, in a degree, anticipated your proposition. I was restrained from going the whole length of the suggestion; by the following considerations: 1st, I did not know to what extent, or when any plan would be so matured for the establishment of an University, as would enable any assurance to be given to the application of Mr. D'Ivernois.²⁵ 2d, the propriety of transplanting the Professors in a *body* ,²⁶ might be questioned for several reasons; among others, because they might not be all good characters; nor all sufficiently acquainted with our language; and again, having been at variance with the levelling party of their own country, the measure might be considered as an aristocratical movement by more than those who,

25. François D'Ivernois. He had made the proposition to Jefferson. Jefferson's letter to D'Ivernois, Feb. 6, 1795, is in P. L. Ford's *Writings of Jefferson* (Federal edition) 8, 163.

26. Of the College of Geneva.

without any just cause that I have been able to discover, are continually sounding the alarm bell of aristocracy. and 3d, because it might preclude some of the first Professors in other countries from a participation; among whom some of the most celebrated characters in Scotland, in this line, I am told might be obtained.

Something, but of what nature I am unable to inform you, has been written by Mr. Adams to Mr. D'Ivernois. Never having viewed my intended donation as more than a part of the means, that was to set this establishment afloat; I did not incline to go too far in the encouragement of Professors before the plan should assume a more formal shape; much less to induce an entire College to migrate. The enclosed is the answer I have received from the Commissioners: from which, and the ideas I have here expressed, you will be enabled to decide on the best communication to be made to Mr. D'Ivernois.

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My letter to the Commissioners has bound me to the fulfilment of what is therein engaged; and if the legislature of Virginia, in considering the subject, should view it in the same light I do, the James River shares will be added thereto; for I think one good Institution of this sort, is to be preferred to two imperfect ones; which, without other aids than the shares in *both* navigations, is more likely to fall

through, than to succeed upon the plan I contemplate. Which, in a few words, is to supercede the necessity of sending the youth of this country abroad, for the purpose of education (where too often principles and habits not friendly to republican government are imbibed, which are not easily discarded) by instituting such an one of our own, as will answer the end; and by associating them in the same seminary, will contribute to wear off those prejudices, and unreasonable jealousies, which prevent or weaken friendships and, impair the harmony of the Union. With very great esteem &c.

PS. Mr. Adams laid before me the communications of Mr. D'Ivernois; but I said nothing to him of my intended donation towards the establishment of a University in the Federal District. My wishes would be to fix this on the Virga. side of the Potomac, therein; but this would not embrace, or accord with those other means which are proposed for this establishment.²⁷

27. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To GOVERNOR ROBERT BROOKE**

Philadelphia, March 16, 1795.

Sir: Ever since the General Assembly of Virginia were pleased to submit to my disposal fifty shares in the Potomack, and one hundred in the James River company, it has been my anxious desire to appropriate them to an object, most worthy of public regard.

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It is with indescribable regret, that I have seen the youth of the United States migrating to foreign countries, in order to acquire the higher branches of erudition, and to obtain a knowledge of the Sciences. Altho' it would be injustice to many to pronounce the certainty of their imbibing maxims, not congenial with republicanism; it must nevertheless be admitted, that a serious danger is encountered, by sending abroad among other political systems those, who have not well learned the value of their own.

The time is therefore come, when a plan of Universal education ought to be adopted in the United States. Not only do the exigencies of public and private life demand it; but if it should ever be apprehended that prejudice would be entertained in one part of the Union against another; an

efficacious remedy will be, to assemble the youth of every part under such circumstances, as will, by the freedom of intercourse and collision of sentiment, give to their minds the direction of truth, philanthropy, and mutual conciliation.

It has been represented, that an University, corresponding with these ideas, is contemplated to be built in the federal city; and that it will receive considerable endowments. This position is so eligible from its centrality, so convenient to Virginia, by whose legislature the shares were granted, and in which part of the federal district stands, and combines so many other conveniences, that I have determined to vest the Potomack shares in that University.

Presuming it to be more agreeable to the General Assembly of Virginia, that the shares in the James River company should be reserved for a similar object in some part of that State, I intend to allot them for a Seminary, to be erected at such place, as the wisdom of the Legislature shall deem most proper. I am disposed to believe, that a Seminary of learning upon an enlarged plan, but yet not coming up to the full idea of an University, is an institution to be preferred for the position

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which is to be chosen. The students, who wish to pursue the whole range of Science, may pass with advantage from the Seminary to the University, and the former by a due relation may be rendered cooperative with the latter.

I cannot however dissemble my opinion, that if all the shares were conferred on an University, it would become far more important, than when they are divided; and I have been restrained from centering them in the same place, merely by my anxiety to reconcile a particular attention to Virginia, with a great good, in which she will abundantly share, in common with the rest of the United States.

I must beg the favor of your Excellency to lay this letter before that honorable body, at their next Session; in order that I may appropriate the James River shares to the place which they may prefer. They will at the sametime again accept my acknowledgments for the opportunity, with which they have favored me, of attempting to supply so important a desideratum in the United States as an University, adequate to our necessity, and a preparatory Seminary. With great consideration and respect, &c.28

28. This letter was duly laid before the Virginia Assembly, which resolved, Dec. 1, 1795, that Washington "be requested to appropriate the aforesaid shares in the James River Co. to a seminary at such place in the upper country, as he may deem most convenient to a majority of the inhabitants thereof."

On March 17 Washington wrote to William Pearce, introducing [Ralph] Izard "to whom I request you to pay attention, and to make his visit to Mount Vernon as convenient and agreeable to him as may be in your power." A facsimile of this brief note is in the *Washington Papers*, presented by Emanuel Hertz, of New York City.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, April 12, 1795.

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Dear Sir: The following details will enable you to comply with the request of Mr. Henry Wade.

On the Great Kanhawa, and bounded thereby, I hold, and am disposed to sell, about 24,000 acres of land in four Patents: the smallest of which contains 2000 acres. These 2000 acres lie in the forks of the Kanhawa and Coal rivers, at the confluence of the two, and upon both. Opposite thereto, on the East side of the river (Kanhawa) I have another tract of 3,000 acres. About half way between the last mentioned, and the town Mount pleasant, which lies at the mouth of the Kanhawa and on the east side also, I have another tract of upwards of 7000 acres. And near Mount pleasant, but on the west side of the river (Kanhawa) begins the other tract of near 11,000 acres, which is bounded by the river more than 17 miles. None of these tracts have any settlers on them with, or of which I have any acquaintance or knowledge.

It does not appear by Mr. Wades letter which you have shewn me, to which of these tracts his inclina

tions are directed. All of them are river low grounds of first quality, but neither of them am I disposed, at present, to parcel out into lots, and selling them otherwise, depends altogether upon the price that would be given. I refused a guinea an acre for part, and not the most valuable part, of my western lands. If by dividing the land into 500 acre lots it would sell better, and more readily, it only remains for Mr. Wade (if he wants 1000 acres only) to get others to unite with him, to answer his purpose and mine also.

As my view in selling, is to place the money where I can draw the interest regularly as it becomes due, the larger the sum which is paid down the better it would suit me. For the remainder, a credit of three or four years might be given, provided the principal is secured, and interest thereon punctually paid every year as soon as it becomes due, either to me or my Agent.

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As many persons are wanting these lands of mine, from the knowledge they have of their quality, situation, and the indisputableness of their titles; they will not, I am persuaded, remain long in my possession: or if they do, the price will be raised as this kind of property increases in value, or gets more in demand. I am etc.

***To JAMES MONROE**

Philadelphia, June 5, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have to thank you for the information, contained in your private letter to me, of the 19th. of last November.

The regular, and detailed accounts which you receive from the department of State, of occurrences, as they arise with us leave nothing to be added. As a private concern, I shall take the liberty of troubling you with the enclosed; requesting that it may be presented, or forwarded, as the case may be, to Madame la Fayette. The papers are under a flying seal, that seeing the scope and design of them, you may (if the money therein mentioned should not have reached her hands, of which I have received no information) be enabled to assist her in obtaining it; the favor of doing which I beg you, to render us both. My best respects are presented to Mrs. Monroe. With esteem etc.

***To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE**

Philadelphia, June 5, 1795.

Madam: Neither your situation or mine, will render it advisable for me to add more to the enclosed letter, which was written agreeably to its date, and received by Mr. Van Staphorst (as will appear by the correspondence between us, which is also enclosed) than to assure you of the sincere pleasure I felt in learning from Mr. Monroe's letters to the Secretary of State, that you were in Paris and at liberty, after a long and painful confinement; particularly, as he accompanied it with the pleasing information, that in behalf

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of this country and conformably to the dictates of his own sensibility, he had aided you with means to supply your present exigencies.

To touch on the case of Mr. de la Fayette in this letter would be still more delicate, and under present circumstances, as unavailing as it would be inexpedient. For these reasons, I shall only add a renewal of the assurances of the sincerest esteem and regard for you, and yours, with which I have the honor etc.⁶

6. From the *Monroe Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To JOHN RUTLEDGE**

Philadelphia, July 1, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 18th. ulto.¹⁸ and Mr. Jay's resignation of the Office of chief Justice of the United States,¹⁹ both came to my hands yesterday.

The former gave me much pleasure, and without hesitating a moment, after knowing you would accept the latter, I directed the Secretary of State to make you an official offer of this honorable appointment. To express to you my wish that it may be convenient, and agreeable to you to accept it. To intimate, in that case, my desire, and the advantages which would attend your being in this city the first monday in August (at wch. time the next session of the Supreme court will commence), and To inform you, that your Commission as chief Justice will take date on this day (July the first when Mr. Jay's will cease) but that it would be detained here, to be presented to you on your arrival.

I shall only add, that the Secretary will write to you by Post, and by a water conveyance also if there be any Vessel in this harbour which will sail for Charleston in a few

18. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

19. Jay's private letter of June 29, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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days, and that, with much sensibility for your good wishes, and an assurance of the sincerest esteem and regard I am etc.

***To JOHN JAY**

Philadelphia, July 2, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th. Ult., resigning the office of Chief Justice of the United States I received yesterday, and with sincere regret. For the obliging sentiments you have expressed for me in your private letter which accompanied it, I as sincerely thank you.

In whatever line you may walk my best wishes will always accompany you; They will particularly do so on the theatre you are about to enter upon;20 which I sincerely wish may be as smooth, easy and happy, as it is honorable. With very great esteem etc.

20. Governor of New York.

***To THOMAS JOHNSON**

Philadelphia, July 5, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th. Ult., came to my hands at a time when my attention was much occupied on some matters of importance. To this circumstance, and to my knowledge (as you will perceive by the enclosed extract of a letter from the Secretary of State to the Commissioners of the federal city) that one of your requests had been anticipated; and to the expression of your apprehension, that another would probably come too late, is to be ascribed my silence 'till now. I have, however, desired the Secretary of State to give it as my opinion to the Commrs., that all transactions respecting the square which is in dispute between you, and them (in behalf of the public) ought to be suspended, until the pending adjudication is terminated unless they can assign reasons to the contrary wch. do not occur to me; and I cannot but again, and again, express my regret, that so

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unpleasant a dispute shd. have arisen. But unless the Commissioners are impeached for mal-practice in Office; or are specifically charged with incapacity and unfitness to

discharge the several duties entrusted to them; I do not see on what ground, or with what propriety I could institute an enquiry into *their* conduct: beyond this, I am sure I should have no right to proceed.

The answer which I gave Mr. D. Carroll to a request not dissimilar to the one made by you, but more limited in its object, is herewith enclosed, as a just statement (as far as I have recollection) of *all* the transactions respecting this dispute, that passed between yourself, Messrs. Scott and Thornton and me, in the course of my journey to, from, and whilst I was at Mount Vernon in April last. The letter of those Gentlemen, which came to me at that place, did not, even at the moment of its reception, strike me as an *official* act of the Board; but rather as a comment on the existing dispute, and explanatory of the motives which had actuated their conduct. In this view, the propriety of ordering a copy to be furnished might be questioned. If it is of record, in the Office, it is already comprehended in the direction they have received in the letter of the 23d. Ult. from the Secretary of State to them, a copy of which (instead of an extract) I have this moment recd from that Office. With the greatest esteem etc.²⁵

25. From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your private letters of the 24th. and 25th. instant have been received, and you will learn by the official letter of this date, my determination of returning to Philadelphia after monday, if nothing in the interem casts up, to render it unnecessary.

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I am excited to this resolution by the violent, and extraordinary proceedings which have, and are about taking place, in the Northern parts of the union; and may be expected in the Southern: because I think that the memorial;⁶⁷ the ratification;⁶⁸ and the instructions,⁶⁹ which are framing; are of such vast magnitude as not only to require great individual consideration, but a solemn conjunct revision. The latter could not happen if you were to come to this place; nor would there be that source of information to be had as is to be found at, and is continually flowing to, the seat of government: and besides, in the course of deliberating on these great matters, the examination of official papers may, more than probable, be found essential, and these could be resorted to no where else.

67. Randolph's letter to John Jay, Aug. 16, 1795, in the *Hamilton Papers*, in the Library of Congress, states that about a week after Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon "I sent down to him...the draught of a memorial to Mr. Hammond upon the subject of the treaty....The memorial declared, that the President would ratify, upon the provision order being laid aside: that if this was not done, the President would take the subject into farther consideration: that the doing of this should be the *only* obstacle to the pursuing the advice of the Senate: that in order however to produce perfect cordiality, the king was *invited* 1. to provide by some clear distinction against the impressment of our citizens: 2. to reconsider the compensation of the negroes: 3. to cause the execution of the 7th article to be expedited and the expence thereof lessened: 4. to give instructions against the vexations of privateers and the rigours of some of the American admiralties....I ought to add, that the reason why a memorial was at all thought of, was, that the President at first believed (as I confess I did) that he could not ratify, until the new suspending article was agreed to by the British King. It thereby became necessary to assure him in writing, that we affected no delays; and meant to ratify, if the provision order was abolished."

68. The ratification was the draft of the form to be used for Jay's Treaty. Its official date was Aug. 14, 1795. Great Britain ratified the treaty, Oct. 28, 1795, and the treaty was proclaimed in effect by the President in his proclamation of Feb. 26, 1796.

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69. The instructions were those forwarded to the United States Minister to Great Britain, covering the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty. They were not signed by the President.

To leave home so *soon* will be inconvenient; a month hence would have been otherwise; and was, as I hinted to you before I left the City, in contemplation by me, for the purpose of Mrs. Washington's remaining here until November, when I intended to come back for her. But whilst I am in office, I shall never suffer private convenience to interfere with what I conceive to be my official duties.

I view the opposition which the treaty is receiving from the meetings in different parts of the Union in a very serious light. Not because there is *more* weight in *any* of the objections which are made to it, than were foreseen at first; for there are *none* in *some* of them; and *gross* misrepresentations in *others* . Nor as it respects myself personally, for this shall have no influence on my conduct; plainly perceiving, and I am accordingly preparing my mind for, the obloquy which disappointment and malice are collecting to heap upon my character. But I am alarmed on acct. of the effect it may have on, and the advantage the French government may be disposed to make of, the spirit which is at work; to cherish a belief in them, that the treaty is calculated to favor G. Britain at their expence. Whether they believe, or disbelieve these tales, the effect it will have upon the nation, will be nearly the same: for whilst

they are at war with that Power, or so long as the animosity between the two nations exists, it will, no matter at whose expence, be their policy, and it is feared it will be their conduct, to prevent us from being on good terms with G. Britain, or from her deriving any advantages from our commerce which they can prevent, however much we may be benefited thereby, ourselves. To what length this policy and interest may carry them, is problematical; but when they see the people of this Country divided, and such a violent

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opposition given to the measures of their own government, pretend [edify in their favor, it may be extremely embarrassing, to say no more of it.

To sum the whole up in a few words, I have never, since I have been in the Administration of the government, seen a crisis wch, in my judgment, has been so pregnant of interesting events; nor one from which more is to be apprehended; whether viewed on one side, or the other. From New York there now is, and I am told will further be, a counter current; but how formidable it may appear, I know not; if the same does not take place at Boston and other towns, it will afford but too strong evidence that the opposition is,

in a manner, universal or that those of different sentiments are supine or intimidated which would make the ratification a very serious business indeed. But as it respects the French, even counter resolutions would, for the reasons I have already given, do little more than weaken, in a small degree, the effect those of the other complexion would have.

I have written, and do now enclose, the letter (the draught of which was approved by the heads of departments and the Atty Genl) to the Selectmen of the town of Boston; but if new lights have been shed upon the subject since it was agreed to, or if upon reconsideration any alteration should be deemed necessary, it being open for your perusal, I request you to detain it until I see you. Let me also request that the same attention may be given to the draught of a letter to Portsmouth, and to the chamber of Commerce at New York, as was recommended on that occasion. With sincere esteem &c.

PS. To the papers sent, I add Chancellor Livingston's letter;⁷⁰ and wish, if it is best to give it an answer, that one may be prepared. Altho' this letter is a hurried (for Mr. Dandridge is not yet arrived and I have no assistance) as well as a private one, I have no objection to the confidential officers seeing it; and wish them to prepare their minds on the several subjects mentioned therein against I arrive.

[H.S.P.]

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70. Of July 8. Sparks prints it in his *Correspondence of the American Revolution*, vol. 4. The original is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Robert R. Livingston, Aug. 20, 1795, *post.*)

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 31, 1795.

My dear Sir: On Wednesday evening, I sent the packet, now under cover with this, to the Post-Office in Alexandria; to be forwarded next morning at the usual hour (4 o'clock) by the Baltimore mail; but behold! when, my letter bag was brought back from the Office and emptied I not only got those which were addressed to me, among which yrs. of the 27th was one, but those also wch. I had sent up the evening before.

I have to regret this blunder of the Postmr. on acct. of the enclosures; some of which I wished to have got to your hands without delay; that they might have undergone the consideration, and acting upon, which was suggested in the letter accompanying them. On another acct, I am not sorry for the return of the Packet to you; as I resolved, thereupon and readg. some letters wch. I recd. at the sametime to wait your acknowledgment of the receipt of my letter of the 24th. instt. before I would set out; as I should, thereby, be placed on a certainty whether your journey

hither, or mine to Philadelphia, would, under all circumstances, be deemed most eligible; or whether the business could not be equally well done without either: repeating now, what I did in my letter of the 24th, that I do not require more than a days notice to repair to the Seat of Government; and that if you, and the confidential Officers with you, are not clear in the measures which are best to be pursued in the several matts. mentioned in my last, my own opinion is, and for the reasons there given, that difficult and intricate, or delicate

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questions had better be settled there, where the streams of information are continually flowing in, and that I would set out accordingly.⁸¹

To be wise and temperate, as well as firm, the crisis most eminently calls for; for there is too much reason to believe, from the pains which have been taken before, at, and since the advice of the Senate respecting the treaty that the prejudices against it are more extensive than is generally imagined. This, I have lately understood to be the case from men in this quartr. who are of no party, but well disposed to the present Administration. How shd. it be otherwise? when no stone has been left unturned that could impress on the minds of the people the most arrant misrepresentation of facts; that their rights

81. Randolph wrote to Washington: "July 31, 1795. 10 o'Clock. Sir, The Secretaries of the Treasury and War departments are now with me; and we concur in thinking it expedient, that, if possible, you should return for a few days to the seat of Government. Nothing, but the general crisis of public affairs, leads to this recommendation; and it may be important, that you should do some act in consequence of the communications, expected from Mr Hammond, who will sail shortly." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. Hammond had been recalled, and in a private letter to Washington, also of July 31, Pickering wrote: "Mr. Hammond has not, as yet, communicated any part of his late advices from England; but I expect them hourly." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*. Pickering also wrote Washington on July 31: "I learn that Mr. Hammond has received letters of recall; and that he expects to depart in three weeks. I am disposed to believe, from accidental intimations, that before his departure some useful and perhaps very important arrangements may be made to facilitate the compliance with the condition on which the advice of the Senate for ratifying the treaty was suspended, and possibly for expediting the execution of that part of it which respects the posts...On the subject of the treaty I confess that I feel extreme solicitude; and for a *special reason* which can be communicated to you only in person. I entreat therefore that you will return with all convenient speed to the seat of Government. In the mean time, for the reason above referred to, I pray you to decide on no important political measure, in whatever form it may

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be presented to you....(This letter is for your own eye alone).” Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

have not only been *neglected* , but absolutely *sold* . That there are *no* reciprocal advantages in the treaty; that the benefits are all on the side of G. Britain; and, what seems to have had more weight with them than all the rest and most pressed is that the treaty is made with design to oppress the French, in open violation of our treaty with that nation, and contrary too to every principle of gratitude and sound policy. In time when passion shall have yielded to sober reason, the current may possibly turn; but in the meanwhile this government in relation to France and England may be compared to a ship between the rocks of Sylla and charibdas. If the Treaty is ratified the partisans of the French (or rather of War and confusion) will excite them to hostile measures, or at least to unfriendly Sentiments; if it is not, there is no foreseeing *all* the consequences which may follow, as it respts. G. B.

It is not to be inferred from hence that I am, or shall be disposed to quit the ground I have taken, unless circumstances more imperious than have yet come to my knowledge should compel it; for there is but one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue

it steadily. but these things are mentd. to shew that a close investigation of the subjt. is more than ever necessary; and that they are strong evidences of the necessity of the most circumspect conduct in carrying the determ. of government into effect with prudence as it respects our own people and with every exertion to produce a change for the better from G. B.

The memorial seems well designed, to answer the end proposed; and by the time it is revised, and new dressed, you will, probably, (either in the resolutions, which are or will be handed to me or in the Newspaper publications wch. you promised to be attentive to) have seen all the objections against the treaty which have any real force in them; and which may be fit subjects for representation in the memorial or in the instructions,

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or both. But how much longer the presentation of the memorial can be delayed without exciting unpleasant sensations here, or involving serious evils elsewhere you, who are at the scene of information and action can decide better than I. In a matter, however, so interesting and pregnant of consequences as this treaty, there ought to be no precipitation; but on the contrary every step shd. be explored before it is taken, and every word weighed before it is uttered, or delivered

in writing.

The form of the ratification⁸² requires more diplomatic experience and legal knowledge than I possess or have the means of acquiring at this place and therefore I shall say nothing about it. I am &c.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, August 3, 1795.

Dear Sir: No mail, at two oclock yesterday, had been received in Alexandria from Philadelphia since the 29th Ultó. I am sending up this afternoon to see if the expected mail of this day is in; altho' I have little hope of it, as the violence, and continuance of the rains since thursday last, has been such, in these parts, as to sweep every thing before it; and to do great damage to the gathered and growing grain; as well as other things. Of course, by swelling the waters, and carrying away bridges, the intercourse between one place and another (where these were) has

82. The text of the form of ratification for Jay's Treaty is printed by Hunter Miller in his *Treaties and Other International Acts, etc.* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931). Miller notes that no signed original of Jay's Treaty is in the Department of State; that Jay sent two signed treaties, but one was lost in transit and the one which came safe was returned, curiously enough, to Great Britain along with the ratification.

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been entirely cut off. This circumstance, added to the inexcusable blunder of the Postmaster in Alexandria, will prevent my dispatches (wch. ought to have been in Phila. on Saturday last) from getting to your hands until thursday next, at soonest.

To these impediments is to be attributed, I presume, the non receipt. of the Baltimore resolutions: for resolutions, I am told, have been passed at that place. And the like may be expected from Richmond; a meeting having been had there also, at which Mr. Wythe, it is said, was seated as moderator, by chance, more than design, it is added. A queer chance this, for the Chancellor of a State.

All these things do not shake my determination with respect to the proposed ratification; nor will they, unless something more imperious and unknown to me, should, in the judgment of yourself, and the gentlemen with you, make it necessary and advisable for me to pause. But let me again, repeat my desire, that as fast as these kind of Resolutions, or addresses (call them what you will) appear in the Papers, pro, or con, that answers, if thought advisable, may be draughted, and sent to me (approved by all of you) without waiting for individual applications on each one, seperately, for this wd. occasion a considerable lapse of time in the first place; and

in the second, would be saving me some writing on this subject; wch. is an object, as I have no aid. (Mr. Dandridge being with his friends in New Kent). I am etc.⁸⁴

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1795.

Dear Sir: The messenger, who was sent yesterday afternoon to the Postoffice in Alexandria, returned without letters: the Mails not having arrived.

Some hours after my Messenger was dispatched for Alexandria, the Richmond production was delivered to me by Express: sent for that purpose. They have out gone all that has

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gone before them: but the meeting, according to the acct. given by the Express, was not numerous; and some of the principal characters not in town.

I send the proceedings to Alexandria today, to go on by the first Mail, to be acted upon as mentioned in former letters. I am etc.

84. The draft of this letter, which is [in] the writing of Washington, marks it "(Private)."

***To EDMUND RANDOLPH**

Philadelphia, August 20, 1795.

Sir: Your resignation of the Office of State, is received.⁹⁷

Candour induces me to give you, in a few words, the following narrative of facts. The letter from Mr. Fauchet, with the contents of which you were made acquainted yesterday, was as you supposed, an interscepted one. It was sent by Lord Grenville to Mr. Hammond; by him put into the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury; by him shewn to the Secretary of War and the Attorney General; and a translation there of was made by the former, for me.

At the time Mr. Hammond delivered the letter, he requested of Mr. Wolcott an attested copy, which was accordingly made by Mr. Thornton, his late Secretary; and which is understood to remain at present with Mr. Bond.⁹⁸ Whether it is known to others, I am unable to decide.

Whilst you are in pursuit of means to remove the strong suspicions arising from this letter, no disclosure of its contents will be made by me; and I will enjoin the same on the public officers who are acquainted with the purport of it; unless something shall appear to render an explanation necessary on the part of Government; of which I will be the judge.

A Copy of Mr. Fauchets letter shall be sent to you. No. 6,

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97. Randolph's letter of resignation (August 19) is in the *Washington Papers*. It is indorsed by Washington: "recd. the 20th. abt noon."

98. George Bond. He was chief clerk of the Department of State.

referred to therein I have never seen.⁹⁹

***To THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

Philadelphia, August 20, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th. instr. with its enclosures. They contain a great deal of interesting matter; and No 9 discloses much important information, and political foresight. For this proof of your kindness, and confidence, I pray you to accept my best, and most cordial thanks.

Mr. John Adams,⁵ your son, must not think of retiring from the walk he is now in: his prospects if he pursues it are fair: and I shall be much mistaken, if in as short a time as can well be expected, he is not found at the head of the Diplomatique Corps, (Let the government be administered by whomsoever the people may chuse).

The embarrassments into which he was thrown by the unforeseen

99. From the group of papers entitled "Randolph's Vindication" in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

Timothy Pickering performed the duties of Secretary of State *ad interim* from Aug. 19 to Dec. 10, 1795.

5. John Quincy Adams, then United States Minister to Holland.

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events which so soon took place in Holland, after he had received his first instructions, and had arrived in that Country have long since been removed. and he can be at no loss now as to the course to pursue.

Long before this letter can have reached you, my answer to the Boston resolutions will, I presume, have been published in the Gazettes of that place notwithstanding the delays it met with in getting thither; first from a mistake of the Postmaster in Alexandria; who, mixing it with the dispatches which were addressed *to me* , returned it by the messenger who carried my letters to his Office, this necessarily detained it three days; and the immense falls of rain, and destruction of Bridges wch. follow'd prevented all travelling for at least three days more.

Whether it was from the sparke which kindled the fire in Boston, that the flames have spread, so extensively; or whether the torch, by a pre-concerted plan, was lit ready for the explosion in all parts so soon as the advice to ratify the treaty should be announced, remains to be developed; but as the ratification thereof, agreeably to the advice of the Senate has passed from me, these meetings in opposition to the constituted authorities are as useless as they are *at all times* ,

improper and dangerous. My best respects to Mrs. Adams, and with sincere regard I am &c.

To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, August 20, 1795.

[Dr. Sir: I recd. your favor dated the 8th of July (on the subject of the treaty with G B)1 the day preceeding my departure for Mount Vernon; from whence I intended to have acknowledged the receipt of it: but so many letters of a public nature were poured upon

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me at that place, and the urgency of the business in which I have since been engaged, have prevented my doing it till now.]

Aiming only to promote and secure the true interests of my country, I willingly receive information concerning those interests from my fellow citizens. The opinions and reasonings of enlightened men are particularly acceptable: but, as it happens in other matters, so in this, they are extremely variant. You deem the

1. In the *Washington Papers*.

treaty palpably defective and pregnant with evils: others think it contains substantial good. For myself, I freely own that I cannot discern in it the mischiefs you anticipate: on the contrary, altho' it does not rise to all our wishes, yet it appears to me calculated to procure to the United States such advantages as entitle it to our acceptance. My final act² of course conforms to this opinion.

I feel myself greatly obliged by your expressions of respect, esteem and attachment: and if the unvarying integrity of my views have deserved them, they will not now be withdrawn: for I can merit your good opinion and the general approbation of my fellow citizens only by a conscientious discharge of what I conceive to be my duty. [With great esteem and regard, I am &c.]³

To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, August 22, 1795.

Sir: Agreeably to your request and my promise, and as soon as it has been in my power, I send you a copy of Mr. Fauchet's letter No. 108 to the "Commissaire du department des relations exterieures."⁹

2. Ratification of the treaty, Aug. 14, 1795.

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3. The draft is in the writing of Timothy Pickering. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

8. This copy is in "Randolph's Vindication" in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

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

***To THOMAS JOHNSON**

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 24, 1795.

My dear Sir: The office of Secretary of State is vacant; occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Randolph. Will you accept it? You know my wishes of old, to bring you into the administran.; where then is the necessity of repeating them? No time more than the present ever required the aid of your abilities nor of the old; and proved Patriots of the country. To have yours would be pleasing to me, and I verily believe wd. be agreeable also to the community at large. It is with you to decide; if in the affirmative return to me the enclosed lettr. and I will communicate further with you on this subject the moment you inform me thereof. If it is in the negative, be so good as to forward the letter by the Post agreeably to its address. And at any rate write me the result of your determination as soon as you can after the receipt of this letter as I only remain here to get this, and some other matters arranged before I go to Virginia for my family.¹⁴ With sincere esteem etc.¹⁵

14. Johnson's letter of declination, Aug. 29, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

15. In *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY**

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(Private)

Triplicate

Philadelphia, August 24, 1795.

My dear Sir: The Office of Secretary of State has become vacant by the resignation of Mr. Randolph. Is the period yet arrived when the situation of your private concerns would permit you to accept it? As a preliminary mean of information, I have resorted to your letter of the 24th. of February 1794; and tho' the time there allotted for arranging them, is not *quite* accomplished; there is not much wanting of it. And I have heard, besides, that you were, in a manner, retiring from the pursuits of your profession.

It is unnecessary for me to repeat sentiments, which you have so often heard me express; respecting my wishes to see you in the Administration of-the general government; the sincerity of which you can have no doubt. Equally unnecessary is it, to observe to you, that the affairs of this country are in a violent paroxysm; and that it is the duty of its old and uniform friends to assist in piloting the Vessel, in which we are all embarked, between the rocks of Sylla and charibdas; for more pains never were taken I believe, than at this moment, to throw it upon one or the other; and to

embroil us in the disputes of Europe.

I shall add nothing further, however, on this Subject. For nothing, I am certain I could say on it, wd. be new to a person of your observation and information. I will come therefore to the point at once. Can you, or can you not, make it comport with your convenience and inclination to accept the appointment of Secretary of State? If you answer in the affirmative, it will occur to you instantly, that an Office of such dignity and high importance, ought not to be without a head, at such a crisis as this, a moment, if it could well be avoided. If, which I should sincerely regret, you[r] answer should be in the negative, the less (for reasons which will readily occur to you) there is said of the offer, the better. In

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either case, be so good as to favor me with an answer as soon as your mind is made up relative thereto.¹⁶ With very sincere esteem &c.¹⁷

16. Pinckney's letter of declination, Sept. 16, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

17. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

***To THOMAS JOHNSON**

Philadelphia, August 26, 1795.

My dear Sir: I discovered, after my letter of the 24th. with its enclosure was sent to the Post Office, that it would have to remain in Baltimore until friday, before it would be taken up by the cross Post for Fredericktown. This will occasion a delay on which I had not calculated; and as the return Post from the last mentioned place may not be immediate, the intention of this letter, is to request the favor of you, if my letter of the 24th. should reach your hands on friday (as expected, if you are at home) and you should be able to decide upon the purport of it by Sunday, that you would be so good as to dispatch your answer by an Express (the cost of wch. I will pay) to Baltimore, so as to be there in time for the mail of next morning. The letter for Genl. Pinckney will come under your cover to me, or to the Post master at Baltimore to proceed on with the Southern mail according to the result of your determination. To know which, on pubic and private acct. without delay is interesting to Dear Sir etc.²⁰

20. From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To JOHN MARSHALL**

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 26, 1795.

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Dear Sir: The Office of Attorney genl. of the United States has become vacant by the death of Willm. Bradford Esq. I take the earliest opportunity of asking if you will accept the appointment? The Salary annexed thereto, and the prospect of a lucrative practice in this city, the present seat of the general government, must be as well known to you, better perhaps, than they are to me; and therefore I shall say nothing concerning them. If your answer is in the affirmative, it will readily occur to you that no unnecessary time should be lost in repairing to this place, If on the contrary, it should be in the negative (which would give me concern) it might be as well to say nothing of this offer. But in either case, I pray you to give me an answer as promptly as you can.²¹ With esteem etc.²²

21. Marshall's letter of declination is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

22. From a photostat of the original in the possession of Mrs. Maria Willis Marshall Dwight, of Wilmington, Del. The draft, in the *Washington Papers*, varies in minor verbal particulars from this letter.

***To GOVERNOR JOHN JAY**

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 31, 1795.

My dear Sir: You will have learnt from the Public Gazettes, and through other more authentic channels, that all that rested with me to do, to give ratification to the treaty between this Country and G: Britain is already accomplished. Mr. Pinckneys absence from the Court of London; the information, and aids it was expected he would derive from Mr. Shorts presence and acquaintance with matters at that of Madrid; the pecuniary situation of our affairs in Holland, requiring the attentions of Mr. Adams in that country; and the little knowledge we had of the character and qualifications of Mr. Deas²⁹ have occasioned no

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little embarrassment in this business. However, a mode is adopted, which I hope will be effectual.³⁰

It has not been among the smallest of these embarrassments, that the domineering spirit of G. Britain should revive again; just at this crisis, and the outrageous and insulting conduct of some of her Officers should combine therewith to play into the hands of the discontented and sour the minds of those who are friends to Peace, order and friendship with all the world. But this by the bye.

The object of this letter, is to

29. William Allen Deas, United States chargé d'affaires at London.

30. Deas was instructed to proceed with the exchange of ratifications, if John Quincy Adams did not arrive from Holland in time. After he reached London, he wrote the Department of State, November 11, that "the additional, article suspending the clause in the twelfth article according to the ratification of the Senate, was agreed to without difficulty." From Hunter Miller's *Treaties and other International Acts* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931).

pray you to aid me with hints relative to those points which you conceive to be fit subjects for the further friendly negotiations on the trade with G. Britain agreeably to the recommendation of the Senate; and which appears to have been in contemplation by the concluding part of the treaty signed by yourself and Lord Grenville.

I intended to have asked this favor of you at an earlier day; but a coincidence of unexpected circumstances has involved me in so much business and perplexity that it has been delayed from time to time (since my arrival in this city) until the present moment; but as nothing is now asked that you have not, I am sure, revolved over and over again during your negotiation and since the decision of the Senate thereupon I persuade myself, it will require but very little time for the digest I ask, and which I beg to receive as soon as you

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can make it convenient to give it to me; circumstances making it necessary for me to leave this place, if possible, on monday next for Virginia in order to bring back my family; but instructions for the new Negociation *must* be prepared before I go. With very great esteem &c.

***To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Elkton, Wednesday, September 9, 1795.

Dear Sir: I had no time yesterday morning to look into the Gazettes; nor did I know until the evening, that the French frigate *Medusa* had slipped her Cables and put to Sea on the 31st Ult.; and was followed in a few hours by the *Africa*.⁴⁶

This circumstance be the result what it may I regret exceedingly; because the effect of the order, for the departure of the latter, will be the same as to the British as if she had been in the harbour of Newport; and we shall obtain no credit for it from the French, and their partizans; for as the appearance (however false) is susceptible of the interpretation, so it will be said, that the order was never intended to be issued until it was known there would be nothing for it to operate upon.

The purpose, however, of my writing you this letter is to request that Mr. Monroe may be immediately and fully informed of facts, and directed to represent them truly as they are; for it may be relied upon, if the *Medusa* escapes being captured, Mr. Fauchet (whose mind is ardent, and who does not leave this country with the most favorable impressions of the views of the government towards his own) will paint this transaction

46. A British frigate which had been blockading the *Medusa* in Newport harbor. Fauchet went to France on the *Medusa*, which eluded the *Africa*.

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in very high colours; and among other things will say that after waiting in vain a month, to see if the Executive would take effectual notice of the indignity offered to him, and the insult to its own Sovereignty, he was obliged to forego his passage or run the hazards he did to accomplish it. Being in a hurry, and just upon the point of proceeding⁴⁷ I will only add that with sincerity and truth I am &c.

***To ROBERT MORRIS**

Mount Vernon, September 14, 1795.

My dear Sir: The motives which give birth to this letter, proceed as much from private friendship, as they do from a sense of public duty; whatever therefore may be the effects produced by it I presume on your excuse for the trouble it will give you.

The letter herewith enclosed from Mr. Scott (one of the Commissioners of the Fedl. City) was met by me on my way to George Town,

47. Washington left Philadelphia on the morning of September 8 and reached Mount Vernon, September 13.

with another from Colo. Deakins to the same effect. To the sentiments expressed in the former, it would seem scarcely necessary to add another sentence: Yet upon a more detailed conversation with the Commissioners (since the receipt of the above letter) I am so thoroughly impressed with the ruinous consequences wch. must result to the public buildings from a delay of the payment which the Comrs. have requested, that I should think my official conduct reprehensible if I did not press them upon you most urgently.

There are many valuable Stone cutters, and other workmen now engaged; a number of laborers are employed on the public buildings of differt. descripsns. and on diff. terms; order, and a proper arrangement of the work is established; and everything at the capitol seems to progress as well as can reasonably be expected under the embarrassments

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which have been encountered. But without the aid required in Mr. Scotts letter, the whole must be at a stand, at the time he mentions; the workmen *must* be discharged; and, more than probable, the most valuable of them will be irrecoverably lost. whilst the buildings will be left, not only in a stagnant state but in a hurtful situation; involving consequences which are too obvious to need enumeration.

It was not, as I am persuaded

you are well convinced, the *price* of the lots which induced the first sale to Mr. Greenleaf, nor the subsequent one in which you are concerned; but to the collateral advantages which were expected to be derived from the erection of buildings, and the advance of money. Withhold these, and the contract exhibits an unproductive and a disagreeable spectacle.

I could enlarge very much on this subject; but I am sure nothing cd. be added that will not occur to you without [*sic*] upon reflection; or that would be in any manner new except suggestions which may not have reached you, and which I pray you to believe have not obtained the smallest credence in my mind, to wit, that as both Mr. Nicholson's interest and your own, lie principally in another quarter, nothing but embarrassments are to be expected from you. that the object of both, is to speculate with the lots till towards the close of the period for the removal of the government and then it will be found that neither of you will have retained any, or very little property in the City. Why else, it is asked did these gentlemen take this contract upon themselves, for they must have

known as well at that time as now their means for compliance, and ought not to have made these difficulties if they fd them defective. The best evidence I can give you of my thorough disbelief of these suggestions is, the communication I now make of them that being apprised thereof, their malignancy may be counteracted. Be so good as to return Mr. Scotts letter &ca. to me, and to be assured of the sincere esteem etc.

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***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1795.

Sir: Monday's Mail brought me both your letters dated the 11th. instant. The one containing an extract from Majr. Craig's⁵¹ letter, relative to the conclusion of the treaty with the North western Tribes of Indians, was very acceptable. and I pray you to dispatch Seagrove,⁵² and impress strongly upon him the necessity, and the earnest desire of, the government that he would, without delay, effect, if it can be done a peace between the Creeks and Chiccawas. It would be a pleasing circumstance not only to be enabled to say,

51. Maj. Isaac(?) Craig, quartermaster of the United States Legion.

52. James Seagrove, United States Agent of Southern Indian Affairs.

at the meeting of Congress, that we were at Peace with *all the Indian Nations* , but by the mediation of the U. States, we had settled the differences between the tribes above mentioned; the latter of whom having been always our friends, and engaged according to their own acct. in a war partly on our behalf.

My letter from Baltimore by Express (the expence of which I preferred to the delay of waiting three days for the next mail) and my other letter from Elkton will shew my anxiety to get off the sevl. dispatches for our public characters abroad, namely, Pinckney, Monroe and Adams; I request therefore to know (if they are gone) when, and by what Vessels, and what Ports they were sent: and I request moreover, that repeated copies may be sent to all of them to insure the arrival of one.

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I am sorry I had not sounded Mr. Boudinot⁵³ on the appointment to the Mint, before he left the vicinity of Phila. as Mr. De Dissausure⁵⁴ cannot or will not remain at his Post longer than the early part of October.

Mr. Marshall (from some peculiar circumstances) declines the offer of Attorney Genl.; and I have been enquiring into the abilities

53. Elias Boudinot was nominated director of the United States Mint in a message to the Senate, Dec. 10, 1795, and confirmed, December 11.

54. Henry William De Saussure. He was director of the United States Mint.

and other qualifications of the Law characters in Maryland, but not much to my satisfaction as yet.

I perceive by the Gazettes, that the Africa missed the prey she was in pursuit of, and had got back to her old Station at Newport. Have you heard whether the order for quitting it has been communicated to Captn. Holmes? If so what has been the result? and the sentiments [it] has excited in persons of different descriptions. With much truth I am etc.

***To HENRY KNOX**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1795.

My dear Sir: I received with great pleasure the letter you wrote me from Boston, dated the 2d. instant; as I always shall do any others you may favor me with. This pleasure was encreased by hearing of the good health of Mrs. Knox and the rest of your family, and the agreeableness of your establishment at St. George's in the Provence of Maine. I may add also, that the account given of the favorable disposition of the people, generally, in your hemisphere, relatively to the Treaty with Great Britain, contributed not a little to the satisfaction

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I derived in hearing from you.

Next to a conscientious discharge of my public duties, to carry along with me the approbation of my Constituents, would be the highest gratification my mind is susceptible of; but the latter being subordinate, I cannot make the former yield to it; unless some criterion more infallible than partial (if they are not party) meetings, can be discovered as the touch stone of public sentiment. If any power on earth could, or the great power above would, erect the standard of infallibility in political opinions, there is no being that inhabits this terrestrial globe that would resort to it with more eagerness than myself, so long as I remain a servant of the public. But as I have found no better guide hitherto than upright intentions, and dose investigation, I shall adhere to these maxims while I keep the watch; leaving it to those who will come after me to explore new ways, if they like; or think them better.

The temper of the people of this State, particularly the Southern parts of it, of South Carolina and Georgia, as far as it is discoverable from the several meetings and resolutions which have been published, is adverse to the Treaty with Great Britain; and yet, I doubt much

whether the great body of Yeomanry have formed any opinion on the subject; and whether, if their sense could be fairly taken under a plain and simple statement of facts, nine tenths of them would not advocate the measure. But with such abominable misrepresentations as appear in most of the proceedings, is it to be wondered at that uninformed minds should be affrighted with the dreadful consequences which are predicted, and are taught to expect, from the ratification of such a diabolical instrument, as the treaty is denominated. From North Carolina we hear little concerning it, and from Kentucky nothing.

The moment I received your letter, with one from young Fayette (which was not until the evening preceeding my departure for this place I wrote to Mr. Cabot, the Senator,

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requesting, without letting my name appear, that the young gentleman might be provided (at my expence) with every thing that he and his Tutor might stand in need of. And as his coming to Philadelphia, immediately at least, might, the French Minister being there, occasion embarrassments and be productive of no essential good, I proposed, until something more eligable could be devised, to have him entered at the University in Cambridge, with his Tutor. I did not write to the youth myself, for reasons which will readily occur to you; but entreated Mr. Cabot to

explain them to him in the most affectionate and consoling manner; and to assure him in the strongest terms, that I would be to him as a friend and father; and that he might to all intents and purposes count upon me as such.

If your mind is still balancing between Philadelphia and Boston for Winter quarters, I sincerely wish it may fix on the former. Mrs. Washington and the rest of my family are well, and unite in best regards for you, Mrs. Knox &ca.; with Dear Sir Your etc.

[MS.H.S.]

To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1795.

Dear Sir: Two letters from you, dated the 18 instant, were received yesterday.

For the reasons you have assigned, I think it best that Mr. Boudinot should fill the Directorship of the Mint, and request he may be informed so. At the same time, urge him to come forward, if for no other purpose than

to arrange matters with the present occupant, and derive from him all the insight into the business, his experience has acquird, and which he promised me he would communicate to his successor. Inclosed is a blank commission for the Successor of Mr. Desaussure,

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which may take date at the close of his services, according to the arrangement proposed above.

I also send a Letter from Mr. Kinlock relative to his Nephew, who, from his account, is suffering in the cause of the unfortunate Fayette. I wish you to acknowledge the rect. of it; but what consolation to give him I know not; for if the citizens of the U States in foreign countries commit acts, which are repugnant to their Laws or usages, they certainly expose themselves to punishment: nor having any character in the Austrian Dominions cloathed as a functionary, do I know of any channel through which a movement of *any* sort could be made.

If the French Letter which goes under cover with this, requires any act of mine, let it be returned with a translation and your opinion thereon.

I wait with some impatience to receive an official acct. of the result of Wayne's treaty with the Western Indians. When it is recd. at the War office, give me the substance of it. By this however I

mean no more than whether the representation on the part of the Indians was complete, and whether he has come fully up to his instructions: exceeded, or fallen short of them in advantages, and in what instances; what are the boundaries; whether the proceedings went on harmoniously, or were intermingled with Difficulties; and of what sort, and from whom. With great esteem etc.⁵⁸

***To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 21st. instant, did not reach me until yesterday. A late letter of mine to you, will have fixed the Directorship of the Mint-upon Mr. Boudinot; the

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application therefore of Majr. Jackson, however fit he may have been for the Office, is too late. But besides the reasons assigned in your letter against such an appointment at present, I should have preferred a character from another State, if one equally suitable could have

58. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

been found; for the reasons you have often heard me mention altho' they do not apply with the same force now as formerly.

With respect to Mr. Dexter,⁶³ for the Office of Attorney General, altho I have a very good opinion of his abilities, and know nothing in his moral character or connexions that are objectionable, yet the reason which I assigned when his name was first mentioned to me has still weight in my mind; that is, after a long and severely contested, an election he could not obtain a majority of suffrages in the District he formerly represented. In this instance then the sense of his constituents respecting him *personally* has been fairly taken; and one of the charges agst. me, relative to the treaty you know is, that I have disregarded the voice of the people, altho' that voice has never yet been heard unless the misrepresentations of party, or at best partial meetings can be called so.

I shall not, whilst I have the honor to Administer the government, bring a man into any office, of consequence knowingly whose political tenets are adverse to the measures which the *general* government are pursuing; for this, in my opinion, would be a sort of political Suicide; that it wd. embarrass its movements is most certain. But of two men equally well affected to the true interests of their country, of equal abilities and equally disposed to lend their support, it

63. Samuel Dexter, of Massachusetts.

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is the part of prudence to give a preference to him, against whom the *least* clamour can be excited: for such an one my enquiries have been made and are still making: how far I shall succeed, is at this moment problematical.⁶⁴

I have not relinquished my intention of being in Philadelphia about the middle of next month. With great esteem &c.

***To EDMUND RANDOLPH**

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1795.

Sir: I have lately received three letters from you: two bearing date the 15th. instant; the other the 21st. One of the former came to hand the 19th, the other the 21st.⁶⁵ and the latter yesterday.

Your signature as Secretary of State to the ratification of the Treaty having been given on the 14th. of August, and your resignation not taking place until the 19th. it became necessary, in order to be consistent (the original being dispatched) that the same countersign should appear to the copies; otherwise, this act would not have been required of you.

64. At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "If the choice should finally fall upon Mr. Dexter I can with truth say I have been actuated by no other motive than is here expressed for I have an exceeding good opinion of him."

65. The draft in the *Washington Papers* has the "22d."

It is not in my power to inform you at what time Mr. Hammond put the intercepted letter of Mr. Fauchet into the hands of Mr. Wolcott. I had no intimation of the existence of such a letter until after my arrival in Philadelphia, the 11th. of August. When Lord Grenville first obtained that letter, and when the British Minister here received it from him; are facts with

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which I am entirely unacquainted. I have never seen in whole, or in part, Mr. Fauchet's dispatches numbered Three and Six; nor do I possess any document, or knowledge of papers which have affinity to the subject in question.

No man would rejoice more than I should, to find that the suspicions which have resulted from the intercepted letter, were unequivocally, and honorably removed.⁶⁶

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 25th. and two of the 28th. Ult. have been duly received; one of them accompanied with a copy of the treaty

⁶⁶. From the manuscript volume labeled "Randolph's Vindication," in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress.

with the Western Indians, which I shall retain until my arrival in Philadelphia; presuming, if no accident happens, that the original will be with you as soon as the copy could, were I to send it by the Mail of tomorrow.

In one of your letters of the above date, the proceedings of a meeting at Augusta in Georgia, forwarded by Judge Walton is mentioned as an enclosure. None, however came, nor was it material, as you proposed to acknowledge the receipt thereof. with very great esteem etc.

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1795.

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Dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th. Ultó. was received yesterday. It is not wonderful that Mr. Randolphs late conduct, and the publication of his letter to me, should have excited an anxious curiosity to know what his explanations will be;

but it is wonderful that so much time should be required to give birth to them.

Embarrassed, as it is to be apprehended he is, in this business, his object, I conceive must be, to gain time; to puzzle; and to try if he cannot discover inconsistencies in the conduct of others, relative to it. On no other ground can I account for his letter to me, dated the 21st. Ultó; which, with his other two of the 15th;⁷⁴ and my answer to the whole, I herewith enclose for the information of yourself and Colo. Pickering *only* .

His letters of the 15th received no acknowledgment; and at first I hesitated whether to give any to that of the 21st. After a while I thought of referring him to you, for information on those points which it was evidently as much, or more in your power than in mine, to give him; but finally I conceived it most eligible to furnish him with no pretexts, and therefore wrote what you will see in the copy.⁷⁵ I did it, because if delay was his object, it would be promoted by my silence; and because (which probably would have answered his purposes still better) it might have afforded him some ground for saying he was doomed to be a victim; and with a view to accomplish it, the means to his vindication was denied, or withheld.

These reasons added to a disposition to do him all manner of justice, induced

74. None of these letters, the two of September 15 and the one of September 21, are now found in the *Washington Papers*. Randolph's draft of one of those of September 15 is in the group of papers labeled "Randolph's Vindication," in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress.

75. See Washington's letter to Edmund Randolph, Sept. 27, 1795, *ante*.

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me to give him concise answers to all his queries; as far as the means were within my power, although fully convinced in my own mind of the insidious tendency of them.

Whether similar enquiries have been made of you, of Colo. Pickering, or of both, by him, I know not. If they have, to see if he could involve inconsistencies in the answers, has been his aim: and to know what kind of superstructure he might build, on the information he has obtained (if any) from Mr. Fauchet, it was necessary to ascertain in the first place, whether the government was in possession of any part of that gentlemen's letters numbered 3 and 6, by which, this superstructure might be endangered. I was on the point once, of hinting to him, that I hoped nothing in his vindication wd. render it necessary to publish the whole of Mr. Fauchet's letter; but on second thoughts I declined it, lest he should consider it as a threat, and make an improper use of it.

As I shall be in Philadelphia shortly, I will not add on this subject; but from you, if any thing more transpires, I should be glad to hear. The present enclosures may remain in your hands until I return to the City. With very great esteem etc.

[C.H.S.]

***To PATRICK HENRY**

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1795.

Dear Sir: Whatever may be the reception of this letter; truth and candour shall mark its steps. You doubtless know that the Office of State is vacant, and no one can be more sensible than yourself of the importance of filling it with a person of abilities, and one in whom the public would have confidence.

It would be uncandid not to inform you that this office has been offered to others, but it is as true that it was from a conviction in my mind that you would not accept it (until Tuesday

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last in a conversation with Genl. (late Governor,) Lee he dropped sentiments which made it less doubtful) that it was not offered first to you.

I need scarcely add, that if this appointment could be made to comport with your own inclination it would be as pleasing to me, as I believe it would be acceptable to the public. With this assurance, and under this belief I make you the offer of it. My first wish is, that you would accept it; the next is that you would be so good as to give me an answer as soon as you conveniently can, as the public business in that departt. is now suffering for want of a Secretary.

I persuade myself, Sir, it has not escaped your observation, that a crisis is approaching that must if it cannot be arrested soon decide whether order and good government shall be preserved or anarchy and confusion ensue. I can most religiously aver I have no wish, that is incompatible with the dignity, happiness and true interest of the people of this country. My ardent desire is, and my aim has been (as far as depended upon the Executive Department,) to comply strictly with *all* our engagements. foreign and domestic; but to keep the U States free from *political* connexions with *every* other Country. To see that they *may be* independent of *all* , and under the influence of *none* . In a word, I want an *American* character, that the powers of Europe may be convinced we act for *ourselves* and not for *others* ; this in my judgment, is the only way to be respected abroad and happy at home and not by becoming the partizans of Great Britain or France, create dissensions, disturb the public tranquillity, and destroy, perhaps for ever the cement wch. binds the Union.

I am satisfied these sentiments cannot be otherwise

than congenial to your own; your aid therefore in carrying them into effect would be flattering and pleasing to Dr. Sir &c.87

***To EDMUND RANDOLPH**

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Philadelphia, October 21, 1795.

Sir: In several of the public Gazettes I had read your note to the Editor of the Philadelphia Gazette, with an extract of a letter addressed to me of the 8th. instant; but it was not until yesterday, that the letter itself was received.

It is not difficult, from the tenor of that letter, to perceive what your objects are; but that you may have no cause to complain of the withholding any paper (however private and confidential) which you shall think necessary in a case of so serious a nature, I have directed [that you should have the inspection of]⁹⁴ my letter of the 22d. of July [agreeably to your request];⁹⁵ and you are at full liberty to publish, without reserve, *any*, and *every* private and confidential letter I ever wrote you; nay more, every word I ever uttered to, or in your presence, from whence you can derive any advantage in your vindication.

[I grant this permission,

87. Henry replied (October 16), declining the appointment. His letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*. It was removed from them by Sprague and is now in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A photostat of it is in the *Washington Papers*.

94. In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "a copy of the one you apply for, namely" This is crossed out.

95. In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written "to be delivered to you." This is crossed out.

inasmuch as the extract alluded to, manifestly tends to impress on the public mind an opinion that something has passed between us which you should disclose with reluctance; from motives of delicacy which respect me.]⁹⁶

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You know, Sir, even before the Treaty was laid before the Senate, that I had difficulties with respect to the commercial part of it; with which I professed to be the least acquainted; and that I had no means of acquiring information thereon without disclosing its contents: not to do which until it was submitted to the Senate, had been resolved on. You know too, that it was my determination previous to this submission, to ratify the Treaty if it should be so advised and consented to by that body; and that the doubts which afterwards arose, and were communicated to Mr. Hammond, proceeded from more authentic information of the existence of what is commonly called the Provision order of the British [government.]⁹⁷ And finally, [you know the grounds on which my ultimate decision was taken; as the same were expressed to you, the other Secretaries of departments and the late Attorney general, after a thorough investigation and consideration of the subject,

96. The part within brackets is in the writing of Pickering, in the draft, and was substituted for the following which is there crossed out: "I am induced to make this inasmuch as the extract above alluded to appears to me to have a manifest tendency to impress on the public mind an opinion that something misterious has passed between us which you reluctantly bring forward, whilst others are kept back."

97. In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: "Cabinet." This is crossed out.

in all the aspects which it could be placed.]⁹⁸

As you are no longer an Officer of the government, and propose to submit your vindication⁹⁹ to the Public, it is not my desire, nor is it my intention to receive it otherwise than through the medium of the Press. Facts you cannot mistake. and if they are fairly and candidly stated, they will invite no comments.¹

The extract of your letter to me, dated the 8th. instant, being [published in]² all the gazettes, I request that this letter may be inserted in the compilation you are now making;

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as well to shew my disposition to furnish you with every means I possess towards your [vindication],³ as that I have no wish to conceal any part of my conduct from the public. That public will judge, when it comes to see your vindication, how far, and how proper it has been for you, to publish private and confidential communications, which, oftentimes have been written in a hurry, and sometimes without even copies being taken. And it will, I hope, appreciate my motives, even if it should condemn my prudence, in allowing you the unlimited license herein contained.⁴

98. In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: “as it has been expressed to you, and to the Secretaries of the other departments in your presence you also know after a thorough investigation and consideration of the subject in all the aspects it could be placed the grounds upon which my ultimate decision was taken.” This is crossed out.

99. At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: “against the suggestions contained in the intercepted Confidential letter of the late French Minister.”

1. At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: “if they are not, explanations and perhaps references must follow.”

2. In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: “on its passage through.” This is crossed out.

3. In the writing of Pickering in the draft. Washington had written: “general letter.” This is crossed out.

4. In the group of papers labeled “Randolph's Vindication” in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

***To HENRY WILLIAM DE SAUSSURE**

Library of Congress

Sunday Morning, November 1, 1795.

Dear Sir: I thank you for the plan of the Santee Canal, which you have had the goodness to send me.

If General Pinckney²⁵ has gone more into detail, than is found in the expression of your letter relative to the Estt. at F. Johnson²⁶ should be glad to receive an extract thereof; otherwise, the transcript would be unnecessary. It is to be observed, however, that the strength of our garrisons must be proportioned to the means from whence they are drawn.

I cannot in this moment of yr. departure but express my regret, that it was not accordant with your views to remain in the Directorship of the Mint. Permit me to add thereto that yr. conduct therein gave entire satisfaction; and to wish you a pleasant voyage and a happy meeting with your friends in So. Carolina; being with very great esteem etc.

25. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

26. Fort Johnson, S. C.

To GENERAL DE BOUVINGHAUSEN

United States, Philadelphia, November 18, 1795.

Sir: I received your Excellency's letter dated at Stoutgard the 10th of June last, in which you ask my aid in securing to you the payment of certain legacies which you represent to have been destined for yourself, your three sons, and Mr. Franc, by the will of the late major general baron de Steuben, my highly valued friend.

Immediately on the receipt of your letter, I caused enquiry to be made about the subject of it; and lose no time to transmit to you the result. This you will find in the enclosed letter

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from Colonel Pickering (Secretary of War) to Colo. Benjamin Walker, in his answer, and in a copy of the Baron's last will.

If the fortune of the Baron de Steuben had been as ample as his heart was benevolent, none of his friends would have been omitted in the dispositions of his will. I have the honor etc.⁴¹

41. The draft is in the writing of Timothy Pickering.

***To JOHN EAGER HOWARD**

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 19, 1795.

Dear Sir: It may seem strange to those, not acquainted with circumstances, that the office of State should be so long vacant; but causes, not within my power to controul, have occasioned it.

I have, at length, proposed to Colo. Pickering, to go from the War office into that of State, and he has agreed to do so:⁴³ this, of course makes a vacancy in the former. Permit me, to ask you, Sir to fill it.

I shall use no other arguments to induce your acceptance than such as candour dictates, these are, that I believe the duties of the Office will be well executed by you: that I conceive the appointment will be very agreeable to the public; and though of lesser consideration in a national point of view because it would be very agreeable to Dr. Sir, etc.⁴⁴

43. Pickering had acted as Secretary of State, in addition to his duties as Secretary of War, since August 9. He was nominated Secretary of State, December 9, confirmed and commissioned, Dec. 10, 1795.

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44. See Washington's letter to John Eager Howard, Nov. 30, 1795, *post*.

***To CHARLES LEE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, November 19, 1795.

Dear Sir: The Office of Attorney Genl. of the U. States is not yet filled. The reason why it is not Genl. Lee, at my request, will frankly relate to you.

If you can make it convenient, and agreeable to yourself to accept it,⁴² I should derive pleasure therefrom, both from public and private considerations; being persuaded that the duties of the Office will be well executed, and because I should be much gratified in having a confidential Officer about me, on whom I could rely. With very great esteem etc.

***To JOHN EAGER HOWARD**

Philadelphia, November 30, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letters of the 23d and 26th. instt.⁵³ from Annapolis, the first was received with regret: the second,⁵⁴ assuredly with pleasure; for while I am resolved that no mis-representations, falsehoods or calumny; shall make me

42. Lee's letter of acceptance, dated Nov. 30, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

53. Howard's letter, dated November 23, declining the appointment of Secretary of War, is in the *Washington Papers*.

54. Of November 26 inclosed the resolve of the Maryland Legislature of November 25, "observing with deep concern a series of efforts by indirect insinuations or open invective, to detach from the first magistrate of the union, the well earned confidence of his fellow

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citizens, think it their duty to declare, and they do hereby declare their unabated reliance on the integrity, judgement and patriotism of the President of the United States.” Howard's letter and copy of the resolve are in the *Washington Papers*.

swerve from what I conceive to be the strict line of my duty. and while I have suffered the various attempts to destroy all confidence in my administration to pass without notice it is grateful to my feelings to find so respectable a body as the Legislature of Maryland appreciating my motives at the expence of my Calumniators.

Had your inclination, and private pursuits permitted you to have accepted the Office that was offered to you, it would have been a very pleasing circumstance to me, and I am persuaded as I observed to you on a former occasion a very acceptable one to the public, but the reasons which you have assigned for not doing it carry conviction along with them, and must however reluctantly be submitted to. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.

To ROBERT MORRIS

Philadelphia, December 3, 1795.

Dr. Sir: I can add nothing in support of the Extract on the other side, that was not contained in a former letter from me to you on the same subject. But I would thank you for letting me know what answer I shall return to the Commissioners of the federal City.

Their credit *I know* has been stretched to its utmost limits, in order to keep the wheels moving, even in the slow and unprofitable manner in which they have turned. I am etc.56

***To GOVERNOR JOHN HAWKINS STONE**

Philadelphia, December 6, 1795.

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Dear Sir: By thursdays Post I was favoured with your letter of the 27th Ultó. enclosing a declaration of the General Assembly of Maryland.⁶⁰ At any time the expression of such a sentiment would have been considered as highly honorable and

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

60. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to John Eager Howard. Nov. 30, 1795, *ante*.)

flattering: at the present, when the voice of malignancy is so high toned, and no attempts are left unessayed to destroy all confidence in the Constituted authorities of this country it is peculiarly grateful to my Sensibility; and coming spontaneously, and with the unanimity it has done from so respectable a representation of the People it adds weight, as well as pleasure to the Act.

I have long since resolved (for the present time at least) to let my calumniaters proceed, without taking notice of their invectives myself, or by any other with my participation or knowledge. Their views, I dare say are readily perceived by all the enlightened and well disposed part of the Community; and by the Records of my Administration, and not by the voice of faction I expect to be acquitted or condemned hereafter.

For your politeness in making the unofficial and friendly communication of this act, I pray you to receive my thanks; and assurances at the sametime of my being, with very great esteem etc.

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Friday, December 11, 1795.

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Dr. Sir: I learn with concern that the statements from the W. department referred to in my Speech to Congress, are not yet handed in; and that some members are ascribing delay of business, to the want of the information which has been promised, and have been expecting. I request they may be presented without delay. I am etc.

***To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 22, 1795.

My dear Sir: I am become so unprofitable a correspondent, and so remiss in my correspondencies, that nothing but the kindness of my friends in overlooking these deficiencies, could induce them to favor me with a continuance of their letters; which, to me, are at once pleasing, interesting, and useful. To a man immersed in debt, and seeing no prospect of extrication but by an act of insolvency (perhaps absolvency would be a better word) I compare myself: and like him too, affraid to examine the items of the

account, I will, at once, make a lumping acknowledgment of the receipt of many interesting private letters from you, previous to your last arrival in England; and will begin with those of the 3d. of July and 22d. of Augt. subsequent thereto.

As the British government has repealed the order for seizing our Provision Vessels, little more need be said on that head than that it was the *principle* which constituted the most obnoxious and exceptionable part thereof; and the predicament in which this country was thereby placed in her relations with France. Admitting therefore that the compensation to *some* individuals was adequate to what it might have been in another quarter, yet the exceptions to it on these grounds, remained the same.

I do not think Colo. Innes's report to the Govr. of Kentucky was entirely free from exceptions; but let the report be accompanied with the following remarks. 1, That the one

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which Lord Grenville might have seen published, was disclaimed by Colo. Innes as soon as it appeared in the public Gazettes, on account of its incorrectness. 2. An irritable spirit at that time pervaded all our people

at the Westward, arising from a combination of causes (but from none more powerful than the analogous proceedings of Great Britain in the North, with those of Spain in the South, towards the United States (and their Indian borderers) which spirit required some management and soothing. But 3. and principally, Lord Grenville if he had adverted to the many remonstrances which have gone from this country against the conduct of his own; which I will take the liberty to say has been as impolitic for their Nation (if Peace and a good understanding with this, was its object) as it has been irritating to us. And that it may not be conceived that I am speaking at random, let his Lordship be asked if we have not complained, that some of their naval Officers have insulted and menaced us in our *own Ports* ? That they have violated our national rights, by searching Vessels, and impressing Seamen within our acknowledged Jurisdiction? and in an outrageous manner have seized the latter by *entire crews* in the West Indies, and done the like, but not so extensively, in all parts of the World? That the Bermudian Privateers, or to speak more correctly, Pirates; and the Admiralty Court of that Island, have committed the most atrocious depredations and violences on our Commerce in capturing, and in their adjudications afterwards, as were never tolerated in any well organized or efficient government? That their Governor of Upper Canada has ordered, in an official, and formal manner, Settlers within our own territory (and far removed from the Posts they have withheld from us) to withdraw, and forbid others to settle on the same? That the persons to whom their Indian Affairs are entrusted, have taken unwearied pains, and practiced every deception to keep those people in a state of irritation and disquietude with us; and, to the *last* moment, exerted every nerve to prevent the Treaty which has lately been concluded between the United States and them, from taking effect?

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These complaints were not founded in vague and idle reports, but on indubitable facts. Facts not only known to the government, but so notorious as to be known to the people also; who charge to the last item of the above enumeration, the expenditure of a million, or more dollars annually, for the purpose of self defence against Indian tribes thus stimulated, and for chastising them for the ravages and cruel murders which they had committed on our frontier Inhabitants. Our Minister at the Court of London has been directed to remonstrate

against these things, with force and energy. The answer, it is true, has been (particularly with respect to the interferences with the Indians) a disavowal. Why then are not the Agents of such unauthorised, offensive, and injurious measures, made examples of? For wherein, let me ask, consists the difference *to us* between their being the acts of government, or the acts of unauthorised Officers, or Agents of the government; if we are to sustain all the evils which flow from such measures?

To this catalogue may be added, the indifference, nay more than indifference, with which the government of Great Britain received the advances of this country towards a friendly intercourse with it; even after the adoption of the present Constitution, and since the operation of the government; and also, the ungracious and obnoxious characters (rancorous refugees, as if done with design to insult the country) which they have sent among us as their Agents; who retaining all their former enmity, could see nothing through a proper medium, and becoming the earwigs of their Ministers (who by the by does not possess a mind capacious enough, or a temper sufficiently conciliatory, to view things and act upon a great and liberal scale) were always labouring under some unfavorable information and impression; And, probably not

communicating them in a less exceptionable manner than they received, or conceived themselves.

I give you these details (and if you should again converse with Lord Grenville on the subject, you are at liberty, unofficially, to mention them, or any of them, according to

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circumstances) as evidences of the impolitic conduct, for so it strikes me, of the British government towards these United States; that it may be seen how difficult it has been for the Executive, under such an accumulation of irritating circumstances, to maintain the ground of neutrality which had been taken; at a time when the remembrance of the aid we had received from France in the Revolution, was fresh in every mind, and when the partizans of that country were continually contrasting the affections of that people with the unfriendly disposition of the *British government* . and that too, as I have observed before, while the recollection of their *own* sufferings during the War with the latter, had not been forgotten.

It is well known that Peace has been (to borrow a modern phraze) the order of the day with me, since the disturbances in Europe first

commenced. My policy has been, and will continue to be, while I have the honor to remain in the administration of the government, to be upon friendly terms with, but independant of, all the nations of the earth. To share in the broils of none. To fulfil our own engagements. To supply the wants, and be carriers for them all: being thoroughly convinced that it is our policy and interest to do so; and that nothing short of self respect, and that justice which is essential to a national character, ought to involve us in War; for sure I am, if this country is preserved in tranquillity twenty years longer, it may bid defiance, in a just cause, to any power whatever, such, in that time, will be its population, wealth, and resource.

If Lord Grenville conceives that the United States are not well disposed towards Great Britain, his candour, I am persuaded, will seek for the causes; and his researches will fix them as I have done. If this should be the case, his policy will, I am persuaded, be opposed to the continuance, or renewal of the irritating measures which I have enumerated; for he may be assured, tho' the assurance will not, it is probable, carry conviction with it from me to a member of the British administration, that a liberal policy will be one of the most effectual means of deriving advantages to their trade and

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manufactures from the people of the United States; and will contribute more than any thing else, to obliterate the impressions which have been made by their late conduct towards it.

In a government as free as ours where the people are at liberty, and will express their sentiments, oftentimes imprudently, and for want of information sometimes unjustly, allowances must be made for occasional effervescences; but after the declaration which I have here made of my political creed, you can run no hazard in asserting, that the Executive branch of this government never has, nor will suffer, while I preside, any improper conduct of its officers to escape with impunity; or will give its sanctions to any disorderly proceedings of its citizens.

By a firm adherence to these principles, and to the neutral policy which has been adopted, I have brought on myself a torrent of abuse in the factious papers in this country, and from the enmity of the discontented of all descriptions therein: But having no sinister objects in view, I shall not be diverted from my course by these, nor any attempts which are, or shall be made to withdraw the

confidence of my constituents from me. I have nothing to ask, and discharging my duty, I have nothing to fear from invective. The acts of my Administration will appear when I am no more, and the intelligent and candid part of mankind will not condemn my conduct without recurring to them.

The Treaty entered into with G. Britain has (as you have been informed) undergone much, and severe animadversion; and tho' a more favorable one were to have been wished, which the policy perhaps of Great Britain might have granted, yet the demerits thereof are not to be estimated by the opposition it has received; nor is the opposition sanctioned by the great body of the yeomanry in these States: for they (whatever their opinion of it may be) are disposed to leave the decision where the Constitution has placed it. But an occasion was wanting, and the instrument by those who required it, was deemed well calculated for the purpose of working upon the affections of the people of this country,

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towards those of France; whose interests and rights under our treaty with them, they represented as being violated; and with the aid of the Provision order, and other irritating conduct of the British Ships of War, and agents, as mentioned before, the means were furnished, and more

pains taken, than upon any former occasion, to raise a general ferment with a view to defeat the Treaty.

But knowing that you have other correspondents who have more leisure, and equally capable of detailing these matters, I will leave you to them, and the Gazettes, for fuller information thereon; and for a more minute account of the prevailing politics. And thanking you for the interesting information, and opinions contained in your letter of the 22d. of August, 69 shall only add that with sincere esteem etc.

PS. We have not heard through any other channel than your letter, of the intended resignation of Mr. Skipwith, 70 and of the proposed recommendation of Mr. Montfloreance. 71

69. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

70. Fulwar Skipwith. He was Consul General of the United States to France. The Skipworth mention is in Morris's letter of August 23, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

71. J.C. Montfloreance, of North Carolina.

***To JAMES McHENRY**

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 20, 1796.

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My dear Sir: Let this letter be received with the same friendship and frankness, with which it is written; nothing would add more to the satisfaction this would give me, than your acceptance of the offer I am going to make you.

Without further preface then, will you suffer me to nominate you to the Office of Secretary of War? That I may give evidence of the candour I have professed above, I shall inform you, that for particular reasons (more fit for an oral, than a written communication) this Office has been offered to Genl. Pinckney of So. Carolina; Colo. Carrington of Virginia, and Govr. Howard¹ of Maryland, and that it would now give me sincere pleasure if you would fill it.

After making this declaration I can press you no farther; but I press for an immediate answer, as the public Service is suffering much for want of a head to the department of War. If you consent to this nomination, prepare to come on as soon as it is made (for the reason just mentioned) altho' at this season, and in the present state of the Roads, you should not find it convenient to bring

1. John Eager Howard. He was Governor of Maryland from 1788 to 1792.

Mrs. McHenry and your family along with you.

Sound, I pray you, and let me know without delay, if Mr. Saml Chase would accept a seat on the Supreme Judicial bench of the U. States, made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Blair. If his decision is in the affirmative, he will at once perceive the necessity of being here by the first monday (if possible) in next month, at which time that Court is to sit in this city.² Altho' these subjects are, both, of an interesting nature, I will add no more on them at present; but assure you of the sincere friendship, and Affecte. regard of &c.³

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

Philadelphia, January 28, 1796.

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Dear Sir: Your letters of the 21st and 24th. instant have been duly received. The last, in time on tuesday, to give in the Nominations of yourself and Mr. Chase for the Offices contemplated. The day following they were advised and consented to by the Senate; and the Commissions will be

2. McHenry's letter of acceptance (January 24), stating also that Chase would accept, is in the *Washington Papers*.

3. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

On January 26 the President nominated McHenry and Chase, and also William Cushing, of Massachusetts, the latter for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. On January 27 the Senate concurred in these appointments. The nominating message and the concurrence are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

ready for the reception of you both on your arrival in this City. of this be so good as to inform Mr. Chase; and, if he is still at Baltimore, to remind him, that monday next is the day appointed for the sitting of the Supreme Court; and without him, there is no certainty of a sufficient number of Judges to constitute it.

For the reasons assigned in my last to you, and which press more and more every day, I shall look anxiously for your arrival. Always and Affectly. etc.⁷

***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th of October from Madrid, has been duly received.³³ With regret, I read the request which is contained in it;³⁴ but the footing on which you have placed the matter, forbids opposition, or even persuasion on my part that you

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would recede from it; altho' the difficulty of supplying your place to my satisfaction; to the satisfaction of your country; or of the Court you will leave, will not be found easy.

7. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

On January 28 Dandridge informed the Secretary of War that Washington “conceives, with the Secretary, that at the junction of the Rivers Potomac and Shannondoah combines the greatest advantages and of course is the most eligible spot. The President desires that the Secretary will cause measures to be taken immediately for purchasing the land and erecting the necessary works at the above place in conformity to the act of Congress for establishing public Arsenals &ca.” This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

33. In the *Washington Papers*.

34. Pinckney had asked to be recalled.

Having heard thro' different channels that you had concluded a treaty with Spain, and that the Vessel which had it on board was spoke at Sea; we axe in daily and anxious expectation of its arrival. The information has diffused general pleasure; and will be soothing to the inhabitants of the Western Waters, who were beginning to grow restive and clamorous to obtain the Navigation.

Since the re-confinement of Mr. de la Fayette (after the attempt made by Doctr Bolman and Mr. Huger,³⁵ both of whom are now in this City, to effect his escape) we have heard nothing further respecting him, than that his confinement is more rigorous than before. We know indeed, that Madam de la Fayette, and his two daughters have been at Hamburg; that it was reported they were coming to America; but that instead of doing it, they went to Vienna to try the effect of personal sollicitation to obtain his releasement. Newspaper accounts go farther and say they were permitted to proceed to Almutz. But how far the latter information is to be depended upon; and if true, what has, or will be the result, is altogether unknown to me.

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I need hardly mention how much my sensibility has been hurt

35. Dr. J. Eric Bollman and Francis Kinloch Huger, of South Carolina.

by the treatment this Gentleman has met with; or how anxious I am to see him liberated therefrom; but what course to pursue, as most likely and proper to aid the measure, is not quite so easy to decide on. As President of the U States, there must be a commitment of the Government by any interference of mine; and it is no easy matter in a transaction of *this nature* for a public character to assume the garb of a private citizen in a case that does not relate to himself. Yet such is my wish to contribute *my mite* to accomplish this desirable object, that I have no objection to its being made known to the Imperial Ambassador in London (who, if he thinks proper, may communicate it to his Court) that this event is an ardent wish of the people of the United States, in wch I sincerely add mine. The time, the manner, and even the measure itself, I leave to your discretion; as circumstances and every matter which concerns this Gentleman are better known on that, than they are on this side of the Atlantic.

I shall add no more on this, and but little on any other subject at present. The Gazettes, which I presume you receive, will show you in what manner the public functionaries are treated here. The abuse however, which some of them contain has excited no reply from me.

I have a consolation which no earthly power can deprive me of: that of acting from my best judgment; and I shall be very much mistaken, if I do not soon find that the public mind is recovering fast from the disquietude into which it has been thrown by the most willful, artful and malignant mis-representations that can be imagined. The current is certainly turned, and is beginning to run strong the other way. But I am proceeding further than I intended, and will therefore conclude with assurances of the esteem etc.³⁶

***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

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Philadelphia, February 20, 1796.

Dear Sir: Permit me to intrust the enclosed dispatches to your care, and to request that they may be forwarded agreeably to their directions; but by private conveyances, rather than by the Mail; as I am not disposed to saddle those Gentlemen with the Postage.

36. From the Pinckney Family Deposit in the Library of Congress.

Having come to the resolutions which are implied in the enclosed printed notification, I take the liberty of transmitting them to you; for no other purpose, believe me, than merely to put it in your power to say (if enquiries should be made of you) for lands to be rented in the vicinity of the Federal City, or to be sold, that you are possessed of information that may merit attention.

As Wheat is the Staple commodity of the part of the country in which my Mount Vernon estate lies, I mean to fix the rent in that article; and to ask a bushel and half for every acre of arable land in the lease (giving the priviledges contained in the printed publication) to be discharged in failure of that Crop in Cash, at the price it bears in the market.

I have very little expectation of accomplishing the Renting part of my plan for next year; nor would I attempt it at all, with the slovenly farmers of this country, if there was a tolerable well grounded hope of getting them from any other; where husbandry is better understood, and more rationally practiced. With great esteem etc.30

30. From a facsimile in the "Washington Photostats" in the Library of Congress.

***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

Philadelphia, March 5, 1796.

Dear Sir: The ship Favourite, by which these dispatches are sent, having been delayed much longer in this Port than was expected, affords me an opportunity of informing you,

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that the Spanish Treaty arrived here on the 22d. Ulto; that it was laid before the Senate as soon after, as the accompanying Papers could be copied;⁴⁹ and that, on the 3d. instant, the Ratification of it was advised and consented to by an unanimous vote of that body. Hence you may form an opinion of the general approbation of your negotiation. With very great esteem &c.⁵⁰

To HENRY KNOX

Philadelphia, April 4, 1796.

My dr. Sir: Before this will have reached you, you must have seen in the gazettes, that I have taken the liberty (without a previous

49. See message to the Senate, Feb. 26, 1796, *ante*.

50. From the Pinckney Family Deposit in the Library of Congress.

consultation) to nominate you the Commissioner for ascertaining the true St. Croix and the Eastern boundary of the U States, agreeably to the fifth article of the treaty lately entered into with G. Britain. I hope it will be convenient and agreeable for you to accept the trust, the appointment having been confirmed by the Senate.

As the gazettes will give you in detail a resolution of the House of Representatives, calling upon the President for all the papers (excepting such as might respect pending treaties) relative to that treaty; also the debates thereupon, 13 and my answer, it is unnecessary to repeat them. I am beginning to receive what I had made my mind up for on this occasion, the abuse of Mr. Bache and his correspondents. The answer, which I have given, is referred to a Committee of the whole house for wednesday next; the probable result of which, it is too early yet to predict or even to guess at. These are unpleasant things, but they must be met with firmness. Present me to Mrs. Knox and the family in acceptable terms and be assured of the friendship and affectionate regard &c.

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P.S. At a proper time, after knowing whether you accept the appointment. or not, 14 you will hear officially from the Secretary of State. 15

13. The debate on making provision for carrying Jay's Treaty into effect raged in the House from Wednesday, April 7, to Saturday, April 30, when a motion declaring the treaty "highly objectionable" received 48 ayes and 48 noes, The Speaker then voted "No." A motion, declaring the treaty "objectionable," received 49 ayes and 49 noes. The Speaker again voted "No." A motion for carrying the treaty into effect received 51 ayes and 48 noes. On May 3 a bill making appropriations towards defraying the expenses for carrying the treaty into effect passed the House without a yea and nay vote.

14. Knox declined, and David Howell, of Rhode Island, was confirmed by the Senate in his stead, May 21.

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

To JAMES INNES

Philadelphia, April 4, 1796.

Dear Sir: Before this can have reached your hands, the gazettes will have announced to you that I have taken the liberty (without previous consultation) to nominate you, conjointly with Thos. Fitzsimons esqr. an intelligent merchant of this City, one of the Commissioners for carrying the Sixth article of the treaty lately entered into with G. Britain, into effect. As the nomination is confirmed by the Senate, I hope it will be convenient and agreeable to you to accept the trust; 17 for the duties whereof, and other matters relative thereto the article itself will be sufficiently explanatory.

The compensation will not be less, I conceive, than £1000 sterlg. per annum; but as it is not absolutely fixed yet, I cannot speak with more decision on the subject; and request that this letter may not be considered as an official one; but meant only to intimate what has

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been done, and to know your sentiments thereon; the rest you will receive in due time from the Secy. of State. With esteem and regard, etc. 18

17. Innes's letter of acceptance (April 8) is in the *Washington Papers* .

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

To JOSEPH PRIESTLY

April 14, 1796.

The President [of the] US. has, agreeably to his promise, caused the Laws of the U States "to promote the progress of useful arts &c." to be examined and finds that the last act passed on this subject, vizt. on the 21st of Feby. 1793 (repealing the first act of the 10 of April 1790), confines the granting of patents to citizens of the United States. The first act of the 10 April 1790 does not appear to have limited this right to any particular description of persons, and why it is thus confined in the second, the President can, at this time, see no good reason; but he will take occasion to enquire into the cause of this limitation, and if it should not appear improper, to relinquish it, he can have no doubt of the disposition of the Legislature to make such alteration in the existing law as will give to the U S the advantage which may arise from the useful inventions or improvements of foreigners, as well as of our own Citizens.

***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

(Private)

Philadelphia, May 22, 1796.

Dear Sir: To my letters of the 20th. of February and 5th. of March, I beg leave to refer you for the disclosure of my sentiments on the subjects there mentioned to you. Very soon afterwards, a long and animated discussion in the House of Representatives relative the

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Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation with Great Britain, took place; and continued, in one shape or another, until the last of April; suspending, in a manner, all other business; and agitating the public mind in a higher degree than it has been at any period since the Revolution. And nothing, I believe, but the torrent of Petitions, and remonstrances which were pouring in from all the Eastern and middle States, and were beginning to come pretty strongly from that of Virginia, requiring the necessary provisions for carrying the Treaty into effect, would have produced a division (51 to 48) in favor of the appropriation.

But as the debates, which I presume will be sent to you from the Department of State, will give

you a view of this business, more in detail than I am able to do, I shall refer you to them. The enclosed Speech, however, made by Mr. Aimes 72 at the close of the discussion, I send to you; because, in the opinion of most that heard it delivered, or have read it since, his reasoning is unanswerable.

The doubtful issue of the dispute, added to the *real* difficulty in finding a character to supply your place, at the Court of London, has occasioned a longer delay than may have been convenient or agreeable to you. But as Mr. King of the Senate (who it seems had resolved to quit his Seat at that board) has accepted the appointment, 73 and will embark as soon as matters can be arranged, you will soon be relieved.

In my letter of the 20th of Feby, I expressed in pretty strong terms, my sensibility on acct. of the situation of the Marquis De la Fayette. This is increased by the visible distress of his Son, who is now with me, and grieving for the unhappy fate of his parents. This circumstance, giving a poignancy to my own feelings on this occasion, has induced me to go a step further than I did in the letter above mentioned; as you will perceive by the enclosed Address (a copy of which is also transmitted for your information) to the Emperor of Germany: to be forwarded

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72. Fisher Ames, Representative from Massachusetts.

73. King was nominated May 19, and confirmed by the Senate May 20.

by you in such a manner, and under such auspices as, in your judgment, shall be deemed best: or to arrest it, if from the evidence before you (derived from former attempts) it shall appear *clear*, that it would be of no avail to send it.

Before I close this letter, permit me to request the favor of you to embrace some favorable occasion to thank Lord Grenville, in my behalf, for his politeness in causing a special permit to be sent to Liverpool for the shipment of two sacks of the field Peas, and the like quantity of Winter Vetches, which I had requested our Consul at that place to send me, for Seed; but which it seems could not be done without an Order from government. A circumstance which did not occur to me, or I certainly should not have given it the trouble of issuing one, for such a trifle. With very great esteem &c. 74

74. From the Pinckney Family Deposit in the Library of Congress.

TO GEORGE MATHEWS

Philadelphia, June 10, 1796.

Sir: You inform me that you have it in contemplation to leave the United States for a time, if not forever; and request from me "such a testimonial of your character and conduct as justice may entitle you to."

I know, sir, and with pleasure bear testimony to your patriotism, and to your bravery in action in the defence of the rights and liberties of your Country. In the offices you have held, military and civil, I believe you have manifested that fortitude, prudence and integrity, which entitle you to the praise of having deserved well of your Country. In whatever place

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you shall choose your future residence, accept my good wishes for your prosperity and happiness. 96

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

This letter was inclosed in another letter from Washington to ex-Governor Mathews, of Georgia, of this same date (June 10): "The best, indeed the *only* excuse I can make for having so long delayed complying with the request of your favor written the 7th of March, is, that when it came to hand (which was not speedily after its date) the business of the session pressed so heavily on me, that I had but little leisure for other attentions; and by laying it by, to be taken up at a more convenient moment, it, in a jumble with other papers was overlooked, until a revision, after the adjournment took place, brought it to view again. This apology I thought due to you, at the same time that it gives me another occasion to express my good wishes towards you, and regret that any circumstances should arise that have, even for a moment, encouraged the idea of relinquishing your country forever." This letter is also entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To DAVID HUMPHREYS

Philadelphia, June 12, 1796.

My dr. Humphreys: I could not suffer Captain O'Brian to return without carrying along with him this evidence of my continued regard and friendship for you. In expressing of which, I shall be concise; for a long and interesting session, closed only the first day of this month; many laws wch. require immediate attention and execution; added to a preparation for a journey to Mount Vernon (tomorrow) for a little relaxation from the unpleasant scenes which have been, and are continually presenting themselves to my view, will not, however well disposed I might otherwise be, permit me to be profuse.

From the Office of State you will receive every thing that relates to business; and the gazettes, which I presume accompany the dispatches, will bring you pretty well acquainted

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with the state of politics and of parties in this country; and show you in what manner I am attacked for a steady opposition to every measure which has a tendency to disturb the peace and tranquility of it. But these attacks, unjust and unpleasant as they are, will occasion no change in my conduct; nor will they work any

other effect in my mind, than to increase the anxious desire which has long possessed my breast, to enjoy in the shades of retirement the consolation of having rendered my Country every service my abilities were competent to, uninfluenced by pecuniary or ambitious considerations as they respected myself, and without any attempt to provide for my friends farther than their merits, abstractedly, entitle them to; nor an attempt in *any* instance to bring a relation of mine into Office. Malignity therefore may dart her shafts; but no earthly power can deprive me of the consolation of knowing that I have not in the course of my administration been guilty of a *wilful* error, however numerous they may have been from other causes. When you shall think with the poet that “the post of honor is a private station,” and may be inclined to enjoy yourself in my shades (I do not mean the shades below, where, if you put it off long, I may be) I can only tell you that you will meet with the same cordial reception at Mount Vernon that you have always experienced at that place, and that I am, &c. 99

99. From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*. The press copy of the last two pages of the original is owned by Mrs. J. W. Williams, of St. Andrews, Scotland. It has been poorly inked over by an unknown hand and wrongly dated June 1.

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Mount Vernon, July 6, 1796.

Dear Sir: When I inform you, that your letter of the 19th. Ult. 38 went to Philadelphia and returned to this place before it was received by me; it will be admitted, I am persuaded, as an apology for my not having acknowledged the receipt of it sooner.

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If I had entertained any suspicions before, that the queries, which have been published in Bache's Paper, 39 proceeded from you, the assurances you have given of the contrary, would have removed them; but the truth is, I harboured none. I am at no loss to *conjecture* from what source they flowed; through what channel they were conveyed; and for what purpose they and similar publications, appear. They were known to be in the hands of Mr. Parker, 40 in the early part of the last Session of Congress; They were shown about by Mr. Giles 41 during the Cession, and they made their public exhibition about the close of it.

Perceiving, and probably, hearing, that no abuse in the Gazettes would induce me to take notice of anonymous publications, against me; those who were disposed to do me *such friendly Offices* , have embraced without restraint every opportunity to

38. In the *Washington Papers*.

39. See "Questions submitted by the President" to the Cabinet, Apr. 18, 1793 (vol. 32).

40. Josiah Parker, Representative from Virginia.

41. William Branch Giles, Representative from Virginia.

weaken the confidence of the People; and, by having the *whole* game in their hands, they have scrupled not to publish things that do not, as well as those which do exist; and to mutilate the latter, so as to make them subserve the purposes which they have in view.

As you have mentioned the subject yourself, it would not be frank, candid, or friendly to conceal, that your conduct has been represented as derogatory from that opinion I had conceived you entertained of me. That to your particular friends and connexions you have described, and they have denounced me, as a person under a dangerous influence; and that, if I would listen *more* to some *other* opinions, all would be well. My answer invariably has been, that I had never discovered any thing in the conduct of Mr. Jefferson to raise suspicions, in my mind, of his insincerity; that if he would retrace my public conduct while

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he was in the Administration, abundant proofs would occur to him, that truth and right decisions, were the *sole* objects of my pursuit; that there were as many instances within his *own* knowledge of my having decided *against* , as in *favor* of the opinions of the

person 42 evidently alluded to; and moreover, that I was no believer in the infallibility of the politics, or measures of *any man living* . In short, that I was no party man myself, and the first wish of my heart was, if parties did exist, to reconcile them.

To this I may add, and very truly, that, until within the last year or two ago, I had no conception that Parties would, or even could go, the length I have been witness to; nor did I believe until lately, that it was within the bonds of probability; hardly within those of possibility, that, while I was using my utmost exertions to establish a national character of our own, independent, as far as our obligations, and justice would permit, of every nation of the earth; and wished, by steering a steady course, to preserve this Country from the horrors of a desolating war, that I should be accused of being the enemy of one Nation, and subject to the influence of another; and to prove it, that every act of my administration would be tortured, and the grossest, and most insidious mis-representations of them be made (by giving one side *only* of a subject, and that too in such exaggerated and indecent terms as could scarcely be applied to a Nero; a notorious defaulter; or even to a common pick-pocket). But enough of this; I have already gone farther in the expression of my feelings, than I intended.

42. Alexander Hamilton.

The particulars of the case you mention (relative to the Little Sarah) is a good deal out of my recollection at present, and I have no public papers here to resort to. When I get back to Philadelphia (which, unless I am called there by something new, will not be 'till towards the last of August) I will examine my files. 43

It must be pleasing to a Cultivator, to possess Land which will yield Clover kindly; for it is certainly a great Desiderata in Husbandry. My Soil, without very good dressings, does

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not produce it well: owing, I believe, to its stiffness; hardness at bottom; and retention of Water. A farmer, in my opinion, need never despair of raising Wheat to advantage, upon a Clover lay; with a single ploughing, agreeably to the Norfolk and Suffolk practice. By a misconception of my Manager last year, a field at one of my Farms which I intended shd. have been fallowed for Wheat, went untouched. Unwilling to have my crop of Wheat at that place so much reduced, as would have been occasioned by this omission, I directed, as soon as I returned from Philadelphia (about the middle of September) another field, not in the usual rotation, which had lain out two years, and well covered

43. On August 28 Washington wrote to Jefferson, according to this promise, inclosing copies of the papers the latter had requested. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

with mixed grasses, principally white clover, to be turned over with a good Bar-share; and the Wheat to be sown, and harrowed in at the tail of the Plough. It was done so accordingly, and was, by odds, the best Wheat I made this year. It exhibits an unequivocal proof to my mind, of the great advantage of Clover lay, for Wheat. Our Crops of this article, hereabouts, are more or less injured by what some call the Rot; others the Scab; occasioned, I believe, by high winds and beating rain when the grain is in blossom, and before the Farina has performed its duties.

Desirous of trying the field Peas of England, and the Winter Vetch, I sent last fall to Mr. Marray 44 of Liverpool for 8 bushels of each sort. Of the Peas he sent me two kinds (a white and dark, but not having the letter by me, I am unable to give the names). They did not arrive until the latter end of April; when they ought to have been in the ground the beginning of March. They were sown however, but will yield no Seed; of course the experiment I intended to make, is lost. The Vetch is yet on hand for Autumn Seeding. That the Albany Peas will grow well with us, I know from my own experience: but they are subject to the same bug which perforates, and injures the Garden Peas, and will do the same, I fear, to the imported

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44. Maury.

Peas, of any sort from England, in this climate, from the heat of it.

I do not know what is meant by, or to what uses the Caroline drill is applied. How does your Chicorium prosper? Four years since I exterminated all the Plants raised from Seed sent me by Mr. Young, and to get into it again, the seed I purchased in Philadelphia last Winter, and what has been sent me by Mr. Murray this Spring, has cost me upwards of twelve pounds Sterling. This, it may be observed, is a left handed way to make money; but the first was occasioned by the manager I then had, who pretended to know it well in England and pronounced it a noxious weed; the restoration of it, is indebted to Mr. Strickland and others (besides Mr. Young) who speak of it in exalted terms. I sowed mine broad-cast; some with and some without grain. It has come up well; but there seems to be a serious struggle between *it* and the grass and weeds; the issue of which (as I can afford no relief to the former) is doubtful at present, and may be useful to know.

If you can bring a moveable threshing Machine, constructed upon simple principles to perfection, it will be among the most valuable

institutions in this Country; for nothing is more wanting, and to be wished for on our farms. Mrs. Washington begs you to accept her best wishes, and with very great esteem etc. 45

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, July 7, 1796.

Sir: Consider the enclosed papers, 52 which came by the post of yesterday, as *entirely* and *absolutely* confidential. Read them attentively, and let me see and converse with you on the contents of them this evening, or very early tomorrow morning. 53 that time may be allowed me to prepare my dispatches for the post office in the afternoon. 54

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***To JOHN MARSHALL**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1796.

Dear Sir: In confidence I inform you, that it has become indispensably

45. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

52. The papers concerned Monroe's conduct in France and the question of his recall.

53. Lee's written opinion is dated Alexandria, July 7: "I had formed an opinion that our minister plenipotentiary at Paris, ought not to be permitted to continue there, any longer than until the arrival of his Successor; and that it was not only expedient but absolutely necessary that he should be recalled and another minister appointed. Upon this subject I concur in Sentiment with the heads of departments as expressed in their letter of the 4th. instant." Lee's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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

necessary to recall our Minister at Paris; and to send one in his place who will explain, faithfully, the views of this government, and ascertain those of France.

Nothing would be more pleasing to me, than that you should be this Organ; if it were only for a temporary absence of a few months. But it being feared that even this could not be made to comport with your present pursuits, I have, in order that as little delay as possible may be incurred, put the enclosed letter undercover to be forwarded to its address, if you decline the present offer; or to be returned to me, if you accept it. 58

Your own correct knowledge of circumstances render details unnecessary, I shall only add therefore that, I am, etc.

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P.S. Hearing that you propose to attend the next meeting of the Supreme Court in Philadelphia I should be glad to see you at this place in your way. 59

***To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY**

(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1796.

My dear Sir: The situation of Affairs, and the interests of this Country as they

58. Marshall declined. His letter of July 11 is in the *Washington Papers*.

59. From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1920.

relate to France, render it indispensably necessary that a faithful Organ near that government, able and willing to explain its views, and to ascertain those of France, should immediately fill the place of our present Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris.

Policy requires that this character should be well attached to the government of his own country; and not obnoxious to the one to which he is sent, to be essentially serviceable. Where then can a man be found that would answer this description better than yourself?

It is a fact too notorious to be denied, that the greatest embarrassments under which the Administration of this government labours, proceed from the counteraction of people among ourselves; who are more disposed to promote the views of another, than to establish a national character of their own; and that unless the virtuous, and independent men of this country will come forward, it is not difficult to predict the consequences. Such is my decided opinion.

After what has passed between us on former occasions (respecting your filling some of the important Offices in our government) I must confess that I hesitated, before I resolved

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on this Address; lest you might think I was too importunate; and that your former answers ought to have superceded the desire of making it.

Had not the case been important and urgent, I might have hesitated longer; but in finding a character of the description I have mentioned, you will be at no loss to perceive the difficulty which occurs. He must be a man whose abilities, and celebrity of character are well known to the people of this country; 60 and who ought, as far as the nature of the case will admit, be acceptable to all parties. Doubtless many such there are; but those who have been, either in the Executive or Legislative Departments of the General government, and are best known to me, have been so decisive in their Politics, and, possibly, so frank and public in their declarations, as to render it very difficult to chuse from among them one, in whom the confidence of this Country could be placed, and the prejudices of the others not excited.

Thus, my good Sir, you have a candid exposition of my sentiments and wishes. I have only to add to them a request, that you would be so obliging as to give me a prompt answer. 61 And if in the affirmative, that you would repair to Philadelphia, prepared to proceed on the Mission, with as little delay as can be avoided. Possibly, you might

60. At this point the "Letter Book" copy has "whose honor and integrity are unimpeached."

61. Pinckney accepted the appointment. His letter of July 27 is in the *Washington Papers*.

have less objection to the excursion, if it would occasion a few months absence only, than to a permanent residence. But the Power of the Executive (in the recess of the Senate) extends only to the filling of vacancies; and one will be occasioned by the recall of the present incumbent; a measure resolved on. It is unnecessary to add how much, and how sincerely I am &c. 62

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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(Private and confidential)

Mount Vernon, July 13, 1796.

Sir: Yesterday I was informed by a gentleman from Richmond, that Mr. Dawson 73 was gone on to Philada. in order to embark for France; and about an hour ago I received a letter, from which the enclosed is an extract, from a well informed acquaintance and a staunch friend to his Country.

What, or whether anything can with propriety be done in consequence of this information, must be left to yourself and the two other Secretaries to decide, from circumstances and appearances on the spot. It may not be amiss to observe further that Mr. Dawson is the son-in-law of Mr. Jones 74 (one of the Circuit Judges of this State and

62. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

73. John Dawson.

74. Joseph Jones.

as I am informed, unfriendly to the Genl. Government) that Mr. Monroe is the Nephew of Mr. Jones, and has his son with him in France.

As every day brings forth matter to view, vigilance, with caution becomes more and more necessary. 75

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 13, 1796.

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Dear Sir: The purport of your private letter, of the 7th. instant (that part of it I mean, which relates to the Frigate for the Regency of Algiers) has surprised me exceedingly.

That no step yet, should have been taken to carry this measure into vigorous execution; and that it should be asked, nearly six weeks after it had been resolved to comply with the Deys request, and an actual stipulation of our Agent, or Agents there; by what Department it is to be carried into effect? is, on account of the delay which has been occasioned (if contrary to the Ideas which have

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

been communicated to the Dey, and Colo. Humphreys) extremely unpleas.

Disagreeable as this requisition was found in its reception, and more so in the compliance with it; yet, as there appeared no other alternative but to comply, or submit to the depredations of the Barbary Corsairs on our Citizens, and Commerce, the former was preferred: and I had no doubt (after pressing as often, and as earnestly as I did before I left Philadelphia, that all matters requiring my opinions, or Acts, might be laid before me) that every thing relative to this Frigate was in a perfect train of Execution, agreeably to whatever assurances had been given, by Captain OBrian. 71

If the Laws establishing the different Departments (I have them not be me) does not expressly, or by analogy, designate the one to which the care of such business is entrusted, I must, no doubt, assign it; but where these speak, it is best for me to be silent.

If the building of this Vessel could have been suspended until the meeting of Congress, for the Agency of the Senate, the answer to the Dey might have been suspended also. But to avert, if possible, the disagreeable consequences of delay, a prompt decision was come to; and Captn. O'Brian hurried off with the result.

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71. 'Capt. Richard O'Brien (O'Brian). He was, later, United States Consul General at Algiers.

This decision, and the letters which he carried, ought to be resorted to; and the measures accorded thereto, strictly.

Whether it will be best to purchase a Ship ready built, if one fit for the purpose can be had (and such an one on the Stocks at Philadelphia was talked of); whether to contract for the building and equipping of one (some of the materials being found) if entire confidence can be placed in the Undertaker; or whether to furnish the materials (in which case all that can be spared from our own Frigates ought, unquestionably, to be applied) and pay for the building; depends upon enquiries not within my power at this time, and place to make; and must, therefore, be a matter of investigation, and consultation among yourselves; especially with the Secretary of the Treasury, on the means.

Before I conclude, let me, in a friendly way, impress the following maxims upon the Executive Officers. In all important matters, to deliberate maturely, but to execute promptly and vigorously. And not to put things off until the Morrow which can be done, and require to be done, to day. Without an adherence to these rules, business never will be *well* done, or done in an easy manner; but will always be in arrear, with one thing treading upon the heels of another. With very great, &c. 72

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 18, 1796.

Dear Sir: If there be any thing *yet to do* , which can be *done with propriety* towards fulfilling the several treaties which the Ud. States have entered into (without specially, naming

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them) it is my desire, that there may be no delay in the execution: And if upon examining of them carefully, any matters should be found therein requiring the attention of either of the other departments, that these sentiments may be conveyed to the Secretaries thereof, as proceeding immediately from myself.

The new requisition of the Dey of Algiers, which has been yielded, will require to be laid before the Senate for its ratification; together with such papers as are necessary to explain and account for the measure. It might be well therefore to revise and prepare them accordingly in time.

72. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

The continual attacks which have been made and are still making on the administration, in Bache's and other papers of that complexion, indecent as they are void of truth and fairness, under different signatures, and at present exhibited under that of Paulding, charging it with not only *unfriendly* , but even with *unjust* conduct towards France; and to prove it, resort to misrepresentation and mutilated authorities; and oftentimes to unfounded and round assertions; or to assertions founded on principles which apply to all the belligerent powers; but by them represented as aimed at France *alone* . Under these circumstances, it were to be wished that the enlightened public could have a clear and comprehensive view of facts. But how to give it lies the difficulty; and I see no method at present, however desirable the measure, that is not liable to objections; unless the predicted and threatened conduct of France towards this Country, (under pretext of our treaty with G: Britain) or its demands that the guarantee of their West India islands, agreeably to the treaty of Paris, should be fulfilled, presents the occasion.

Whether either of these will or will not happen; or whether any

other mode may occur, which after mature consideration, shall appear expedient, or not, I wish that in your moments of leisure, if such you have, you would go most carefully and *critically* over the whole of the correspondence between the different secretaries of

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State and the French Minister in this Country, and with our own Minister at Paris, from the period matters began to change from their ancient habits and to assume their new form in that Country. If circumstances should render explanations of this sort expedient and necessary for Congress, a previous examination of the papers with notes and remarks will be essential. If they should not, the measure nevertheless will be satisfactory and useful. I would have the whole of the transactions in all their direct and collateral relations, examined with as critical an eye as Mr. Bache or any of his numerous correspondents or communicants would do; that if there is any thing in them (not recollected by me) that can be tortured into an unfriendly disposition towards France, and not required by the neutral policy adopted by the Executive, approved by the people, and sanctioned by the Legislature; or which the peace, honor, and safety of this Country did not require, that I may be apprized of it, as my conviction of the contrary is strong.

I request also, that you will

begin to note down all the subjects as they may occur, which may be proper to communicate to Congress at their next meeting; either at the opening of the session, or by separate messages in the course of it. Many things are forgotten, when the recollection of them is postponed, until the period at which they are wanted. Minute details will not be amiss, because a selection will at all times be easier to make than a collection.

Your Letter of the 8th instant did not reach my hands until the 13th nor did that of the 11th until the 15th. I mention these facts that you may know whether the delay has been occasioned by their not getting to the Post Office in time, or were detained at it. Other letters from Philada of the 8th and 11th came regularly to hand by the same mails on the 11th and 13th. I am etc.

P.S. I am frequently receiving letters from Phil: Wilson similar to the one I now enclose. Let me request therefore if his Case admits of redress, that an attempt may be made to procure it. If it does not, that he may be so informed, in explicit terms. 78

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

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 16th. came to my hands at the same time that your official one of the 18th. did.

From what is there said, and appears by the enclosures, I am satisfied no unnecessary delay respecting the Algerine Frigate has taken place. From a former one, and perhaps from a solicitude to execute promptly whatever is entrusted to me, I had conceived otherwise.

As I have Mr. Lisbon here, and the house full of other company, I shall only add that I am what you will always find, your sincere frd. etc. 84

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 25, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your private letters of the 19th. 19th. and 20th. 90 instant, have been duly received.

The request of Mr. J. Jones, to forward his letter to Colo. Monroe, is opposed to the speedy departure of Mr. D... 91 for France; and yet the gentleman who gave me the information spoke of it as a matter not

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84. From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

90. Probably careless copying. There are now found in the *Washington Papers* only one private letter from Pickering dated July 19 and one dated July 21.

91. John Dawson.

doubtful; but added indeed (a circumstance I did not mention in my former letter) that it was on Mr. Swan 92 he leaned for money; and possibly, if that gentleman is at Boston, this may be the occasion of Mr. D—s journey to that place, under the pretext of contracting for arms.

Was Colo. Monroe requested to engage a Cannon-founder in behalf of the U States? If so, on what terms? To remove a person with his family will be attended with considerable expense; and unless with condition to *secure* his services, it will be done under great uncertainty. With respect to the Engineers, policy requires a further development of the unfavorable disposition, with which we are threatened, before any encouragement ought to be given to the measure. But, even if that objection was fully removed, there are no funds, within my recollection, that would enable the Executive to incur the expense: therefore, as a law must precede, in this case, any Executive act, the answer to the query is quite easy and plain.

I am continuing and extending my enquiries for a fit character to fill the office of Surveyor General, without any great prospect of doing

92. John Swan.

it to my satisfaction. Mr. Ludlow, besides what is mentioned in your letter (which requires attention) has not, according to my ideas of him, celebrity of character; and is of too short standing in the community to fill an office of so much importance from its trusts, and the

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ability and integrity which is required, tho' deficient in Compensation; unless by means which ought to be prevented.

It is much to be regreted that you did not discover the broken seal of Mr. Monroe's letter, to you, before the departure of the bearer of it; that an attempt at least might have been made to trace the channel through which it had passed; and thereby, if proofs could not have been obtained, to have found ground for just suspicion. You confine the post mark of Alexandria to his letter of the 8th. of April; had you included that also of the 2d. of May, I would have caused enquiry to have been made at that office with respect to the appearance of the letters when they went from thence.

I am glad to find that more smoke than fire is likely to result from the representation of French discontents, on account of our treaty with Great Britain. Had the case been otherwise, there would have been no difficulty in tracing the effect to the cause; and it is far from being impossible, that the whole may have originated

in a contrivance of the opposers of the Government, to see what effect such threats would work; and finding none that could answer their purpose, and no safe ground to stand on, if they pushed matters to extremity, the matter may terminate in gasconade. Be this as it may, the Executive have a plain road to pursue, namely, to fulfill all the engagements which his duty requires. Be influenced beyond this by none of the contending parties; maintain a strict neutrality, unless obliged by imperious circumstances to depart from it; do justice to all, and never forget that we are Americans; the remembrance of which will convince us, that we ought not to be French or English. With great esteem etc. 93

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1796.

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Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 21st instant has been received.

Mr. Monroe in every letter he writes, relative to the dis

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

contents of the French government at the conduct of our own, always concludes without finishing his story; leaving great scope to the imagination to divine what the ulterior measures of it will be.

There are some things in his correspondence and your letters, which I am unable to reconcile. In one of your last to me, you acknowledge the receipt of one from him of the 8th. of April, which I have not seen; and in his letter of the 2d. of May, he refers to the one of the 25th. of March as the last he had written. This letter of the 25th. of March, if I recollect dates rightly, was received before I left Philadelphia; and related his *demand* of an audience of the French Directory, and his having had it; but that the conference which was promised him with the Minister of foreign affairs, had not taken place, nor had he heard anything from him, altho' the catalogue of complaints exhibited by that minister, is dated the 9th. of March, and his reply thereto the 15th. of the same month. If these recitals are founded in fact, they form an enigma which requires explanation.

Has the letter said to be dispatched by Doctr. Brokenbrough, got to your hands? I hope it will, if it has not done so already.

Mr. De la Croix 98 alludes, I perceive, in the close of his third and last head of complaints, to our guarantee of their West-India Islands;

98. French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

but whether to bring the subject to recollection *only* , or to touch upon it more largely thereafter, is problematical. I am etc. 99

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your private letters of the 29th and 30th ulto. have been received.

If Mr. Churchman's 17 account of the broken seal of Mr. Monroe's letter to the Department of State, be true, it bespeaks the man of candour and does him credit; but I do not see why, when called upon, he should require time to consider whether he should relate the truth, "or give a certificate, that might excite cite suspicions of innocent people "; the impropriety of the latter would strike a man of honor the moment the thought arose.

He has written to me the enclosed letter (which may be returned): but I know too little of his *real* character; the respectability of his family and connexions; or his former pursuits, to form

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

17. John Churchman.

any Opinion of his fitness to fill an office of such importance and respectability, to public acceptance. As a mathematician I should suppose him competent; but there are other qualifications equally necessary in a Surveyor General. I wish you would make all the enquiries respecting these matters, your opportunities will permit. And if Mr. Hawkins 18 should be in Philadelphia, as he wrote the Secretary of War he should be, let me desire also, that you would indirectly and without any commitment ascertain, 1st whether he possesses such mathematical knowledge as would qualify him for the above office; and in that case, 2dly find out whether he would accept it. I have not yet, been able to hear of a

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character that combines the requisite qualifications for this trust; nor is it likely I shall do so before my return to Philadelphia. I am etc. 19

To DUC DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD-LIANCOURT

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1796.

Sir: The Letter which you did me the honor of writing to me the 25th. of last month, came duly to hand; and the

18. Benjamin Hawkins.

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

enclosure for Mr. George Fayette 23 was immediately presented to him.

The name and character of the duke de Liancourt were not unknown to me before his arrival in this Country; and the respect which I entertained for the latter (although political considerations have deprived me of the honor of a personal acquaintance with him) was, and is as great as he or his warmest friends could desire.

M. de Liancourt must be too well acquainted with the history of governments; with the insidious ways of the world; and with the suspicions and jealousies of its rulers; not to acknowledge that men in responsible situations cannot, like those in private life, be governed *solely* by the dictates of their own inclinations, or by such motives as can only affect themselves.

To dilate upon this observation, or to attempt to point at the distinction between the conduct of a man in public office who is accountable for the consequences of his measures to others; and one in private life, who has no other check than the rectitude of his own actions, would be superfluous to a man of information: but if exemplification of these

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23. George Washington Motier Lafayette.

facts was necessary, it might be added with truth, that in spite of all the circumspection with which my conduct has been marked towards the gentlemen of your nation, who have left France under circumstances which have rendered them obnoxious to the governing power of it, the countenance said to be given to them, is alleged as a cause of discontent in the Directory of France against the government of the U States. But it is not my intention to dwell on this subject: how far the charge is merited, no one better than yourself can judge; and your candour and penetration will, I am persuaded, appreciate my motives for the reverse of the charge, however contrary the operation of them may have been to your expectation or to my wishes.

With respect to Mr. La Fayette I may, without troubling you with the details, venture to affirm that whatever private friendship could require, or public duty would allow, has been, and will continue to be essayed by me to effect his liberation. the difficulty in accomplishing of which has, no doubt, proceeded in a great measure from the cause you have mentioned, and will probably exist while the war between the belligerent powers continues to rage.

No man regrets this, and the present unhappy situation of this amiable

family more than I do; but it is an ascertained fact, that altho' Fayette is an *adopted* citizen of this Country, the Government of it, nor the people themselves, notwithstanding their attachment to his person and the recollection of his services, have any right to demand him as *their* Citizen by the law of nations: consequently, an expression of their earnest wishes, that liberty may be restored to him, is all they can do towards accomplishing it. to attempt more, would avail *him* nothing, and might involve the *U States* in difficulties of great magnitude.

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This letter, Sir, you will consider as a private one; originating from yours to me, relatively to Mr. La Fayette. In replying to the sentiments contained in it, I could not, from respect to your character, and the indulgence of my own feelings, miss the occasion of giving you this explanation of matters, which otherwise might have the appearance of mystery. It affords an occasion also of assuring you, that, with sentiments of the highest esteem, &c.
24

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

To JAMES MONROE

Philadelphia, August 25, 1796.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 24th. of March, written in cipher, never got to my hands until the 10th instant at Mount Vernon; nor were the contents of it known to me until my arrival in this city on the 21st. For the information contained in it, and your attention thereto, I offer you my best thanks.

Having no clew by which to discover the fact, I am very much at a loss to conjecture by what means a private letter of mine, written to a friend and sent by an American vessel, should have got into the hands of the French Directory. I shall readily acknowledge, however, that the one you allude to, directed to Mr. Gour. Morris, was a long and confidential one; 51 but I deny that there is any thing contained in it, that the French Government could take exception to, unless the expression of an ardent wish that the United States might remain in peace with *all the world* taking no part in the disputes of *any* part of it, should have produced this effect. Giving it as my further opinion that the sentiments of the mass of citizens in this country, were in unison with mine.

Confidential as this Letter was expected to be, I have no objection to its

51. See Washington's letter to Gouverneur Morris, Dec. 22, 1795, *ante*.

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being seen by *anybody* ; and there is certainly some mistake in saying I had no copy thereof, when there is a *press* one now before me; in which I discover no expression, that in the eye of liberality and candour would be deemed objectionable.

To understand the scope and design of *my* letter properly, and to give it a fair interpretation, it is necessary to observe that it was written (as will appear by the contents of it) in answer to very long ones from the gentleman to whom it was addressed, which contained much political information of the state of things in different parts of Europe; and related among others, the substance of a conversation, in which he and lord Grenville, as private gentlemen, had just been engaged; and in which it was observed by the latter, that if they were to judge from the publications in this Country, the disposition of it was unfriendly to Great Britain; but in free Countries he could readily account for such publications. However, that there was *one* which wore a more serious aspect, as indicative of the sense of the Government, and he alluded to Colo. Innes's report of his proceedings in Kentucky.

In my noticing this part of Mr. Morris's communication, I tell him, that, with respect to the publication of that report, it was an unauthorized act; and declared by that gentleman, as soon as he saw it in the gazettes, to have been done incorrectly: and that with relation to the temper of the people of the United States, as it respected Great Britain, his lordship ought not to be surprised, if it appeared disturbed and irritated, after the sense of the Government had been so often expressed in strong remonstrances against the conduct of the Indian Agents, privateersman, impressment of our seamen, insults of their ships of War &c., &c. Adding that it afforded us very little satisfaction, their disclaiming these as unauthorized acts (which the British Administration had done in some instances) while the actors were suffered to go unpunished. I dwelt chiefly and fully on this part of his letter, and reminded him of the indifference with which the advances of the United States to form a commercial treaty with Great Britain, as well since as before the establishment of the present Government, had been received; and concluded by saying, that a liberal

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policy towards us (though I did not suppose sentiments of that sort from me to a member of the british Administration would have much weight) was the only road to a perfect reconciliation; and that if he should again converse

with lord Grenville on this subject he was at liberty, unofficially, to express these as my sentiments.

Thus, Sir, you have the substance candidly related, of a letter which, you say, you have been told by a person, "who has read it, has produced an ill effect," when in my opinion the contrary (viewing it the light of an unreserved and confidential communication) ought to have been produced. for I repeat it again, that unless my pacific disposition was displeasing, nothing else could have given umbrage by the most rigid construction of the letter; or that will shew in the remotest degree any disposition on my part to favor the british interests in their dispute with France.

My conduct in public and private life, as it relates to the important struggle in which the latter nation is engaged, has been uniform from the commencement of it, and may be summed up in a few words; that I have always wished well to the French revolution; that I have always given it as my decided opinion that no Nation had a right to intermeddle in the internal concerns of another; that every one had a right to form and adopt whatever government they

liked best to live under themselves. and that if this country could, consistently with its engagements, maintain a strict neutrality and thereby preserve peace, it was bound to do so by motives of policy, interest, and every other consideration, that ought to actuate a people situated and circumstances as we are; already deeply in debt, and in a convalescent state, from the struggle we have been engaged in ourselves.

On these principles, I have steadily and uniformly proceeded; bidding defiance to calumnies calculated to sow the seeds of distrust in the French nation, and to excite their belief of an influence, possessed by Great Britain in the councils of this Country; than

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which nothing is more unfounded and injurious; the object of its pacific conduct being truly delineated above. I am, &c. 52

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

To JAMES WOOD

Philadelphia, September 12, 1796.

Dear Sir: By a recurrence to the acts of the last session of Congress, you will find one for disposing of the ungranted lands North West of the Ohio; and for appointing a Surveyor General for the purposes therein mentioned. And you may have heard that Mr. De Witt, who was geographer to the army at the close of the War, after the decease of Mr. Irskine, 78 and at present the Surveyor General of the State of New York, a man of profound knowledge in mathematics, and sufficiently versed in astronomy, was nominated to that Office, and has declined the acceptance of it.

It is yet vacant, and you have been mentioned to me as a gentleman to whom it might be acceptable. Without taking then a circuitous rout to ascertain this fact, I shall apply immediately to yourself for information;

78. Erskine.

and will frankly ask, because I am sure you will candidly answer, if the appointment should meet your wishes, whether your knowledge in mathematics; practical Surveying, and so much of astronomy as is useful to a skilfull exercise of the latter, for discovering the latitude, meridian, &c. now are, or easily could be made familiar to you.

These questions are propounded because affirmative qualifications are essential; for it will readily occur to you, that he who is to examine and employ others, direct their

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proceedings, and inspect their works, ought not to be ignorant of the principles which are to be the rule for their conduct.

It is a very honorable and important office; There is none perhaps that requires more integrity and vigilance in the execution, to prevent improper speculation and abuse. The Officer holding it must reside in the Country where the business will be chiefly transacted.

As the season and circumstances begin now to press for an appointment, and as my continuance here, and the road I shall travel back to Virginia, for the purpose of returning with my family for the winter, are uncertain, I request the favor of you, to put your answer to this letter under cover to the secretary of State, who will be directed to open it and to fill up the blank Commission which I shall

deposit in his Office, with your name if you are disposed to accept it; or with that of another who is held in contemplation, if you do not. You may, if not too troublesome, address a duplicate to me at Mount Vernon, to remain in the post-office at Alexandria until called for. With great esteem &c. 79

***To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY**

Philadelphia, September 12, 1796.

My dear Sir: After furnishing you with the following copies of Letters, 76 it is scarcely necessary to add any thing by way of explanation of my motives for doing it. However, I will briefly add that, from the arrival of Mr. Gouver. Morris in Europe, up to the date of his last letter to me in June of the present year, I have received much interesting and useful information from him relative to the political state of things on the other side of the Atlantic: That from the multiplicity of business with which I have been continually overwhelmed, I very rarely acknowledged

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

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At least two separate forgeries, by Robert Spring, of this letter to James Wood exist. In each of these forgeries an important portion of the letter is omitted.

76. There were inclosed in this letter copies of Gouverneur Morris's letter to Washington, July 3, 1795; Washington's letter to Gouverneur Morris, Dec. 22, 1795; James Monroe's letter to Washington, Mar. 24, 1796; and Washington's letter to James Monroe, Aug. 25, 1796.

the receipt of his letters: But upon receiving that of the 3d. of July 1795 (a copy of which follows) I was struck, forcibly with the idea, as well from the style and manner, as from its being [confined] to a single subject, that it had, or was intended to have passed under the eye of Lord Grenville; although no intimation thereof was given to me.

Under this impression, it was natural to suppose that my answer, or the result of it would also be communicated to that Minister; I resolved therefore to frame it accordingly, that Lord Grenville might find from *that* mode, as well as from the ordinary course of official communications, in what light the people of this Country viewed the conduct of his towards it.

I little expected indeed, that a private letter of mine to a friend, would have found a place in the Bureau of the French Directory. Less should I have suspected, that any exception would, or could be taken at the Sentiments expressed in the one that has got there. But as intimations of the contrary have been given in Colonel Monroes letter, I have thought it expedient to furnish you with *all* the documents relative thereto, with this short history of the rise and progress of it; that you might be enabled, if more is said on the Subject, and occasion should require it, to set

the matter right by a plain and simple statement of facts. With great esteem &c. 77

To JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

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Philadelphia, September 12, 1796.

Dear Sir: To open a correspondence with you on so trifling a subject, as that which gives birth to this letter, would hardly be justified, were it not for the singularity of the case: this singularity will, I hope, apologize for the act.

Some time ago, perhaps two or three months, I read in some gazette, but was so little impressed with it at the time (conceiving it to be one of those things which get into newspapers nobody knows how or why) that I cannot now recollect whether the gazette was of American or foreign production,

77. This letter is marked "private" in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, but is not so marked on the letter sent.

announcing that a celebrated artist had presented, or was about to present to the President of the United States a sword of masterly workmanship, as an evidence of his veneration &c. &c.

I thought no more of the matter afterwards, until a gentleman with whom I have no acquaintance, coming from and going to I know not where, at a tavern I never could get information of, came across this sword (for it is presumed to be the same) pawned for thirty dollars; which he paid, left it in Alexandria, nine miles from my house, in Virginia, with a person who refunded him the money and sent the sword to me.

This is all I have been able to learn of this curious affair. The blade is highly wrought, and decorated with many military emblems. It has my name engraved thereon, and the following inscription (translated from the Dutch): "Condemner of despotism, Preserver of Liberty, glorious man, take from my sons hands this Sword, I beg you. A. Sollingen." The hilt is either gold, or richly plated with that metal; and the whole carries with it the form of an horseman's sword, or long sabre.

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The matter, as far as it appears at present, is a perfect enigma. How it should have come into this country without a letter, or an accompanying message: how

afterwards it should have got into such loose hands; and whither the person having it in possession was steering his course, remains as yet to be explained; some of them, probably, can only be explained by the maker; and the maker no otherwise to be discovered than by the inscription and name, "A. Sollingen," who, from the impression which dwells on my mind, is of Amsterdam.

If, Sir, with this clew you can develop the history of this sword, 74 the value of it; the character of the maker, and his probable object in sending it; it would oblige me; and, by relating these facts to him might obviate doubts, which otherwise might be entertained by him of its fate, or its reception. With great esteem, &c. 75

***To GOVERNOR ROBERT BROOKE**

Philadelphia, September 15, 1796.

Sir: The Commonwealth of Virginia, having manifested their approbation of my design, to apply the hundred shares

74. The sword was a gift from Theophilus Alte, a manufacturer of Solingen, Holland. It had been sent to the President by Alte's son, Daniel. Alte's letter of Jan. 20, 1797, requiring if the sword had been received, is in the *Washington Papers*. On Nov. 29, 1797, Alte wrote again to the President, asking for information of his son, who had not returned to Rhenish Prussia. This sword is now at Mount Vernon.

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

in the James River Company, which they had before put at my disposal, to the use of a Siminary to be erected in such part of the State as they should deem most proper; and

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in consequence of this reference to their opinion, the Legislature having requested me to appropriate them to a Seminary at such place in the upper Country as I should think most convenient to a majority of its Inhabitants: After careful enquiries, to ascertain that place, I have, upon the fullest consideration of all circumstances, destined those Shares to the use of Liberty-Hall Academy, in Rockbridge County. 81

It would seem to me proper that this determination should be promulgated by some official act of the Executive of Virginia, and the Legislature may expect it; for the purpose of general information. With due consideration and respect I am, &c.

[V.S.L.]

81. Later called "Washington College," and after the presidency of Gen. Robert E. Lee, "Washington and Lee University."

To JOHN FITZGERALD

Philadelphia, April 27, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 14th. instant came to hand in due course of post, and would have received an earlier acknowledgement had I not been pressed with other business.

I have no hesitation in declaring that the conduct of Mr. Thomas Digges towards the United States during the War (in which they were engaged with Great Britain) and since as far as the same has come to my knowledge, has not been only friendly, but I might add zealous.⁷³

When I conversed with you on this subject in Alexandria, I thought I recollected a special and pointed instance of beneficial service he had rendered this Country in sending me between the leather and pasteboard cover of a book, some important intelligence; but upon reflecting more maturely on the matter since, I am unable to decide *positively* whether it was from him, or another gentleman⁷⁴ this expedient was adopted to elude the

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consequences of a search. Be this however as it may, it is in my recollection that various *verbal* communications came to me, *as from him*, by our Captives, who had escaped from confinement in England; and I think I have recd. written ones also: but the latter (if at all) must have been rare on account of the extreme hazard of discovery, and the consequences which would follow, both to the writer and bearer of such correspondences.

Since the War, abundant evidence might be adduced of his activity and zeal (with considerable risque) in sending artizans and machines of public utility to this Country I mean by encourag

73. The difficulty was that some individuals were trying "to enrich themselves in this summary way" by attempting to bring the estate of Digges under the confiscation law.

74. Ford notes that this gentleman was Arthur Lee.

ing and facilitating their transportation as also of useful information to the Secretary of State, to put him on his guard against nefarious attempts to make Paper, &ca. for the purpose of counterfeiting our money. Until you mentioned the doubts which were entertained of Mr. Digges' attachment to this country, I had no idea of its being questioned. With esteem, &c.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing letter, I have seen and conversed with Mr. John Trumbull respecting Mr. T. Digges. The former, before he was committed to the Tower of London, was well acquainted with the latter in England, and much in his company. To him Mr. Digges always appeared well attached to the rights and interests of the United States. *Knows* that he was active in aiding our citizens to escape from their confinement in England; and *believes* he was employed to do so by Doctr. Franklin. Mr. Trumbull has never seen Mr. Digges since he left the Tower, but has heard that a difference arose between him and the Doctr. not from any distrust entertained by the latter of disaffection in the former; but on the settlement of their accounts.

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The preceding statement is made from the best recollection I have of the subject. The expression might (if I had had more leisure) be more correct, but not more consonant with truth. Such as it is you are welcome to make what use you please of it.⁷⁵

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

***To ROBERT MORRIS**

Philadelphia, May 26, 1794.

Dear Sir: As I have other unproductive landed property in the Western Country besides that which you seem disposed to become the purchaser of; and some also in Virginia which, in my opinion promises the richest future harvest of any thing of the kind I have contemplated. I offer the whole to you upon the terms mentioned in the enclosed paper.

Were my prospects different from what they really are, not the sum there mentioned, or any thing like it, would alienate the property from me. But, as the case is, I prefer present convenience to future advantages; and therefore, in my own days, which cannot be many, am disposed to turn my unproductive lands into cash, that I may enjoy the comforts which may result from the interest thereof.

Mr. Casenave (through the medium of Govt. Lee of Virginia) made overtures to me for my interest in the Great Dismal Swamp. The answer to these you will find enclosed. He scarcely, as I understood from the Govr., knew whether to say yea, or nay, to my offer; and being timid, and wishing first to know if he could secure the other there, the matter stopped, and so it has remained. Mr. Casenave expected, probably on good ground, that a purchase from others might be made on lower terms than I had affixed to mine.

The plat of this land; that of the round bottom; and of those tracts on the little Miami; a sketch of the Town of Mount Pleasant at the confluence of the Ohio and Great Kanhawa; with some other

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Papers, are enclosed. They may be returned with such as you have, belonging to me, or retained to be added to, according to your decision.

It may be desirable on Mr. Casenaves acct., to make no mention of his views, if you do not incline to embark in the measure yourself, [illegible] I do not know what steps he proposed to take, or has taken in the business.

I have made you the offer wch. is enclosed, and given the best view I am able of facts, because I understood from you that Mr. Green leaf is to be concerned with you in purchases of this kind, and is expected in this City. With very great esteem etc.

[CH.H.S.]

*LAND MEMORANDUM⁹

Philadelphia, May 25, 1794.

Land belonging to the subscriber: West of the Alligany Mountain, and in the Great dismal Swamp in Virginia, which he would dispose of at the prices thereunto annexed.

Upon the River Ohio—East side

Acres In 3 seperate tracts—according to the Surveys thereof for 2,314.2, 448 and 4395 9,157 Round bottom (1) 587 9,744. On the great Kanhawa. In 4 tracts, viz,-10,990—7,276 2,000 and 2,950 together 23,216 32,960 a 20/ V: Cy. (2) £32,960— 25 pr. Ct. diffe.Exch. 8,240

9. Indorsed by Washington: “Terms on which the within Lands were offered to Robert Morris Esq May, 1794.” (See Washington's letter to Robert Morris, May 26, 1794, *post.*)

West of the Ohio. In 3 tracts, on the little Miami, viz, first, near the mouth, within a mile of the Ohio 839 2d. Seven miles up the Miami 977 3d. ten miles up the same 1,235 3,051 a 7/6 (3) 1,1,44 2. 6 In Kentucky In two Surveys 5,000 3/9 (4) 937.10.0 In the state of Pennsa. Washington Cty. by Patent 2,813 30/ (5) 4,219.10.0 Fayette Ditto by Do 1,644 40/

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(6) 3,288— Westmoreld. Do Great Meadows 234½ 25/ (7) 293. 2.6 Great dismal Swamp A full share 2/21 party about 4,000 25/V.Cy.(8). 5,000 diffe. Excha 1,250 57,332 5.0

The above land, in my opinion, is richly worth the sum annexed to each parcel, and I have no doubt of its fetching it, or more, at the present moment, if I was in the habit, or in the way of disposing of the land; but as neither of these is the case, and as I prefer present convenience to future gain, I will let them go to one person, or to an association of persons, for the round sum of fifty thousand pounds; estimating dollars at Seven shillings and six pence, and other gold and silver coin,

curr. in the country, at that rate; and if the interest is secured to me in any of the Banks, or in any other manner so as to render the receipt certain, when paymt. becomes due, I will wait a term (to be agreed upon) for the principl.

The notes on the other side, relatively to some of the tracts, may be as satisfactory as they are useful.

Note (1). This tract for its size, is perhaps one of the most valuable on the Ohio River. It is in the shape of a horse shoe, with an elevated situation at the upper end for a house, on the bank of the River. It lies on the nearest and most direct road from the Settlements on the Monongalia to Detroit; about 15 miles below Wheeling (where there is a thick and respectable settlement) and about 75 miles above Mariatte.

(2) The price at which they were offered to Mr. Greenleaf.

(3) These tracts adjoin Judge Symes purchase and settlements, on the opposite side of the little Miami and are in the vicinity of Fort Washington. They were obtained for me, under the auspices of Colo Thos. Marshall of Kentucky; and by a verbal conversation which I have had with the person who Surveyed them I am more impressed with the value of the land than I am by the official report; but it is on the latter I rest the character of it.

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(4) I have neither the Surveys nor the Patents of these lands by me; both however axe at Mt. Vernon. They were purchased from Governor Lee of Virga.,

who has assured me, that they were of the first quality in that Country. They cost me £500 Virga. My. several years ago.

(5) By an actual Survey (since the patent issued for this land) it has been found to measure upwards of 3000 acres. It lies not more than 15 or 16 miles from Pittsburgh, less from the County town; and contains 12 or 15 good and well improved farms, for that part of the Ctry.

(6) This tract is composed of five original Surveys, compactly joined, with an allowance of 6 pr. Ct. (according to the custom of the land office of Pennsylvania) at the time it was granted. These Surveys are among the first that were made in that country and the goodness of the land is not exceeded by any therein. It lies on the great Road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburgh, distant from the latter 40 miles. It has one large and several smaller farms on it. A Mill which cost (15 or 18 years ago) between a thousand and twelve hundred pounds, and lately by an allowance to the tenant has undergone a repair. Within 30 feet of the Mill house is a great shew of Iron Ore.

(7) This tract consists chiefly of Meadow, and is very valuable though unimproved. It is situated about half way between Fort Cumberland and Pittsburgh. Braddock Road passes through it; which, and the advantages of so much meadow fit for the Scythe, makes it an excellent stand for a Publican.

(8) This quantity is about the amount of the share I hold in the great dismal Swamp. And of all the speculations in the United States, of which I have any conception this, for the magnitude of it, is, in my opinion the most promising. The

company of which I am one, holds 40,000 acres of Patented land therein; in which there is no dispute; and they have a just right to a good deal more which has been taken from

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them (illegally, and not past recovery) through their own inattention. Independent of the 40,000 acres, of which mine is a part, there is a large plantation of reclaimed land on which the Company worked a number of hands many years; Part of whom, I believe are continued thereon to this day. My share of the Plantation and Negroes shall be included in the sum annexed to the Land. The 40,000 acres is the richest part of the whole swamp, and indeed it is scarcely possible for soil to be richer. The unreclaimed rice Swamps of So. Carolina which are in no respect better and few of them so advantageously situated sell from ten to £15 sterg. an acre, and when reclaimed at from 25 to £50 pr. Acre. The Canal which is now opening from Elizabeth River to Albemarle sound passes through it, and will contribute much to the draining thereof; and in other respects will add immensely to the value of the property. Rice, Tobacco, Indian Corn, Oats and other articles have been raised most luxuriantly by the Companies hands, on their plantation in this swamp. The value of so much land, of this quality within a few miles of Norfolk, Suffolk and Portsmouth; and along side of Nansemond River (at a very small distance therefrom), cultivated in these articles or laid to grass for mowing or grazing is almost incalculable.

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, June 16, 1794.

Sir: I avail myself of your obliging offer, to dispose of the land I hold in the Counties of Fayette and Washington; Hereby empowering you to sell the same on the following conditions, viz, that in the first named County, at five dollars and a third pt. acre; and the other at four dollars pr. Acre. As you were of opinion when I had the pleasure of conversing with you on this subject, that six dollars pr. acre might be had for the first tract, I hope the aggregate of the two will amount to the sum I ask for them.

If one fourth of the money is paid down, or within a short period, I would give four, five, or six years credit for the other three fourths; provided the payment thereof is well secured, agreeably to contract; and the interest in the meanwhile assured with punctuality, as it

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becomes due, in one of the Banks of this City; or in either of those of Baltimore, George Town, or Alexandria. The regular payment of which, at stated periods, being a primary consideration with me.

The tract in Fayette County, contains 1644 acs., besides the usual allowance of 6 pr. Ct. The other, by patent, is 2813 acres, but by a resurvey was found to measure more than 3000 Acs. A description of them, to you, would be unnecessary; the presumption being, that the purchaser, whomsoever he may be, will examine the land, and judge for himself. It may be amiss however, that

it should generally be known, that both tracts are improved and that one of them has a Mill thereon, and a considerable show of Iron Ore within less than 30 yards of the mill house.

I have informed Colo. Presly Neville (to whom I have had occasion to write on business) of my having given you power to dispose of these tracts, and have asked him (as he is at the mart of enquiry after Western lands) to recommend Chapmen to you.

Having, from long experience, found that landed property at a distance from the Proprietor, is attended with more plague than profit; I have determined to sell all the land I hold on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa (about 33,000 Acres in eight surveys If I can obtain, by giving a pretty long credit, what I conceive it is worth. This I have estimated, under present circumstances, to be three dollars and a third pr. acre; and thought the other day I should have parted with it at that price (which was the reason I was not more particular with you when you were conversing on the subject of western land) but as it stood connected with others still more remote the result was otherwise. If it should fall in your way to mention my intention respecting these lands I would thank you. For the reason already mentioned, a description in detail of the above land would be useless. I cannot avoid adding however, that they are the cream of the country in which they lye, being the first choice of it, and all interval, and bounded by the Rivers on which they lye fifty eight miles.

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Be so good if you should conclude

a bargain for either of the tracts in this State, or receive an offer for them, or the lands herein mentioned, to give me immediate notice thereof to prevent any embarrassment which may arise from a direct application to myself. I have a small tract of 234 acs. comprehending the Great Meadows on Braddock road, which I would also dispose of. I will not trouble you with an apology for this freedom; but assure you of the esteem with which I am etc.²⁸

***To PRESLEY NEVILLE**

Philadelphia, June 16, 1794.

Sir: I should have written you at an earlier period but for the extreme hurry into which I was thrown at the close of the Session of Congress (wch. did not terminate before monday last) and from my not having adverted, in time, to the Pittsburg Post day of last week. This letter (as I shall set out for Virginia tomorrow) is left to go by next Saturday's Mail.

Inclosed is a blank power,²⁹ authorizing Mr. Charles Morgan, or any other with whose name you shall fill it, to collect the rents arising from my land in Fayette and Washington Counties, in this State; together with such arrearages as may be due for the preceding years, if any there be. Another blank is also left, which I pray you to fill up with the percentage to be allowed as a compensation for

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

29. Entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

the trouble and expense of collection The inducements to this are, 1st. because I do not recollect what Colo. Cannon has been allowed for his Services. and, 2dly. because there is no invariable allowance established. Places and circumstances varying it.

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A letter from Colo. Cannon is also inclosed, requesting him to give the necessary information to his Successor, and to desire that he would discontinue all further agency in my business: This letter is left open, for your insertion of the name of his Successor. The emolument, arising from this collection, is too trifling to become an object worthy your acceptance, or I should never have inquired for another before I had offered it to you.

From the experience of many years, I have found distant property in land more pregnant of perplexities than profit. I have therefore resolved to sell all I hold on the western waters, if I can obtain the prices which I conceive their quality, their situation, and other advantages would authorise me to expect. Conversing with Mr. Ross (one of your Senators) on this subject, a day or two before he left the City, he gave it to me, as his opinion that the present juncture was favorable for the sale of my land in this State, and was so obliging as to offer his services to effect it. He thought the quality of my land in Fayette county, together with the improvements and show of Iron Ore within less than 30 yards of the Mill door ought on credit, to command six dollars [an acre]. The other I have always held at four dollars. The first tract contains 1644 acres besides the usual allowance of Six pr Ct. The latter, 2813 acres by the patent, but it measures

more than 3000 acs. by a Subsequent Survey.

If, Sir, as you live at Pittsburgh (the probable mart of enquiry after land in that country) you should find it convenient, and not militating against any plans of your own, to make mention of mine, and to aid Mr. Ross in the sale of these tracts, it would oblige me.

If a fourth of the purchase money is paid at the time of conveyance, a credit of four, five, or six years might be allowed for the remainder; provided it is fully secured; and the interest thereon regularly paid at one of the Banks in this State, Baltimore, George Town, or Alexandria. To receive this without trouble, and with punctuality, as it becomes due, will be insisted upon.

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My land on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa Rivers, amounting to 32,373 As³⁰ was once sold for Sixty five thousand French Crowns, to a French Gentleman,³¹ who was very competent to the payment, at the time the contract was made; but, getting a little embarrassed in his finances by the Revolution in his Country, by mutual agreement the bargain was canceled. Lately, I have been in treaty for the same land, at three dollars and a third pt. acre, for the whole quantity; but it being connected with other m[atters] is not likely to result in a bargain as I once expected, and therefore I am at liberty to seek another market.

To give a further description of these lands than to say they are the cream of the Country in which they are; that they were the first choice of it; and that the whole is on the margin of the Rivers and bounded thereby for 58 miles, would be unnecessary to you who must have a pretty accurate

30. Acres.

31. De Barth.

idea of them and their value. But it may not be amiss to add for the information of others that the quantity before mentioned is contained in Seven Surveys, to wit: three on the Ohio East Side, between the mouths of the little and Great Kanhawa. The first, is the first large bottom below the mouth of the little [Kanhaw]a containing 2314 acres, and is bounded by the river 5¼ miles. The 2d. is the 4th large bottom, on the same side of the River, about 16 miles lower down, containing 2448 acs. bounded by the River 3 miles. The 3d. is the next large bottom, 3½ miles below, and opposite, nearly to the great bend containing 4395 acs. with a margin on the river of 5 miles. The other four tracts are on the Great Kanhawa. the first of them contains 10990 acrs. on the west side and begins with two or three miles of the mouth of it and bound thereby for more than 17 miles. The 2d. is on the East side of the River a little higher up, containing 7276 acs. and bounded by the River 13 miles. The other two are at the mouth of Cole River, on both sides and in the fork thereof containing

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together 4950 acs., and like the others are all interval land having a front upon the water of twelve miles.

Besides these, I have the round bottom, opposite to Pipe Creek, about 15 miles below Wheeling; which contains 587 acs. with 2½ miles front on the River, and of quality inferior to none thereon. And 234½ acs. at the Great Meadows on Braddocks Road with the allowances.

For the *whole* of these tracts taken *together*, I would allow seven years credit, without requiring a fourth of the purchase money to be paid down, provided the principal is amply secured, and the interest also in the manner before mentioned, for to have no disappointment or trouble in the receipt of this must be a Sine qua non. If the tracts are sold separately, I should expect a fourth of the purchase to be paid down and more than 3¼ dollars pr. Acre for the round bottom, and the tract of 10990 Ac. on the Great Kanhawa know[ing] from my own view the extraordinary value of these tracts. With very great esteem etc.

To JOHN CANNON

Philadelphia, June 16, 1794.

Sir: The continual disappointments I meet with in the receipt of my rents under your collection, in the Counties of Fayette and Washington, lays me under the painful necessity of placing this business in other hands.

Accordingly it is entrusted to 32 ; to whom I request you will give a list of the Tenants on both tracts; the amount of their respective rents; and what is due from each farm; in so doing you will oblige, Sir, Your etc.³³

32. Left blank in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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33. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. On June 17 Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon.

To MRS. MATTHEW ANDERSON⁶³

Philadelphia July 20, 1794.

Madam: Not before the 8th. instant had I the honor to receive your favor of the 17th. of May, accompanied with a piece of silk of your own manufacture.

Contrary as it is to an established maxim of mine, not to accept a Present from any one, yet, considering this as a mark of your peculiar attention to me and as an evidence of what our climate, aided by industry, is capable of yielding, I receive, and thank you for this effort of your skill.

I shall have it made up, and will wear it as a momento of your politeness, having the honor to be, Yr. etc.⁶⁴

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, August 1, 1794.

Sir: As letters are liable to accidents, and I have had no acknowledgment of one I wrote you, on the 16th. June, I take the liberty of troubling you with a duplicate thereof.

A few days ago I received a letter from Colo. Israel Shreve proposing to buy the tract on which he lives, in Fayette Cty. He offered to pay a third of the price next April (at which time, he says his lease expires) and interest

63. Of Gloucester County, Va

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64. The letter to Mrs. Anderson was inclosed in a brief note to John Page, of Gloucester County, dated July 23, requesting him to forward it. This note is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

On July 18 Dandridge wrote to John Suter, of Georgetown, that the President would be glad to employ a boy by the name of Billy, whose term of service with Surer had then expired. The terms of employment were the same "as those we now employ, that is, eight dollars per month and a full suit of livery cloths annually." Dandridge's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

on the other two thirds, if the credit could be agreed on; giving the land and his own Bond as security.

A Mr. Jackson of Red-stone, according to his account, has told him that my price was 30/. an Acre; on what ground, I am at a loss to conjecture; for at no period since the dissolution of my concern with a Gilbert Simpson, and intention to part with the Land, have I ever contemplated to take less than forty shillings pt. Acre. Some person in the course of last winter called upon, and enquired of me, if I was disposed to sell my lands in the Western part of this State, and the value I set upon them ? Finding it was not on his own Acct. the enquiries were made, my answers were short, and to this effect that I could, some years ago, have got 40/for the tract in Fayette, and that I valued the other at 30/. He then asked if credit would be allowed. I replied if part of the money was paid down, Interest on the remainder, and the whole well secured, credit might be obtained. Nothing more that I can recollect passed between us. How then he should misconceive what I said, or Colo. Shreve what he said, is not easy to account for.

I have informed Colo. Shreve that as you were so obliging as to offer to dispose of these Lands on my behalf I could do no more than refer him to you lest a specific answer might militate with any negociations you might have in hand; and this communication is to

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prepare you therefor; if the misconception he has been under should not arrest any further overtures from him, on this Subject. With very great esteem I am etc.

***To JAMES ROSS**

German Town, August 6, 1794.

Sir: The enclosed was written agreeably to its date⁷⁴ and would have been sent by the Mail to Pittsburgh (under cover to Colo. Presley Nevill) but finding that conveyance had become unsafe, I did not incline to embrace it. It will, I hope and expect, be put into your hands by Mr. Bradford, the Attorney General, who will communicate to you the purport of his visit into the part of the Country wherein you reside.

The reason of my adding to the enclosed is, that yesterday a person (whose name, nor place of abode I did not enquire, being otherwise engaged, and hurried at the time) called upon me to know if I would sell my land in the County of Fayette; answering in the affirmative, he asked the price. I told him I had given you a power to sell it, and to you his application had best be made. Pressing still to know the price, I told him I could enter into no engagement, but supposed if the land was yet unsold he might obtain it at Six dollars an Acre.

This person was a driver of his own Team, and from his appearance I hardly supposed he was in circumstances to advance ten pounds in payment; but to my surprise he gave me to understand (not gasconadingly) that he could pay a £1000 down, and with sufficient time to dispose of the land on which he lives, he could pay £3000 more. I advised him to proceed to you, and he seemed disposed to go, of which I make this mention.

74. Starred in the text and margin as "1st of August 1794."

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I am sorry I did not ask his name as he seemed much in earnest and had rid from Philadelphia to this place for the sole purpose of making the foregoing enquiries. I think he said he lived in Cumberland County. With very great esteem I am etc.⁷⁵

***To BURGESS BALL**

German Town, August 10, 1794.

Dear Sir: We removed to this place about twelve days ago to avoid the heat of Philadelphia, and probably may remain at it until the middle of next month. It was here I received your letter of the 5th. instant, which came to my hands yesterday.

The business of establishing Arsenals, and providing proper places for them is within the Department of War; the Secretary of which (General Knox) set out on Friday last for the Province of main, and will not be returned in less than Six weeks. But as I am persuaded he has no idea (nor are there indeed funds provided equal thereto) of giving 25,000 Dollars for the Site of *one, only*, I would not have you, by any means, avoid sowing Wheat; or doing anything else which you might have had in contemplation to do on Account of what I mentioned to you, in my last, on this subject.

What (under the rose I ask it) is said, or thought, as far as it has appeared to you, of the conduct of the People in the Western Counties

75. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

of this State (Pennsylvania) towards the excise Officers? and does there seem to be a disposition among those with whom you converse, to bring them to a Sense of their duty, and obedience to law, by coercion, if, after they are fully notified by the Proclamation and other expedients, of the consequences of such outrageous proceedings, they do not Submit to the Laws of the United States, and suffer the Collection of the duties upon

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Spirituos liquors, and Stills, to be made as in other places? In a word, would their be any difficulty, as far as the matter has passed under your observation, in drawing out a part of the Militia of Loudoun, Berkeley and Frederick to quell this rebellious spirit, and to support order and good government? You will readily perceive that questions of this sort from me to you and your answers are for my private information, and to go no further than ourselves.

I am sorry to hear that your bad state of health requires the waters of Bath, but hope they will restore you. My love (in which Mrs. Washington unites) is offered to Mrs. Ball and the family. I am etc.⁸¹

***To CHARLES MYNN THRUSTON**

(Private)

Philadelphia, August 10, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 21st. of June came duly to hand. For the communications contained in it, I thank you; as I shall do for any other that is interesting to the Community and necessary for me to be informed of.

81. From the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.

That there should exist in this country such a spirit as you say pervades the people of Kentucky (and which I have also learnt through other channels) is, to me, matter of great wonder; and that it should prevail there, more than in any other part of the Union, is not less surprising to those who are acquainted with the exertions of the General government in their favor. But it will serve to evince whensoever, and to whomsoever facts are developed (and they are not unknown at this moment, to many of the principal characters in that State) that there must exist a pre-disposition among them to be dissatisfied under

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any circumstances, and under every exertion of government (short of a war with Spain, which must eventually involve one with Great Britain) to promote their welfare.

The protection they receive, and the unwearied endeavours of the General government to accomplish (by repeated and ardent remonstrances) what they seem to have most at heart, viz, the navigation of the Mississippi, obtain no credit with them, or what is full as likely, may be concealed from them or misrepresented by those Societies⁸² who under specious colourings are spreading mischief far and wide either from *real* ignorance of the measures pursuing by the government, or from a wish to bring it, as much as they are able, into discredit; for what purposes, every man is left to his own conjectures.

That similar attempts to discontent the public mind have been practiced with too much success in some of the Western Counties in this State you are, I am certain, not to learn.

82. Democratic.

Actual rebellion against the Laws of the United States exist at this moment notwithstanding every lenient measure which could comport with the duties of the public Officers have been exercised to reconcile them to the collection of the taxes upon spirituous liquors and Stills. What may be the consequences of such violent and outrageous proceedings is painful in a high degree even in contemplation. But if the Laws are to be so trampled upon, with impunity, and a minority (a small one too) is to dictate to the majority there is an end put, at one stroke, to republican government; and nothing but anarchy and confusion is to be expected thereafter; for Some other man, or society may dislike another Law and oppose it with equal propriety until all Laws are prostrate, and every one (the strongest I presume) will carve for himself. Yet, there will be found persons I have no doubt, who, although they may not be hardy enough to justify such open opposition to the Laws, will, nevertheless, be opposed to coercion even if the proclamation and the other temperate measures which are in train by the Executive to avert the dire necessity of a resort to arms, should fail. How far such people may extend their influence, and what may be the

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consequences thereof is not easy to decide; but this we know, that it is not difficult by concealment of some facts, and the exaggeration of others, (where there is an influence) to bias a well-meaning mind, at least for a time, truth will ultimately prevail where pains is taken to bring it to light.

I have a great regard for Genl. Morgan, and respect his military talents, and am persuaded if a fit occasion should occur no one would exert them with more zeal in the service of his country than he would. It is my ardent wish, however, that this Country

should remain in Peace as long as the Interest, honour and dignity of it will permit, and its laws, enacted by the Representatives Of the People freely chosen, shall obtain. With much esteem &c.

***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

(Private)

German Town, August 26, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 17th. came duly to hand, and I thank you for its communications. As the Insurgents in the western counties of this State are resolved (as far as we have yet been able to learn from the Commissioners, who have been sent among them) to persevere in their rebellious conduct untill what they call the excise Law is repealed, and acts of oblivion and amnesty are passed; it gives me sincere consolation amidst the regret with which I am filled, by such lawless and outrageous conduct, to find by your letter above mentioned, that it is held in general detestation by the good people of Virginia; and that you are disposed to lend your *personal* aid to subdue this spirit, and to bring those people to a proper sense of their duty.

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On this latter point I shall refer you to letters from the War office; and to a private one from Colo. Hamilton (who in the absence of the Secretary of War, superintends the *military* duties

of that department) for my sentiments on this occasion.

It is with equal pride and satisfaction I add, that as far as my information extends, this insurrection is viewed with universal indignation and abhorrence; except by those who have never missed an opportunity by side blows, or otherwise, to aim their shafts at the general government; and even among these there is not a Spirit hardy enough, yet, *openly* to justify the daring infractions of Law and order; but by palliatives are attempting to suspend all proceedings against the insurgents until Congress shall have decided on the case, thereby intending to gain time, and if possible to make the evil more extensive, more formidable, and of course more difficult to counteract and subdue.

I consider this insurrection as the first *formidable* fruit of the Democratic Societies; brought forth I believe too prematurely for their own views, which may contribute to the annihilation of them.

That these societies were instituted by the *artful* and *designing* members (many of their body I have no doubt mean well, but know little of the real plan,) primarily to sow the seeds of jealousy and distrust among the people, of the government, by destroying all confidence in the Administration of it; and that these doctrines have been budding and blowing ever since, is not new to any one, who is acquainted with the characters of their leaders, and has been attentive to their manoeuvres. I early gave it as my opinion to the confidential characters around me, that, if these Societies were not counteracted (not by prosecutions, the ready way to make them grow stronger) or did not fall into disesteem from the knowledge of their origin, and the views with which they had been instituted by

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their father, Genet, for purposes well known to the Government; that they would shake the government to its foundation. Time and circumstances have confirmed me in this opinion, and I deeply regret the probable consequences, not as they will affect me personally, (for I have not long to act on this theatre, and sure I am that not a man amongst them can be more anxious to put me aside, than I am to sink into the profoundest retirement) but because I see, under a display of popular and fascinating guises, the most diabolical attempts to destroy the best fabric of human government and happiness, that has ever been presented for the acceptance of mankind.

A part of the plan for creating discord, is, I perceive, to make me say things of others, and others of me, wch. have no foundation in truth. The first, in many instances I *know* to be the case; and the second I believe to be so; but truth or falsehood is immaterial to them, provided their objects are promoted.

Under this head may be classed, I conceive, what it is reported I have said of Mr. Henry, and what Mr. Jefferson is reported to have said of me; on both of which, particularly the first, I mean to dilate a little.⁹³ With solemn truth then I can declare, that I never expressed such sentiments of that Gentleman, as from your letter, he has been led to believe. I had heard, it is true that he retained his enmity to the Constitution; but with very peculiar pleasure I learnt from Colo. Coles⁹⁴ (who I am sure will recollect it) that Mr. Henry was acquiescent in his conduct, and that though

93. Lee had written (August 27): "I have talked very freely and confidentially with that Gentleman [Henry]. I plainly perceive that he has credited some information which he has received (from whom I know not which induces him to believe that you consider him a factious seditious character...He seems to be deeply and sorely effected. It is very much to be regretted, for he is a man of positive virtue as well a of transcendent talents, and were it not for his feelings above expressed, I verily believe he would be found among the most active supporters of your administration...very respectable gentleman told me the other day that he was at Mr. Jeffersons, and among enquirys which he made of that

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gentleman, he asked if it were possible that you had attached yourself to G Britain and if it could be true that you were governed, by British influence as was reported by many. He was answered in the following words: 'that there was no danger of your being biassed by considerations of that sox so long as you were influenced by the wise advisers, or advice, which you at present had. ' I requested him to reflect and reconsider and to repeat again the answer. He did, so and adhered to every word. Now as the conversation astonished me and is inexplicable to my mind as well as derogatory to your character, I consider it would be unworthy in me to withhold the communication from you. To no other person will it ever be made." Lee's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

94. Isaac Coles, Representative from Virginia.

he could not give up his opinions respecting the Constitution, yet, unless he should be called upon by official duty, he wd. express no sentiment unfriendly to the exercise of the powers of a government, which had been chosen by a majority of the people; or words to this effect.

Except intimating in this conversation (which to the best of my recollection was introduced by Colo. Coles) that report had made Mr. Henry speak a different language; and afterwards a Prince Edward Court house, where I saw Mr. Venable,⁹⁵ and finding I was within eight or ten miles of Mr. Henry's seat, and expressing my regret at not seeing him, the conversation might be similar to that held with Colo. Coles; I say, except in these two instances, I do not recollect, nor do I believe, that it the course of the journey to and from the Southward I ever mentioned Mr. Henry's name in conjunction with the Constitution or the government. It is evident therefore, that these, reports are propagated with evil intentions, to create personal differences. On the question of the Constitution Mr. Henry and myself, it is well known, have been of different opinions; but personally, I have always respected and esteemed him; nay more, I have conceived myself under obligations to him for the friendly manner in which he transmitted to me some insidious anonymous

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writings that were sent to him in the close of the year 1777, with a view to embark him in the opposition that was forming against me at that time.⁹⁶

I well recollect the conversations you allude to in the winter preceeding the last; and I recollect also, that difficulties occurred which you, any more than myself, were not able to remove.

95. Abraham Bedford Venable, Representative from Virginia.

96. The Conway Cabal.

1st., though you believed, yet you would not undertake to *assert*, that Mr. Henry would be induced to accept *any appointment* under the General Government; in which case, and supposing him to be inemical to it, the wound the government would receive by his refusal, and the charge of attempting to silence his opposition by a place, would be great; 2d., because you were of opinion that *no* office which would make a residence at the Seat of government essential would comport with his disposition, or views; and 3dly., because if there was a vacancy in the supreme Judiciary at that time (of which I am not at this time certain) it could not be filled from Virginia without giving two Judges to that State, which would have excited unpleasant sensations in other States. Any thing short of one of the great Offices, it could not be presumed he would have accepted; nor would there (under any opinion he might entertain) have been propriety in offering it. What is it then, you have in contemplation, that you conceive would be relished? anti ought there not to be a moral certainty of its acceptance? This being the case, there wd. not be wanting a disposition on my part; but strong inducements on public and private grounds, to invite Mr. Henry into any employment under the General Government to which his inclination might lead, and not opposed by those maxims which has been the invariable rule of my conduct.

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With respect to the words said to have been uttered by Mr. Jefferson, they would be enigmatical to those who are acquainted with the characters about me, unless supposed to be spoken

ironically; and in that case they are too injurious to me, and have too little foundation in truth, to be ascribed to him. There could not be the trace of doubt on his mind of predilection in mine, towards G. Britain or her politics, unless (which I do not believe) he has set me down as one of the most deceitful, and uncandid men living; because, not only in private conversations between ourselves, on this subject; but in my meetings with the confidential servants of the public, he has heard me often, when occasions presented themselves, express very different sentiments with an energy that could not be mistaken by *any one* present.

Having determined, as far as lay within the power of the Executive, to keep this country in a state of neutrality, I have made my public conduct accord with the system; and whilst so acting as a public character, consistency, and propriety as a private man, forbid those intemperate expressions in favor of one Nation, or to the prejudice of another, wch. many have indulged themselves in, and I will venture to add, to the embarrassment of government, without producing any good to the Country. With very great esteem &c.

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

German Town, August 28, 1794.

Dear Sir: Mr. Johnson and Doctr. Stuart having resolved to withdraw themselves as Commissioners of the Federal City, and not to act after the meeting which is proposed to be held on the 15th. of next month, it has become necessary to appoint two others in their places. One of whom, it is said, ought to possess a considerable stock of legal abilities; as cases are frequently occurring to render Law knowledge necessary for the purposes

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of deciding as well on points depending thereon as for the draughting of agreements and other instruments which are requisite in the progress of the business.

Mr. Scott⁹⁷ (at present of Baltimore) a gentleman eminent in the profession of the Law, a man of character and fortune, and one who has the welfare of the New City, much at heart, has been applied to and accepts the appointed trust. And if it is convenient and agreeable to you to accept also, the Commission will be again completed; and the business go on without interruption, from and after the ensuing meeting as before.

It has been found from experience, indispensibly necessary that the Commissioners should reside in the City (in George Town would be tantamount) and devote, by some arrangement amongst themselves, much of their time to the multitudinous concerns of the same; thereby superceding the necessity of employing a Superintendant. As the rendering of such duties are not to be expected on the terms the late Commissioners served (and two of them

97. Gustavus Scott. He was a native of Prince William County, Va., and served until the board of Commissioners was abolished June 1, 1802.

decline it under any terms) I have now fixed the Salery for each at Sixteen hundred dollars pr. annum. and am obliged to provide successors.

Were it not that I am unwilling to add any thing that might carry with it the appearance of influencing your judgment, in the decision you are called upon to make, in this case; I shd. have expressed a wish that it might be found convenient to you to accept the appointment. If, however, you should find it incompatible with your other plans and views, and should decline the acceptance, I pray you to let me know, as far as you may be able to discover, in how respectable a light Doctr. Thornton⁹⁸ stands, or would be considered by the Proprietors of the federal City (amongst whom he spent sometime in the month of July last). The Doctr. is sensible, and indefatigable I am told, in the execution of whatever he engages; To which may be added his taste for Architecture; but being little known, doubts

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arise on that head. If (in case of *your* non-acceptance)⁹⁹ any other person, or persons shd. occur to you, as fit for this business, be so good as mention (under the rose) their names to me. The appointment is necessary, and can be delayed no longer. With very great esteem etc.

[H.L.]

98. Dr. William Thornton's commission as one of the Commissioners was dated Sept. 12, 1794. He also served until June 1, 1802.

99. Lear declined.

To ROBERT LEWIS

German Town, August 31, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 19th. inst: has been received; and I will answer such parts as require it.

The money in your hands, belonging to me may be lodged in Alexandria, and made subject to Mr. William Pearce (my manager) his order. This will answer all the purposes of your coming down, if he is advised thereof. At the same time write, and transmit me the acct. that I may see who have paid, and who are delinquent. Charge every thing due to yourself in the account, as I have an insufferable objection to after reckonings.

The ensuing Rents may be applied in purchasing in the Leases if to be accomplished on advantageous terms, but do not deceive yourself as to the calculation of receiving 10 pr. Ct. on the money advanced. For illucidation take this example, suppose a tenement at £5 pr. annum is bought in for £100, and rented afterwards at £10 pr. annum, what pr. Ct. do I receive in this case? not 10 pr. Ct. surely, but 5 pr. Ct. *only* ; because £5. would have been received if no purchase, had been made, and the £100 loaned to you, or any other person would produce the other £5; of course I gain nothing by the purchase. This statement

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might and probably had occurred to you but to make the matter certain, I thought it would be best to mention it.

If advantageous purchases can be made, and the rents arising are inadequate, upon notice thereof I will fall upon some expedient to enlarge the fund; and the time of purchase may be extended to the days of Grace allowed by the Leases, or the Replevy Bonds where given.

In all cases of Transfer under the authority of Mr. Muse, request in my name, and behalf, a copy of the licence given by me, to him, for this purpose before you bring ejectments which you may not be able to support. The reason I require this is, because I cannot have recourse to my papers at Mount Vernon to furnish copies from thence.

I am very well satisfied with what you have done with my property in Winchester, Bath and on Potomac River but wish you had mentioned the terms on which you had offered the latter, and whether there was no condition made with the tenant at Bath, that If I should want the house for myself, or a friend, during the season of resort to the Waters, it was to be cleared and got in order for me or for such friend, without such reservation I might as well be without the house. Nor do I recollect (not having your letters by me) whether you have, in any of them mentioned in what condition they are. They cost me £150 cash to build them.

Give my love, in which Mrs. Washington Unites, to Mrs. Lewis, and be assured of the friendship and regard of Yr etc.6

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

To JOHN COWPER

Philadelphia, September 4, 1794.

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Sir: Your letter of the 20th. Ult. with another from Christopher Cowper, enclosing 450 Dols. in Bank Bills, came to my hands by tuesdays post. The receipt of the latter is acknowledged in my letter to that Gentn.,⁹ and will be placed to the credit of yr. bond to Mr. Jno. Lewis of Fredericksburg and assigned by him to me.

This bond I shall return to Mr. Lewis that it may be given to you upon a final settlement for the land; which I shall press him, in a letter I propose to write to him on Monday next, to the execution of without delay; and that the nature of the disputes may be known to him, with all the circumstances attending them, must depend very much on your information, which I hope you will be so good as to afford him. I am etc.¹⁰

9. September 4, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The original is in the possession of J. C. Gurley, of Greenville, N. C.

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

To PETER TRENOR

Philadelphia, September 6, 1794.

Sir: Your letter of the 9th. of May from Dublin, enclosing the duplicate of one written from Newry the 1st of October 1792, came safe to my hands a few days ago; but whether the original of the last and the one referred to in it of the 28th. of January 1790 ever were received, by me, is more than my memory can decide upon at this time. I rather think they were not, but if they were, it is more than probable I forwarded them to the Revd. Mr. Fairfax (the other Trustee of Mrs. Savage and) the only person in her behalf who has had any agency in the matter you write upon, since the year 1775, at which time I was called by the voice of my Country into the walks of public life to the suspencion of those of a private nature.

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It would seem by your letters, six, as if you conceived that the money due to the estate of Mrs. Savage was either in my hands, and consequently at my disposal; or, that the Courts of justice in this Country were under my comptrol when you request directions may be issued *by me* that a finish may be put to the business, and after certain deductions are made, according to enumeration, that the residue may be placed in the hands of Mr. Pollock of New York.

With respect to the first of these ideas I am sorry to inform you, that the arts, and ingratitude of Doctr. Savage during his life time, the contentions respecting his Will or Wills after his death, the suspension of Judicial proceedings in the course of the War with Gt. Britain, the delays of our courts since that period, the chicanery of the Lawyers who were employed by the defendants to procrastinate the suit

and stave off judgment; and by throwing it into chancery after one *had been* obtained at Common Law, have, hitherto, prevented any of the money due to and from the estate of Mrs. Savage from getting into the hands of her Trustees, whilst they or rather Mr. Fairfax, without any fund except that of his private purse is prosecuting, and it is to be feared to a fruitless issue, this Suit; as the accounts are various and unfavorable respecting the property left by the Doctor, and for as much too as the heir of his security (who is also dead) is attempting to prove the want of assets to make good this demand.

I do not mean, however, that you should receive this account as accurate information, for as I have before observed, having no agency in this business (except now and then paying clerks or sherifs fees) for near 20 years I only relate what I have casually heard at intervals from Mr. Fairfax; with whom in future, you will be pleased to corrispond on this subject as he is better able to give you the detail of the business than I am to sketch the outlines of it. Your last letter to me, and its inclosures shall be forwarded to that Gentn. who lives near Alexandria in Virginia.

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With respect to your other idea, vizt. that I would direct an end to be put to this business, I beg you to be assured, sir, that I have no more right to intermeddle in the Judicial proceedings of the Courts in this Country than you have, but I can readily enter into the feelings of a person interested in the manner you represent yourself to be, and therefore wish (if that would avail any thing) it was in the power of the Trustees to administer prompt and rigid

justice to all who are interested in this matter. an affair which originated in an evil hour, by an injudicious and unhappy marriage, and will end, it is to be feared in vexation and loss to all those who have had any concern in the affairs of the unfortunate Mrs. Savage.

Before I conclude I must be permitted to add, that having no private papers with me of so old a date as my letter to you in Novr. 1786, you must be better acquainted with the information therein given than I can be from recollection. But be it what it may I am persuaded the view I had of the case at that time would warrant the details. I am etc.11

***To JOHN LEWIS**

Philadelphia, September 8, 1794.

Dear Sir: The enclosures of letters from me to Mr. John Cowper, and from him to me, &ca. occasioned by his Bond to you, assigned to me; will shew you that it was not until tuesday last that I received any part of the contents of the said Bond; and his reason for not discharging the whole of it.

To hold the bond any longer, under these circumstances, would be nugatory; as he means, I perceive, to delay paymt. of it until a final settlement for the land, takes place; and for a variety of reasons this settlement cannot be adjusted with me; amongst others, because I am unacquainted with the agreement you entered into, but principally if it was, my situation and public duties would render it impracticable for

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

me to attend to this business.

I therefore return the Bond to you, that whatever may be due thereon at the final settlement, may be received and carried to the credit of our joint concern. In the mean while, that concern will have credit for Two hundred and two pounds six shillings and five pence half paymt. received Octr. 6th. 1792. and One hundred and forty pounds recd. from Mr. Cowper the fourth instant.

Mr. Cowper, as you will perceive, is very desirous of having this matter settled; nor ought it to be less desirable on our account; for delay will work more against us, than him. Let me beseech you therefore to take prompt and efficacious measures to bring the business to an end. One or two claims, of wch. I never had any knowledge or even suspicion, have already appeared; and others may start up, if the matter lyes open any longer.

I am perfectly satisfied that we aught not to lose any thing on account of any claim set up since the purchase of old Marmaduke Norfleet, and not known at the time of this purchase; at least that the heirs to that Gentleman are liable for all discoveries; but whatever you shall do after a full investigation, advice, and consideration, with respect to such claim or claims, I will abide by.

So soon as you shall have brought this business to a close, be so good as to transmit a state of it to me. I am etc.

***To REVEREND BRYAN, LORD FAIRFAX**

German Town, September 8, 1794.

My dear Sir: It is not my wish to add to the trouble which I am sorry has been thrown upon you (in a manner unavoidably) in the management of the Suit against the Representatives,

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or Security of the deceased Doctr. Savage. But when I am written to on this subject by those who are interested therein, I feel the necessity of making some response lest silence should receive an unfavorable interpretation.

On this ground I give you the trouble of perusing the enclosed letter from a Mr. Peter Trenor, and my answer; after which, let me pray you to put a wafer in the latter, and cause it to be forwarded agreeably to the superscription by the first good conveyance that may present itself to your view.

Who Mr. Trenor is I know not. Nor have I any recollection of what he says I wrote to him on the 15th. of Novr. 1786 (having no papers of that date by me, at this place to recur to). I have some imperfect remembrance, it is true, of an application that was made to me by a person in Virginia about the period he mentions, with which I was not favorably impressed, but why I was not so, or whether it came from this person, I am unable to inform you with the least precision; nor is it of such moment as the authenticity and regularity of the papers he alludes to must decide his pretensions.

With best respects to Mrs. Fairfax, and with very sincere esteem and regard for yourself I remain, etc.

***To JAMES ROSS**

German Town, September 13, 1794.

Sir: By Mr. Bradford I was favored with your letter of the 3d. Instt. from Pittsburgh; together with Two hundred and Sixty seven dollars on account of Colo. Cannons Bond; for which, and the train you have placed the residue of it, in, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

I am ready, and willing, to dispose of my lands in Fayette County at the price, and on the terms conditionally offered by the man from Cumberland County, whensoever he, or any other is disposed to close the matter, agreeably thereto. And I would dispose of my

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other tract in Washington County on the conditions mentioned in your letter of the third, by Mr. Bradford. I do not, for reasons which will readily occur to you, repeat these, but a recurrence to, or recollection of the purport of that letter, will inform you what they are. I will only add on this head, that I am more solicitous that interest on the unpaid sums shall be secured with punctuality, and without trouble, when due, than I am for the shortness of the credit which is to be allowed; especially if lengthening the credit would enhance the price.

The state of matters in the Western counties of this Commonwealth fill me with the deepest regret, but I shall not trouble you with more than this general expression of it. Circumstanced as things have been in them, for sometime, a letter on business of a private nature, and of immaterial consequence, was not to be expected; nor would the postponement of one until a more tranquil scene

have surprized or excited the least impatience in me. With great esteem etc.

***To DAVID STUART**

Philadelphia, September 21, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 14th. instr. has been duly received. As it was, and is, my earnest wish to discharge my obligation to Mr. Lund Washington, and all other debts; it will prove inconvenient to me to apply the money which you have lodged in the Bank of Alexandria, for my use, to the purpose of paying the debt due from my brother Samuel's estate to that of Mr. Custis'; yet I cannot, whilst there are means at my command, see the estate of the former arrested from his representatives, and suffer them to be involved in difficulty, perhaps in distress and not apply them in prevention.

The estate of my Brother Samuel being involved, and left under wretched management, has already proved a heavy tax upon me. Land which I sold twenty odd years ago to Colo. Philp. Pendleton falling into his hands, and he thereby becoming paymaster to me, has (as I never intended, under the view I had of his affairs, to ask payment) sunk me more

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than £800. For the board, education, and other expences of his two sons I am in a further advance for it, upwards of £1000 more, besides the support of his daughter Harriot, since she was given over

to me by Mrs. Fendall, without receiving a single sous towards it.

For the past I expected no return, but it will be hard (especially as I thought my advances, except for Harriot, were at an end) to launch out a thousand pounds more with as little prospect of a re-fund as for that which has gone before it. Yet, and for the reason I have mentioned, I shall not suffer the remains of the estate to be sold without lending my aid to prevent it. I must therefore leave the thousand pounds in the Bank of Alexandria which you say is appropriated for my use, to your own disposal.

But it is my wish, and desire that the process against that estate may not be arrested short of its coming to actual Sale, at which point I would stop it; without the least intimation of my intention previous thereto, to do so; for the following reasons: 1st. because George and Lawrence Washington do not appear to me to be sufficiently impressed with the incumbrances on their estate; 2d, because both of them seem to entertain too high an opinion of the value of the property they are possessed; 3d, under this mistaken idea, or from proneness to show, they are not, nor will not be restrained from indulgencies, until they either feel, or have a nearer view of the necessity, for imposing those restraints; 4th. because they are not sensible, I believe, of the inconveniency to me of the advances I have made for their accommodation; and 5th, because the estate may (unknown to me) have made some provision to meet this demand, at least in part; and might slacken its exertions, or divert its funds, if

another source is contemplated, through which the debt is to be discharged. If all, or any of these things can be effected by concealing my intention, until the period above mentioned, it may be serviceable to all, and injurious to none.

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You will have found that Doctr. Thornton's Commission, bears equal date with your letter, of course it was too late for the purpose mentioned in the latter.

With great esteem &c.

[H.S.P.]

***To BURGESS BALL**

Philadelphia, September 25, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th. instr. from the Sulpher Springs has been recd.

When General Knox (who for several days has been expected) returns, I will deliver your letter to him, and from him (in whose department the business lyes) you will receive an answer to your proposition.

I hear with the greatest pleasure of the spirit which so generally pervades the Militia of every State that has been called upon, on the present occasion; and of the decided discountenance the Incendiaries of public peace and order have met within their attempt to spread their nefarious doctrines, with a view to poison and discontent the minds of the people against the government; particularly by endeavouring to have it believed that their liberties were assailed, and that all the wicked and abominable measures that cod. be

devised (under specious guises) are practiced to sap the Constitution, and lay the foundation of future Slavery.

The Insurrection in the Western counties of this State is a striking evidence of this; and may be considered as the first *ripe fruit* of the Democratic Societies. I did not, I must confess; expect their labours would come to maturity so soon; though I never had a doubt, that such conduct would produce some such issue; if it did not meet the frown of those who were well disposed to order and good government, in time; for can any thing be more

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absurd, more arrogant, or more pernicious to the peace of Society, than for self created bodies, forming themselves into *permanent* Censors, and under the shade of Night in a conclave, resolving that acts of Congress which have undergone the most deliberate, and solemn discussion by the Representatives of the people, chosen for the express purpose, and bringing with them from the different parts of the Union the sense of their Constituents, endeavouring as far as the nature of the thing will admit, to form *that will* into Laws for the government of the whole; I say, under these circumstances, for a self created, *permanent* body, (for no one denies the right of the people to meet occasionally, to petition for, or to remonstrate against, any Act of the Legislature &ca) to declare that *this act* is unconstitutional, and *that* act is pregnant of mischief; and that all who vote contrary to their dogmas are actuated by selfish motives, or under foreign influence; nay in plain terms are traiters to their Country, is such a stretch of arrogant pre

sumption as is not to be reconciled with laudable motives: especially when we see the same set of men endeavouring to destroy all confidence in the Administration, by arraigning all its acts, without knowing on what ground, or with what information it proceeds and this without regard to decency or truth. These things were evidently intended, and could not fail without counteraction, to disquiet the public mind; but I hope, and trust, they will work their own cure; especially when it is known, more generally than it is, that the Democratic Society of this place (from which the others have emanated) was instituted by Mr. Genet for the express purpose of dissention, and to draw a line between the people and the government, after he found the Officers of the latter would not yield to the hostile measures in which he wanted to embroil this Country.

I hope this letter will find you, Mrs. Ball and the family in better health than when you wrote last. remember me to them, and be assured that I remain Your Affectionate.¹⁵

***To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR**

Philadelphia, November 9, 1794.

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Sir: By Mr. Bayard (a respectable young Gentleman of this City) who will have the honor of presenting this letter to you, I take the liberty of putting into your hands, a work, which only made its appearance a few days ago. "A view of the United States of America in a series of Papers."

I have not read it yet, and therefore

15. From the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.

shall say nothing for, or against the merits of it, further than that the author is a man of intelligence and accuracy; and (being the Commissioner of our revenue) possessed the means of official information; which, of course, has enabled him to detail matters depending thereon, with truth and precision.

If the performance should afford you any satisfaction, or convey any information which was unknown to you before, it will give pleasure to Sir, Your etc.

***To LUND WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, November 19, 1794.

Dear Lund: I have sent money to Mr. Pearce for the purpose of discharging and taking in my Bond.³⁸

On my Books, kept in my absence from Mount Vernon by my deceased Nephew Geo. A. Washington, were articles charged to you as pt. the acct. No 1 enclosed amounting to £18.18.8. The cash payments in discharge of the Bond are contained in the accts. marked No. 2.

On the first, as it was an open acct., no interest is charged, but on the several payments in the second account interest is charged from the dates thereof to the 2d. of October last, and the bond is credited for the same from its date up to that period also. This was the

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way in which my long and complexed, and perplexed accounts, with Colo. Jno. Mercer were settled, according to the opinion of the then attorney Genl. of the United States, Mr. Randolph.

The reason why the interest account was settled up the 2d of Octr. only, is, that having provided the money in September for taking up my bond, I calculated the interest to that period to avoid odd days; intending, and indeed not doubting, that I should have got the money to you by that day, but the Insurrection, and my preparation (about that time) to move to the westward diverted my attention from this object. It may however, ever, be paid up to the present time if you require it, notwithstanding the money has lain by me ever since, for the sole purpose of discharging this debt.

If you have any acct. against me, unpaid, for Smiths work,³⁹ let it be added to, and discharged at the sametime that the whole may be

38. On November 19 Washington wrote to William Pearce, sending \$1,300 to discharge this Lund Washington bond, and added: "Out of the above sum you will also pay to the Trustees of Alexandria or their agent or Treasurer, the sum of fifty pounds; being my annual donation to the charity school at the Academy in that place; due sometime in this month. And I request moreover, that you will pay my annual subscription of ten pounds to the Revd. Mr. Davis (incumbent of the Episcopal Church in Alexandria). When it became due I am unable to inform you; but you may know this from the paper itself, or you may do so from Mr. Herbert, who interested himself to obtain the subscription." A press copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

39. Blacksmith's work.

closed as I want to have all my affairs settled.

I wish I could have heard that your sight, as well as your health, was better, from Doctr. Tare. My best regards in which Mrs. Washington unites, attend you both. And I am etc.

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***To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD**

Philadelphia, November 23, 1794.

Dear Sir: It has not been in my power to acknowledge, with convenience, the receipt of your letter of the 14th. Ulto. until now; first, because it did not get to my hands until my return from the Westward; and 2dly., because my attention ever since, to the present moment, has been occupied in examining the various papers on which my communications to Congress were to be founded.

I do not see how any one can decide so well on the project you have in contemplation as yourself, who has a view of all the circumstances of the case, before you; and who know how far so important a change in the scene, as that of transplanting yourself and family into a new country, is reconcilable to your feelings and dispositions. And because, from the enquiries you have undoubtedly made, you must better know than any other who has not turned his thoughts to the subject, what you can sell for *here* , and buy at *there* .

It has always been my opinion,

that new countries (by this I mean the interior of our own) are the best to lay the foundation of wealth, inasmuch as lands which, comparatively speaking, are to be had there cheap, rise in a four fold ratio to what they do in the Atlantic States. and it is to this circumstance, and the opportunities of acquiring them (by being in the scene) that the advantages consist, as, until the navigation of the Mississippi can be obtained, or communication between the Eastern and western waters is made more easy, than is the case at present, the principal demand for the produce of the land is found in the emigrants who resort to it. To this cause also, is to be ascribed the rapidly encreasing prices of those lands.

In one part of your letter, you talk of removing to Kentucky; and in another, of vesting money in lands No. West of the Ohio, which creates a doubt as to your principal view. You are not uninformed, I presume, that there is no land office open at this time in the

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last named district; and that there is no means by which land can be obtained there, at present, except by purchase of Army rights, or from some of those companies to whom Congress have sold large tracts: and in the present stage of our disputes with the Indians, that no settlement is thought safe from the scalping knife, that is not under the protection of some fort. The same indeed may be said of the *frontiers* of Kentucky, while the central lands in that State are, as I have been informed, very high. But of these facts you must be better informed than I am.

I should think it perfectly expedient, so soon as you shall have resolved to sell your land on Rappahanock, to advertise it in

all the *principal* Gazettes from Richmond to New York inclusively; and not to be too hasty in disposing of it, except for a very good price; as there are reasons to believe that in the course of this winter, and the ensuing Spring and Summer, many men of property from Europe will remove to this country, or send over their property, with a view to invest it, either in our funds, or in lands.⁴⁴

With respect to the other species of property, concerning which you ask my opinion, I shall frankly declare to you that I do not like to even think, much less talk of it. However, as you have put the question I shall, in a few words, give you *my ideas* of it. Were it not then, that I am principled agt. selling negros, as you would do cattle in the market, I would not, in twelve months from this date, be possessed of one, as a slave. I shall be happily mistaken, if they are not found to be a very troublesome species of property 'ere many years pass over our heads; (but this by the bye). For this reason, and because there is but little sale for what is raised in the western country, it remains for you to consider whether, their value would not be more productive in lands, reserving enough for necessary purposes than to carry many there. My love to Mrs. Spotswood and the family. I am etc.⁴⁵

44. An expected result of the French Revolution.

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45. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of John M. Glenn, of New York City.

On November 27 Washington wrote to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, introducing a Mr. Hatfield. The press copy of this letter is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Philadelphia, December 12, 1794.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 5th. instt, and the Receipt for the second payment of the lots I purchased on the Eastern branch in the Federal City, came duly to hand.

You are perfectly at liberty to examine my Presses and Trunks at Mount Vernon for any papers I may have respecting the transaction of the Directors of the Potomack Compy or any matters and things which may concern the navigation of that River. Mrs. Fanny Washington has the Master key of all the others; from whom you can get it; but whether the papers you are in pursuit of are to be found in the Press, or in any trunk, I am unable to inform you. The keys of the locked trunks are, if I remember rightly, in my writing table; the key of which remains in it.

For many very important reasons (unnecessary to enumerate to you) the navigation of that river ought to be pushed forward with all the celerity which the nature of the work will admit. viewing the matter as I do, I will not neglect any *fair* opportunity of facilitating a visit from Mr. Weston⁴⁷ to that quarter, but (under the rose, I must say it) however fair the assurances of his going thither may be, you may take it for granted, that from motives of jealousy, there is a countertide to that measure; and I wish you may not find something similar to it in another quarter, if the operations on the Shenandoah are postponed much longer. Do not forget, how the trade of Fredericksburgh, Falmouth, Hanover town on York River, and indeed Richmond itself will be affected by the opening of this Navigation. I

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should not be at all surprized therefore, if future applications to the Assembly of Virginia (if there be

47. William Weston, an English engineer.

48. Richard Claiborne.

occasion to make any) respecting it, shd. meet with much coldness and difficulty.

I should not, any more than you; be disposed to confide in the opinion of Mr. Claiborne's⁴⁸ Engineer; nor (in confidence to you) to Mr. Claiborne himself; but as he speaks in exalted terms of this man (for you must know Claiborne is now in this City, and has mentioned the matter also to me) a little money might not be misapplied in obtaining the opinion of this Engineer; to see how far it would accord with Mr. Weston's, if he can be got there; without, if he shd. follow after, letting him know what his opinion is. 'Tis possible, this person may unite (as Claiborne says he does) both science and practice. If so, and he should possess other requisites, he might be useful. Tryal of, without a reliance upon him, cannot be injurious.

Mr. Jonathan Trumbull has once or twice asked me what reply the Comrs. of the Federal City have made to the letter of his brother John, which I sent to them, be so good as to remind them, or either of them wch. you may first see of this matter. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 14, 1794.

My dear Sir: The day following the one on which I wrote to you last, your letter of the 10th. instr. was received.

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It is to be regretted, exceedingly,

that delegated powers are, oftentimes, so little regarded; and that trusts of an important nature, the neglect of wch. may be attended with serious consequences, should be suffered to sleep in the hands of those who ought to carry them into activity. Such, from your representation, appears to be the case of the petition which ought in half of the Potomac Company, to have been laid before the Assembly of Virginia in due Season.

The *notice* of the presentment of such petitions (which is required by law) cannot, I presume, be dispensed with; and if there be any dereliction to the measures prayed for, the limitation to and expiration of the time for the reception of them, will be urged as a plea for postponement.

The propriety of *my* writing to individual members, or even to the Assembly itself on this subject is, in my mind, a matter that may be questioned; but supposing the case to be otherwise, I do not know who the members are, and such indeed has been the change of things since I mixed in the politics, or much with the people of that State, (out of the neighbourhood of Alexandria) that an entire new set, unknown to me personally, are in the exercise of the powers of government. Tomorrow, however I will communicate this matter to Mr. Randolph, and know if he has any acquaintances in that Assembly to whom he could introduce the subject and thereby aid your personal exertions. It is to be lamented however, that in *plain* matters, a little ticklishly circumstanced, such hazards (at least of delay) should be unnecessarily encountered. We are all well, and join in best wishes for you, and I am &c.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Philadelphia, December 21, 1794.

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My dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. instt. was received yesterday, and I am glad to find that an act of the Virginia Assembly has been obtained for prolonging the term for the completion of the inland navigation of the Potomac. The like I hope has been, or will be obtained this session, in the Assembly of Maryland.

A good opportunity presenting itself on Thursday last, I embraced it, to enquire of Mr. Morris, if the Directors of that company might entertain any hope of deriving aid from Mr. Weston's opinion, respecting the Lock seats at the Great fall of that river; his answer was; "Mr. Weston, from some peculiar circumstances attending their own concerns, had been prevented from visiting that spot, as was intended, but that he was now expected to be in this City in a few days (as I understood) when he wd. propose, and urge his going thither."

The plan of Mr. Claiborn's Engineer, as far as I understand it, is to avoid locks altogether. The vessels are received into a basket or cradle, and let down by means of a laver and pullies; and raised again by weights at the hinder extremity of the laver, which works on an axis at the top of a substantial post fixed about the centre of the laver. On this principle, but differently constructed, Mr. Greenleaf a few months ago shewed me a model, the efficacy of which he seemed to entertain the most exalted opinion. My doubts of the utility of both arise, first, from the insufficiency of any machinery of this sort to

bear the weight of the cradle when charged with water, and a loaded boat therein; and its aptness to get out of order by means thereof; secondly I do not find that they are in general use; and thirdly because, if I recollect rightly, Mr. Weston has told me (but of this I am not certain) that no method of raising and lowering boats, had been found equal to that of Locks. Still, as I observed in my last, I should be for hearing the opinions, and explanations of *any*, and *every* Scientific, and practical character that could be easily got at, on this subject: and therefore, would hear Claiborn's Engineer, as well as Mr. Weston; especially as he professes to be particularly well skilled in the application of them, in

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propelling boats (in an easy and cheap manner) against the stream, and in conducting of water to cities, or for any other purpose whatsoever.

The Bill you allude to has not passed, nor do I know what shape it will take if it does, and therefore can say nothing more on the subject, at this time, than that there will be no precipitancy in engaging either the Agent, or the means of carrying the law into effect; if the measure which I have recommended should be adopted; with the importance of it I am strongly impressed, consequently, if anything should be required of the President towards carrying it into execution, I shall feel it in a *particular* manner my duty to set it a going under the most favorable auspices.

I now have, and for some considerable time have had, twenty five Hogsheads Tobo. in the warehouses in Alexandria; which at sometimes I have forgot, and at other times have been indisposed to take the prices which were given for Potomac Tobacco on the Virginia side. Originally this Tobacco was of the best sort, put up dry, and the quality of it reported to be exceedingly good.

if the latter is the case still, it will in some respects, and for some purposes, have the advantage of new Tobacco; but what to do with it I know not. In Alexandria it might not bring me 18/. per wt. [*sic*] when in George Town (I mean in the warehouses at these places) it might bring a guinea. I have thought, but whether it be practicable to accomplish it without difficulty, I am unable to decide, that if the Tobacco could be removed from the Warehouses in which it now is, to those in George Town, and be reinspected at the latter, that I might be a considerable gainer by it. But admitting that *this can* be done without encountering impediments which might involve inconveniences; or that would excite notice or remarks neither of which I should incline to subject myself to; it would be previously necessary to know whether the Tobacco would pass at the latter place; for if it should be brought there and be condemned; I should lose the whole, and sustain an expence besides, whereas in its present situation, it will, I presume, command the price currant in Alexandria. If the suggestion here mentioned, can be accomplished (without involving

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the consequences expressed above) the best expedient that occurs to me to effect it, is, under the idea of its being purchased by, or rather offered for sale to a Maryland Merchant, to have it re-examined where it is, in presence of the George Town Inspectors, who should be paid for their attendance and who should declare to the *supposed* purchaser, whether they would pass it, were it brought to the Warehouses in George Town. If in the affirmative, and there is no other impediment to the measure, the whole business might be easily accomplished by the removal, reinspection, and issuing of new notes; either in my name or in that of the supposed purchaser, the last of which, for several reasons I think would have the best appearance. Whether this project can be carried into execution or not, is, to me, uncertain but to avoid delay, and in order to enable you to do it if it should be thought eligible I send you the notes for this purpose, or to know what the Tobacco would sell for where it is, if it be not eligible to remove it. They may be kept, or returned, according to circumstances. In the Warehouses at George Town I have, or ought to have by this time, 9000 lbs of Crop Tobo. as you will perceive by the enclosed letter to me, from Colo. Deakins; the same by this also.

I return Doctr. Currie's letter, with thanks for the perusal of it. The picture drawn in it of the state of things in his own Country, and the details which he gives of those of the belligerent powers, are gloomy *for them* indeed. All here are well and all join in best regards for you, with Dear Sir Your etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, December 21, 54 1794.

My Dear Sir: Looking into an old Portfolio which I had not seen this many a day, I found the papers which accompany this note, relative to the River Potomac, I do not know that

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any of them will be useful to you; but as well for the purpose of keeping them together as to afford you an opportunity of deciding for yourself; they are now forwarded to you.

I also send you the sketch which has been presented to me by Mr. Claiborn, of the new method of lowering and raising boats without locks. It will give you a better idea than my description which in the letter of yesterday, was capable of doing; and for that reason it is forwarded. I am etc.⁵⁵

54. The date, from the context, evidently should be December 22.

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

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Philadelphia, January 12, 1795.

My dear Sir: On friday last I wrote you a few lines, and assigned reasons for not writing more fully.

In addition to what I then said, which was only to inform you that permission had been given by the Canal Company of this State for Mr. Weston to visit the falls of Potomack, and that he might be expected at the federal city about the first of next month I shall notice with concern, it being contrary to the heretofore entertained opinion, that the funds for carrying on that navigation are, from your view of them, likely to fall short £10,000 Sterlg. of the object.

What expedient had best be adopted for supplying the deficiency, merits serious consideration under existing circumstances. On an abstract view of the case I should give it as my opinion without hesitation, that the present stockholders ought to continue their advances until the final completion, and for this plain and interesting reason, with me, that no speculation to which money can be applied, will be more productive with so much honor and so little risque. But how far the majority of the company (many of whom,

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probably never bestowed a thought on the subject) may be of this sentiment, or how far their inclination and abilities might induce the adoption of the measure if they were is not for me to decide; and as individuals of the company will be as free as others to become purchasers if the shares are encreased, it does not appear to be a matter of much moment which of these modes

is preferred or whether by loan if the money is to be obtained.

No doubt remains in my mind of what will be the productiveness of the tolls when the navigation is in full operation. To the best of my recollection they were calculated to amount (at the time of passing the Acts of incorporation) to 15 pr Ct. on the capitol, by an estimate which was then made of the several articles which, from their contiguity it was known would be water borne. Since that period, the population of the countries bordering on the river, and of course the produce arising therefrom, has encreased greatly and when the Shenandoah is added thereto (which formed no part of the original estimate) it must be equal to the most sanguine expectation.

Mr. Claiborn's Engineers (for it seems he has *two* for different purposes) are fixed in this City; either of wch, according to the use for which you want one, might be had at any time; but as I am not strongly impressed with a belief that men of eminence would come to this country in the manner and under the circumstances they have clone (but this I say without having any knowledge of the real characters of these Gentlemen, and without design to injure them) might it not be politic to obtain the opinion of the most competent of them, before Mr. Weston (who is known to be a scientific and experienced engineer) gives his? He will not adopt their opinions contrary to his experience and judgment; but if his opinion is first taken and transpires, it may be given into by them from the want of these in themselves, endeavouring thereby to erect a character on his foundation.

I am much obliged by the trouble of your enquiries respecting my Tobacco in the Warehouses at Alexandria and George Town; and as the disposal of it is somewhat out

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of my way at present, and in truth is a matter that rarely occurs to me except when I am reminded of it by Mrs. Washington you would add to the favor by making sale of it on such terms, and whensoever in your judgment the moment is favorable. I am in no hurry nor under any necessity to precipitate the Sale; and to your judgment also it is left, to continue where it is, or to remove the Tobacco from Alexandria to George Town.⁸⁰

We are all tolerably well and join in good wishes, and the compliments of the season to you. With regard and Affection I am &c.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To ISRAEL SHREVE**

Philadelphia, January 14, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 23d. of December came to my hands yesterday.

The land on which you live is yet unsold, and such are the number of Emigrants to, and the desire of Europeans for, investing their money in this country (particularly in lands) that I have no doubt of the impolicy, considered merely in an interested point of view, of parting with mine west of the Alligany Mountains at any price they would command at the *present* moment; but being more disposed to receive the interest of whatever sum they will

80. Lear & Co. appear to have bought this tobacco from Washington in March, 1795, paying £111:8:4 (\$297.11), according to the memorandum on account filed in the *Washington Papers*, March 5.

fetch, than to be at the trouble of tenanting and collecting of rents; and wishing at the sametime as you are an occupant of what I hold in Fayette county, that you should not be dispossed by the sale of it to another: I have come to a resolution to offer you the whole of that tract (which with the allowance of 6 pr Ct. makes nearly 1744 acres) for the sum of four thousand pounds Pennsylvania Curry: which is a very trifle more than what you

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have offered, viz., Six dollars pr acre: One fourth of this sum is to be paid at the time of conveyance, which must be on, or before, the first of June, and the other three fourths in five years with interest at Six pr. Ct. annually paid, and precisely when it becomes due, at the place of my residence; or, which would be equally convenient and agreeable to me, to be secured in one of the Banks of this city, or in one of those of Baltimore, Alexandria, or the federal city.

I will await until the last of next month (February) for your answer; before which, if there does not arrive a full, and unequivocal acceptance of the terms here offered, I shall consider myself as at perfect liberty to alter these conditions with you, or to dispose of the land to any other thereafter.

If you accede to these proposals, and notice thereof is given to me as above, I will put the deeds and other papers, into the hands of Mr. Ross for the purpose of closing the business by effectual written instruments, in behalf of us both. Until which no sale is to be made by you, nor is any change to take place with the tenants who are now on the land by proper authority. With esteem etc.⁸¹

81. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, January 15, 1795.

Sir: I avail myself of your obliging offer to dispose of the lands I hold in the counties of Fayette and Washington; hereby empowering you to sell the same on the terms which have been mentioned to you.

If one fourth of the money is paid at the time of conveyance, or within a short period thereafter, I would allow four, five or six years credit for the other three fourths; provided

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the payment thereof be well secured agreeably to contract; and the interest in the meanwhile assured with punctuality, as it becomes due, in one of the Banks of this city, or in either of those of Baltimore, George town or Alexandria. The regular payment of which, at stated periods being a primary consideration with me.

The tract in Fayette County contains 1644 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres besides the usual allowance of 6 pt. Ct. The other, by Patent, is 2813 acres but by a re-survey was found to measure more than 3000 Acres. A description of them would be nugatory, the presumption being that, the purchaser, whomsoever he may be, will examine the land and judge for himself. It may not be amiss however, that it should be generally known that both tracts are improved, and that one of them has a Mill thereon, and a considerable shew of Iron ore within less than 30 yards of the Mill house.

Having from long experience found, that landed property at a distance from the proprietor, who is not able to pay attention to it, is more productive of plague than profit, I feel strongly disposed to sell all the lands I hold on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa; (about 33,000 Acres The exact quantity in these 7 surveys is, 32,373 Acs. in Seven Surveys) provided I can obtain, by giving a pretty long credit, what I conceive it is worth. For the reason already mentioned, a *particular* description of these lands would, in a manner, be useless; but it may not be amiss to add, that they are the cream of the country in which they lye; the first chosen of it; and are entirely free from disputes of every kind. The whole is interval land, bounded by the rivers above mentioned, and margin'd by them 57 Miles. They consist of three Surveys on the Ohio, and four on the Great Kanhawa. The first named, are on the East side of the River; betwn. the little and great Kanhawa; the first of these tracts, is the first *large* bottom below the mouth of the little Kanhawa, and about 13 miles from Mariatte; containing 2314 acs., bounded by the river 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The 2d. tract is the 4th. large bottom (on the same side of the River) about 16 miles lower down, containing 2448 acres, bounded by the river 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the third tract, is the next large bottom, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles lower down, opposite nearly to the great bend, containing 4395 acres,

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with a margin on the River of five miles. The other four tracts are on the Great Kanhawa, as observed before. The first of them, is on the West side; beginning about two miles from its confluence with the Ohio, and bounded by the former 17 miles; containing 10,990 acres. The second tract is on the East side of the river, a little higher up, and contains 7276 acs. bounded by the river 13 miles. The other two are at the mouth of Cole river, on both sides the Kanhawa and in the fork between; containing together 4950 Acres having a front on the river (both sides) of twelve miles. Besides these, I have a small tract of 587 Acres on the Ohio, called the round bottom; lying opposite to the mouth of Pipe Creek, which is about 15 miles below Wheeling; but nothing short of a large price would induce me to part with this tract, it is bordered by the river $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The soil is of the very richest quality, is in the shape of a horse shoe, with a beautiful situation for a house thereon.

Any services you can render me in the disposal of these lands on the terms I have conversed with you, respecting them, would be gratefully acknowledged by, Dear Sir Your etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To CHARLES MORGAN**

Philadelphia, January 17, 1795.

Sir: Your letter of the 26th. of November came safe (but not expeditiously) to hand.

I hope Colo. Cannon has, long 'ere this, surrendered, to you, *all* the papers respecting my business, which are in his possession; together with a full, and complete statement of what is due to me from the tenants, or from himself, up to the period of your taking the management of it yourself; and that you will be able, without further procrastination or difficulty, to collect the amount of what may

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be found due to me, from both.

As I am more inclined to sell, than to rent the lands I hold on the Western waters, and giving leases, although a short term, may be a hindrance to the former, I would have you rent from year to year *only* . I have no doubt of obtaining what I ask for the tract in Washington (giving credit), viz, four dollars an Acre; the number of full handed emigrants that are pouring into this country from all quarters owing to the disturbed state of Europe, and the quantity of money brought by them, and sent over by others, to be vested in lands have given an astonishing start to the price of this article. If therefore I do not sell soon on the terms I have just mentioned I shall raise my price.

If I do not sell my lands on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa in a lump, or at least by whole tracts, they will not be sold at *all, by me* ; these will fetch me fifty pr Ct. more at this time than I would have sold them for two years ago. I am etc.⁸⁴

***To JOHN JAMESON**

Philadelphia, February 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 30th. Ult. has been received, as has been a letter from a Gentleman, who I presume is your brother; the receipt of which, owing to one cause and another, has never yet been acknowledged.

The reason why I delayed to comply with the call upon me for eighty dollars, will be

84. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Lucien Buckner, of Louisville, Ky.

explained by the copy of a letter, enclosed, which I received from your deceased uncle Mr. Jameson of York, agreeably to its date.

By this it will appear that the company had money in his hands; besides the profits which might be expected to arise from the labor of the slaves which appeared then to be in

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existence. Having never received an iota from the company for more than twenty years nor never having heard of any appropriation of the sum acknowledged to be in hand, I was in hopes of receiving, instead of being called upon to advance. I wished therefore to see some statement of this matter, and intended to have requested the favor of your brother to give it to me; but occurrences of a public nature, and the pressure of business in which I was continually involved occasioned the postponement of it from time to time until I had forgot the matter altogether and it would have remained in that State had not your letter recalled it to my recollection.

I have no doubt but that the Treasurers books will fully, and satisfactorily account for the balance which is mentioned in his letter, and would thank you for causing it to be transmitted to me, that I may have some idea of the state of my interest in that concern. I do not mean however, by this, to withhold my quota of the subscription to the Canal company until it is received, if you, therefore, will be so good as to pay the eighty dollars which is the amount of it I will answer your draught at sight when presented in this City. And by the enclosed short missive I have authorized you to represent me;⁹³ and to guard my interest in the Dismal Swamp Company in which I have an entire share.

93. On February 16 Washington executed a power of attorney to Jameson, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*. It reads: "I do by these presents constitute and appoint John Jameson Esqr. of Culpeper County in Virginia to be my Attorney for the purpose of representing my interest in the Great dismal Swamp. And I do hereby authorise and empower the said John Jameson to vote in my behalf, on all questions which may come before the Dismal Swamp company (of which I am a member) at any of their meetings, and to act and do for me in all things concerning the same to the best of his judgement, as he would for himself, except to sell or mortgage the property. All wch. votes, acts and doings, legally performed shall be binding on me."

Permit me, at the sametime, to request the favor of you to give me information who the *present* proprietors are, the shares, or parts of shares each hold, and what the reputed

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value of a share is, in a word what one could be bought for, or sold at; with any other details which your leisure, and intimate knowledge of the subject may enable you to afford me.

Unless a watchful eye is kept upon the timber, belonging to the Company in the Dismal Swamp, it will be swept away; and a valuable fund sunk thereby. I have no objection to an advance for the purpose of getting it ourselves, presuming the plan for the accomplishment of it will be properly digested and the execution placed under good management. With very great esteem etc.

***To REVEREND WILLIAM MAUNSELL**

Philadelphia, February 20, 1795.

Sir: At the moment I acknowledge the receipt of your obliging favor of the 19th. of last March, I find it incumbent on me, to apologize for delaying so long to offer you my thanks for the interesting pamphlet you had the goodness to send me, on the cultivation of Potatoes, from the shoots.

Your discovery of this mode is novel; and it must be of great utility if it can be carried into extensive practice. I shall make trial of it myself the ensuing season, and will recommend it to others to do the same, by laying your experiments before them.

It is to be regretted, that we have not, more agricultural Societies established in

1. Of Limerick, Ireland.

this country; and it is to be lamented that those which are formed, are not sufficiently attended to; but in this, as in other things we must have a beginning.

I pray you to accept my particular thanks for your kind wishes for me, and to accept mine in return. I am etc.

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***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Philadelphia, February 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th. Ult came duly to hand; but the pressure of business in which I am always involved whilst Congress are in Session, has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of it at an earlier date. and now; I may not be so full as you might wish; but shall touch upon the several points of your letter, and in the order they stand there.

If the tenants are not punctual in the discharge of their Rents, when they become due, destrain for them without delay, or hesitation; unless their disability to pay, proceeds from some providential interposition, or from some other obvious cause which entitles them to indulgence; for it may be depended upon, if the failure proceeds from idleness, the man who is unable to pay one rent, will never pay two, willingly; and generally, when it goes beyond that, the score is wiped out.

With respect to the Sheriffs, shew them no indulgence; of all descriptions of men in this Country, I think them (tho' there may, and undoubtedly there are many exceptions) the least entitled to favor; I mean to be understood, as speaking of under sheriffs, and those

who farm the office, merely to grind the people and get money into their hands, for speculative and other purposes of their own, instead of rendering it where due.

I shall expect the accts. of all the monies collected, and of the arrearages, as soon as you can make it out, that I may know precisely how the matter stands on this and on the replevy bonds.

Mrs. Haney² should endeavor to do what she can for herself, this is a duty incumbent on every one; but you must not let her suffer, as she has thrown herself upon me; your advances on this account will be allowed always, at settlement; and I agree readily to

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furnish her with provisions: and for the good character you give of her daughter make the latter a present, in my name, of a handsome, but not costly gown, and other things which she may stand mostly in need of. You may charge me also with the worth of your tenement on which she is placed, and where perhaps it is better she should be, than at a great distance from your attentions to her.

I have already given you my ideas with respect to the purchasing of leases; but to these I will add, that if you can make *advantageous* bargains, conclude them; as far as you have means in your *own* hands to carry them into effect. Beyond this, make them conditionally *only*, leaving the ratification to me; that I may decide from the prospect I have of commanding money; whether to carry them into execution, or not. In conducting this business, there are *two* things which you should never loose sight of. The first is, that the sum given to purchase *in* the

2. Elizabeth Haynie. She was a relative and pensioner of Washington's mother, and died in April, 1796. Her daughter, Sally Ball Haynie, was helped by Washington.

lease, is fixed and *certain*; and the rent which can be had for the tenement [blurred in the press-copy] is *uncertain*. To go upon the supposition, therefore, that it will rent for this or that sum, is fallacious ground, unless there is unequivocal evidence on which to form an opinion. The second thing is, that the rent, whatever it may be, must be *more* than will afford 6 pr Ct. interest for the sum advanced for the purchase, in addition to the rent. first, because 6 pr Ct. is the *legal* interest of the U. States. secondly because any person who has money to lend, and will adopt the *usual* modes, may obtain much more; and thirdly because the rent which is received, and which I am entitled to without *any* advance, is equivalent to a certain principal; for instance, if I was to give an hundred pounds for a lease, the rent of which was £6, if I did not receive £12 rent, the deficiency would be lost, upon *legal* ground; because the land is equal to £6, and the £100 pd. by way of purchase, is equal to £100 more. But those who possess money, can turn it (where they are disposed to do it) to more profit than lending it at £6 pr. Cent. I have no inclination

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however to fall into those practices. therefore, after this explanation of my ideas, go on and purchase as far as you have means, absolutely; and conditionally, afterwards, for the reasons given.

I had no conception that at *this day* my leases were so full of lives as would appear from your acct. of them. I wish my confidence in placing blank Leases *signed* into the hands of Mr. Muse may not have been abused. I have not, to the best of my recollectn., sanctioned more than the rental for lives of two leases, one to Mr. Aires³ ; and another to a person who was formerly an overseer to my brother John; the rest were formed for a term of years wch. must have expired. I am, &c.

3. Ariss(?).

On February 24 Dandridge wrote to Tench Francis, by direction of the President, offering him the position of: "Purveyor of Public Supplies," which office had been established by Congress, Feb. 23, 1795. Francis's name was submitted to the Senate, February 24, and he was confirmed February 25.

To JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Philadelphia, March 2, 1795.

Sir: The letter with which you favored me dated the 2d. Ulto., came duly to hand. I am at a loss for words to convey the sense I entertain of the favorable sentiments you have been pleased to express for me in that letter.

To the Great ruler of events, not to any exertions of mine, is to be ascribed the favorable termination of our late contest for liberty. I never considered the fortunate issue of any measure adopted by me in the progress of the Revolution in any other light than as the ordering of kind Providence; and if the partiality of my Countrymen do justice to my motives thro' that arduous struggle; and to those which have since occurred in the

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administration of the present Government, as, the result of the contest it is the only reward I ever sought, and the greatest that could be conferred on, sir, Your etc.9

***To BURGESS BALL**

Philadelphia, March 2, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 19th of Decr. and 9th. Ult. came duly to hand in the usual course of the Posts.

I was not unmindful of the contents, altho' I did not acknowledge the receipt of them. Genl. Knox who was in office when the first came to hand, said (as well as I recollect) that nothing could be done in the matter without an act of

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

the Legislature of Virginia, consenting to the purchase of the spot, designated for the erection of an arsenal agreeably to the law if that state should be thought of for one of them; but that he would write to you himself on this subject. Colo. Pickering who succeeded him, and to whom your other letter has been shewn, thinks the price asked for your land is very high, and the situation rather too low down. I have desired him however to write to you, and to put you on a certainty respecting your offer. This I presume he has done, or soon will do, or, will send a skilful man in whom *he* can confide, to reexamine the different sites on the river fit for the establishment of an arsenal.

After giving you this information, I am not inclined to say any thing more to the Secretary of War (in whose department the business lies) respecting the matter, lest it should be supposed I am influenced thereto by the connexion which is between us.

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I have so little leisure while Congress are in Session, to give any attention to matters of private concern; and generally so much hurried towards the close of it, that I shall, at this time, only add my love to Mrs. Ball (in which Mrs. Washington unites) and that I am etc.

PS. No such act as is mentioned in your letter of the 19th. of December has ever been transmitted to me by the Executive of Virgia; yet such an one may have passed.⁸

8. From the original in the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Philadelphia, March 5, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d. instant came duly to hand. The letters which I write to acquaintances or friends, are done at no great expence of time or thought. They are of hand productions, with little attention to composition or correctness, and ever under these circumstances, are rarely attempted when they interfere with my public duties.

From what you have written and from what I have heard from others, I hope Mr. Weston is on the Potomack 'ere this and that much benefit may be expected from his Visit. He is certainly a judicious man. with both theory and practice united. I am pleased to hear that the Locks which have been erected at the little falls have stood the test of a first trial so well; and this pleasure will be increased if Mr. Weston should make a favorable report of them.

An unlucky dispute has or is likely to happen I find, between the *present* Commissioners [and] Mr, Johnson (one of the [old set]). These thi]ngs under any view [in which they can be placed] are extreme[ly unpleasant and] are rendered more so wh[en they are brought] before *me* . The po[ints in dispute have not c]ome before me in [*detail* ; *the main one*] I am told is, whether the [lots adjoining Roc]k Creek above the Stone bridge come the des[cription of *Water lots* ; a]nd would be so construed [in] the contract between the former

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Commissioners and Mr. Greenleaf. From what I have learnt, it is a question of some magnitude, in as much,

as establishing a principle, applicable to the case, will have an extensive effect in favor of, or adverse to, the public property in the City. This being the case, let me ask you, to collect the sentiments of the judicious about you, in the City and in George Town, as far as it is to be done from casual (at least not from forced) conversations respecting the dispute, and to inform me thereof. You will readily perceive that it is for my *own*, and *private* information, my request to you proceeds; both the request and answer to it will, of course, be confined to ourselves. With affecte. regard etc.¹²

***To CHARLES CARTER**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d ulto.¹⁹ came duly to hand. I wish, sincerely, it was in my power to comply with your request in behalf of your son; but it really is not, to the extent of it.

My friends entertain a very erroneous idea of my pecuniary resources, when they set me down for a money lender, or one who (now) has a command of it. You may believe me, when I assert that the Bonds which were due to me before the Revolution, were discharged during the progress of it, with a few exceptions in depreciated paper (in some instances as low as a shilling in the pound). That such has been the management of my estate, for many years past, especially since my absence from home, now six years, as scarcely to support itself. That my public allowance (whatever

12. The portions in brackets are supplied from the "Letter Book," the press copy being mutilated.

19. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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the world may think of it) is inadequate to the expence of living in this city; to such an extravagant height has the necessaries as well as the conveniences of life, arisen. And, moreover, that to keep myself out of debt; I have found it expedient, now and then, to sell lands, or something else to effect this purpose.

These are facts I have no inclination to publish to the world, nor should I have disclosed them on this occasion, had it not been due to friendship, to give you some explanation of my inability to comply with your request. If, however, by joining with nine others, the sum required can be obtained, notwithstanding my being under these circumstances, and notwithstanding the money will be to be withdrawn from another purpose, I will contribute one hundred pounds towards the accommodation of your sons wants, without any view to the receipt of interest therefrom. With very great esteem &c.

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, March 14, 1795.

Dear Sir: As my back lands are not offered for sale with a view to speculate in other lands; and as I am thoroughly satisfied that Lands which are *known* to be good, conveniently situated, and the titles to them indisputable, will continue to encrease in price (especially in the Western counties of

this State, since the restoration of tranquility and the influx of money there have taken place), I request, if you have not already entered into any positive, or honorary agreement for my land in Washington county, that it may not be disposed of at *less* than four dollars an acre, one fourth down, and the other three fourths in five years; with legal interest thereon, the payment of which, at the periods they become due, to be secured as in the proposed sale to Colo. Shreve.

Thirty shillings an acre was the price I fixed on my land in Washington County when forty shillgs was annexed to that in Fayette several years since. The latter having yielded 20 pr

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Ct. more than the *estimated* price I have no apprehension of the other's falling short of it, provided it be generally known that it is for sale. With very great esteem etc.

***To THOMAS MARSHALL**

Philadelphia, March 25, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been presented with your letter by Mr. H. Marshall whose detention in the Atlantic States will be longer than he expected on acct. of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and navigation with Great Britain³³ not arriving in season for the Senate to pass their opinion upon; and a considerable time is required to convene them together again, after their dispersion.

I was glad to hear from Mr. Marshall that you continued to enjoy tolerable

33. Known as "Jay's Treaty."

good health, perfect health at our time of life is not to be expected. The natural decline of men, after they have entered into; or passed their grand climacteric, will make its appearance in a variety of ways, too prominently for figures in the back ground of the picture.

I find by a law of your State republished in the Gazettes of this city, that from non-resident landholders, certain things are required to be done, by, or in the month of, November next. In the county of (what was or still is) Jefferson, I hold five thousand acres in two surveys, with which I pray you to do the needful in my behalf and I will repay the amount of the expence to your order, at any time.

As this land is far removed from me, and as I have, in the course of my experience, found that distant property produces more plague than profit; I would dispose of it, provided the sale thereof would amount to near the present value of the land. What this is, I can

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judge only from information; and after all, the quality of the soil, its situation, and local advantages must be decided by Hudibras's rule: "worth what they will fetch."

The plats of these tracts with the observations thereon, and Colo. Greenups opinion to which (Genl. Scott, who obtained it says) he added, that lands in those parts according to quality and local advantages, were worth from ten to twenty shillings an Acre, is all the evidence I have of the value of mine, except having Patents for it.

If with these documents, copies of which I send, you could conveniently aid me in disposing of them, I would thank you. If a fourth of the purchase money was paid down at the time of transfer, I would allow a credit of four or even five years for the residue, provided that the principal is well secured, and the interest thereof punctually paid every year, whenever it becomes due.

I should be unwilling without further and more accurate information of this land to take less for it than the lowest price above mentioned, and it would be uncandid to say, I should object to the largest, if there should be found any thing therein to deserve it. I should be glad to hear from you on the several points of this letter. With very great esteem and regard. I am etc.

***To J. SAVARY**

Philadelphia, March 25, 1795.

Sir: I have given the propositions contained in your letter of the 19th. instant³² the consideration they merit. The result is, an indisposition to accede to them. At the same time, I pray you to accept my thanks for the tender you have made me of your services to carry them into execution.

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My reasons for declining to embark in the project you have offered (at least at the present) are: 1st. the greater desire I have to dispose of the whole, than a part of any tract of which I am possessed; that I may thereby have the use

32. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

of the money arising from the sale, or the interest thereof whilst it may be of service to me, rather than look forward to future advantages. 2d. If a small part only of the projected number of 870 lots in the one case, and 700 in the other should be disposed of, and these too indifferent situations, remote perhaps from one another (according to the fancy of the purchasers) they would, for a consideration of little or no value, be alienated from the proprietor of the tract, become an inconvenience to him, and perhaps a real disadvantage in the Sale of it thereafter whilst the preemption right to *out* lots ties up for 12 or 18 months according to the plan which is submitted, the sale of all that part which is so subjected. 3d. By the plan which is contemplated, my name, both in Europe and here must appear in the project and would be bandied about in the public prints. A measure which would not by any means, be agreeable to me, a simple sale being the extent of my object and wishes. 4th. Admitting that the scheme should succeed in the manner and to the extent which is proposed yet as I have no collateral object in view, the property as I have observed before, would in part be tied up in uncertainty for a while, and the proceeds afterwards would be received so slowly and in such dribblets, as to melt away without affording me the benefits I aim at.

For these reasons I am more disposed to wait longer and try the chance of selling by whole tracts, than to dispose of parts thereof, in any manner, or for any purpose whatsoever. And tho' I am sensible that the real value of the

lands I hold on the Ohio cannot be obtained at the present moment, yet I have had some reason to think that, on credit, land of such quality and so situated, with indisputable titles would command five dollars an acre.

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If your estimates are formed on good data, and a proper knowledge of circumstances; and as you have a lateral object of considerable importance in view (I mean enhancing by such an establishment the value of the circumjacent lands of which you hold large quantities) the inducement which you would have on these accts. to be possessed of one, or more of my tracts, must be very great; and if you are so inclined the purchase may be made at a guinea an acre; one fourth paid down, and the remaining three fourths in five years with interest, the regular payment of which to be secured in a manner to be agreed upon. I am etc.

***To JOHN GILL**

Philadelphia, April 1, 1795.

Sir: Having had a more advantageous offer for my land on Difficult run, than that which is contained in your letter of the 26th. Ulto; it follows of course that the one made by you, cannot be agreed to.

I have not acceded to the offer wch. I have just alluded to, nor shall I dispose of the Land until I come to Virginia, and can obtain more accurate information, than I am able to do at this distance, of the rise, and present price of lands within the distance mine is to the federal city &ca., with the advantages it possesses.

If you should think proper to come forward again, when I am there, with new propositions, I shall be ready to hear them.

In the meantime I am etc.

***To JOHN BEALE BORDLEY**

Philadelphia, April 13, 1795.

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Dr. Sir: A double sett of Youngs Annals was sent to me sometime ago, by that Gentleman, without his mentioning for whom the duplicates were intended. Taking it for granted however that they were meant to be presented to the Agricultural Society of this City, and understanding that you are Vice-President thereof I take the liberty of committing them to your care for the use of the said Society.

I also send for the information, and such other uses as the Society may think proper to make of it Maunsell's experimts. in the culture of Potatoes from the Shoots. With very great esteem etc.

***To JAMES KEITH**

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1795.

Dear Sir: The continual pressure of public business has allowed me so little time to look into matters of more private concern that the enclosed accts. have not yet been entered in my book of accts and the complicated nature of them resulting from the blended admininn. of the Estates of John and Thoms. Colvill, to a person not accustomed to such intricate statements has induced me to request that you would be so obliging as to number them in the order they ought to follow one another in my Ledger and I would thank you too for making out a summary or recapitulatory account from which it would appear in a simple and short view, how the balance between me, and the Estate of Ths. Colvill to which I was Executor stands, for I am at a loss to know what is due from me, and I find it is to no purpose to wait for a settlement of the affair of Sidney George

as in appeare. it is no nearer accomplishmt now than it was 3 years ago.

I shall leave home this day, on my return to Philadelphia; and pray, as soon as you are able conveniently, to comply with the requests I have now made, that the Accts. may be forwarded to me by Post. With very great esteem etc.

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Seven Accts. were sent to Mr. Keith

[HV.L.]

To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1795.

Sir: Our conversation of yesterday, has been the Subject of consideration with me. What follows is the result of it.

I repeat now, what I said to you then; viz, that renting the lands⁷⁰ does not in the first place promote my Views. And in the second the measure may eventually be liable to serious disadvantages; for which reason, it would be much more agreeable to me to alienate the property altogether; and this I would do to you, upon the same terms I offered Mr. Bailey,⁷¹ namely £900 down, and £900 more on a credit to be agreed on, with interest regularly paid when it becomes due. in a manner also to be fixed.

If this is incompartable with your Views, and renting only will answer them, at least for a time, I will tho' reluctantly, agree to the following terms. namely, to receive £130 pr Ann; to cease on the payment of £2,000 in specie

70. On Difficult Run.

71. Pearce Baylor (Bailey).

or current money equal thereto, at the time of payment which latter shall be done in ten years, from the date of the agreement: And not only the land, but unexceptionable personam Security shall be given for performance of the Annual payment and the sum of £2000 within the time above mentioned; And more over that if the Annual Sum of £130 shall not be paid within days after it becomes due it shall be optional in me to reenter, and

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take possession of the land, as if no agreement for it had ever taken place, And the full sum due thereon, arising from the afore mentioned rent to be paid notwithstanding.

As there may appear something irreconcilable in these different propositions, an explanation, may be necessary; And thus I give it: £1800 one half or more to be paid *down* and the remainder in a short time, would enable me to apply the money to more profitable uses; than would result from the postponed payment. of £2000 at the end of ten years. And being assured by very good judges that I need not doubt getting five guineas an acre for it in a very little time (which at the U S. interest of 6 pr Ct. would amount to £126 pr Ann.) £130 yearly rent until the £2000 is paid, would hardly be an equivalent.

If you incline to take the Land on either of these proposals the bargain may be closed, and writings drawn. If neither is acceded to now, I shall hold myself free at any time thereafter. I am etc.⁷²

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

***To JAMES MAURY⁷⁸**

George Town, April 28, 1795.

Sir: You will be informed by the enclosed letter that twenty five hogsheads of Tobo. shipped pr. the Alexandria Captain Bayne,⁷⁹ by Messrs Lear & Co, are to be placed to my credit.

The Tobacco is of my own growth, and the best evidence I can give you of my opinion of the quality of it, is, that after letting it lye five or six years in the Warehouse for a price, I preferred shipping it on my own acct. to the receipt of four dollars P C at the Warehouse. It was reexamined at the time of shipment, and found to be, as I have been informed, in very good order.

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If the price of this article should be low at the time you shall receive it, and there is a probability of its rising, I would have it kept for this purpose; as I am in no hurry for the proceeds. I am. etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To JOHN GILL

Philadelphia, May 4, 1795

Sir: In every transaction of life I believe it will be found that candour and plain dealing (independent of the rectitude of the measure) is the best policy. Proceeding on this ground I will frankly own, that the reason why I requested other Security than the Land and your own bond for the performance of the Contract, which you

78. Of Liverpool, England.

79. Capt. Henry Bayne, of the ship *Alexandria*.

Washington wrote again, briefly, at the end of May, to Maury, requesting that as soon as the tobacco was disposed of, to send to him, "by the first American (neutral) vessel, bound to Potomac 500 Ells of the best Oznabrigs and 500 of the best second quality, for Negros; 150 of the best striped large blankets, 150 of the best second quality, for Negros. Make insurance thereon, and avoid hazarding them in any vessel whose Cargo or views may subject her to any legal interruption." A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

were inclined to enter into, for my small tract on Difficult Run, arose from an expression which fell from you at Mount Vernon (according to my understanding of it) Viz, that you did not want the land with a View to improve it.

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Hence, no advantages seeming to be contemplated from the mill seats, or meadow ground, (which in my estimation compose the most valuable part of the property) I could not conceive what the object of the purchase could be, unless to carry off the wood; the doing of which I well know would diminish the value of the land: and of course, if there should be any failure in the personal security, *that* I meet the land in a reduced state, would be my only resort.

If I have misconceived your meaning, that is, if your object in buying is to let the land lye dormant for the chance of a rise in its price; or if you meant contrary to my construction, (of your expression) to erect buildings thereon; to improve the grounds; I will on condition that none of the wood or coal made therefrom (both of which must be in demand at the Iron Works carrying on at the great falls) is removed from the land untill the principal Sum of two thousand pounds is paid. And moreover that as part thereof shall be left standing for the support of the premises untill payment as above, when you will be possessed of the fee Simple, and a legal right to do what you please with the Land; and every thing appertaining thereto. I say on these conditions I am still willing to let you have the land on the terms specified in my letter of the 26th Ulto. without deviation (on the score of boundary)

which can effect the case very little, except waving the collateral Security there required, and fixing it on the Land and your own bond.

I pray you to be convinced that I do not mean to impute to you any unfair, or dishonorable, intention in this business; from the caution by which I have been governed.

I consider the proposed bargain as an absolute alienation of the property notwithstanding it has the appearance of a lease or freehold estate only, for the term of ten years; because, at any period within that term, I may be compelled upon payment of the principal sum of two thousand pounds, to transfer the legal title. But as misfortune in trade, or untoward accidents may render your bond of little worth, and my sole resort would in that case, be

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the recovery of the land; it behoves me to provide that this shall not during the ten years, be in a worse state than when I parted with it. this is the principle upon which I have acted. I am etc.81

***To GIUSEPPE CERACCHI16**

Philadelphia, March 9, 1795.

Sir: I am directed by the President of the United States to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th. instt, and that of the present date; and to express to you his regret at your dispair of bringing your plan of a national monument to a fortunate issue.17

Whether there are sufficient

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

16. An Italian sculptor. While in America he signed himself Joseph Ceracchi.

17. Ceracchi came to the United States in 1791 with a grandiose scheme for erecting a monument to the American Revolution. A broadside of description of the proposed monument, which is signed in manuscript by Randolph, Wolcott, Bradford, Pickering, and Samuel Meredith, is dated Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1795, and is in the *Washington Papers*, bearing Washington's signature to the subscription articles, for "Four shares, or 120 Dollars. The full term of ten years if it shall be found necessary." The scheme failed and Ceracchi returned to Europe, became involved in a plan to assassinate Napoleon, and was guillotined in 1801.

grounds for despair, or whether more time may not be necessary to give the Subscription papers a fair trial and to ascertain the result with more precision; you can decide with more accuracy than he, who has not taken, and cannot take, any active part in this business.

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He has formed no opinion thereon, much less is he enabled to offer you any advice on this subject.

But as you hold out strong indications of deception, and complain of ill treatment without pointing to the instances, he thinks it necessary that an explanation should be had between you and himself; that no charges, hereafter, may lye at his door. To do this, it requires nothing more than to draw your attention to circumstances which cannot have escaped your recollection.

Of your intention of coming to this country originally, the President could have had no knowledge, and you had been in the City sometime before he was informed of it. Whilst here, your name was frequently mentioned to him in very advantageous terms. He was told of a design you had projected for the erection of a national monument; that you were preparing the Busts of particular characters in this city; and that you had expressed an earnest desire to take his. This request being reiterated, he, with the reluctance which he has always felt on these occasions, yielded his assent; and accordingly sat for you; without having any other motive than to accommodate your views, or without perceiving any other object on your part than a desire, to take copies from it, if, thereafter, any advantages were likely to result therefrom.

What more (if any thing) might have passed betwn. you and others, on this occasion, he knows not; And with respect to the public edifice, he does not now recollect whether a memorial which you had prepared for Congress was ever presented; or if presented, what the reception of it was; much less does he know of any specific encouragement that could have induced you to return to this country in expectation of prose, cutting the plan.

As a public character, he had no power to offer any, because the means of accomplishment were to flow from legislative authority; and as a private man he never could, or would, have committed himself in this affair further than as a Subscriber. Thus much relates to the *first* part of this transaction. With respect to the subsequent part, that

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is your return to this Country, and what has happened since; the President desires me to remark, that these are events which were adopted without any consultation with him or his knowledge, and he heard through a variety of channels of the model of the proposed monument the likenesses of the Busts &ca. before the pressure of business in which he was engaged, would permit him to see them. or to comply with a *second* request that he would set for some alterations in the Bust which was intended for himself; and with which he complied on the same principle which had produced the first sitting: always conceiving, that it was for purposes of your own it was wanted until hints were given that it was designed to be presented to Mrs. Washington. Then for the first time he knew and declared that he could not, and would not accept it as a present.

The preceding facts are necessary, to acquit the President of having had any agency in your deception, (if you have been deceived), or of

involving you in a situation which seems to have become irksome and inconvenient. What follows will shew the ground on which he declines to discharge the acct. wch. is enclosed in your letter of the 7th, before mentioned.

You cannot have forgot, Sir, that when you sent the busts of Bacchus and Ariadne to the President in 1792, and requested his acceptance of them that they were refused, and return'd to you. Upon which, with earnestness (being on the point of your departure and not knowing what to do with them) you requested that they might be permitted to remain in his house. To this he assented, and supposing the object was that they might be exhibited as specimens of your abilities as a Sculptor, he had temporary pedestals made for them to stand on; and always announced them as your workmanship and your property.

On Monday next they will be sent to you; this would have been done today, but company will occupy the Servants, and prevent their being taken down. The Bust intended for the Pre. is also at your disposal. Or if you incline to receive for it, *the highest* value that the best artists, or the most skilful Connoisseurs in the City will say is the *intrinsic* worth, he

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will, notwithstanding this true recital of the case, pay the amount; although it is just to observe, and it may well be supposed he would have been desirous of knowing the cost and consulting his own inclination and convenience before it was undertaken if he had not conceived that it was intended for your own use, and not for his.

He desires me to add, that it is with real concern he finds the abilities of our infant republic will not afford employment for a person of your talents. The cause probably is that the

United States are just emerging from the difficulties and expences of a long and bloody war and cannot spare money for the purposes of these gratifns. and ornimental figures as in the wealthy countries of Europe. He is sorry also that you should quit them under any embarrassmts. or with discontent, for myself I am &c.18

***To ALEXANDER WHITE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. instr. came to hand by the Post of yesterday.

With pleasure I received your acceptance of the office of Commissioner of the federal city. The commission⁹⁸ will be forwarded to you from the Department of State, and the sooner you can enter upon the duties of the trust, the more convenient and agreeable it will be.

With the candor, which I am sure will be agreeable to you, I shall intimate (for reasons which I shall not at this time enumerate, but which will appear evident, after you have been there a while) that a residence in the city, if a house is to be had, will be more promotive of its welfare than your abode in George Town. I shall add, that the motives which induced a fixed salary (which the first Commissioners did not receive) were, that they should reside on the spot; that they were not only to plan and regulate the affairs of the city, but to look

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to the execution of them also; To accomplish which, with the greatest ease to themselves, and best adva

18. As denoted by the star, this draft is entirely in Washington's writing. Dandridge, however, wrote and signed the letter sent. (Referred to in Madison's letter to St. George Tucker, Apr. 30, 1830, in the Congressional edition of the *Works of Madison* (Philadelphia: 1865), vol. 4, P. 71.)

The *Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer* (Philadelphia: 1893) notes the following: "March 9. At four o'clock, the Speaker with twenty-two members of the House, dined with President Washington. He was exceedingly affable to all."

98. White's commission was signed May 18.

ntage to the public, I presumed that after measures were decided on by the *Board* they would have been so arranged as that each member would have attended to the execution of a particular part; or if found more convenient, that in rotation, each would have superintended the whole. I could not perceive however, when I was in the city last (the only time since the change in the Board) that any such arrangement had been adopted. In short, the only difference I cou'd perceive between the proceedings of the old, and the new Commissionrs. resulted from the following comparison. The old met not oftener than once a month, except on particular occasions; the new meet once or twice a week. In the interval, the old resided at their houses in the country; the new resided at their houses in George Town. The old had too much of the business done by daily wages, and were *obliged* to trust to overseers and superintendants to look to the execution; the new have gone more into the execution of it by contracts, and piece work, but rely equally, I fear, on others to see to the performance. These changes (tho' for the better) by no means apply a radical cure to the evils that were complained of, nor will they justify the difference of compensation from six dollars pr. diem for every days attendance in the *city* and Sixteen hundred pr. annum.

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My time will not permit me to go more into detail on this subject, nor is it necessary; your own good judgment will supply all, and more than I could add.

The year 1800 will be soon upon us: The necessity therefore of hurrying on the public buildings, and other works of a public nature; and executing of them with œconomy: The propriety of preventing idleness in those who have day, or monthly wages, and imposition by others, who work by measure, by the piece, or by contract, and seeing that all contracts are fulfilled, with good faith, are too

obvious to be dwelt on. and are not less important than to form plans, and establish rules for conducting, and bringing to a speedy and happy conclusion this great, and arduous business. I am &c.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To JOHN GILL**

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 8th. instr., and if writings drawn *strictly* conformably to the *spirit* of the instructions contained in the inclosed letter to Charles Lee Esqr. (left open for your perusal) will answer your views in the purchase of my land on Difficult run, they may be prepared by him, and sent to me for the signature on my part. If, on the other hand, adhering as strictly as I do, to the principle on which I set out, does not meet your approbation, be so good as to return the letter and deeds therein; and the receipt of them will not be less acceptable than the first named writings.

You will perceive by these instructions, that not a stick of timber, wood, Coal or Ore (if any should be on the land) is to be removed therefrom, until the purchase money is paid. This may be interpreted (at first view) a rigid clause; in as much as the ground which may be cleared, and the timber which may be cut for fencing and other purposes, might afford

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more fire wood, than the immediate demand of the farm might require; this may be true, but it does not follow that it will be lost, if corded. To husband it therefore (while I

retain an interest in the land); to avoid all inducement to fell it, faster than the farm may require; and to avoid all ground for dispute; In a word, not to lessen the value of the property until it is actually gone from me, are my motives to this precaution; especially as the removal from off the land, of a timber tree or two, or a few cords of wood, might give rise to a magnified tale which might induce investigation, and be productive of unpleasant sensations: to avoid which is more desirable than to apply a remedy. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To CHARLES LEE**

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Dear Sir: Mr. Gill (of Alexandria) and I, have been in treaty sometime for a small tract of land which I hold in Loudoun county on Difficult run, at the bridge on the Leesburgh road. If he will agree to the following terms, from the *spirit* of which there will be no departure, such writings as will subserve both of

our purposes, I pray you to draw.

1st. For him to hold the land by lease for the term of ten years, to commence from the date of the instrument; for the use and occupation of which, he is to pay in coin of the United States, or other money current at the time, and equivalent thereto, four hundred and thirty three dollars and a third yearly, and every year during the continuance of the said lease, at the Bank of Alexandria; for which a check is to be given.

2d. If any part of the said sum of 433# shall be behind, or unpaid in manner aforesd, thirty days after the same shall become due, it shall and may be lawful (and optional in for me to re-enter and take possession of the premises as if no such lease had ever been granted.

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And if property should not be found thereon adequate to the rent, recourse in the ordinary mode, may be resorted for recovery of the same.

3d. That not a timber tree, stick of wood, coal made therefrom, or Ore, if any be on the land, shall be removed therefrom, under any pretence whatsoever; or used otherwise than for the purposes of the premises.

4th. That for the support and benefit of the same, there shall be left standing on the said tract, at the expiration of the lease a fourth part, at least, of the wood.

5th. It is understood and agreed, and the parties accordingly are to bind themselves

as follow—viz: John Gill, his heirs &ca. to pay to George Washington his heirs &ca. *on* or at *any time* before, the expiration of the aforementioned term of ten years, the sum of Six thousand, six hundred and Sixty six dollars, and two thirds of a dollar, in the manner before mentioned; and for surety thereof, is to give his own bond with sufficient penalty. In consideration of which payment, well and truly performed, George Washington, or his heirs &ca. is to convey, in fee simple, the aforesaid tract; and the rent thence forward is to cease, and determine.

6th. Whereas by Deeds of lease and release from the Revd. Mr. Fairfax to me, the stream of difficult run is made the boundary between the land thus conveyed, and land conveyed by Deed from to on the other, or lower side of the run, and whereas by the last mentioned deed, a *straight* line is called for as the boundary between the two tracts, which may, according to circumstances, occasion a diminution in the quantity of my land; now it is understood and agreed, (be this as it may) that no alteration, consequent thereof, is to take place in the rent, or in the purchase money of this tract: for by the *tract*, and not by the acre, I sell it. The Deeds from Mr. Fairfax to me, specifies two hundred and seventy five acres *only*; but by a resurvey, if I recollect rightly, it measures three hundred and three acres; but I mean to give no other warrantee than I have received of it; and from this,

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to except what might be involved in dispute by the different lines; and so I would have it expressed, in order to avoid a controversy hereafter.

With great esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To GUSTAVUS SCOTT**

Philadelphia, May 17, 1795.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 11th. instt. I thank you for bringing the negotiation with Mr. Peters⁹⁷ to a close, and for effectuating the transfer of the remaining lots in Square No 21 to me agreeably thereto. Mr. Lear will make the first payment therefor, according to contract.

I am much obliged by your kind enquiry into the value of the land I hold on Difficult run, although the communication respecting it has come too late, if a gentleman to whom I had made an offer of it accedes to my terms. Your offer to assist me in the disposal of this land was friendly, and I feel grateful for it. With Esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To FAIRLIE CHRISTIE**

Philadelphia, May 25, 1795.

Sir: With much sensibility I received your polite letter of the 25th. of March from Kingston.¹

I thank you, Sir, for the plants which are mentioned in the list which accompanied it. Presuming they are arrived at Norfolk with the letter, I have requested a Gentleman of my

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acquaintance at that place, to forward them to my Garden at Mount Vernon on Potomack River, near Alexandria Virginia; and I feel myself particularly obliged by the offer to

97. Thomas Peter (Peters).

1. In the *Washington Papers*, accompanied by a list of the plants sent.

supply me with other plants from the Botanical gardens in Jamaica.

When my situation will allow me to pay more attention than I am able to do at present, to cultivations of this kind, which combine utility, ornament and amusement, I shall certainly avail myself of the liberty you have authorised me to take, in requesting a small supply of such exotics, as, with a little aid, may be reconciled to the climate of my garden. In the meantime, I will cause enquiry to be made for the plants which are required for your garden at Liguania; agreeably to the list of Mr. Wiles.² I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, May 25, 1795.

My Dear Sir: In due course of the Posts, I have been favored with your letters of the 17th instt. from Baltimore, and 20th from George Town. and thank you for the information contained in both.

Enclosed I send you what money I had by me, of my private funds; and an order, on the Bank of Alexandria for all I have there; both of which sums, I pray you to lay out in the purchase of Stock in that Bank; or, the Bank of Columbia; or on both; as from circumstances and the information you may possess at the moment you shall deem most advisable and advantageous.

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The sum enclosed is nine hundred

2. James Wiles, of the Botanical Garden, Liguanea, Jamaica.

and Sixty Dollars in Notes of the U: States Bank.³ The sum in the Bank of Alexandria, amounts according to the information given me by Mr. Pearce to \$3430–63 cts.; but be it more, or less, the order embraces it. With very sincere esteem etc.⁴

CERTIFICATE

Philadelphia, May 28, 1795.

Whereas John Dandridge Esquire of new Kent County, Virginia has made known to me that he can advantageously dispose of a young negro man called Anderson belonging to me and now in possession of said Dandridge, I hereby give my approbation to, and ratify any sale which he the said Dandridge may think proper to make

3. These notes are listed by Washington at the end of this letter as follows:

Bank Notes Dolls.

5 of 100 dolls. each 500

2 of 50 100

18 of 10 180

36 of 5 180

960

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

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On May 25 Washington wrote also to the president and directors of the Bank of Alexandria, requesting them to pay to Lear the above balance of \$3,430.67. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

Lear replied (May 29), reporting the purchase of 5 shares in the Bank of Alexandria, at par. He intended to try to get 5 more and invest the balance of the amount \$2,390.67 in shares of the Bank of Columbia. A later account with Lear (June 3) shows the purchase of 100 Bank of Columbia shares at \$40. a share. This letter and account are in the *Washington Papers*.

on my behalf of said negro Anderson.

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Philadelphia, June 4, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letters of 26th. and 29th Ult. have been duly received, but not adverting in time that the Post ret'd. on Wednesday I omitted answering the latter on that day.

I pray you to continue your purchases of shares in either of the Banks of

Alexandria or Columbia or both (as you shall deem best) so far as the appropriated sums in your hands, belonging to me, (to which, add the three thousand dollars which you received from Doctr. Stuart on my account) will go. In doing this let the call for ten dollars on each share purchased in the Bank of Columbia, be included, because, until I receive payment for some land which I have sold, or the cash for my flour, &ca., which is not yet due I shall not have it in my power to apply a further sum to this use.

It gives me much pleasure to hear that the public buildings are going on briskly, and that persons from the Southward (for I believe it is the first instance beyond a single lot or so) are becoming adventurers with a view to improvement, in the federal city. I am clearly

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in sentiment with you (and the Commissioners know it) that if the business can proceed without *limping* that the lots which belong to the public ought to be held up except single ones, or a square at *most* and those only to be disposed of on the express condition of improvement.

The Senators are beginning to assemble. By Monday (the day appointed for their meeting) it is presumed they will all be here, as some of the most distant, are already on the ground.⁵ The members of this family are all well, and join in best wishes for you, with Dear Sir Your etc.

5. The Senate convened June 8 and adjourned June 26.

To TOBIAS LEAR

Philadelphia, June 15, 1795.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 3d. and 4th inst. in the date of the latter I presume there is a mistake, with several accounts enclosed in the first, have been duly received; as was the certificate of the Shares which were bought in the Banks of Alexandria and Columbia on my behalf. Your preference of the former for the appropriation of the balance which remains in your hands is accordant with my Ideas; and unless you have very good reasons to believe that the shares may be had at par by delaying the purchase of them, it might be as well perhaps, to buy at the prices now being (especially if the overplus will meet compensation in the dividends) as to await for a fall.

Being pressed I shall only add the good wishes of this family to my own, and assure you of the sincere esteem etc.¹⁰

***To ISRAEL SHREVE**

Philadelphia, June 27, 1795.

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Sir: Had the terms on which I offered you my land in Fayette county been complied with on your part, the bargain, as I informed you in my letters, would have been conclusive on mine. But this not being done, and the end of June likely to be as unproductive as the first of it, of the payment which was then to have been made, I conceive myself under no obligation to fulfil the offer I made you on the 14th. of January last, of the above mentioned land.

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

Nevertheless, if by the first day of August next you shall pay One thousand pounds Pennsylvania curry. with interest thereon, from the first day of June; and interest on the remaining sum from the sd. first of June agreeably to the former proposals, in the letter above mentioned, and do, moreover, pay up all arrearages of Rent (on account of which I learn from Colo. Cannon, to my very great surprize, much is due) the conveyance will be made to you in the same manner as if payment had according to agreement, taken place on the first of this month. If it is not, I do hereby declare, that the former agreement and the present offer, will be considered as null and void, to all intents and purposes, as much so, as if no negotiation had ever taken place between us for the said land. With esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To JOHN CANNON**

Philadelphia, June 27, 1795.

Sir: Please to deliver to Mr. Ross, or send them to him by a careful hand, the Surveys of all my lands with which you have been furnished.

And let me entreat you to make, without further delay, a final settlement of the accounts between us; pay what is in your hands; and deposit the statement of all that is due to me

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from the tenants, with the papers respecting the several tenements, with Mr. Morgan; that he

may, thereby, be enabled to go on with my business. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To CHARLES MORGAN**

Philadelphia, June 28, 1795.

Sir: Business, and other circumstances, have prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 23d. of April until now, that I do it by Mr. Ross.

I have seen Colo. Cannon, and in strong terms have represented to him the impropriety of his delay in furnishing you with a statement of the concerns between him (in my behalf) and the tenants in the Counties of Fayette and Washington, and in not making a final settlement of all the accounts between us. If any dependence can be placed in his assurances, he would as soon as he returned home be ready to render his accounts, and give in the statement which has been required of him; but he is continually reducing the Rents under pretence of allowing for improvements. This, to be sure, is singular, enough, for fencing &ca. of Plantations or farms which have been settled fifteen or twenty years. If the tenants on Millers run have carried wheat to Colo. Cannon's Mill, it behoves them to receive payment for it, and therewith to discharge their Rents to you; for I shall look to *them* and not to *him*, from whom I can get nothing without more trouble than it is worth, and who ought not to have concerned himself with the business, after it was put into your hands which are due after that period.

It would be well to ascertain what is due from Colo. Shreve on account of Rent as soon as

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possible for he will receive no conveyance of the land which he lives until all arrearages, due thereon (as well as the first payment of the purchase money) are paid up.

Having experienced more plague than profit in collecting the rents of my lands in the counties beforementioned. It is my intention to sell both tracts, if I can obtain what I conceive to be the worth of them as leases therefore will impede the sale, I am not disposed at this time, under these circumstances to give any. Among the papers which were deposited in the hands of Colo. Cannon, were copies of the Surveys of my lands on the Ohio and great Kanhawa; if these should have been received by you, I request that they may be given, or by some safe conveyance sent, to Mr. Ross, your Senator. And I pray you to write me, as soon as you can, what state my business is in with the Tenants; what sum you have actually received on account of Rent; what you have a prospect of soon receiving; and what is due. In short, I wish to know what the real situation of my affairs as they respect these tracts is.

I do not recollect any business, which the United States have, at this time that requires Surveyors, nor likely to be until a land Office is opened, and when this will happen I know no more than you do. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To THE EARL OF DUNDONALD²⁹**

Philadelphia, July 9, 1795.

My Lord: By Mr. Jay I had the honor to receive your Lordships favor of the 9th. of April, accompanying your treatise "on the intimate connection that subsists between agriculture and chemistry." The work must be curious and interesting, and for your goodness in sending it to me, I pray your Lordship to accept the best thanks of Your etc.

***To JAMES RENNELL³⁰**

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Philadelphia, July 9, 1795.

Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 29th. of April, accompanying your Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan, with engravings &ca. for your kindness in sending which I entreat you to accept my best thanks.

I have not had leisure yet to look over them, with attention: but I am persuaded that there is a fund of interesting information to be found in the work: for the mean of coming at which I am extremely thankful. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

29. Archibald Cochrane, (ninth) Earl of Dundonald.

30. English geographer and Fellow of the Royal Society.

***To REVEREND CLEMENT CRUTTWELL³²**

Philadelphia, July 10, 1795.

Revd. Sir: It has so happened, but really I can hardly tell how, that I have been very deficient in not acknowledging at an earlier period the receipt of your obliging favor of the 1st. of May last year, accompanying a copy of the Works of the venerable Bishop of Sodor and Man;³³ which, agreeably to the Will of the late Doctor Wilson (his Son) you had the goodness to send me.³⁴

Accept now, I pray you Sir, my thanks for the part you have executed in this business; and the assurances that my not having done it before did not proceed from want of respect to the memory of the Author, his son, or yourself; but to mere accident. With very great respect I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

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***To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR**

Philadelphia, July 10, 1795.

Sir: I could not omit so favorable an opportunity, as the departure of Mr. Strickland affords me, of presenting my best respects to you; and my sincere thanks for the views of Agriculture in the different counties of Great Britain, which you have had the goodness to send me. and for the Diploma (received by the hands of Mr. Jay) admitting me a foreign honorary member of the board of Agriculture.³⁵

For this testimony of the attention of that body, and for the honor it has

32. An English author and compiler. He published Bishop Wilson's *Bible* in 1785, and *Works* in 1781.

33. Rev. Thomas Wilson's (Bishop of Sodor and Man) *Works* were published in 1781, the Bishop having died in 1755. Rev. Thomas Wilson, son of Bishop, died in 1784.

34. Washington's copy of the Bishop of Sodor and Man's *Bible*, which accompanied the Bishop's *Works*, is now in the Library of Congress. Cruttwell's letter of May 1, 1794, is in the *Washington Papers*.

35. The diploma of the Board of Agriculture of Great Britain, dated Mar. 25, 1795, is in the *Washington Papers*.

conferred on me, I have a high sense, in communicating of which to the board, I shall rely more on your goodness than on any expression of mine, to render it acceptable.

From the first intimation you were pleased to give me of this Institution, I conceived the most favorable ideas of its utility: and the more I have seen, and reflected on the plan since, the more convinced I am of its importance, in a national point of view, not only to your own country, but to all others which are not too much attached to old and bad habits

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to forsake them, and to new countries that are *just beginning* to form systems for the improvement of their husbandry.

Mr. Strickland has not been idle since he came to this country. On him therefore, for a description of the clime, the soil; the agriculture, and improvements generally; the modes of carrying them on; the produce of the land; the draught cattle; domestic animals; and the farming impliments which are used by our people in the Eastern and middle States, through which he has passed I shall refer you. Nothing, I believe has escaped his observation that merited notice.

You will add to the obligations already conferred on me, by

directing your Bookseller to supply me regularly with all such proceedings of the board as are intended for the public; and when they are in a fit state for it, that they may be neatly bound. To this request, I pray he may be desired to add the cost, which shall be paid at sight, to his order here, or remitted to him, as may be most convenient and agreeable to himself. With very great esteem etc.³⁶

***To JOHN GILL**

Philadelphia, July 13, 1795.

Sir: It is now near two months since I sent you the Deeds for my land on Difficult run, from which to draw a conveyance to yourself, on the terms, and agreeably to the instructions contained in a letter to Charles Lee Esqr., or, that they might be returned to me again.

As I can see no cause for, a propriety in this delay, I do now take the liberty of declaring it as my intention, that unless, the instruments fixing the agreement according to the stipulated terms in the aforesaid letter, are *immediately* executed, I shall consider the offer I made you for the above land, as null and void, and request my deeds may be sent to me accordingly. I am etc.

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36. On July 10 Washington wrote to Maj. Gen. Norman Macleod, of the British Army, thanking him, briefly, for some publications respecting the British constitution. This letter is in the New York Historical Society.

On this same day (July 10) Washington also wrote a brief note of thanks to John Jones, of Dublin, Ireland, for volumes of "the Sentimental and Masonic Magazine." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

***To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR**

Philadelphia, July 13, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 8th. instt, and thank you for the information contained in it; and for the obliging tender of your services in the disposal of my moiety of Woodstock Manner. As that land was received in payment of the balance of a debt, the greater part of which had been discharged by such driblets, and in such a manner as really to have been of very little service to me, I will wait awhile to see to what height the price of land thereabouts will rise before I dispose of it, under a full conviction that it will not fall. With great esteem etc.

***To WILLIAM WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, July 14, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 24th. of May, giving an acct. of the condition of Royal Gift.

I am sorry the removal of him from Virginia to South Carolina has been attended with so little public or private advantage. If he is yet alive, and upon a critical examination of his case, it should be thought that he has sufficient health and strength remaining

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to stand the voyage, I would thank you for causing him to be shipped (under the care of an attentive Master of a Vessel) for Baltimore, recommended to the care of the Collector of that Port. I do not say to Alexandria, because I presume passages to that place from Charleston are rare, but, if perchance such a conveyance should present itself, a preference, for obvious reasons, would be given to it. In either case, I hope the animal will be well secured, and provided for on the passage. I am much obliged to you, Colo. Hampton and all others, who have paid attention to this Jack whose ruin was predicted by all those who were witnesses of the manner in wch. he was treated, before he left Virginia, by Allan; as hath, I believe, been mentioned to you in a former letter. I pray you to present my best wishes and respects to Mrs. Washington, and believe me to be Dear Sir, Your etc.

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, July 15, 1795.

Dear Sir: Whether the transmission of the letter herewith sent may lead to a further discovery of the intentions of the writer; and who the writer is, is more than I can inform you. I send it because Mr. Bingham, the Author, has suggested the measure; because you are acquainted with my ideas respecting those lands; and because to know the disposition of others, towards them, can be productive of no harm, but the contrary.

In a few moments I shall set out for Virginia, to avoid (among other reasons) the intense heat of the city; wch. for the last four or five days, has been suffocating.³⁹ With very great esteem etc.

***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1795.

Dear Sir: Not having heard from you, for sometime, I am desirous of knowing whether you have purchased any of my Berckley or Frederick leases? and if not, whether the

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prospect of doing it is so favorable, as to amount almost to a certainty of accomplishing the measure ? If neither I desire you would give up the idea of purchasing and let me have the money you have collected with the names of the persons from whom it has been received; as I am in want, and have only deprived myself of

39. Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon about 8 a.m., July 15, according to the *Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer*, "in a two-horse phaeton for one person, his family in a coach and four horses, and two servants on horseback leading his saddle horse." He arrived at Baltimore for breakfast, July 18.

On July 15, before leaving Philadelphia, he wrote briefly to William Strickland, intrusting to his care the letter for Sir John Sinclair, July 10, 1795, *q. v.* A press copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

the use of it from the hope of its laying the foundation of a better annuity; which my heavy expenditures very much need.

Unless business should require my attendance at the Seat of government sooner, it is probable I shall remain at this place until the end of September. With great esteem and regard, and best wishes to Mrs. Lewis in which your Aunt &ca. unite I remain etc.⁶²

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, August 22, 1795.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 3d. instant; am perfectly satisfied with all your transactions with Colo. Shreve; and will ratify them whensoever the papers shall be produced.

The Sea-port towns (or rather parts of them) are involved, and are endeavouring

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62. From a photostat of the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

as much as in them lye, to involve the community at large, in a violent opposition to the treaty with Great Britain (which is ratified, as far as the measure depds. upon me). The general opinion, however, as far as I am able to come at it, is, that the current is turning.

The consequences of such proceedings are more easily foreseen than prevented, if no act of the constituted authorities is suffered to go into execution unaccompanied with the poison of malignant opposition. If one *could believe* that the meetings, which have taken place, spoke the general sense of the people on the measure they are condemning, it might with truth be pronounced that it is as difficult to bear prosperity as adversity, and that no situation, or condition in life can make them happy; but being hurried, I shall not dwell on this subject, and only add that with much truth I am &c.

PS. The check for 2693 dollars and 33 Cts. on the Bank of Pennsylvania was recd. with your letter of the 3d. instt.

***To JAMES ROSS**

Philadelphia, August 29, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th. instt. came to hand yesterday, and I again thank you for your Zeal in, and attention to my business in the Western hemisphere.

Your agreement with Colo. Richardson²⁵ for my land on Millers run, I shall

25. Col. Matthew Ritchie (Richardson).

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adhere to in *all* its parts. On the plan he contemplates, for the redisposal of it (but which would not answer my purposes) I am persuaded it will become a valuable purchase to him, and I wish it may do so with all my heart.

Making the payments of the Installmts. and interest to become due on the first day of June annually until the whole shall be paid, is not less pleasing than it will be found convenient to me; and I am very glad it occurred to you. The tract will, if I have not been misinformed, exceed, rather than fall short of 3000 Acres, be this however, as it may, it is placed on fair ground.

Having no copy of the power given you in the case of Colo. Shreve, and being but little accustomed to draughting instruments of that sort myself, the one now enclosed may be radically defective, if so, let it serve, with the aid of this letter, to prove that I *meant* to cloathe you with authority to do all that is requested, and that I hereby promise to do so, in any manner you shall draft, whensoever it shall be forwarded to me.

With respect to the person of the name of Bingham, I have no other knowledge of him than was derived from his letter, never having seen or interchanged any sentiments with him on the subj. of my land, nor did I mean more by sending his letter than merely to let you know that there was such a person disposed to make overtures.

I hardly know under present circumstances; future prospects; and the idea I have of the worth of the round bottom; what price to

fix on it. Less than forty shillings an Acre I should not be inclined to take but you, better than I, know what the most valuable River bottoms in the part this is situated do, or ought, to sell for on the credits wch. have been allowed and therefore I confide to your fixing the price but not under 40/. I shd think it cheap at a half a Joe pr. Acre.

I have only to add, that I must pray you to think (before I see you again) of an adequate compensation for the trouble you have had with my affairs over the mountains; for you

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may be assured that I am more willing to pay, than you seem disposed to ask this. With very great esteem etc.²⁶

26. Following the "Letter Book" copy of this letter in the *Washington Papers* is a copy of the power of attorney inclosed in the letter: "I do by these presents constitute and appoint the Honble. James Ross Esq. of Pittsburgh my lawful attorney for the purpose of disposing, in fee Simple, of all the lands of which I am possessed in the County of Washington, and commonwealth of Pennsylvania. With full power and authority to convey the same; by affixing my name or his own, in my behalf, to any deed which shall be proper and adequate thereto. And I do hereby oblige myself, my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, to confirm the same. In like manner I will ratify, and carry into full effect, any condition, stipulations or agreement which the said James Ross, may have made, or shall enter into on my behalf for on account of the said lands and premises. Given under my hand and seal in the City of Philada. this 29th day of August 1795." The original is in the University of Pittsburg Library.

To JAMES ROSS

Philadelphia, September 5, 1795.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the letter, of Mr. Charles Morgan, enclosed that the prospect of getting my business out of the Hands of Colo. Cannon in an amicable manner, is neither near, nor promising.

This mans candour punctuality and truth, are Violated to a shameful degree; when he was in this City, during the trial of the insurgents I sent for him with intention to remonstrate against his improper treatment of me, but his *apparent* concern for it and strong assurances, that he would the *moment* he got home send all my land papers to you, and present an exact statement, of the Rents due to me, and from whom, to Mr. Morgan, disarmed me.

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I hope he will be prevented from getting the money due on the judgment Bonds of Shreve' into his hands; and if you have an opportunity of Communicating with Morgan, to desire him to forewarn the Tenants from making payments to Cannon. Any representation to the latter on the impropriety of his Conduct, would I am persuaded be unavailing, otherwise I would request this favor from you also. If nothing short of Compulsory means will bring him to a settlement, I must, however reluctantly, resort to them but would avoid it if possible. With very great esteem etc.40

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

On September 6 Washington wrote to William Pearce, concerning the sowing of wheat. "I expect to set out in two or three days for Mount Vernon I shall add no more." From the printed text in M.D. Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon*, Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

***To ROBERT TREAT PAINE**

Philadelphia, September 7, 1795.

Sir: Since my return to this City, from Mount Vernon, I have been favored with your letter of the 30th. of July, with the accompanying Poem The invention of Letters. For the honor of Inscribing it to me, and the flattering sentiments therein expressed, I pray you to accept the best thanks of, Sir Your etc.

[M.L.]

To SECONDAT DE MONTESQUIEU

Philadelphia, September 7, 1795.

Sir: I sincerely wish that my enquiries relative to your Son, pursuant to your desires, had been attended with a more favorable result than the enclosed papers Communicate. Altho

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the information may fall short of your wishes, they will nevertheless prove, that I was not unmindful of your Commands, and afford me an opportunity of declaring the respect with which I have the honor to be, Sir Your etc.⁴¹

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

To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1795.

Dear Sir: Knowing nothing of what the Dismal Swamp Compy. are doing, or mean to do with their property in that place, and having an offer for my share therein, I would take it kind of you to let me know by the first post after you receive this Letter, what you think it is worth, by the acre; or in other words the highest price any of the companies Lands have, or ought to sell for in that way [allowing a credit of 3 or 4 years the purchaser paying interest.] Whether their property is rising in value, and what it may get to (by the acre) in the course of two or three years. I would thank you also for letting me know what a full share, which I hold of the plantation and negroes belonging to the Comy. in that Swamp is worth. With Esteem etc.⁵⁹

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1795.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th. Ultio, after travelling to Philadelphia and back again, was received by me, at this place, the 1st. instant.

The letter from Madame de Chastellux to me, is short, referring to the one she has written to you for particulars respecting herself and infant son. Her application to me is unquestionably misplaced, and to Congress it would certainly be unavailing, as the

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Chevalier Chastellux. pretensions (on which hers must be founded) to any allowance from this country, were no greater than

59. The draft is in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

that of any, and every other Officer of the French Army, who served in America the last War. To grant to one therefore, would open a wide door to applications of a similar nature, and to consequent embarrassments. Probably, the sum granted at the last Session of Congress to the daughters of the Count de Grasse, has given rise to this application. That it has done so in other instances, I have good reasons to believe.

I am much pleased with the account you have given of the Succory. This, like all other things of the sort with me, since my absence from home, have come to nothing; for neither my Overseers nor Manager, will attend properly to anything but the crops they have usually cultivated: and in spite of all I can say, if there is the smallest discretionary power allowed them, they will fill the land with Indian Corn; altho' they have demonstrable proof, at every step they take, of its destructive effects. I am resolved however, as soon as it shall be in my power to attend a little more closely to my own concerns, to make this crop yield, in a great degree to other grain; to pulses, and to grasses. I am beginning again with Chicory from a handful of seed given to me by Mr. Strickland; which, though flourishing at present has not appearance of seeding this year. Lucern has not succeeded better with me than with you; but I will give it another, and a fairer trial before it is abandoned altogether. Clover, when I can dress lots well, succeeds with me to my full expectation; but not on the fields in rotation; although I have been at much cost in seeding them. This has greatly disconcerted the system of rotation on which I had decided. I wish you may succeed

in getting good seed of the winter Vetch: I have often imported it, but the seed never vegetated; or in so small proportion as to be destroyed by weeds. I believe it would be an

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acquisition if it was once introduced properly in our farms. The Albany Pea, which is the same as the field Pea of Europe, I have tried and found it grew well; but it is subject to the same bug that perforates the garden pea, and eats out the kernel; so it will happen, I fear, with the pea you propose to import. I had great expectation from a green dressing with Buck Wheat, as a preparatory fallow for a crop of Wheat; but it has not answered my expectation yet. I ascribe this however, more to mismanagement in the times of seeding and ploughing in, than to any defect in the system. The first ought to be so ordered, in point of time, as to meet a convenient season for ploughing it in while the plant is in its most succulent state; but this has never been done on my farms, and consequently has drawn as much *from*, as it has given *to* the earth. It has always appeared to me that there were two modes in which Buck Wheat might be used advantageously as a manure. One, to sow early; and as soon as a sufficiency of seed ripened to stock the ground a second time, to turn the whole in; and when the succeeding growth is getting in full bloom to turn that in also (before the Seed begins to ripen): and when the fermentation and putrefaction ceases, to sow the ground in. that state, and plough in the Wheat. The other mode is, to sow the Buck Wheat so late as that it shall be generally, about a foot high at the usual seeding of Wheat; then turn it in, and sow thereon immediately, as on a clover lay; harrowing in the Seed lightly, to avoid disturbing the buried Buck Wheat. The last method I have never tried, but see

no reason why it should not succeed. The other as I have observed before, I have practiced but the Buck Wheat has always stood too long, and consequently had become too dry and sticky, to answer the end of a succulent plant. But of all the improving and ameliorating crops, none, in my opinion, is equal to Potatoes on stiff, and hard bound land (as mine is). From a variety of instances I am satisfied that on such land, a crop of Potatoes is equal to an ordinary dressing. In *no* instance have I failed of good wheat, Oats, or clover that followed Potatoes. And I conceit they give the soil a darker hue.

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I shall thank you for the result of your proposed experiment relatively to the winter vetch and Pea, when they are made.

I am sorry to hear of the depredation committed by the weevil in your parts. It is a great calamity at all times, and this year, when the demand for wheat is so great, and the price so high, must be a mortifying one to the farmer. The Rains have been very general, and more abundant since the first of August than ever happened in a summer within the memory of man. Scarcely a Mill dam, or bridge between this and Philada. was able to resist them; and some were carried away a second, and even a third time.

Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her, and unites with me in best wishes for you.

With very great esteem etc.76

76. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.