

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

New York, August 26, 1790.

Sir: I am exceedingly sorry for the cause of your detention in Philadelphia, of which your letter of the 24th. instant informed me. But as I expect to leave this place on Monday next for Virginia, it would not be in your power to arrive here, by that time, after the receipt of this. There will, therefore, be no necessity for your leaving Mrs. Randolph in her present situation, to meet me in New York. I am etc.⁷⁷

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

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

New York, August 26, 1790.

Sir: I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 4th. of July by Mr. C ;⁶⁹ and agreeably to your request, I have now the pleasure to inform you, that, a treaty of Peace formed upon just and liberal principles, has been entered into between the United States and the Creek Nation of Indians; a printed copy of which, with a Proclamation⁷⁰ adjoined, I have now the honor to enclose.

I should have communicated this intelligence to your Excellency immediately on the ratification of the treaty, as you requested, but that I wished to accompany it with a copy of the Articles and Proclamation, which, owing to some untoward circumstances were not struck off so soon as I could have wished; and when they were, my absence, on a visit to Rhode Island, deprived me of an opportunity of sending them by a vessel which sailed

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from this place for Charleston before my return; and as a water conveyance is generally more speedy than by land, I have waited several days for the sailing of the Vessel by which I forward this to your Excellency. With very great esteem I have the honor etc.⁶⁸

69. Left blank in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

70. Of Aug. 14, 1790.

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

To THE VICE PRESIDENT

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: The Resolution of the Board for the Reduction of the Public Debt⁸⁵ of the 27th. of August 1790, which has been submitted to me meets my ideas fully on the subject, and is enclosed with my approbation. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.⁸⁶

85. This board consisted of the Vice President, the Chief Justice, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General. The board's report to Congress (Dec. 21, 1790) is printed in the *Annals of Congress*.

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

To ELIPHALET FITCH⁸²

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: In obedience to the command of the President of the United States, I have the honor to inform you that the Pamphlets relative to the Slave trade which you have been so obliging as to present to him thro' the hands of the Vice President have been received, and he requests you to accept Iris best thanks for the same with acknowledgments for your

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very polite letter which accompanied them.⁸³ With due consideration I have the honor etc.⁸⁴

82. Of Kingston, Jamaica.

83. Fitch's letter of May 10, 1790, is in the *Washington Papers*, but the pamphlets mentioned are not now found therein.

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

To GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: Your favor of July 20th. came safely to hand, together with the Memorial of Monsieur de Latombe⁸⁷ of the 7th. of June, and the Resolve of the Legislature of Massachusetts of the 24th. of the same month. On considering the nature of the difficulties which have occurred in the execution of the Consular Convention, they appeared to be such as could not be removed but by a legislative Act. When these papers were received the session of Congress was already drawn so near to a close, that it was not thought expedient to propose to them the taking up at that time a Subject which was new, and might be found difficult. It will remain therefore for consideration at their next meeting in December.

With due consideration I have the honor etc.⁸⁸

87. On July 26 Washington transmitted this memorial and a complaint from American citizens settled in the French West Indies to the Secretary of State with a note in the third person, in the writing of Tobias Lear. This note is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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

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To NOAH WEBSTER

New York, August 28, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter dated the 28th. of July, and accompanied with the volumes which you, was pleased to present to me: for which I request you will accept my thanks.

Being on the eve of my departure for Virginia, it is impossible for me at present to do anything more on the subject of your letter, than just to make two or three remarks which have occurred in the moment of perusal. I think your train of reasoning in general good, and that the application of the principle in practical husbandry may be of considerable utility. This opinion is derived in part from facts; for your theory respecting vegetable manure has formed a part of my system of experiments for several years past. Buck-Wheat, sowed expressly for the purpose of manure, and, when in its most luxuriant state, turned into the earth by ploughing, has been found beneficial to the Crop, but not fully to answer my expectations. I cannot now give a detail of the Causes which I conjecture operated in rendering the effect less visible than I had calculated it would be; and I fear I shall not have leisure myself to repeat the experiments.

I cannot suppose there would be anything improper in bringing your observations on so interesting a matter immediately to the consideration of some agricultural Institution. But, in truth, I have so many objects which claim my attention that I must hasten to conclude, with sentiments of regard etc.⁸⁹

[N.Y.P.L.]

89. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

On August 28 Lear wrote to John Churchman, thanking him, for the President, for his "Magnetic Atlas or Variation Chart" Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To CAPTAIN THOMAS RANDALL

New York, August 30, 1790.

Sir: On the 2d. of May 1789, I wrote to you requesting that my acknowledgments might be offered to the Gentlemen who had presented an elegant Barge to me, on my arrival in this City. As I am, at this moment, about commencing my journey to Virginia, and consequently shall have no farther occasion for the use of the Barge, I must now desire that you will return it in my name, and with my best thanks, to the original Proprietors. At the sametime I shall be much obliged to you, if you will have the goodness to add on my part, that in accepting their beautiful present, I considered it as a pledge of that real urbanity, which I am happy in declaring I have experienced on every occasion, during my residence among them: that I ardently wish every species of prosperity may be the constant portion of the respectable citizens of New York; and that I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of the polite attention of those citizens in general, and of those in particular to whom the contents of this Note are addressed. I am etc.⁹¹

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

To REVEREND JOHN RODGERS

New York, August 30, 1790.

Sir: The President of the United States, on leaving the City this morning ordered me to deposit in the hands of the Society in New York, for the relief of distressed Debtors confined in Prison, Twenty Guineas, which he requests may be applied in such manner as will best answer the benevolent purposes of the Institution.

I have now the honor to inform you, Sir, that the above sum is ready to be delivered whenever it may be called for by the Society. I am etc.⁹³

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

On August 30 Lear wrote to Clement Biddle from New York: The President left us this morning, and if He meets no interruption on his journey he will be in Philadelphia on Thursday as I mentioned in my last.

"I have sent by the old line of Stages a Trunk and a set of Harness which could not be carried on with the Presidents Baggage. I have taken the liberty to address them to your care. The Trunk Mrs. Washington may want in Phila. and if she should not have further occasion for it on her Journey afterwards it had better be sent to Mount Vernon with the Harness by water as it will be expensive sending it by the Stages. The Harness will not be wanted on the Road therefore that may be sent by water at all events. I have directed it to be packed up and covered with a coarse cloth that it may not be injured. The expense Of the carriage to Phila. I will discharge here at the same time that I pay for the Stage Horses which the President employs in that line" Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To ROBERT MORRIS

Baltimore, September 9, 1790.

Dear Sir: Major Jackson having communicated the result of his conversation with you to General Stewart,⁹⁸ the General was so obliging as to write the enclosed letter on the subject of giving you possession of his house, and I was induced by his determination to give Mr. Lear some directions relative to the removal of the furniture from New York. But that no unnecessary delay may be sustained in completing the repairs and alterations which it is proposed to make, I would beg leave to observe to you that they may be proceeded in without regarding the accomodation of the furniture, as, independent of the space which may be taken up in making the bow-window, there will be ample room for the reception of all our articles in other parts of the House. And I conceive this intimation

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the more necessary as Mrs. Morris mentioned something to me, when I had the pleasure of seeing her on Sunday, evening, about painting the House, which will require all the intervening time to complete it.

The additional building for a servants Hall, and the converting of the Cow-house into Stalls for horses, may be entered upon I hope without affecting your convenience, while you remain in the House, altho the alteration of the bow-window and the painting cannot.

Should the delay of your removal or other circumstances be no longer than we have supposed, I beg you to inform Mr. Lear thereof that he may govern himself accordingly. I am etc.⁹⁹

98. Walter Stewart(?).

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

To DAVID & FRANCIS CLARK

Mount Vernon, September 17, 1790.

Sir: From the best judgment I can form of the repairs and alterations to be made in my old *Coach* (under the statement and opinions given in your letter of the 13th. instant)² I feel most inclined to give you the following directions for your procedure that no delay or disappointment may happen.

The colour is to be as at present; but to be neatly painted and highly varnished.

The Seasons (which are now on the carriage) is to be continued on the doors. front and back, and my crest without any cypher is to be on the four quarter pannels; all to be enclosed with the original ovals. If it is thought best that the crests should be painted (as Silver does not show on a light ground) they may be painted. But quere, whether if some ornamental painting within the Oval, and around the Silver crests, (the colours of which

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should form a contrast to the silver and not be inconsistent with other parts of the work) might not look well. This is only suggested. For you may have painted, or silver crests put on according to your own judgment of the propriety and uniformity.

The Seasons (if they should require it and a masterly hand can be employed) must be repaired, or at least freshened in their appearance to make them correspond with the fresh painting of the Coach, and as festoons were on the coach before ought they not to be there again if the seasons &c. are retained. I approve of the pattern sent as lining for the Coach and desire you may use it. Plated handles to the doors, plated brace buckles, and plated mouldings around the roof should be added to make one part correspond with the other. A Glass in front must unquestionably be provided. In all other respects you are to observe the directions which was given when I saw you in Philadelphia. I am etc.³

2. In the *Washington Papers*, accompanied by a pencil drawing of a suggested design for the crest and cipher, within an oval.

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

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1790.

Sir: I learn with pleasure, by your letter of the 26th. Ultimo, that the person supposed to have been the principal in the murder of the two Indians on pine-creek has been lodged in Lancaster goal, and that it is very probable all the offenders will soon be apprehended.

I cannot avoid expressing my wish that the proceedings, in bringing these persons to justice may be such as will vindicate the laws of our Country, and establish a conviction, in the minds of the Indians, of our love of justice and good faith. I am etc.³³

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

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To RICHARD TAYLOR

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1790.

Sir: The President of the United States directs me to inform you, that, induced by the fair representation which has been made to him of your character, he intends to appoint you to the command of one of the Cutters directed by the Act of Congress of the 4th. of August last, to be stationed in the bay of Chesapeak for the protection of the revenue.³⁸

The annexed extract from the law shows the emoluments of the appointment.

As there are many applications, you will be pleased to signify whether it meets your acceptance, and instructions will be transmitted to you by the Secretary of the Treasury for your superintending the building and equipment of the vessel. I am etc.³⁹

38. Taylor at first declined this appointment. The other appointees seem to have been notified by the Secretary of the Treasury.

39. This letter is signed "W. Jackson" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM TEMPLE FRANKLIN

Mount Vernon, October 25, 1790.

Sir: I did not receive your letter of the 13th instt.⁴³ until yesterday on my return from an excursion up the Potowmack,⁴⁴ which will apoligize for the delay of my answer.

I am much obliged by your offer to take charge of my letters for Europe, but, having no communication to make at this time, I shall not be able to profit of your politeness.

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The reason, which you say has been suggested for your leaving America, I have not heard mentioned, nor should I have placed such a construction upon your absence, being altogether ignorant of any cause to authorize the opinion.

I wish you an agreeable passage to England, and a successful issue to your intentions in visiting Europe. I am etc.⁴⁵

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

44. On October 20 Washington, on this journey of inspection up the Potomac River, received and answered an address of welcome from the inhabitants of Elizabethtown (now Hagerstown), Md., and its vicinity. Both the address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To GABRIEL P. VAN HORNE

Mount Vernon, October 29, 1790.

Sir: The President of the United States proposing to leave Mount Vernon, on his return to Philadelphia, about the 22d. of November, desires to know whether you can furnish him on that clay with a close coach, (sufficiently large and commodious to receive that part of his family which came home in a similar carriage) together with four good horses and a careful driver. If you can supply such an accommodation, he requests that you will immediately acquaint him, with particulars respecting the carriage, and the terms upon which the whole is to be hired, Stating whether the Driver and Horses art to be supplied with provision at his cost or yours. As your information will be compared with other resources he wishes to receive it as soon as possible. I am etc.⁴⁹

49. This letter is signed "W. Jackson" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ELÉONOR FRANÇOIS ÉLIE, COMTE DE MOUSTIER

Mount Vernon, November 1, 1790.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 11th of May and 12th of July last, together with the flattering mark of your and Madame de Brehan's regard,⁵⁰ which accompanied the former, for which, and the obliging satisfaction you express on the restoration of my health, I beg you and her to accept my grateful acknowledgments.

A short relaxation from public business, and an indulgence in the pleasures of a country life, during the recess of Congress, have greatly contributed to improve my health, which is now, thank God, perfectly re-established. From the interest you take in the prosperity of the United States, you will learn with pleasure that their happiness continues to progress, and that there is great reason to conclude it will be lasting. The wisdom and integrity, manifested in the measures of Congress, have secured to them

50. Several engravings of Madame de Brehan's portrait of Washington. From William Jackson's translation of Moustier's letter of May 11, 1790, in the *Washington Papers*, is the following: "Mad. de Brehan will profit of the first certain opportunity which presents to address to Madam Washington the medallion intended for her; in the meantime, she will make a copy of the original for herself."

the confidence of their constitutents, and the respect of our domestic Neighbours; with the most considerable of whom, treaties, dictated by justice and National generosity, have been concluded, and will, in all probability, be faithfully maintained. The aggregate happiness of the society, which is best promoted by the practice of a virtuous policy, is, or ought to be, the end of all government; such, I am happy in telling you, appears to be the object of our legislative regulations; and such, I am confident in anticipating will be the result to that generous nation of which you are a citizen. Their character, in all its

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relations, entitles them to prosperity and honor; and the issue of their present endeavors will, I fervently hope, justify the expectation of public and individual happiness. I am &c.51

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

To MERCY OTIS WARREN

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1790.

Madam: My engagements, since the receipt of your letter of the 12th of September, with which I was honored two days ago, have prevented an attentive perusal of the book that accompanied it, but from the reputation of its author, from the parts I have read, and a general idea of the pieces, I am persuaded of its gracious and distinguished reception by the friends of virtue and science.

I desire to assure you of the gratitude with which your flattering expressions of regard impress me, and of the respectful consideration, with which I have the honor etc.56

56. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Mercy Otis Warren, June 4, 1790, *ante*.)

To WILLIAM CONSTABLE

Mount Vernon, November 7, 1790.

Sir: My thanks are due, and are rendered to you for the letters which you were so obliging as to forward to me and for your care of the articles sent to me by Mr. Gouverneur Morris. Add to the favor, if you please, Sir, by transmitting those things by the first good conveyance, to Mr. Lear at Philadelphia; who is directed to pay you the amount of the cost of them and the freight of the three Cases which contain them. I am etc.57

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

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To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH⁹¹

Philadelphia, December 7, 1790.

Sir: As I find the duties of your office can be executed by a deputy during your absence, and the business which calls you to Europe appearing to be important to your private interest; I feel a pleasure in complying with the request for leave of absence made in your letter of the 1st. instant, and sincerely wish you a pleasant voyage, a prosperous completion of your business and a happy return to your Country.

With very great esteem etc.⁹⁰

91. United States Marshal for the District of New York.

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

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOLPH

Philadelphia, January 13, 1791.

Sir: The various and important business which required my particular attention in the beginning of the present session of Congress will, I presume, sufficiently apologize to your Excellency for this late acknowledgment of your letter of November last.

I have attentively considered the request which your Excellency has made, by desire of the Legislature, that I would again open the business of establishing a Woollen manufactory in Virginia; and it is with infinite regret that I must decline any further agency in it, at least so far as relates to carrying on a correspondence with the person in Great Britain who has proposed to establish the Manufactory. I am persuaded, that your Excellency and the Legislature will see upon reflection, the impropriety of my appearing in this business while I remain in my present situation; for I am told that it is felony to export the Machines which

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it is probable the Artist contemplates to bring with him, and it certainly would not carry an aspect very favorable to the dignity of the United States for the President in a clandestine manner to entice the subjects of another Nation to violate its Laws.

I have communicated the subject of your Excellency's letter to the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General, who are both of the same sentiment which I have expressed, and for the reason mentioned.

I am, however, happy that my agency is not *absolutely necessary* to the completion of this object; for the project has been announced to Virginia and the original letter from the Artist has been transmitted to your Excellency. This communicates every thing on the subject of which I am possessed, and leaves it with the State of Virginia to do whatever may be thought best in the affair.

Impressed as I am with the utility of such an establishment, I shall ever be ready to give it every aid that I can with propriety; and I am certain that your Excellency and the Legislature will impute my conduct on this occasion to its true motive. With due consideration, I have the honor &c.20

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

To TIMOTHY PICKERING

Philadelphia, January 20, 1791.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 8th and 15th of this month. I feel myself much obliged by the trouble you have taken, in the former, to detail your ideas with respect to introducing the art of Husbandry and civilization among the Indians. I confess, that your plan, or something like it, strikes me as the most probable means of effecting this desirable end, and I am fully of opinion with you, that the mode of Education which has hitherto been pursued with respect to those young Indians who have been sent to our

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Colleges, is not such as can be productive of any good to their nations; reason might have shewn it, and experience clearly proves it to have been the case. It is perhaps productive of evil. Humanity and good policy must make it the wish of every good citizen of the United States, that Husbandry, and consequently civilization should be introduced among the Indians. So strongly am I impressed with the beneficial effects which our Country would receive from such a thing, that I shall always take a singular

pleasure in promoting, as far as may be in my power, every measure which may tend to ensure it.

I should have been very glad, if it had comported with your interest and inclination to superintend the Northern Indians, as I am persuaded that nothing would have been wanting on your part to attach them to the United States, and to cultivate that spirit for civilization which now begins to dawn among them. Whoever undertakes this business must be actuated by more enlarged views than his individual interest, or he can never accomplish the wished for end. With very great regard &c.26

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

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

United States, January 24, 1791.

Gentlemen: I enclose you several proclamations expressing the lines which are to bound the District of ten miles square for the permanent Seat of the general government, which I wish you to have made public with all expedition. And in the most general and extensive manner that you can to prevent any kind of speculation. Let them be published in the News-Papers, put up in public places and otherwise so disposed as to answer my object as fully as possible. The Proclamations are this moment struck off and the Mail is about to be closed, which prevents me from adding more at this time; but I shall write you more fully upon this subject in a few days. I am etc.32

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

To THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE

Philadelphia, January 27, 1791.

Sir: I received with particular satisfaction, and imparted to Congress the communication made by the Presidents letter of the 20th of June last in the name of the National Assembly of France. So peculiar and so signal an expression of the esteem of that respectable body for a citizen of the United States, whose eminent and patriotic services are indelibly engraved on the minds of his countrymen, cannot fail to be appreciated by them as it ought to be. On my part I assure you, Sir, that I am sensible of all its value.

The circumstances, which, under the patronage of a monarch who has proved himself to be the friend of the people over whom he reigns, have promised the blessings of liberty to the French Nation, could not have been uninteresting to the free Citizens of the United States; especially when they recollected the dispositions, which were manifested by the individuals as well as by the Government of that Nation towards their still recent exertions, in support of their own rights.

It is with real pleasure, Sir, that I embrace the opportunity now afforded me, of testifying through you to the National Assembly, the sincere, cordial and earnest wish, I entertain, that their labours may speedily issue in the firm establishment of a Constitution, which, by wisely conciliating the indispensable principles of public order with the enjoyment and exercise of the essential rights of man, shall perpetuate the freedom and happiness of the People of France.

The impressions naturally produced by similarity of political sentiment are justly to be regarded as causes of national sympathy; calculated to confirm the amicable ties which may otherwise subsist between nations. This reflection, independent of its more particular

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reference, must dispose every benevolent mind to unite in the wish, that a general diffusion of true principles of liberty, assimilating as well as ameliorating the condition of Mankind and fostering the maxims of an ingenuous and virtuous policy, may tend to strengthen the fraternity of the human race, to assuage the jealousies and animosities of its various subdivisions, and to convince them more and more, that their true interest and felicity will best

be promoted by mutual good will and universal harmony.

The friendship to which the President alludes in the close of his letter has caused me to perceive with particular pleasure, that ONE who had endeared himself to this Country by an ardent zeal, and by useful efforts in the cause of liberty, has by the same titles acquired the confidence and affection of his own. May it ever be his chief aim to continue to be beloved as one of her most virtuous and most faithful Citizens!

I beg you to accept my acknowledgments for the sentiments in the same letter which relate more particularly to myself, and at the same time to be assured of the most perfect consideration, on my part.³³

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

To THOMAS BEALL

Philadelphia, February 3, 1791.

Sir: In consequence of your letter of the 26th of January to Daniel Carroll Esquire³⁹ informing him that the order of the President of the United States upon you, as Mayor of George Town, would be paid on sight, I have to request that you will answer the demands of Andrew Ellicot Esquire, within the sum of fifty guineas, as he may have occasion to make them without further advice from your etc.⁴⁰

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39. Of Rock Creek, D. C.

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

To DANIEL CARROLL

Philadelphia, March 11, 1791.

Dear Sir: I write to you by this post in conformity with my promise so to do. But it is not yet in my power to determine whether I can set out on Monday or not. If I find the roads do not mend much between this time and that, I shall not be anxious about beginning my journey on that day, even if business would permit. As my fixing the day for meeting the Commissioners at George Town must depend upon my departure from this place, I cannot determine upon the former until the latter is decided. I shall write to you again by the Monday's post, and in that letter shall be able to say with certainty when I leave this city. With very great esteem, I am etc.⁸²

82. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To DANIEL CARROLL

Philadelphia, March 17, 1791.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letter was written to go by the post of yesterday, but was omitted to be put to the Office in season.

I have thought best, upon every consideration, to fix on monday next for the day of my departure from this city. In which case, I expect to be four days in travelling to Baltimore; and as I shall be under the necessity of going by the way of Annapolis, I must calculate upon three days more for my journey from Baltimore to that place and my stay there;⁹⁷ one day will carry me from thence to George Town; which will bring it to Monday the

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28th of this month, at which time, if no accident intervenes, I shall expect to meet the Commissioners at that place, of which I will thank you to give them notice. With very great regard I am etc.⁹⁸

97. See footnote (78) to "Southern Tour Itinerary," Mar. 10, 1791, *ante*.

98. In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Philadelphia, March 17, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 11th. instant,⁹⁹ and the papers therewith transmitted.

The Attorney-General, to whom they were referred, has reported an opinion,¹ of which the enclosed is a copy.

With great esteem I am etc.²

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

1. The Attorney General's opinion is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

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

On March 17 Washington wrote to the Secretary of State: "The P. has just recd. the enclosed. He prays Mr. Jefferson to write by tomorrows Post to Major L'Enfant agreeably to what was mentioned this morning." Jefferson furnished a draft of this proposed letter and Washington wrote another of his laconic notes to the effect that: "The Postscript to your letter of this morning is quite sufficient for the purpose intended."

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A press copy of the postscript to Jefferson's letter of March 17 to Major L'Enfant reads: "there are certainly considerable advantages on the Eastern branch: but there are very strong reasons also in favor of the position between Rock creek and Tyber independent of the face of the ground. it is the desire that the public mind should be in equilibria between these two places till the President arrives, and we shall be obliged to you to endeavor to poise their expectations." This press copy of the postscript, together with the above notes, are in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

Georgetown, Maryland, March 29, 1791.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's obliging letter of the 8th. instant last evening. I am thus far on my tour through the southern States; but, as I travel with only one sett of horses, and must make occasional halts, the progress of my journey is exposed to such uncertainty as admits not of fixing a day for my arrival at Charleston.

While I express the grateful sense, which I entertain of your Excellency's polite offer to accommodate me at your house during my stay in Charleston, your goodness will permit me to deny myself that pleasure. Having, with a view to avoid giving inconvenience to private families, early prescribed to myself the rule of declining all invitations to quarters on my journies, I have been repeatedly under a necessity similar to the present of refusing those offers of hospitality, which would otherwise have been both pleasing and acceptable.

I beg your Excellency to be persuaded of the sincere esteem etc.¹²

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

To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

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Sir: I shall be at Richmond on the 11th. instant, where I desire to have the pleasure of meeting you on that day, to take measures for arranging the Inspectorates of the district of Virginia of which you have been appointed Supervisor.

To ensure certainty to the transmission of this letter it is enclosed to Governor Randolph, who is requested to forward it by express, if not direct conveyance offers immediately. I am etc.⁵²

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

To WILLIAM DARKE⁴⁴

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Dear Sir: The purport of this letter is to request your service in a matter of immediate importance to the United States; my knowledge of your public dispositions assures me, that it will receive your ready attention. I shall premise its object by informing you that in pursuance of an act of the last session of Congress an additional military force consisting of one regular regiment, two regiments of levies for six months, and such a proportion of militia as may be thought necessary are ordered to be raised for the service of the United States, to be employed, unless the measures now taking to restore peace should make it unnecessary, in an expedition against certain tribes of western Indians.

The command in chief is given to General St. Clair; that of the levies to General Butler⁴⁵ and that of the militia to General Scott.⁴⁶ The command of one regiment of levies, to consist of three battalions, to be raised in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, was given to Colonel H. Lee, and, on his declining, before I

44. Formerly lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Virginia Regiment, Continental Army; later lieutenant colonel of Kentucky Militia on St. Clair's expedition. Sparks prints this letter as to John Darke.

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45. Maj. Gen. Richard Butler, of the United States Levies.

46. Brig. Gen. Charles Scott.

adverted to the idea of appointing you, Colonel Hall was, on the suggestion of the Secretary of war, named to succeed him; should Colonel Hall decline it is my wish that you would accept the command of the regiment; and that, in the meantime whether you enter into the service or not yourself, you would be so good as, immediately on the receipt of this letter, which will be your authority for so doing, to appoint from among the Gentlemen that are known to you, and whom you would recommend as proper characters, and think likely to recruit their men, three persons as Captains, three as Lieutenants, and three as Ensigns in the battalion of levies to be raised in the State of Virginia, for the service of the United States, for the term of six months, after arriving at their place of rendezvous. That you would instruct the said officers immediately to set about engaging recruits who may be ready, on the order of the Secretary of war, or the Commandant of the battalion, to embody and march to the place of rendezvous. Enclosed is a statement of the pay, clothing, forage, and rations to be allowed to the Levies.

My confidence in your ability and disposition to render that service to the public which I now request of you, persuades me that you will immediately appoint three Captains, three Lieutenants, and three Ensigns, so well qualified for their several trusts that these companies

of the Virginia battalion of levies will be recruited without delay, and ready to repair to their rendezvous by the time that the order for so doing is received either from the Secretary of war, or the Commandant of the battalion. You will be pleased to make a return of the officers, whom you appoint, to General Knox at Philadelphia, and signify at the same time your own determination with respect to accepting the command if Colonel Hall should have declined.

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I am thus far on a tour through the southern States, and a press of business only allows me time to repeat my belief that you will complete this matter in a manner highly honorable to yourself and beneficial to the public. I am &c.

P. S. Should there be any officers of the late army, whom you think in all other respects equal to the appointments I wish them to be preferred; but the substantial requisites of being proper for the service, and likely to recruit their men, must ever be held in view and they must be raised on. your side of the river.⁴⁷

47. On April 4 Washington wrote briefly to the Secretary of War, that he had authorized Darke to make the appointments. This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To HANNAH FAIRFAX WASHINGTON¹⁹

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

My dear Madam: The letters with which you were pleased to honor me dated the 24th of February and 12th. of March came duly to hand. The last at George town, the other at Philadelphia; but neither before arrangements had been taken (by letter) with the Supervisor of the Virginia District respecting the appointment of proper characters for collecting the duty on ardent Spirits and Stills.

At all times it would give me pleasure, as far as is consistent with my public duty, to comply with any request or wish of yours. To fill offices with characters best qualified to discharge the duties thereof (as far as I am able to judge of them) must always be the primary motive to every appointment with me. When, happily, such considerations as you have urged in favor of Mr. Norton²⁰ can be combined therewith it would be highly pleasing to my mind to give them their due weight. But, as I have just observed, measures had been taken previous to the receipt of either of your letters for fixing on proper persons as receivers of the above duties; how far the choice of them is made I am unable to

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inform you. Mrs. Washington, I can answer for it, will be much pleased by your friendly recollection of her; and if we should once more enjoy in retirement this peaceful mansion, it would add to the pleasures of it to see you under its roof. I will not conclude without offering my condolence on the occasion of your late loss,²¹ and the strongest assurances of the affecte. regard, with which I am etc.²²

19. Hannah Fairfax, youngest daughter of William Fairfax, and widow of Warner Washington.

20. George F. Norton, of Winchester, Va. His application for appointment is in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

21. The death of Warner Washington in the year 1790.

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

To WILLIAM DARKE

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1791.

Dear Sir: A second necessity having arisen for my troubling you on the subject of officering the Virginia battalion of levies, I again beg leave to request your assistance therein.

I had written to Major Powell, who lives about six miles from Alexandria, informing him of his appointment to the majority of the battalion, and requesting to see him at Mount Vernon immediately, but he has not appeared nor have I heard from him, which leads me to conclude he cannot be found.

The necessity of placing this business upon a certainty before I proceed on my journey to Savannah which I shall do today, induces me to refer it entirely to you.

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You will therefore, in addition to the appointments, which, in consequence of my first letter, you may have already made, be pleased to appoint a proper person to be Major Commandant of the battalion, another Captain, one lieutenant, and one Ensign.

The enclosed gazette contains the law for raising the Troops, which shews that a bounty of three dollars a man is allowed to the levies. This encouragement in aid of the pay, rations, and clothing, of which I enclosed to you an abstract, induces me to hope that the recruiting service will go on briskly. The Virginia-battalion will be ordered to

rendezvous at Winchester, where supplies of arms, ammunitions, clothing, and rations will be provided for them. On this subject further instructions will be given by the Secretary of war, to whom I have communicated the authority which I have devolved on you to appoint all the officers of the battalion, and to instruct them, when appointed, to enter on the recruiting service.

Should Colonel Hall decline his appointment, and you agree to accept the command of the regiment, the repayment of expence, which you may incur in this business, will be in a regular train. But, should you not enter into the service yourself, you will, in that case, transmit your account to the Secretary of war, who will be instructed to discharge it.

As a battalion is recruiting in Maryland, it will be necessary, to prevent interference, that the Virginia levies should be raised on your side of the river, and, to effect this with facility, you may find it necessary to appoint the officers from different districts, but, of this, being on the spot, you will be the best judge. And to your care and zeal I refer, with confidence, the whole arrangement, not doubting that your report of it to the Secretary of War will be perfectly satisfactory.

Major Bedinger's name⁵⁵ presents itself to my mind, and therefore I just mention it to you.

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55. George Michael Bedinger. He was appointed major of the Virginia Levies in place of—Powell; major, U.S. Army, in 1792; resigned in February, 1793.

As without men the officers will not be wanted, you will be pleased to inform them that the confirmation of their appointments must necessarily depend on them being able to raise the men.

You will instruct the Gentleman, who is appointed Major-Commandant of the battalion, to repair immediately to Philadelphia to receive the orders of the Secretary of War.

Major General Butler, who, in my former letter, I informed you is appointed to command all the levies, is now on his way, through Maryland, to Virginia to close all the arrangements respecting them, he will of course see you, but I request that this circumstance may in no degree delay the measures I have requested you to take for organising the battalion. The only change necessary is that you should direct the Major to see General Butler before he goes to Philadelphia, as that may make his going unnecessary.

Should Captain Hannah be the Bearer of this letter, you will please to appoint him to one of the companies, allowing him to appoint his own subalterns, and they will recruit the company perhaps in the neighbourhood of Alexandria.

Should the letter be delivered to you by an Express you will then proceed to make all the appointments as you think proper. With great regard and esteem I am etc.⁵⁶

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

Washington reached Fredericksburg April 8, and on April 9 received and answered an address from the corporation of the town. Both the address and answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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On April 12, in Richmond, Washington received and answered an address from the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city. Both the address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book."

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA⁵⁷

Richmond, April 13, 1791.

Gentlemen: Agreeably to the assurance given to Mr. Carroll, I applied, immediately upon my arrival in this city, to Governor Randolph for two thousand dollars for federal purposes under your direction. Although by the law of this State, the payments of the one hundred and twenty thousand dollars are to be made by installments, the Governor is well disposed to advance the money at earlier periods; but alas! the treasury is empty. He has promised me however that, so soon as he can obtain the above sum, it shall be remitted or made subject to your draught.

My anxiety to have the agreement which was entered into at Georgetown on the 30th. ult. carried into full and complete effect, by legal conveyances, is such (thereby leaving nothing to chance) that I cannot forbear repeating my wish that it may be done without delay, notwithstanding the persuasion I am under that the propriety of the measure will prompt you to the execution of the

57. Thomas Johnson, David Smart, and Daniel Carroll.

business in a manner best calculated to answer the public purposes.

It having been intimated to me that the Proprietors of George Town are desirous of being comprehended within the limits of the federal city, I see no objection to the measure provided the Landholders, adjoining to it, included within the red lines of Messrs. Beatty and Orme's Survey,⁵⁸ referred to in the first offer from George Town, agree to cede to the public on the same terms with those under the last (or combined) agreement; and if those

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within the blue lines are likewise desirous of being comprehended, on the same terms, it may be done. The doing of which would only place them on the same footing with the rest of the Subscribers, at the same time that it would render the plan more comprehensive, beneficial, and promising, drawing the centre of the federal city near to the present town.

If this measure is seriously contemplated the present is the fit moment for carrying it into effect; because, in that case it will become part of the original plan, and the old and new towns would be blended and assimilated as nearly as circumstances will admit; and Major L'Enfant might be instructed to lay out the whole accordingly. I have the honor etc.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing I have again

58. Charles Beatty and Archibald Orme.

conversed with Governor Randolph, and have drawn upon him, payable to your order, for forty thousand dollars, being the first installment; one thousand of which he hopes to have ready within a few days, the remainder to be subject to your draughts. He will endeavor to transmit the money so as to prevent trouble or inconvenience; but, on this head he will write to you himself more at large.⁵⁹

To GOVERNOR BEVERLEY RANDOPLH

Richmond, April 14, 1791.

Sir: The Secretary of War having transmitted to me a copy of your Excellency's letter to him, relative to the protection of the frontier counties of Virginia, with his answer thereto; I have now to observe that the Counties of Russell and Wythe, not having been considered as equally exposed with the others, were not included in the arrangements taken for defending the frontier. But as the protection to

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59. In the writing of William Jackson, in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

be afforded was intended to embrace every county that might be exposed to inroad or invasion, if it shall appear to your Excellency a necessary measure, I request that you will be pleased to direct such an extension of the defence as will cover these counties, and place them in equal security with the others.

Should it comport with the State of your Treasury to make an advance of Two thousand dollars, of the sum appropriated by the State of Virginia for federal purposes on the Potowmac, I beg that an intimation thereof may be given to Mr. Johnston, Doctor Stuart, and Mr. Daniel Carroll, who are the Commissioners, and who will take measures, in consequence, for drawing the money. This supply is very essential, and requires that the earliest intimation, which the state of the funds will allow, should be given to the Commissioners. I have the honor etc.⁶²

[H.S.P.]

62. In the writing of William Jackson.

To WILLIAM TATHAM⁶³

Richmond, April 14, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letters numbered 1 2, 3, and 4 Thanking you for your attention in presenting to me a copy of your map, and wishing you the best success in completing that in which you are now engaged, I return the subscription papers, with my name affixed for a copy of each map, on which, the money to be advanced, will now be paid, and I have to observe that there appears to me greater propriety in your pursuing the plan, on which it was originally undertaken, than in adopting any other.

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My tour through the southern States, being in the nature of a short visit, will not require the assistance, which you are so obliging as to offer; my public situation forbids any interference in questions of individual claims otherwise than as they may come before me officially in the form of an act of Congress. This will be satisfactory to you for my declining to direct any investigation of the vouchers which you mention. I am etc.⁶⁴

63. Of Richmond, Va.

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

On April 14 Washington wrote to a Mr. Brown respecting the purchase of George Muse's right to 7,276 acres of land, granted in 1774. As there must have been some inducement to take the subsequent deeds in 1784 I am inclined, though unable to account for them, to have them fully recorded; especially as the quantity of land thereby conveyed differs pretty considerably." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 15 the citizens of the town of Fayetteville, N. C., despatched an address to Washington, who received and answered it at some unknown date and place in the State. Both the address and the answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 20 Washington reached Newbern, N. C., and on that day received and answered an address from the Newbern St. John's Lodge, No. 2, of Masons. Both address and answer are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Charleston, May 7, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received your letter of the 14th. of last month.

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It is an unfortunate circumstance in the present stage of the business, relative to the federal city, that difficulties unforeseen and unexpected should arise to darken, perhaps to destroy, the fair prospect which it presented when I left Georgetown, and which the instrument, then signed by the combined interest (as it was termed) of Georgetown and Carrollsburg, so plainly describes. The pain which this occurrence occasions me is the more sensibly felt, as I had taken pleasure, during my journey through the several States, to relate the agreement, and to speak of it, on every proper occasion, in terms, which applauded the conduct of the Parties, as being alike conducive to the public welfare, and to the interest of individuals, which last it was generally thought would be most benefitted by the amazing encrease of the property reserved to the Landholders.

The words cited by Messrs. Young,⁶⁷ Peters,⁶⁸ Lingan,⁶⁹ and Forrest⁷⁰ and Stoddert,⁷¹ may be nearly what I expressed, but will these Gentlemen say this was given as the precise boundary, or will they, by detaching these words, take them in a sense unconnected with

67. Notley Young.

68. Robert Peter (Peters).

69. James M. Lingan.

70. Uriah Forrest.

71. Benjamin Stoddert.

the general explanation of my ideas and views upon that occasion, or without the qualifications, which, unless I am much mistaken, were added, of running *about* so and so, for I had no map before me for direction. Will they not recollect my observation that Philadelphia stood upon an area of three by two miles, and that, if the metropolis of *one State* occupied so much ground, what ought that of the United States to occupy? Did I

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not moreover observe that before the city could be laid out, and the spot for the public buildings be precisely fixed on, the water courses were to be levelled, the heights taken &ca. &ca.?

Let the whole of my declaration be taken together, and not a part only, and being compared with the instrument then subscribed, together with some other circumstances which might be alluded to, let any impartial man judge whether I had reason to expect that difficulties would arise in the conveyances.

When the instrument was presented I found no occasion to add a word with respect to boundary, because the whole was surrendered upon the conditions which were expressed. Had I discovered a disposition in the subscribers to contract my views I should then have pointed out the inconveniences and the impolicy of the measure.

Upon the whole I shall hope and expect that the business will be suffered to proceed; and the more so as they cannot be ignorant that the further consideration of a certain measure in a neighbouring State stands postponed; for what reason is left to their own information or conjectures.

I expect to be with you at the time appointed, and should be exceedingly pleased to find all difficulties removed. I am etc.⁷²

72. In the writing of William Jackson in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia*.

On May 9 Washington left Charleston, and on May 11, at Pocotaligo, then on the Pocotaligo River in Prince William's Parish, he received and answered an address from the people of Prince William's Parish. Both the address and the answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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On May 12 Washington reached Savannah. On this same day an address was dispatched to him by the Congregational Church and Society at Midway, formerly St. John's Parish, Liberty County, Ga., which he answered presumably the next day (May 13). This address and the answer is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. Sparks spells the name "Medway."

On May 13 Washington received addresses from the mayor and aldermen of Savannah, from the citizens of Savannah and its vicinity, and from the Society of the Cincinnati of Georgia. These addresses and the answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 14 Washington received addresses from the grand master, officers, and members of the Grand Lodge of Georgia Masons, and from the German Congregation of Ebenezer (this last was in Latin). The address from the Grand Lodge and the reply thereto are recorded in the "Letter Book." The original of the address, from the Ebenezer Congregation, is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*; but no text of an answer has been found therein.

On May 15 Washington left Savannah and reached Augusta, Ga., May 18, where, in the following day, he received and answered an address from the citizens of that city. On May 20 he also received and answered an address from Gov. Edward Telfair. These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book." He left Augusta May 21 for Columbia, S.C.

To JAMES SEAGROVE⁷³

Augusta, Georgia, May 20, 1791.

Sir: The confidence, which your character inclines me to place in you, has induced me to commit the enclosed letter from the Secretary of State to Governor Quesada,⁷⁴ and the negotiation, which will be consequent thereon, to your care and management. The letter which is under a flying seal, to be closed before it is delivered, will inform you of the

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import, and serve to instruct you in the mode of conducting the object of your mission; delicate in its nature, it will require the greatest address and temper in its treatment; nor must any proposition or declaration be made, which in its consequence might commit the government of the United States.

The enclosed copy of a letter, written by my direction, from the Secretary of State to the Governor of Georgia, which is now confidentially communicated to you, is another source, whence some information may be drawn; but, as my ideas of your personal acquaintance with this business, combined with my opinion of your character and talents to transact it, have determined me to appoint you, it is from your own knowledge, and the circumstances, which may arise, that you must decide on the best means to

73. United States superintendent of the Creek Indians.

74. Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada, Spanish governor of Florida. He was inviting foreigners to settle in that territory.

Jefferson wrote to Washington (April 2): "This is meant for our people. debtors take advantage of it and go off with their property. Our citizens have a right to go where they please. it is the business of the states to take measures to stop them till their debts are paid. this done, I wish a hundred thousand of our inhabitants would accept the invitation. it will be the means of delivering to us peaceably what may otherwise cost us a war. in the meantime we may complain of this reduction of our inhabitants just enough to make them believe we think it very wise policy for them, and confirm them in it." A press copy of Jefferson's letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On May 20 Jackson wrote to John Habersham, collector of the port of Savannah, "that Mr. Seagrove is going to St. Augustine on public business, and that he is instructed to draw from you such a sum of money as may be necessary to defray his expenses, in case his own funds should not be adequate thereto. You will be pleased to supply Mr. Seagrove, taking duplicate receipts for the amount, one of which you will transmit to the Secretary of

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the Treasury, which will be allowed in the settlement of your accounts.” Jackson's letter is recorded in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

accomplish the negotiation. Your first care will be to arrest the farther reception of fugitive slaves, your next to obtain restitution of those slaves, who have fled to Florida, since the date of Governor Quesada's letter to Mr. Jefferson, notifying the orders of his Catholic Majesty; and your last object, which may demand the greatest address, will be to give a retrospective force to the orders of the Court of Spain, beyond the date of that letter, and to procure the Governor's order for a general relinquishment of all fugitive slaves, who were the property of citizens of the United States. This last instruction will require peculiar delicacy, and must be entered on with caution and circumspection, or not be taken up at all, as appearances of compliance may justify the one or the other.

If your collectorate cannot furnish money to defray your expenses, in which you will observe due œconomy, and of which you will transmit an account to the Secretary of State, you will supply yourself from the Collector of Savannah. I am &c.75

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

On May 21, Washington left Augusta and reached Columbia May 22, where he stayed until the morning of May 25. On that day Washington received and answered an address from the citizens of Columbia, Granby, and the vicinity. Both the address and the reply are entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

To ROBERT MORRIS

Mount Vernon, June 16, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th. of April was not received until yesterday morning, *none* of later date than the 15th. of that month overtook me on the road to Savannah; and

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orders were dispatched for all to be returned to this place after I left the post-road. This will account for the late reception of yours.

The very favorable character given of Mr. Wolcott before his appointment to the office of Auditor, having been fully vindicated by his talents and attention in the discharge of its duties, I considered his appointment to the vacant office of Comptroller as due to the public service, and to his own merit, and, in conformity to that opinion, I requested the Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter of the 13th. instant, to inform Mr. Wolcott that I should appoint him Comptroller of the Treasury. With great regard, I am etc.⁹²

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

***To EDMUND PENDLETON**

Petersburgh, April 14, 1791.

My dear Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to favor me, dated the 9th. instt, overtook me at Littlepages bridge the 11th. The hurry into which I was thrown by a variety of occurrences at Richmond, prevented my acknowledging the receipt of it before I left that City. I now do it, with assurances that it gave me sincere pleasure to find by it that you were well.

The *general* arrangement of the Surveys of Inspection for this District, and the characters designated for the collection of duties, had, in a great measure, been previously made before I came into this State. I have, however, desired the Supervisor to make the best provision he can for Mr. Norton in the subordinate distribution of the Offices, if an appointment of this sort should meet his approbation. With sincere esteem, etc.

[MS. H. S.]

To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

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Philadelphia, July 13, 1791.

Sir: I have received, since my return to this place, the letter which you were so kind as to write on the 6th. of June, and am now to make you my acknowledgements for the information it contained. very soon after I came to the government, I took measures for enquiring into the disposition of the British cabinet on the matters in question between us: and what you now communicate corresponds very exactly with the result of those enquiries. Their intention indeed to send a Minister is more strongly indicated on this occasion, as one of the Secretaries of state has come forward voluntarily to say so. how far they may be disposed to settle the other points which are really interesting to us, is still a subject of conjecture. in all events we are to thank you for the trouble you have taken, and the lights you have contributed to throw on this subject. [Having taken copies of the documents, which accompanied your letter, I herewith return the originals.] I am &c.11

11. The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The sentence in brackets is in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To RICHARD CHAMPION

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Sir: While I was on my journey through the southern States it was not in my power to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24 of May, which was put into my hands at Camden, and to make a proper return of my thanks for the manuscript reflections upon our present situation &ca., and the printed volume of your observations on the commercial connexion between G. B. and the U.S. which accompanied your letter.

You will therefore, Sir, be pleased now to accept of my acknowledgements for these as well as for the very polite terms in which you express yourself towards me in your letter.

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To endeavor to diffuse a knowledge of the true interests of our country in a commercial or political view is certainly a meretorious attempt, and in this age of free enquiry every one has a right to submit to the consideration of his fellow-citizens such sentiments or information as he thinks may conduce to their interest or happiness. I am etc.16

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

***To GOVERNOR ARTHUR ST. CLAIR**

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: In the Journals of the Proceedings of the Executive in the North Western Territory, there appears to be certain regulations made by the Executive under the Articles of the 25th. of April; 6th. 28th. and 29th. of June last, which can, with propriety, only be established by Laws.

In noticing these, my mind naturally recurred to your letter to me dated at Cahokea on the first of May last, wherein you observe, that the absence of the Judges had embarrassed you a great deal; and after waiting for them as long as possible, that you had been under the necessity of directing by proclamation certain regulations suited to the peculiar circumstances of the Country. These you had no doubt would be soon confirmed by law, and the necessity of the case offered an excuse for having exceeded your proper Powers.

The imperfect State in which the Legislation of the North Western Territory is, the want which the Executive has often felt of the necessary coadjutors to adopt even the most urgent Laws, and the peculiar situation of a frontier Country, are circumstances which may not strike every one who will observe that the Executive has gone beyond

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its proper powers. It therefore becomes a matter of high importance that the utmost circumspection should be observed in the conduct of the Executive; for there are not wanting persons who would rejoice to find the slightest ground of clamour against public Characters; and paying no regard to the absolute necessity of the case which caused a momentary stretch of power, nor the public good which might be produced by it, they would seize the occasion of making impressions unfavorable to Government and possibly productive of disagreeable effects.

I have therefore thought it best to give you this intimation in a private and friendly letter, that by circumspection malice itself may be disarmed. With compliments of the Season and great esteem and regard I am &c.16

16. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Arthur J. Mitten, of Goodland, Ind.

On January 3 Washington sent a brief message to the Senate and House of Representatives forwarding an exemplified copy of New Jersey's act vesting in the United States the jurisdiction of land at Sandy Hook on which a lighthouse and other buildings are erected. This message is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. It is noted in the *Annals of Congress*, but the text is there omitted.

To HANNAH GORDON¹⁷

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Madam: In reply to your letter of the 3rd. of March with which I have been honored, I am under the necessity of observing, that circumstances put it out of my power to afford you any assistance in recovering your lands which you mention to have been confiscated during the late war in the State of Pennsylvania. Situated as I am in respect to the General Government of this country, you must yourself, Madam, be fully sensible of the impropriety there would be in my interfering with the laws of any particular State; and more especially in a case of an individual or private nature. You will therefore, I trust, have the goodness to

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believe that my conduct on this occasion is governed by a sense of public duty, which with me has ever been superior to every private consideration.

To the Courts of Justice I must beg leave to refer you, Madam, for the recovery of such bonds or debts as may be due to you in this country. They are open to foreigners of every description, and I flatter myself in no country will justice be found to be more equally or impartially administered. I have the honor etc.¹⁸

17. Of Aberdeen, Scotland.

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

To JUDGE ÆDANUS BURKE

Philadelphia, July 19, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 6 of May covering one from Colo. Philemon Waters, was put into my hands while I was in Charleston. During my journey, you will readily conceive, it was not in my power to attend to, and answer the subject of Colo. Waters's letter, which is the cause of this late acknowledgement of it, and I must now request, Sir, as his letter came thro' your hands, and as a letter to him might meet some difficulty in getting to him across the Country, that you will be so good as to convey this reply to Colo. Waters whenever an opportunity occurs. That the 200,000 acres of land granted by Dinwiddies proclamation in the year 1754 to the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Troops (a part of which Colo. Waters claims for having been a soldier at the battle of the Great Meadows in that year) having been surveyed, distributed, and patents issued in the names of those, who put in their claims before the close of the year 1773, there does not appear to be the smallest prospect of his receiving any benefit from his claim, and further that it is not possible for me to afford him

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any relief in this case either in the capacity of President of the United States (from which he seems to expect assistance) or in any other character. I am etc.15

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

***To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT**

Philadelphia, February 3, 1791.

Gentlemen: In asking your aid in the following case permit me at the same time to ask the most perfect secrecy.

The federal territory being located, the competition for the location of the town now rests between the mouth of the Eastern branch, and the lands on the river, below and adjacent to Georgetown. In favour of the former, Nature has furnished powerful advantages. In favour of the latter is it's vicinity to Georgetown, which puts it in the way of deriving aids from it in the beginning, and of communicating in return an increased value to the property of that town. These advantages have been so poised in my mind as to give it different tendencies at different times. There are lands which stand yet in the way of the latter location and which, if they could be obtained, for the purposes of the town, would remove a considerable obstacle to it, and go near indeed to decide what has been so long on the balance with me.

These are, first, the lands on the S West side of a line to be run from where the Road crosses Goose creek (in going from Georgetown to the Eastern branch) to the corner of Charles Beatty's lot; including by the plat

of Beatty and Orme the house of William Pearce; or, if the whole of this parcel cannot be obtained then secondly so much as would lie within a line to be run from the said ford, or thereabouts, to the middle of the line of cession which extends from the corner of Beatty's lot, as above mentioned to its termination on Goose Creek. Thirdly, the lands of

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Mr. Carroll³⁶ between Goose Creek, the river and Mr. Young³⁷, to the same ford of the Creek.

The object of this letter is to ask you to endeavor to purchase these grounds of the owners for the public, particularly the 2d. parcel, but as if for yourselves, and to conduct your propositions so as to excite no suspicion that they are on behalf of the public.

The circumstances of the funds appropriated by the States of Virginia and Maryland, will require that a twelve month's credit be stipulated, in order that they may cover you from any inconvenience which might attend your personal undertakings. As the price at which the lands can be obtained would have its weight also with me, I would wish that in making your bargains you should reserve to yourselves a fortnight's time to consider, at the end of which you should be free to be off or on, but the seller not so, This will admit your writing to me and receiving my definitive answer.

A clear purchase is so preferable to every other arrangement, that I should scarcely think any other worthy attention.

36. Daniel Carroll, of "Duddington."

37. Notley Young.

I am obliged to add that all the dispatch is requisite which can consist with the success of your operations, and that I shall be glad to hear by post of your progress, and prospect of the accomplishment of this business, in whole or part. I am &c.

P. S. That my description of the lands required in the foregoing letter may be more clearly understood, and my wishes further explained, I enclose you a rough (and very rough indeed it is) copy of the ceded tract's, roads, &ca., of Messrs. Beatty and Orme's Survey; adding thereto lines of augmentation. To obtain the lands included within the lines A B & C is my first wish, and next to that the lands within the lines D E & F; but those within the

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lines D E, and along the Creek to C, are indispensably necessary: and being not over 250 Acres might, I suppose, be easily obtained.

It ought to be the first essay; and I wish to know as soon as possible the result of it, before any others are directly attempted.³⁸

38. A press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, February 17, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received your favors of the 9th. and 11th. instant, and shall be glad if the purchase from 59 should be concluded before you receive that at 59 as your 59 But as you mention that, should he ask as far as £20 or 25£ you will await further instructions before you accept such an offer: I have thought it better, in order to prevent delays, to inform you, that I could wish his lands to be purchased even at those prices, rather than not obtain them.

The Maryland Assembly has authorized a certain number of acres to be taken without the consent of the owners or making compensation as therein provided. This will be principally useful as to the old lotts of Hamburg.⁶⁰ However, by purchasing up as lots, or as many as we can, we shall be free to take, on the terms of the act, so much of any other lands in our way, and consequently those whose proprietors refuse all arrangement. I will therefore beg the favour of you to take measures immediately for buying up all the lots you can in Hamburg, on the lowest terms you can, not exceeding the rate of twenty-five pounds the acre.

I leave it to yourselves to dispatch a private agent for this purpose to treat with the proprietors wherever to be found, or to do it by any other means which, in your discretion, shall appear not too expensive, and which may not

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59. Left blank in the "Letter Book," which copy was evidently made from the press copy of the original letter sent, which was in Thomas Jefferson's writing and illegible in part.

60. Hamburg, sometimes called "Funkstown," was to the east of Rock Creek, and near the mouth of the Tiber. It was on the bank of the Potomac, bounded, roughly, by 19th and 23d Streets NW. and G Street on the north, a goodly portion of it being in what is now Potomac Park.

excite suspicions of their being on behalf of the public. I am etc.61

***To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT**

Philadelphia, February 28, 1791.

Gentlemen: If you have concluded nothing yet with Mr. Burn's;71 nor made him any offer for his land that is obligatory; I pray you to suspend your. negotiations with *him* until you hear further from me. With much esteem I am etc.72

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, March 2, 1791.

Gentlemen: Majr. L'enfant comes on to make such a survey of the grounds in your vicinity as may aid in fixing the site of the federal town and buildings. his present instructions express

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

71. David Burnes.

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

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those alone which are within the Eastern branch, the Potowmac, the Tyber, and the road leading from George town to the ferry on the Eastern branch. he is directed to begin at the lower end and work upwards, *and nothing further* is communicated to him. The purpose of this letter is to desire you will not be yourselves misled by this appearance, nor be diverted from the pursuit of the objects I have recommended to you. I expect that your progress in accomplishing them will be facilitated by the presumption which will arise on seeing this operation begun at the Eastern branch, and that the proprietors nearer Georgetown who have hitherto refused to accommodate, will let themselves down to reasonable terms.

[This communication will explain to you the motive to my request in a letter of the 28th. ulto. I now authorise the renewal of the negotiations with Mr. Burns agreeably to former powers, at such time and in such a manner as, in your judgments is likely to produce the desired effect. I will add however that if the lands described by the enclosed plat, within the red dotted line from A to C thence by the Tiber to D, and along the North line to A can be obtained I shall be satisfied although I had rather go to the line A B.] I have referred Majr. L'enfant to the mayor of George town for necessary aids and expences. Should there be any difficulties on this subject, I would

hope your aid in having them surmounted, tho' I have not named you to him or any body else, that no suspicions may be excited of your acting for the public. I am etc.⁷⁵

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Sunday, March 6, 1791.

The P. would thank Mr. Jefferson for placing all, or such of the enclosed Papers (after he has perused them) in the hands of the Attorney General as he shall deem necessary for the purpose of drawing the several conveyances of the ceded Lands, or, the form of one.

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For the former, it is conceived farther information than the enclosures contain, is wanting. For the latter, the agreement, and perhaps the Plat to which it refers, is all that is necessary; but the plat referred to, does not apply to the subsequent purchases.⁷⁷

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Phila., March 17, 1791.

Gentlemen: On passing thro George town I propose to examine the ground between that town and the Eastern branch, and on that examination to fix on a site

75. The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, with the portion in brackets in the writing of Washington, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 3 Washington nominated certain individuals to fill vacancies in the United States Army and for promotions therein. These were confirmed by the Senate March 4 and are printed in the *Executive Journal*, vol. 1.

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

On March 6 Lear wrote to the Secretary of War respecting the publication of the names of officers appointed to the Army, that it was the President's opinion "that although there is no doubt but the appointments to which you allude, and the object of them, are too generally known; yet as the matter has hitherto been conducted at least with appearances of secrecy on the part of the government, he conceives it would not be proper to *publish* the Appointments. But if lists of them are necessary for the purpose which you mention, it would be best to have such a number of them struck off by a printer as may be wanted, and one enclosed with each Commission." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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for the public buildings. Should there be any circumstances in favour of the ground next adjoining to George town, I foresee that the old town of Hamburg will be a considerable obstacle, as the streets of that will probably not coincide with those which might be proposed for the federal city. on behalf of the public I should be much pleased if the proprietors of lots in that town would voluntarily consent to cede them at such price as may be set on the adjacent lands which have been or shall be ceded.

I will ask the favor of you to have application made to them in time for their decision to meet me at George town.⁹⁵

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT

Philadelphia, March 17, 1791.

Gentlemen: In order to avail the public of the willingness expressed by the inhabitants of Washington county, as mentioned in your letter of the 11th. to sign a paper ceding their lots in Hamburg, on being requested by any person under my direction, I have written the inclosed letter, which, if you think it will answer the desired end, you will be so good as to dispatch to them, with the necessary propositions in form. I am aware that by this means it will become known that you are acting for the public: but there will be no reason

^{95.} The draft, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

for keeping this longer secret after my arrival at George town.

With respect to Mr. Burns I will confer with you on my arrival as to what is best to be done in his case, should you not have obtained a cession for him in the mean time.⁹⁶

***To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR, AND BENJAMIN STODDERT**

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Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

Gentl: Being accustomed to write to you respecting the grounds for the fedl. City, I continue the practice.

It may be tuesday or wednesday next before I shall leave this place, by which (say by mondays Post) I should be glad to hear what progress has been made, and what still remains to be done, in the business which so happily commenced on tuesday last under the accommodating spirit which then prevailed.³²

The Subscription paper has been, I presume, deposited in the hands of the Commissioners, for the purpose of drawing conveyances. I should be glad nevertheless to receive a copy of it, with the names of the Subscribers annexed thereto for my own satisfaction. The general tenor of the agreement was I well remember pleasing to me, and, in my opinion reciprocally beneficial to *all* the parties, but I do not now recollect

96. The draft, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

32. Georgetown and Carrollsburg were contending for the location of seat of government. Washington's "Diary" (March 30) records: "The parties to whom I addressed myself yesterday evening, having taken the matter into consideration saw the propriety of my observations; and that whilst they were contending for the shadow they might loose the substance; and therefore mutually agreed and entered into articles to surrender for public purposes, one half of the land they severally possessed within bounds which were designated as necessary for the City to stand with some other stipulations, which were inserted in the instrument which they respectively subscribed."

with precision whether is is fully expressed that the lots left to the disposal of the several proprietors, by the conditions of their grants, are subject to *all* the rules and regulations (with respect to the buildings &ca. &ca.) as the public ones are. This unquestionably ought

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to be the case; it was evidently my meaning that they *should* be so, and unless it is so, one of the great objects, to wit, uniformity and beauty, may be defeated.

The Mail of Wednesday brought me a letter from Mr. Jefferson dated the 27th. Ulto. in which is the following paragraph.

A bill was yesterday ordered to be brought into the house of representatives here³³ for granting a sum of money for building a federal-hall, house for the President &ca.

This (though I do not wish that it should be expressed as my sentiment) unfolds most evidently the views of P—, ³⁴ at the sametime that it proves in a striking manner the propriety of the measure adopted by the George town and Carrollsburgh proprietors on wednesday last; as also the necessity of their *compleating* the good work they have begun in a speedy, and in an effectual manner that the consequent arrangements may take place without delay. With esteem and regard I am etc.³⁵

33. House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.

34. Pennsylvania.

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

***To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Mount Vernon, April 3, 1791.

Gentlemen: As the Instrument which was subscribed at George Town, by the Land holders in the vicinity of that place and Carrollsburg, was not given to me, I presume it has been deposited with you. It is of the greatest moment to close this business with the Proprietors of the lands on which the federal City is to be, that consequent arrangements may be made without more delay than can be avoided.

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The form of the conveyances as drawn by the Attorney General will, I presume, require alteration, or a counterpart, as the present agreement essentially differs from the former. If Mr. Johnson could, conveniently undertake to prepare such a deed as he thinks would answer all the purposes, of the public and the Grantees, I am sure it would be efficiently done. If this cannot be, then it might be well to furnish the Attorney-General of the United States with a copy of the agreement, with the papers I left with you, and such other information as will enable him to do it.

To accomplish this matter so as that the Sales of the lots, the public buildings, &c. may commence with as much facili

ty as the nature of the case will admit, would be, I conceive, advisable under any circumstances; perhaps the friends of the measure may think it materially so from the following extract of a letter from Mr. Jefferson to me, dated the 27th. Ult.

A Bill was yesterday ordered to be brought into the House of Representatives here for granting a sum of money for building a federal-hall house of the President &c.

This (though I do not want any sentiment of mine promulgated with respect to it) marks unequivocally in my mind, the designs of that state; and the necessity of exertion to carry the Residence Law into effect agreeably thereto. With great and sincere esteem etc.³⁶

***To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT**

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Sir: Although I do not conceive that you will derive any material advantage from an examination of the enclosed papers, yet, as they have been drawn by different persons, and under different circumstances, they may be compared with your own ideas of a proper plan for the Federal City (under the prospect which now presents itself to us.) For this purpose I

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36. From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

commit them to your *private* inspection until my return from the tour I am abt. to make. The rough sketch⁴⁸ by Mr. Jefferson was done under an idea that *no* offer, worthy of consideration, would come from the Land holders in the vicinity of Carrollsburg (from the backwardness which appeared in them); and therefore, was accommodated to the grounds about George Town. The *other*, is taken up upon a larger scale, without reference to any described spot.

It will be of great importance to the public interest to comprehend as much ground (to be ceded by individuals) as there is any tolerable prospect of obtaining. Although it may not be *immediately* wanting, it will nevertheless encrease the Revenue; and of course be beneficial hereafter, not only to the public, but to the individual proprietors; in as much, as the plan will be enlarged, and thereby freed from those blotches, which otherwise might result from not comprehending *all* the lands that appear well adapted to the general design; and which, in my opinion, are those between Rock Creek, the Potowmac river and the Eastern branch, and as far up the latter as the turn of the channel above Evans' point; thence including the flat back of Jenkins's height; thence to the Road

48. A press copy of this sketch is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. It is reproduced in W. B. Bryan's *History of the National Capital* (New York: 1914), vol. 1, p. 130, under the misleading caption of "Jefferson's Plan of the Mall."

leading from George Town to Bladensburgh, as far Easterly along the same as to include the branch which runs across it, somewhere near the exterior of the George Town cession; thence in a proper direction to Rock Creek at, or above the ford, according to the situation of the ground. Within these limits there may be lands belonging to persons *incapacitated*, though *willing* to convey on the terms proposed; but such had better be included, than

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others excluded, the proprietors of which are not only willing, but in circumstances to subscribe. I am etc.⁴⁹

To THE POSTMASTER GENERAL⁶⁴

United States, August 29, 1791.

Sir: The President of the United States commands me to inform you, that he can have no objection to the wish which you expressed in your letter of yesterday to him, of your being absent from the seat of Government for three or four weeks, presuming that you are sufficiently acquainted with the nature of the Office in which you are engaged, to enable you to form a proper judgment of the time when you should return.

With respect to the Contracts for

49. From the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

64. Timothy Pickering.

carrying the mail the ensuing year, the President commands me to inform you, that he shall take the matter into consideration, and will let you know his determination upon it when you return to this city, which, according to the usual time of making arrangements therefor, will be in due season. In the mean time, the President observes, that the general post Office being considered as a branch of the revenue department, it is his wish that in all matters of arrangement relative thereto, a communication may be had with the Secretary of the Treasury, and more especially in the present instance, as the President will probably be in Virginia at the time of your return to this City.⁶⁵

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

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

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September 14, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 7th. instant,⁹⁶ with its enclosure, did not reach me 'till yesterday. The intelligence it communicates is of a nature both serious and important. Indeed, the step it announces, as about to be taken by the British, would be one so extraordinary in every view, as to justify a question, whether the indications, which are alleged to have been given, have not rather proceeded from some indiscreet levity on the part of the officers alluded to, than from any real design of doing what appears to have been threatened. A little time however will explain the true state of the matter.

Your Excellency need not I am persuaded be assured that, in connection with the more general considerations

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

which are involved in the circumstance, I feel a due concern for any injury, inconvenience or dissatisfaction which may have arisen or may arise, in respect to the State of New-York, or any part of its Inhabitants, in consequence of the detention of the posts, or the interferences which may have grown out of it. Nor has the matter failed to receive from me the degree of attention to which it is entitled. Yet in a point of such vast magnitude as that of the preservation of the peace of the Union, particularly in this still *very early* stage of our affairs, and at a period so little remote from a most exhausting and affecting, though successful war, the public welfare and safety evidently enjoin a conduct of circumspection, moderation and forbearance. And it is relied upon, that the known good sense of the Community ensures its approbation of such a conduct.

There are, however, bounds to the spirit of forbearance, which ought not to be exceeded. Events may occur which may demand a departure from it. But if extremities are at any time to ensue, it is of the utmost consequence, that they should be the result of a deliberate plan, not of an accidental collision; and that they should appear both at home and abroad

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to have flowed either from a necessity which left no alternative, or from a combination of advantageous circumstances which

left no doubt of the expediency of hazarding them. Under the impression of this opinion and supposing that the event which is apprehended should be realized, it is my desire, that no hostile measure be in the first instance attempted.

With a view nevertheless to such ultimate proceedings as the nature of the case may require, and that upon the ground of well authenticated facts, I have concluded to send a gentleman to the spot,⁹⁷ who will be charged to ascertain and report to me whatever may take place; together with the general situation of the part of the Country immediately affected by the vicinity of the British Posts. An additional motive to this measure is the desire of obtaining information in reference to the establishment of the Custom-House in the State of Vermont; which is also connected with the position of those Posts. I have the honor &c.⁹⁸

97. A copy by Lear of the undated and unsigned instructions to this agent (whose name is not given), which were drafted by Knox and approved by Washington, are filed in the *Washington Papers* under date of Sept. 15, 1791. In them it is stated that the British contemplated establishing a new military post "further advanced within the territory of the United States, than the posts which have been occupied by british garrisons since the conclusion of the late war." The agent was also to "endeavour to ascertain the times, causes and effects of the former insults stated by his Excellency Governor Clinton."

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

***To JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT**

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1791.

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Sir: I have not delayed a momt. since the receipt of your communications of the 22d. instant, in dispatching orders to the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the money, and to the Secretary of War to deliver the Arms and Ammunition, which you have applied to me for.

Sincerely regretting, as I do, the cause which has given rise to this application; I am happy in the opportunity of testifying how well disposed the United States are to render every aid in their power to our good friends and Allies the French to quell “the alarming insurrection of the Negros in Hispaniola” and of the ready disposition to effect it, of the Executive authority thereof.¹³

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1791.

Sir: By the Post of Friday, I received your communications of the 1st. instant; and, from the character of Mr. Campbell I am glad to hear he is disposed to act as attorney for the district of Virginia; and that you had forwarded the commission to him for that purpose. Also, that a pardon had been sent to Samuel Dodge, as it appears that his errors were unintentional.

It is my wish and desire that you would examine the Laws of the General Government which have relation to Indian affairs, that

13. From the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. A duplicate, now in the Huntington Library, varies in minor verbal details.

is, for the purpose of securing their lands to them; Restraining States or Individuals from purchasing their lands, and forbidding unauthorized intercourse in their dealing with them.

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And moreover, that you would suggest such auxiliary Laws as will supply the defects of those which are in being, thereby enabling the Executive to enforce obedience.

If Congress expect to live in peace with the neighbouring Indians and to avoid the expenses and horrors of continual hostilities, such a measure will be found indispensably necessary; for unless adequate penalties are provided, that will check the spirit of speculation in lands and will enable the Executive to carry them into effect, this Country will be constantly embroiled with, and appear faithless in the eyes not only of the Indians but of the neighboring powers also. For, notwithstanding the existing laws, solemn Treaties, and Proclamations which have been issued to enforce a compliance with both, and some attempts of the Government s. west of the Ohio to restrain their proceedings, The agents for the Tennessee Company are at this moment by *public advertisements* under the signature of a Zachariah Cox encouraging by offers of land and other inducements, a settlement at the Mussle-Shoals, and is likely to obtain Emigrants for that purpose altho' there is good evidence, that the measure is disapproved by the Creeks and Cherokees; and it is presumed

is so likewise by the Chicasaws and Choctaws, unless they have been imposed upon by assurances that trade is the only object in view by the Establishment. I am, &c.34

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 17, 1791.

The President of the U. States doth hereby order and direct, that the sale of Lots in the City of Washington, to commence this day, be of such Lots as the Commissioners, or any two of them shall think proper; that the same sale shall be under their direction, and on the terms they shall publish.40

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

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40. A contemporary copy, by Bartholomew Dandridge, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, November 8, 1791.

Sir: I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that your letters of the 18th. of August and 20th. of September, with their duplicates, and the several papers accompanying them, came duly to hand.

The first was received at the time I was making arrangements to go to Mount Vernon, and the second when I was preparing my communications for Congress at the opening of the present Session, this will account for my not having sooner acknowledged the receipt of them.

Your favour of the 18th. of August has been communicated to the Secretary of State within whose department foreign affairs are, and I enclose you a copy of his observations to me on that subject.

Similar applications to those mentioned in your favour of the 20th. of September, for aid from our neighbours of St. Domingo, had come here during my absence in Vir

ginia, and the officers of government had paid due attention to them by furnishing such as our situation admitted, and the Minister of France approved. I feel sincerely those sentiments of sympathy which you so properly express for the distresses of our suffering brethren in that quarter, and deplore their causes. We have not as yet any information which may lead us to hope they will soon be at an end. I am etc.66

To JOHN KEAN

Library of Congress

Philadelphia, November 10, 1791.

Sir: The weighty consideration which you mention as having determined you to accept the appointment of Cashier to the Bank of the U. States, and the disinterested manner in which you have offered to continue your services to the government, as far as may be compatible with the duties of your new station, conspire to induce my approbation of your conduct.

As it is stated that so considerable a progress has been made by the commissioners

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

in the business confided to them, that the determination of a few more important questions may enable the Clerks to proceed in the completion of it, with the exception of some particular cases: And as the time assigned by Law for the termination of the Commission expires in July next; I conclude that it will be advisable for you to continue to act 'till that period, if experience shall not in the meantime evince that the want of a more entire attention to the object than you will be able to bestow is prejudicial or inconvenient to the public service.

It will remain with you to concert with your Collegues the mode in which you can best cooperate with them; as on the arrangement which can be made in this respect, with reciprocal accommodation and without retarding the public business must essentially depend the propriety of continuing or relinquishing the idea of your future aid.

I shall think it proper that compensation be made for the service which shall be rendered by you.69

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

***To DAVID STUART**

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Philadelphia, November 20, 1791.

Dear Sir: I had heard before the receipt of your letter of the 29th. of October, and with a degree of surprize and concern not easy to be expressed, that Majr. L'Enfant had refused the Map of the Federal City when it was requested by the Commissioners for the satisfaction of the purchasers at Sale. It is much to be regretted, however common the case is, that men who possess talents which fit them for peculiar purposes should almost invariably be under the influence of an untoward disposition, or are sottish idle, or possessed of some other disqualification by which they plague all those with whom they are concerned. But I did not expect to have met with such perverseness in Major L'Enfant as his late conduct exhibited.⁸⁰

Since my first knowledge of the Gentleman's abilities in the line of his profession, I have received him not only as a scientific man but one who added considerable taste to professional knowledge; and that, for such employment as he is now engaged in; for projecting public works; and carrying them into effect, he was better qualified than any one who had come within my knowledge in this Country, or indeed in any other the probability of

80. L'Enfant's attitude of "perverseness" was due to his suspicions that the Commissioners were more interested in real estate speculations than in the development of the city. His refusal to subordinate his work to the need of raising funds for the project was the foundation of the misunderstandings which followed.

obtaining whom could be counted upon.

I had no doubt, at the same time, that this was the light in which he considered himself; and of course that he would be so tenacious of his plans as to conceive they would be marred if they underwent any change or alteration; but I did not suppose that he wd. have interfered further in the mode of selling the lots, than by giving an opinion with

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his reasons in support of it: and this perhaps it might be well always to hear, as the latter would stamp the propriety, or shew the futility of it. To advise this, I am the more inclined, as I am persuaded that all those who have any Agency in the business have the same objects in view, although they may differ in sentiment with respect to the mode of execution; because, from a source even less productive than L'Enfants, may flow ideas that are capable of improvements; and because I have heard that Ellicot, who is also a man of uncommon talents in his way, and of a more placid temper, has intimated that no information had been required either from him, or L'Enfont on some point or points (I do not now particularly recollect what) which they thought themselves competent to give.

I have no other motive for

mentioning the latter circumstance than merely to shew that the feelings of such Men are always alive, and, where there assistance is essential; that it is policy to humour them or to put on the appearance of doing it.

I have, however, since I have come to the knowledge of Majr L'Enfants refusal of the Map, at the Sale, given him to understd. through a direct channel, though not an official one, as yet (further than what casually passed between us, previous to the Sale, at Mount Vernon) that he must, in future, look to the Commissioners for directions. That, having laid the foundation of this grand design, the Superstructure depended upon them. That I was perfectly satisfied his plans and opinions would have due weight, if properly offered and explained. That if the choice of Commissioners was again to be made I could not please myself better, or hit upon those who had the measure more at heart, or better disposed to accommodate the various interests, and persons concerned; and that it would give me great concern to see a goodly prospect clouded by impediments which might be thrown in the way, or injured by disagreements which would only serve to keep alive the hopes of those who are enemies to the Plan. But, that you may not infer from hence he has expressed any dissatisfaction at the conduct of the Commissioners, towards him, it is an act of justice I should declare that, I never have heard, directly nor indirectly, that he has

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expressed any. His pertinacity would, I am persuaded, be the same in all cases, and to all men. He conceives, or would have others believe, that the Sale was promoted by withholding the general map, and thereby, the means of comparison; but I have caused it to be signified to him, that I am of a different opinion; and that it is much easier to impede, than to force a Sale, as none who knew what they were about would be induced to buy, to borrow an old adage "A Pig in a Poke."

There has been something very unaccountable in the conduct of the Engraver, yet I cannot be of opinion the delays were occasioned by L'Enfant. As soon, however, as a *correct* draught of the City is prepared, the same, or some other person shall be pressed to the execution. I say a *correct* draught, because I have understood that Mr. Ellicot has given it as his opinion it was lucky that Engravings did not come out from the first Plan, inasmuch as they would not have been so perfectly exact as to have justified a Sale by them. It is of great importance, in my opinion, that the City should be laid out into squares and lots with all the despatch that the nature and accuracy of the Work will admit. And it is the opinion of intelligent and well informed men, now in this City, who are friends

to the measure, that for this purpose, and to accommodate the two *great* Interests of George Town and Carrollsburg, it would be advisable, rather than delay another public Sale until the *whole* can be completed, to lay *all* the ground into squares which shall be West of the Avenue leading from George Town to the Presidents House; thence by the Avenue to the House for Congress, and thence by a *proper* Avenue (I have not the Plan by me to say which) to the Eastern Branch; comprehending the range of Squares next to, and binding on the said Avenues on the East side; and to appoint as early a day for the Sale as a moral certainty of their completion will warrant.

When I speak of the importance of dispatch, it does not proceed from any doubt I harbour, that the enemies to the measure can shake the establishment of it; for it is with pleasure I add as my opinion, that the Roots of the permanent Seat are penetrating deep, and spreading far and wide. The Eastern States are not only getting more and more reconciled

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to the measure, but are beginning to view it in a more advantageous light as it respects their policy and interests; and some members from that quarter who were its bitterest foes while the question was pending in Congress, have now declared in unequivocal terms to various people, and at various times, that if attempts should be made to repeal the Law they would give it every opposition in their

power. These sentiments of the Eastern people being pretty well known, will, I am persuaded, arrest the design, if a repeal had been contemplated; but it will not prevent those who are irreconcilable, from aiming all the side blows in their power at it: and the rumours, which were spread at the Sale, that Congress never wd. reside there, is one of the expedients that will be exerted in all its force, with a view to discourage the Sales of the Lots, and the buildings thereon, that the accommodations may be unfit for the Government when the period shall arrive that the removal is to take place.

When I see Major L'Enfant (who it is said will shortly be here) I shall endeavr. to bring him to some explanation of the terms on which he will serve the public; and will also impress upon him the necessity of despatch, that as early a Sale as circumstances will admit, may ensue.

When I began this letter, and until I had got to the present stage of it, it was intended as an answer to yours of the 29th of October; but on a reperusal of that of the 21st. of the said month from the Commissioners, I find it will serve as an answer to both; and, as it is of an enormous length, and my head and hands during the Session of Congress are fully employed, I pray you at the first meeting of the Commissioners to lay these Sentiments before them for their *private* information.

I forward the enclosed, as I did a former communication from the same person, that the Commissioners may be apprised of the circumstances attending the Land which is the

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subject of the letter. No acknowledgment of this, or the former, has been made by me. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.

PS. I fear you have forgot my request, made in behalf of Mr. Young,⁸¹ of England.⁸²

***To DAVID STUART**

Philadelphia, November 23, 1791.

Dear Sir: After closing my letter to you of the 20th. I recollected that I had omitted to take notice of your observation respecting Wood covers to Brick or Stone buildings, in the Federal City.

It is much to be wished that this evil could be avoided without involving a greater; for it is difficult to decide between things to be wished, and things that are attainable. It has a claim however to consideration, and may be decided upon before the next general

81. Arthur Young.

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

Sale. In the meanwhile, it might be well to enquire, how far the measure would meet general approbation; what, probably, would be the difficulties in covering with Slate, Tyle, or any thing else which would be proof against fire; and what the difference in expence between these and Shingles: for if the latter is *much* cheaper, and the former difficult to be obtained, buildings will be so discouraged, and the Sales so much impeded thereby, as to render the exclusion of Shingles unadvisable. I am etc.⁸⁵

***To DANIEL CARROLL, OF DUDDINGTON**

Philadelphia, November 28, 1791.

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Sir: Your letter of the 21st. came to my hands on thursday afternoon. By the Post of next morning I was unable to answer it; and this is the first opportunity that has offered since by wch. it cd. be done.

It would have been better, and given me more satisfaction if you had made your appeal to the Commissioners; to whom all matters respecting the Federal district and City are now committed; but as you have made it

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

to me, I must furnish you with my opinion; and reasons for it.

First then, permit me to regret, and I do it sincerely, that the dispute between the public and yourself is brought to the point, at which it now stands. But what practicable relief remains for you? I see none. You say yourself if the House *is a nuisance* you agree to its being pulled down. a simple fact decides the question upon your own principles. viz. is the whole, or part of it in the Street? If the answer is in the affirmative, it is unquestionably a nuisance. 1st., because the Street is injured by it; 2dly., because the regulations are infringed; and 3dly., which indeed may be considered as the primary reason, because the original compact is violated.

You add, that other Houses have fallen in the Streets and are suffered to remain: but does it follow from hence that they are to continue in the Streets? and is there not a wide difference between a House *built* , and a house *building* ? the first has already incurred all the expence that is necessary to make it habitable; therefore the public will have no more, perhaps not so much, to pay for it 3, 5, or 7 years hence as now; and the possessor may enjoy the benefit of it in the interim: but would that be the case with a House not covered in, and which, to make inhabitable, will require a considerable additional expence?

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Who is to bear this expence when a removal (for a House never will be suffered to obstruct a Street, and a principal street too) takes place? Would you not complain more 5, or even 7 years hence at being obliged to pull down your new building after having incurred (at your own expence) a large additional sum in the completion, than to do it *now* when the Walls only are up? The answer in my opinion is plain; but, in the present state of the building, under the existing circumstances, as there appears to have been some misconception between Majr. L'Enfant and you in this business; I am inclined, in behalf of the public, to offer you the choice of two alternatives: first, to arrest and pull down the building in its present state, and raise it to the same height next Spring, if it is your desire, agreeably to the regulations wch. have been established without any expence to you; or, 2dly. to permit you to finish it at your own cost, and occupy it 6 years from the present date; at which period it *must* be removed, with no other allowance from the public than a valuation for the Walls in the present state of them. I am etc.⁸⁹

89. From a draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT**

Philadelphia, November 28, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 21st. instt.⁹⁰ came duly to hand, as did one of the same date from Mr. Carroll of Duddington, on the same subject. A Copy of my answer to the latter is enclosed; by which you will perceive I have proposed an accommodation. As a similar case cannot happen again (Mr. Carroll's house having been begun before the Federal District was fixed upon) no precedent will be established by yielding a little in the present instance; and it will always be found sound policy to conciliate the good-will rather than provoke the enmity of any man, where it can be accomplished without much difficulty, inconvenience or loss.

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Indeed the more harmoniously this, or any other business is conducted, the faster it will progress and the more satisfactory will it be.

Should Mr. Carroll adopt the first alternative mentioned in my letter to him, and there is no pressing cause for taking the building down this Winter,⁹¹ the materials will be less liable to injury by standing as they are, and less apt to be stolen, than if they should be taken down before the period shall arrive for re-erection.

As there is a suspension, at present, of the business which took Mr. Ellicots brother to

90. In part is in the *Diggess-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

91. L'Enfant had written to the Commissioners that the work of demolishing Carroll's house had already begun, because "he erected that House on a ground he knew was not his... and that it was questionable when he proceeded to build if the whole Spote he possessed himself of should not be thus appropriated."

Georgia, there will be no occasion for his proceeding thither, until he shall receive further advice from me, or from the Department of War. But it is my *earnest* wish, and desire, that he would give every aid in his power to prepare for a large Sale of Lots in the Spring, agreeably to the sentiments which have been communicated to the Commissioners; and It is moreover exceedingly to be wished, that correct Engravings of the City be had, and properly disseminated (*at least*) throughout the United States before such Sale.

A great pressure of business at this time prevents me from adding more than that I am etc.⁹²

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Wednesday, November 30, 1791.

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My dear Sir: Mr. L'Enfants letter of the 19th. of Octr. to Mr. Lear, Mr. Lear's answer of the 6th. instt. (the press copy of which is so dull as to be scarcely legible), in which I engrafted sentiments of admonition, and with a view also

92. From a draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The letter sent, which is also in Washington's writing, is in the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress. It varies from the draft in capitalization and punctuation and in having the word "earnest" underscored.

to feel his pulse under reprehension. His reply of the 10th. to that letter together with the papers I put into your hands when here will give you a gull view of the business; and the Majrs. conduct; and will enable you to judge from the complexion of things how far he may be spoken to in decisive terms without loosing his services; which, in my opinion would be a serious misfortune. At the same time *he must know* , there is a line beyond which he will not be suffered to go. Whether it is zeal, an impetuous temper, or other motives that lead him into such blameable conduct I will not take upon me to decide; but be it what it will, it must be checked; or we shall have no Commissioners. I am etc.93

***To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Philadelphia, December 1, 1791.

Gentlemen: I receive with real mortification the account of the demolition of Mr. Carrolls house by Major L'Enfant, against his consent, and without authority from yourselves or any other person

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

for you have done me but justice in asserting that he had no such authority from me. My letter of the 28th. Ulto. to Mr. Carroll of Duddington will prove this. I now enclose you the copy of one to Majr. L'Enfant, in which you will see what I say to him on this subject.

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You are as sensible as I am of his value to us. But this has its limits, and there is a point beyond which he might be overvalued.

If he is saved from the notice of the law on the present occasion, I would chuse he shd. owe it entirely to yourselves, and that he be made sensible that there will be no interference from me on his behalf.

The enclosed for Mr. Carroll, of Duddington you may either deliver or destroy as it shall seem best to you.

With very great esteem etc.⁹⁴

94. From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT**

Philadelphia, December 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have received with sincere concern the information from yourself as well as others, that you have proceeded to demolish the house of Mr. Carroll of Duddington, against his consent, and without authority from the Commissioners or any other person. In this you have laid yourself open to the Laws, and in a Country where they will have their course. To their animadversion will belong the present case.

In future I must strictly enjoin you to touch no man's property without his consent, or the previous order of the Commissioners. I wished you to be employed in the arrangements of the Federal City: I still wish it: but only on condition that you tend to, some of which, perhaps, may be unknown to you; Commissioners (to whom by law the business is entrusted, and who stands between you and the President of the United States) to the laws of the land, and to the rights of its citizens.

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Your precipitate conduct will, it is to be apprehended, give serious alarm and produce disagreeable consequences. Having the beauty, and regularity of your Plan only in view, you pursue it as if every person, and thing was *obliged* to yield to it; whereas the Commissioners have many circumstances

to attend to, some of which, perhaps, may be unknown to you; which evinces in a strong point of view the propriety, the neccessity and even the safety of your acting by their directions.

I have said, and I repeat it to you again, that it is my firm belief that the Gentlemen now in Office have favorable dispositions towards you, and in all things reasonable and proper, will receive, and give full weight to your opinions; and ascribing to your Zeal the mistakes that have happened, I persuade myself, under this explanation of matters, that nothing in future will intervene to disturb the harmony which ought to prevail in so interesting a work. With sincere esteem etc.⁹⁵

95. From the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To DANIEL CARROLL, OF DUDDINGTON**

Philadelphia, December 2, 1791.

Sir: Yesterday I received your letter of the 28th. Ulto. My letter of the same date to you (which you must have recd. before this time) in answer to your favor of the 21st. will have conveyed my sentiments. to you on the unlucky

dispute which exists between yourself and Majr. L'Enfant, whose zeal in the public cause has carried him too fast.

What has been done cannot be undone, and it would be unfortunate, in my opinion, if disputes amongst the friends to the federal City should Arm the enemies of it with

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weapons to wound it. If you should consider the matter in this point of view, and compare it with the communications in my last, you may perhaps think it more advisable to quash, than prosecute the chancery injunction: especially too, as disputes of this kind may injure you more on the large scale in the general sale of the lots than you can possible gain by going into a Court of Chancery. I am etc.⁹⁴

94. From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, December 7, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of November the 18th. covering a resolution of the legislature of Virginia of November the 14th. and a memorial of Sundry citizens of that commonwealth on the subject of their property carried away by the British, contrary, as they suppose, to the stipulations of the treaty of

peace. A regular channel of communication with that government being now open, I shall not fail to pay due attention to this subject. I have the honor etc.²

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

To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Philadelphia, December 13, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 7th- instant, and can only once more, and now for all, inform you that every matter and thing which has relation to the Federal district, and the City within it, is committed to the Commissioners appointed agreeably to the "Act for establishing the temporary and permanent Seat of the Government of the United States"

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that it is from them you are to derive your powers, and the line of demarcation for your government is to be drawn by them.

You may remember, Sir, that the first official notice you had of the business in which you are now engaged, was from one of these Commissioners, namely, Mr. Carroll; and that a supposed impropriety in his acting whilst a member of Congress, occasioned a suspension, until a renewal of his Commission after his term of Service in that body, had expired.

Had it not been for this circumstance all the directions you would have receiv'd on your way to Georgetown would have been from him. All you have received since ought to have been from them.

This is the reason why I have said to you in a former letter, that the "Commissioners stand between you and the President of the United States" they being

the persons from whom alone you are to receive your direction.

Were it necessary, I would again give it to you as my opinion that the Commissioners have every disposition that can be desired to listen to your suggestions, to adopt your plans, and to support your authority for carrying the latter into effect, as far as it shall appear reasonable, just and prudent to them, and consistent with the powers under which they act themselves. But having said this in more instances than one it is rather painful to reiterate it. With esteem and regard I am etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing letter yours of the 10th. is come to hand. As you are well acquainted with my, as well as the earnest wishes of the Commissioners, to have the work forwarded with all the dispatch the nature of it will admit, I persuade myself that nothing will be wanting on your part or the part of Mr. Ellicot to hasten the execution.⁶

6. From the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, December 18, 1791.

Gentlemen: It gave me much pleasure to find by a late letter of yours to Mr. Jefferson, that the dispute between Major L'Enfant and Mr. Carroll of Duddington is likely to terminate more favorably than might have been expected from the nature of it; and that you are disposed to take no further notice of his late unjustifiable proceedings.

You will perceive by the enclosed copy of a letter which I have just written to him, that I have placed it beyond a doubt (if he had any before, from an opinion that the Commissioners were appointed for one purpose, and himself for another, and that they were to act independent of each other) that his powers, and Instructions, are to flow from you.

His aim is obvious. It is to have as much scope as possible for the display of his talents, perhaps for his ambition. A copy of his letter of the 7th. instant herewith sent, not only evinces this, but shews the extent to which he wishes to carry it. If, however, he will bear the curb which is put upon him by the letter; of which you have the copy (and which will admit of no misinterpretation) I submit to your consideration whether

it might not be politic to give him pretty general, and ample powers for *defined* objects; until you shall discover in him a disposition to abuse them.

His pride would be gratified, and his ambition excited by such a mark of your confidence. If for want of these, or from any other cause he should take miff and leave the business, I have no scruple in declaring to *you* (though I do not want *him* to know it) that I know not where another is to be found, who could supply his place.

His conduct, in the dispute with Mr. Carroll of Duddington, I will readily acknowledge is no inducement to entrust him with extensive powers; because, after *your* interference, *his*

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proceeding was unwarrantable and previous to it (in the last act) it was imprudent. Having said this, I must go further and declare, that under the statement I received of this matter when I was at George-town (not only from Majr. L'Enfant but from another on whom I could depend) I think Mr. Carroll of Duddington is equally to blame. and without entering far into the detail of the dispute between these two Gentlemn., the following will comprise, and in my opinion, be a solution of the motives, which influenced the former. The work of Majr. L'Enfant

(wch. is greatly admired) will shew that he had many objects to attend to and to combine; not on paper merely, but to make them corrispond with the *actual* circumstances of the ground. This required more time than the patience, perhaps the convenience of Mr. Carroll would admit; and therefore, notwithstanding the assurances of the other that he was using all the despatch in his power to ascertain the principal Streets and objects, and, that he Mr. Carroll should not suffer by the delay, the latter proceeded, after waiting a while, to the completion of his buildings.

This excited resentment in L'Enfant; and, more than probably gave birth to expressions which begat mutual warmth; and conceiving (without adverting to, or perhaps even knowing the formalities which are required by our laws) that by the Deeds of cession, houses, and every other impediment which might happen to stand in the way, was to be removed (paying the value thereof), he took the determination to demolish, without further ceremony, the house of Mr. Carroll; and having proceeded to the execution, his pride (however false) would not permit him to recede. This, in my opinion, is a true state of the case; to which, a reserve, and an unwillingness to answer enquiries respecting his plan, has given disgust. But how far a compliance on his part, in an unfinished stage of the wk. would have been consistent with his duty, is a matter worthy of

consideration. If this reserve &ca. proceeded from self importance and the insolence of Office, the motives were unworthy. If from a conviction of the impropriety of developing his

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designs to the public before they were matured, and approved; they were good; at any rate not condemnable.¹¹

These sentiments being the result of my reflections upon this subject, I communicate them for your private information; and for that reason request that this letter may not be mixed with other papers that respect your public transactions. An imprudent use made of them, might sow the seeds of discord, whilst reconciliation ought to be promoted, and discontents of every sort ought to be buried, by all those who have any concern, or interest in the business. With much esteem etc.¹²

***To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Philadelphia, December 27, 1791.

Gentlemen: When I proposed the al

11. One of the reasons for L'Enfant's reserve and delay in publishing his mature plan was his conviction that the Commissioners were willing to favor the real estate speculators more than they were willing to cooperate in establishing his plan.

12. From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

ternatives contained in my letter of the 28th. Ulto. to Mr. Carroll of Duddington it was done on the ground of accommodation; and under full persuasion that, as the house of that Gentleman had been begun before the land was ceded, and had progressed between that and the ultimate decision on the lines of the Street which embraces part of it, no doubt would arise with respect to the legality of reinstating the house in the order it was found when the demolition commenced. Much less did I imagine that there could be any doubt of the expediency of the measure, as the obvious design of it was to heal differences which

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were pregnant with mischief and could produce no good effect as the case was a singular one and could not be drawn into precedent.

But, as many of the former Proprietors of the land dispute the right of applying any of the monies which have arisen, or may arise from the Sale of the lots to this purpose, I shall take the opinion of the Attorney General of the U. States upon this case; and for his information do require a copy of the transfer from Mr. Carroll of Duddington to the Trustees.

It may be necessary also to ascertain, with precision, at what exact period the lines of the Street which interfere with Mr. Carrolls house were finally

run and resolved on, and notice thereof given to Mr. Carroll of D. with other facts pro. and con, that the Attorney General may be enabled to give his opinion upon clear ground.

I find by a letter which I have just received from Majr. L'Enfant that the house of Notley Young Esqr. has (contrary to expectation) fallen into a principal Street. But I hope the Major does mean to proceed to the demolition of this also unless he is properly authorized and instructed.

It gives me pleasure to find by your letter of the 21st. that you are so well advanced in your Contracts. With great esteem etc.

PS. I pray you to inform Mr. Carroll of Dudn. that until the above opinion is obtained I can say nothing to him with decision, in answer to his letter of the 21st. Instant.²²

22. From the *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Philadelphia, December 1, 1790.

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Dear Sir: Your favor of the 26th. Ult came to my hands last night. If the information of Captn. Brant be true, the issue of the Expedition against the Indians⁸⁷ will indeed prove unfortunate; anti disgraceful to the Troops who suffered themselves to be ambuscaded. The relation of this event carries with it, I must confess, the complexion of truth; yet, I will suspend my opinion until I hear something more of the matter. The force which was employed against these hostile Indians (or the drawing out of which was authorized) ought to have bid defiance to the opposition of a thousand of them, because it was calculated for, undertaken and under the expectation of, meeting a larger number, if blows was to terminate the dispute.

It gives me pleasure to learn from you, the friendly sentiments of Capt. Brant; and with you I think, they merit cultivation; but he has not been candid in his acct. of the conduct of Genl. St. Clair, nor done justice in his representation of matters at Muskingham. It is notorious that he used all the art and influence of which he was possessed to prevent *any* treaty being held; and that, except in a small degree, Genl. St. Clair aimed at no more land by the Treaty of

⁸⁷. Brigadier General Harmar's expedition against the Maumee Indians in Ohio destroyed Indian villages and crops, but was delected in part, which defeat caused Indian forays on the frontier to such an extent the St. Clair's expedition became necessary. A court of inquiry in 1791 acquitted Harmar.

Muskingham than had been ceded by the preceeding Treaties.

With sentiments of very great regard etc.⁸⁸

To BROWN & FRANCIS

Philadelphia, January 7, 1792.

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Gentlemen: I have received your letter of the 13th. of December, requesting that I would furnish Mr. John Francis with such letters to Amsterdam, or other parts of Europe, as might enable him to obtain a loan of money for your house, to the amount of about 100, 000 dollars, to make it convenient for you to build and fit out such vessels as you mention for the East India trade.

I have taken this matter, Gentlemen, into serious consideration, and am sorry to inform you that with every disposition and wish to promote the commercial interests of our Country, and to countenance the laudable undertakings of its enterprising citizens, yet I can not think it wou'd be proper for me, situated as I am, to comply with your request. In my public capacity you will readily see that such a thing could not be done; and abroad, it

88. From the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

would be almost impossible to separate my private from my official character, in a case of this kind. Moreover, should I, from the disposition I might have to oblige you, open this door, it is easy to foresee the many applications of a similar nature which it wou'd produce, and which I should find impracticable to avoid. I am therefore persuaded, Gentlemen, you will do that justice to my motives for declining this matter which they really merit, and will in no wise impute it to the want of inclination to promote your interest, or through you, the interest of commerce. With great regard etc.28

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, January 17, 1792.

Gentlemen: I have duly received your favors of January the 7th. and 9th., am sensible of the expediency of the act of authority you have found it necessary to exercise over all the persons employed in the public works under your care, and fully approve of what you did.

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It has appeared, I think, that nothing less could draw their attention to a single source of authority and confine their operations to specified objects. It is certainly wise to take a

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

view of the work to be done, the funds for carrying it on, and to employ the best instruments. Major L'enfant might be an useful one if he could be brought to reduce himself within those limits which your own responsibility obliges you to prescribe to him. At present he does not appear to be in that temper: perhaps when Mr. Johnson shall arrive here, he may be able to let him see that nothing will be required but what is perfectly reconcileable to reason and to a due degree of liberty on his part.

I will endeavour to procure the information you desire as to Mr. Ellicot.⁴³ I am etc.⁴⁴

43. Joseph(?) Ellicott.

44. In the writing of Tobias Lear, in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia*, in the Library of Congress. The draft, in the writing of Jefferson, is in the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers*, and a press copy of the draft is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Philadelphia, February 10, 1792.

Sir: I was sorry to learn from your letter of the 7th. instant, that you propose to resign the Office which you hold under the United States.⁷⁹

79. Supervisor of the State of New York.

Presuming that this determination is the result of a due reflection upon the

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subject, and a conviction that the measure is for your best interest, I acquiesce in it, although I regret the loss of your services to the public. And, while I express my approbation of your conduct in the Offices which you have held under the U. States, so far as it has come to my knowledge, permit me to add my best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity.

Your proposal of continuing to discharge the duties of your office until the 1st. of March, or until another person shall be appointed thereto, will allow time for the selection of a proper character, which, as soon as determined on, will be duly notified to you by the Secretary of the Treasury.

With sincere regard etc.80

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

On February 10 Lear wrote to the Attorney General: "The President directs me to offer you his sincere condolence for the loss of your sister; to which permit me, my dear Sir, to add mine. The President thinks it wou'd be best for you to take an opportunity of conversing with Mr. Ellicot, respecting Mr. Carroll's house, before you send him your opinion on the subject, as he wishes every information to be had that can be obtained respecting it. The President observes that it will be inconvenient for him to receive your opinion on Mr. Dumas's case on Monday or today." A press copy of this note is in the *Washington Papers*. It is also recorded in the "Letter Book."

To JAMES PEMBERTON

Philadelphia, February 11, 1792.

The President of the United States commands T. Lear to return the enclosed paper which was submitted to the consideration of the President last evening, containing the sentiments proposed to be delivered, in writing, by the Quakers to the deputation from the

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Cherokee nation of Indians now in this City, and to inform, that the President, upon a due consideration of the subject, does not see any impropriety in the enclosed Speech being delivered to the Cherokees, as it contains the same friendly sentiments, with which he has himself endeavoured to impress these people; and it does not appear to be

a matter that can be drawn into precedent on any future occasion. Neither has the President any objection to these Indians being furnished, by the Quakers, with such small presents as were mentioned to him last evening.⁸²

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

To PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

Philadelphia, February 28, 1792.

Sir: Your final resolution being taken, I shall delay no longer to give my ideas to the Commissioners for carrying into effect the Plan for the federal City.

The continuance of your Services (as I have often assured you) would have been pleasing to me, could they have been retained on terms compatible with the Law. Every mode has been tried to accommodate your wishes on this principle, except changing the Commissioners (for Commissioners there must be, and under their directions the public buildings must be carried on, or the law *will be violated*) this is the opinion of the Attorney General of the U States and other competent judges. To change the Commissioners *can not be done* on ground of propriety, justice [or Policy].¹

Many weeks have been lost since you came to Philadelphia in obtaining a Plan for engraving, notwithstanding the earnestness with which I requested it might be prepared on your first arrival. further delay in this

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1. At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: “ nor do I believe it would avail any thing if they were. the same causes will produce like effects, and as it is to be feared you would be under the controul of no one.”

business is inadmissable. In like manner five months, have elapsed and are lost by the compliment which was intended to be paid you in depending *alone* upon your plans for the public buildings instead of advertising a premium to the person who should present the best (which would have included yourself equally). These are unpleasant things to the friends of the measure and are very much regretted.

I know not what kind of a certificate to give that will subserve the purpose of Mr. Roberdeau.² My conversations with, and letters to you, have uniformly conveyed the idea that the Commissioners stood between you and the President of the U. States; that it lay with them to draw the line of demarkation between themselves and you; and that, it was from them *alone* you were to receive your directions. A recurrence to my letters of the 2d. and 13th. of December.³ [will show you the light in which I have considered this subject.] With sincere wishes for your happiness and prosperity, I am etc.⁴

2. Isaac Roberdeau.

3. At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: “ Was there any alternative after the explicit declaration contained in these letters but to have proceeded agreeably to the line there drawn? or to have renounced all further connection with the Plan? Matters being placed on this footing, would it not have comported with propriety, and have been but a very moderate accomodation on your part, before you had left George town, to have made a communication of your intentions and settled some plan for the winter operations, with the Commissioners? A quoram of these gentlemen were meeting almost every week at that place, and a *full* board was summoned to attend there on the 4th. or 5th. of January but a few days after you left it. How easy then was it to have obviated the difficulties under which Mr. Roberdeau now labours, and how much smoother and better

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would things have gone on! Had you been on the spot and could not, or would not have satisfied the Commissioners with respect to the utility of continuing men at daily wages in so inclement a Season there is no question but that the order for their dismissal would have been handed to you. As you were not there, had made no communication of your plan, and they conceived from the inclemency of the Season that an expence inadequate to the advantages was incurring they were reduced to the alternative of Submitting to what they conceived to be an evil, or issuing their order to Mr. Roberdeau to desist; the consequences of not doing it is now to be decided.”

4. From the draft in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers*. The words in brackets are in the writing of Tobias Lear.

The letter sent, in the writing of Lear, is in the *Digges-Morgan-L'Enfant Papers* in the Library of Congress. It varies from the draft in minor verbal details only.

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, March 6, 1792.

Gentlemen: Mr. Jefferson, in a letter which he writes to you this day, will enter fully into the points touched upon in your letters to me of the 21st of december, and of the 7th. 9th. 10 and 21st of January, and Mr. Johnson's letter of the 3d of february. I shall, therefore, do little more at present (being much pressed with other important public matters) than acknowledge the receipt of these letters, and state the reasons which caused me to delay writing to you 'till this time.

Until I received Mr. Johnson's letter, the expectation of seeing him here and conferring with him fully upon the several points mentioned in your letters kept me from writing; and since that time the unsettled state of matters with respect to Major L'Enfant has put it out of my power to write to you in a manner that would be decisive or satisfactory.

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Matters are at length brought to a close with Maj. L'Enfant. As I had a strong desire to retain his services in this business, provided it could have been done upon a *proper footing* I gave him every opportunity of coming forward and stating the mode in which he would wish to be employed, always, however, assuring him that he *must* be under the controul

of the Commissioners. But after keeping open the communication with him as long as any reasonable means could be found of doing it, he chose to close it by declaring that he could only act in a certain way, which way was inadmissable. His services, therefore, must be no longer calculated upon. Altho' his talens in designing, and the skill which he is said to possess in the execution of this kind of business, may occasion the loss of his services to be regretted; yet I doubt, upon the whole, whether it will be found in the end that his dereliction wall be of real disservice to the undertaking; for so unaccommodating is his disposition that he would never suffer any interference in his plans, much less would he have been contented under the direction of the Commissioners. I am convinced, Gentlemen, that in your transactions with Major L'Enfant you must have suffered much from his temper; and if my approbation of your conduct in this business can afford you pleasure, you may be assured you have it. Even if I had no corroboration of the fact, I should be persuaded, from what I have known of his disposition on the recent occasion, that there would scarcely be a possibility of acting harmoniously in concert with him.

It is impossible to say with any certainty when the plan of the City will be engraved. Upon Major L'Enfant's ar

rival in this place in the latter part of december, I pressed him in the most earnest manner to get the plan ready for engraving as soon as possible. Finding there was no prospect of obtaining it through him (at least in any definite time) the matter was put into Mr. Ellicott's hands to prepare about 3 weeks ago. He has prepared it; but the engravers who have

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undertaken to execute it, say it can not certainly be done in less than 2, perhaps not under 3 months.

There shall, however, be every effort made to have the thing effected with all possible dispatch.

As Mr. Jefferson has in his letter mentioned the particular objects to which your attention will probably be turned, I shall only observe here that I am impressed in the strongest manner, with the necessity there is of carrying on this business with as much vigour as the nature of the thing will admit. It has been observed by intelligent and well informed men, [(not however of the class most friendly to the measure)] that the whole success of the federal City depends upon the exertions which may be made in the ensuing season towards completing the object; for such is now the state of the public mind on this subject that it appears as it were in an equilibrium, and will preponderate either for or against the measure as the progress of the thing may be. And there are not wanting those who, being interested in arresting the business, will leave

no means unessayed to insure it. By the proposition for a loan which Mr. Jefferson transmits to you, you will see what prospect you have of funds in addition to those to be depended upon from the two states.¹⁹ And in your exertions, Gentlemen, to make the best of these I have the fullest confidence.

[With great esteem I am etc.]²⁰

19. Maryland and Virginia.

20. In the *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

***To DAVID STUART**

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Philadelphia, March 8, 1792.

Dear Sir: In a short letter which I wrote to you by the last Post,³⁷ I promised a lengthy one by the Post of tomorrow; but such is my present situation that I must pass by some things and be more concise on others than I intended.

That Mr. Johnsons health did not permit him to come to this City as he proposed and was expected, is matter of exceeding great regret, as many things relative to the Federal district, the City, and the public buildings might have been more satisfactorily arranged; and delays avoided; but as there is no contending against acts of Providence we must submit, as it becomes us so to do and endeavor to recover the time lost, in the best manner we can.

That the Commissioners have had more than a little trouble and vexation with Majr. L'Enfant, I can readily conceive (if your representation of the fact had been wanting) from the specimens he has given of his untoward temper since his arrival in this City. And I can as easily conceive that in proportion to the yieldings of the Commissioners his claims would extend. Such upon a nearer view, appears to be the nature of the Man!

Every advantage will be taken of the

37. Washington had written (March 7): "By the Post on friday ... I will write to you (if I can) more fully: for I am at present exceedingly pressed." This letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

Majors dereliction. A vigorous counteraction therefore is essential. If he does not come forward openly to declare it, *his* friends and the *enemies* to the *measure*, will do it for him, that he found matters were likely to be conducted upon so pimping a scale, that he would not hazard his character or reputation on the event under the controul he was to be placed. It is even said (but nothing has appeared yet) that he means to publish this to the world. The half friends to the New City (if this is not allowing them more than their

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due) undertake to predict that, it now stands in equilibrio. that a feather will turn the scale either way. If say they the matter is pushed with vigor, and upon a plan commensurate to the design, and the publics expectation, the permanent Seat of the Government will be fixed on the Potowmack. On the other hand, if inactivity and contractedness should mark the steps of the Commissioners of that district, whilst action on the part of this State³⁸ is displayed in providing commodious buildings for Congress &ca. the Government will remain where it now is. That exertions will be made by this State to effect the purpose, there can be no doubt. A late message from the Governor to the Assembly proposing a certain grant of money for the erection of the House designed for the President is one, among

38. Pennsylvania.

other instances which have occurred.

It would have been very agreeable to me, that you should have shewn the copies of the letters I had written to Major L'Enfant, declaratory of the subordinate part he was destined to act under the Commissioners. It does not appear to have been so understood by the Proprietors, from the sentiments expressed by Mr. Walker (while he was in this City) for when he was told in what explicit language Major L'Enfant was given to understand this, he seemed quite surprised. You did me no more than justice when you supposed me incapable of duplicity in this business. I have had but one idea on the subject from the beginning; nor but one design, and that was to convince the Major of the subordinate part he was destined to act in it. I was obliged, as you have seen, to use stronger and stronger language as I found his repugnance encreased 'till he was told, in even harsh terms, that the Commissioners stood between him and the P— of the U. States and that it was from them alone he was to receive directions.

The doubts, and opinion of others with respect to the permanent seat have occasioned no change in my sentiments on the subject. They have always been, that the plan ought to

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be prosecuted with all the despatch the nature of the case will admit; and that the public buildings in size, form, and elegance, shou'd look beyond the present

day. I would not have it understood from hence that I lean to extravagance. A chaste plan sufficiently capacious and convenient for a period not *too* remote, but one to which we may *reasonably* look forward, would meet my idea in the Capitol. For the Presidents House, I would design a building which should also look forward, but execute no more of it at present than might suit the circumstances of this Country when it shall be first wanted. A plan comprehending more may be executed at a future period when the wealth, population. and importance of it shall stand upon much higher ground than they do at present.

How, and when you will be able to obtain plans of such buildings is with yourselves to decide on. No aid I am persuaded is to be expected from Major L'Enfant in the exhibition; rather, I apprehend, opposition and a reprobation of every one designed by any other however perfect.

The part, which, Mr. Walker, by your letter to me, and another from Mr. Johnson to Mr. Jefferson, appears to have acted, surprises me exceedingly; his interest in the City, and the discernment with which he seems to have viewed the measure, in the early stages of it, would have lead me to have drawn a different conclusion. The calumnies which seem to have been traced to him and the Major are more to be despised than to be

regarded or resented. More than once you will remember I have given it to you as my opinion, that it would be by sideblows and indirect attack that attempts would be made to defeat the Law. To sow the Seeds of dissension, jealousy, and distrust, are among the means that will be practiced. There is a current in this City which sets so strongly against every thing that relates to the Federal district that it is next to impossible to stem it. To this cause is to be ascribed the backwardness of the engraving. Danger from them is to be apprehended; and, in my opinion, from no other. The best antidote against them is

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perseverance, and vigorous exertion on the part of the Commissioners; and good temper, and mutual forbearance with one another, on the part of the proprietors; for who are so much interested in the success, and progress of the measure as they?

I see no necessity for diminishing the Square allotted for the Presidents House, &ca. at this time. It is easier at all times to retrench, than it is to enlarge a square; and a diviation from the plan in this instance would open the door to other applications, which might perplex, embarrass and delay business exceedingly; and end, more than probably, in violent discontents.

Where you will find a character qualified in all respects for a Superintendant, I know not; none present themselves to my

view; yet, one must be had. A better than Mr. Ellicott for all matters, at present, can not be had. No one I presume, can lay out the ground with more accuracy, lay out the squares, and divide them into lots better. He must understand levelling also perfectly, and has, I suppose competent skill in the conducting of Water. Beyond these, your opportunities to form an opinion of him must exceed mine. Whether he is a man of arrangement, is sober, and Industrious, are matters unknown to me. I believe he is obliging, and he would be perfectly Subordinate. What he asks, five dollars a day (if Sundays are included) seems high, but whether a fit character can be had for less I am unable to say. ...39

The Plan of the City having met universal applause (as far as my information goes) and Major L'Enfant having become a very discontented man, it was thought that less than from 2500 to 3000 dollars would not be proper to offer him for his services: instead of this, suppose five hundred guineas and a Lot in a good part of the City was to be substituted? I think it would be more pleasing, and less expensive. I have never exchanged a

39. At this point a marginal insertion is indicated; but the blurred condition of the press copy renders it indecipherable.

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word with Mr. Roberdeau since he came to this place, consequently, am unable to relate, what his expressions have been, or what his ideas are; he lives with, and more than probably partakes of the sentiments of Majr. L'Enfant; unless the dismissal of the latter may have worked a change in them, which, not unlikely, is the case with both; as I can hardly conceive that either of them contemplated the result of their conduct.

Although what I am going to add may be a calumny, it is nevertheless necessary that you should be apprised of the report that Colo. Deakins applies the public money in his hands to speculative purposes; and is unable, at times, to answer the call of the workmen, an instance has been given. There are doubts also of the sincerity of Mr. Frans. Cabot. Of both these matters you are to judge from the evidence before you. I have nothing to charge either with, myself; these hints are disclosed in confidence, to place you on your guard.

The idea of importing Germans and Highlanders, as Artizans and labourers, has been touched upon in the letter from Mr. Jefferson to the Commissioners. It is, in my opinion worthy of serious consideration in an œconomical point of view, and because it will contribute to the population of the place. The enclosed extract of a letter from General Lincoln to Mr. Lear is sent, that you may see the prospect in that Quarter.

The General is a candid undesigning man, in whose word much confidence may be placed; and having been in this City, and laterly returned from it, has had opportunities of making the remarks which are contained in the extract.

I began with telling you, that I should not write a lengthy letter, but the result has contradicted it. It is to be considered as a private letter, in answer to yours of the 26th Ultó; but it may under that idea be communicated to your associates in Office. They, and you, must receive it, blotted and scratched as you find it, for I have not time to copy it. It is now ten oclock at night (after my usual hour for retiring to rest) and the mail will be closed early tomorrow morning. Sincerely &c.40

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40. From a press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 9 Washington inclosed this letter in a note to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia: "The enclosed is an answer to a private letter from Doctr. Stuart, It relates as his did wholly to the affairs under your direction; and may therefore be opened by either of the Comrs. but no other, as there are some confidential communications to them *alone*." This letter is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers*.

To GOVERNOR ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Philadelphia, March 28, 1792.

Sir: Your knowledge of the Country north-west of the Ohio, and of the resources for an Army in its vicinity, added to a full confidence in your military character, founded on mature experience, induced my nomination of you to the command of the troops on the frontiers.

Your desire of rectifying any errors of the public opinion, relatively to your conduct, by an investigation of a Court of Enquiry, is highly laudable, and would be readily complied with, were the measure practicable. But a total deficiency of Officers, in actual service, of competent rank to form a legal Court, for that purpose, precludes the power of gratifying your wishes on this occasion.

The intimation of your readiness to afford your successor all the information of which you are capable, although unnecessary for my personal conviction, must be regarded as an additional evidence of the goodness of your heart, and of your attachment to your Country. I am &c.33

[H.L.]

33. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

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In the *St. Clair Papers* (Smith edition, Cincinnati: 1882), vol. 2, p. 284, the following paragraph is added to the printed text of this letter: "Private. While I accept your resignation for the cause you state, I sincerely regret the occasion. I fervently hope that your health may be perfectly re-established, and that you may enjoy uninterrupted happiness." (See Washington's letter to the Secretary of State, Mar. 2, 1792, *ante*.)

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Philadelphia, January 31, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your letter of this date requesting to be informed whether you understood the President rightly upon the following points respecting the demolition Mr. Carroll's house.

Question 1st. Whether payment could be ordered to Carroll for more of his House than was run up, when he executed his agreement? Answer, upon this point the Attorney General's opinion is desired.

Question 2d. Can a written opposition to a greater payment being made, be seen by the Attorney General?

Answer, said opposition is enclosed in a letter from the Commissioners of the 21st. of december, and herewith transmitted.

Question 3d. Is not the President willing *now* to pay for the whole of the destruction if he can use the means?

Answer. The President's alternative to Mr. Carroll, before he knew this destruction was commenced shews his ideas on this point, and he

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observes that he still adheres to it, unless a legal opposition arises to it from an agreement with Mr. Carroll.⁶⁵

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

To GOVERNOR ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

United States, April 4, 1792.

Sir: I have read and duly considered your letter of the 31st ultimo. The reasons you offer, for retaining your commission, until an opportunity should be presented, if necessary, of investigating your conduct, in every mode prescribed by law, would be conclusive with me, under any other circumstances than the present. But, the establishment of the troops allows only of one major general. You have manifested your intention of retiring, and the essential interests of the public require, that your successor should be immediately appointed, in order to repair to the frontiers.

As the house of Representatives have been pleased to institute an enquiry into the causes of the failure of the late expedition, I should hope an opportunity would thereby be afforded you, of explaining your conduct, in a manner satisfactory to the public and yourself.⁴³

To REVEREND JOHN CARROLL⁴⁹

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Philadelphia, April 10, 1792.

Sir: I have received and duly considered your memorial of the 20th. ultimo, on the

43. From the printed text in the *Territorial Papers of the United States* (C. E. Carter edition, Washington: 1934), vol. 2, p. 386.

49. First Roman Catholic Bishop in the United States. He lived in Baltimore, Md.

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subject of the instructing the Indians within, and contiguous to the United States, in the principles and duties of christianity.

The war now existing between the United States and some tribes of the western Indians prevents, for the present, any interference of this nature with them. The Indians of the five nations are, in their religious concerns, under the immediate superintendance of the Revd. Mr. Kirkland; and those who dwell in the eastern extremity of the United States are, according to the best information that I can obtain, so situated as to be rather considered as a part of the inhabitants of the State of massachusetts than otherwise, and that State has always considered them as under its immediate care and protection. Any application therefore relative to these Indians, for the purposes mentioned in your memorial, would seem most proper to be made to the Government of massachusetts. The original letters on this subject, which were submitted to my inspection, have been returned to Charles Carroll, Esq. of 50

Impressed as I am with an opinion, that the most effectual means of securing the permanent attachment of our savage neighbors, is to convince them that we are just, and to shew them that a proper and friendly intercourse with us would be for our mutual advantage: I can

50. Carrollton.

not conclude without giving you my thanks for your pious and benevolent wishes to effect this desirable end, upon the mild principles of Religion and Philanthropy. And when a proper occasion shall offer, I have no doubt but such measures will be pursued as may seem best calculated to communicate liberal instruction, and the blessings of society, to their untutored minds. With very great esteem etc.51

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

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To LOUIS SIGEUR

Philadelphia, May 4, 1792.

Sir: I received with much satisfaction

the information of your having made an acquisition in this Country,⁸¹ and of your intentions to take up your residence among us. Your letter of the 30th. of September, giving me this information, did not get to my hands 'till some time in the last month.

The United States open, as it were, a new world to those who are disposed to retire from the noise and bustle of the old, and enjoy tranquility and security.

And we shall always consider men of your character as among our most valuable acquisitions.

Our connection with France, formed in a gloomy and distressful hour, must ever interest us in the happiness of that nation.

We have seen, with true commiseration, those outrages, inseparable from a Revolution, which have agitated the Kingdom, and we have not ceased our most fervent wishes that, their termination may be as happy as their progress has been distressing. With great esteem I am etc.⁸²

81. Sigeur had purchased from Robert Morris a place near Wilmington, Del.

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

To ANDREW HAMILTON⁸³

Philadelphia, May 4, 1792.

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Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your polite letter of the 12th. of December, together with a copy of "An Enquiry into the Principles of taxation," which accompanied it, and for which I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks.

The subject of your book is certainly of the first importance to society; and those who undertake works of this nature, upon the extensive scale that yours appears to be, are entitled to the thanks of the patriotic of every nation. In this country, where we are commencing a Government upon the experience of ages, it certainly behoves us to search into the "Principles of Taxation" and avoid as much as possible the errors of other nations on this very important head. We must therefore receive with peculiar satisfaction any lights on the subject.

Your philanthropic wish "to see the world at large encreasing in knowledge, prosperity and happiness," is no less pleasing to me as a Citizen of the World, than your expressions of personal respect are deserving the acknowledgments of Sir, Your etc.⁸⁴

83. Of Edinburgh, Scotland.

84. From a photostat of the original in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in the *Hamilton-Bruce Collection*, Register House, Edinburgh, through the courtesy of William Angus, Keeper of the Records of Scotland.

To WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, May 5, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of last month, and the seeds you had the goodness to send me by Mr. Pinckney. The plants and trees which arrived at Norfolk have reached Mount Vernon in pretty good order. My thanks and acknowledgments are due to you, my dear Sir, for the kind attention which you have paid to my wishes with respect to the seeds, plants &c. You must likewise accept of them

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for the detail which you have been so good as to give, of the mode of carrying on a war against the Indians; and the cloathing of the Troops to be employed in that service &c.

The first wish of the United States with respect to the Indians is, to be at peace with them all, and to cultivate a good understanding to our mutual benefit. As we have not been able to obtain this without the effusion of blood, the next wish is, to pursue such measures

as may terminate the hostilities in the speediest manner, and most for the honor and interest of the U.S. Observations, therefore, which are founded in experience, tending to effect this, cannot but merit the thanks and acknowledgements of those who have the management of public affairs. I am much pleased to hear that the picture by Colo. Trumbull, gives so much satisfaction. The merit of this Artist cannot fail to give much pleasure to those of his Countrymen who possess a taste for the fine arts: and I know of no part of the U.S. where it would be put to a stronger test than in South Carolina. With sincere regard, and best wishes for your health etc.⁸⁵

85. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge. From a facsimile kindly furnished by the Moultrie Memorial Association, Charleston, S. C.

To ROBERT SINCLAIR⁸⁷

Philadelphia, May 6, 1792.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 12th. of december, in which you request information respecting Captain James Mackey, and likewise respecting the part of this country which would be the most elligible for forming an establishment as a farmer or planter.

The only information in my power to give you on the first head is, that my acquaintance with Capt. Mackay commenced in the army in the year 1754, when I commanded the troops which were sent to prevent the encroachments of the French upon the western boundaries of the then colonies. Captain Mackay then commanded an Independant

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Company either from Georgia or South-Carolina, and was captured with me by an army of french and Indians at a place called the great-meadows. In 1755

87. Of Scotland.

he left the service, sold out, and went to Georgia. I heard nothing of him from that time 'till about five or six years ago, when he went, by water, from Georgia to Rhode Island on account of his health. On his return to Georgia, by land, he was seized either by the complaint for which he had gone to Rhode Island, or by some other disorder, and died at Alexandria (not at my house as your letter mentions). I was not informed of his being at Alexandria until after his death, which was a circumstance that I regretted much, not only on account of the regard which I had for him from our former acquaintance, but because I understood that he was then on his way to pay me a visit, and had expressed an anxious desire to see me before he died. I do not know whether Captain Mackay left any family or not; for from the time of his quitting the Service, until his death, as I observed before, I knew nothing of him. I have, however, been informed that he was possessed of a handsome property in Georgia.

On the second head of your enquiry, I can hardly venture to give you an opinion. I do not, however, imagine that an establishment on the banks of the Mississippi would at this time be a very desirable one, and even the western parts of the U. States lying on the waters running into the Mississippi (which is perhaps as fertile a country as any in the world) are now disturbed by the hostilities of some of the Indian tribes

bordering upon them, and from that cause are at *this moment* unfriendly to new settlements. This evil will, however, I trust, be shortly removed, and Settlers sit down there in safety.

I can observe generally that the United States, from their extent, offer a variety of climate, soil and situations that no Country in Europe can afford, and that in cheapness of land and in the blessings of civil and religious liberty, they stand perhaps unrivalled by any civilized

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nation on earth. To a person who intends to pursue the farming or planting business, and is possessed of the Capital which you mention, I should think some one of the middle states, from New-york to Virginia, both inclusive, would hold out the best advantages, they are free from the inconveniences peculiar to either extreme, and unite most of the advantages of both, they afford to the farmer a ready market for his produce, the country is intersected by large and numerous Rivers, and the spirit which now prevails for improving inland navigation promises to secure a cheap and easy transportation from the most interior parts of the Country to the shipping ports.

Your idea of bringing over Highlander's appears to be a good one. They are a hardy industrious people, well calculated to form new settlements, and will in time become valuable citizens.

Before I close this subject I would observe, that many persons in Europe who have purchased land in this country for the purpose of settling upon it themselves, have, on their arrival, after examining their purchase, been disappointed in their expectations respecting it. Exaggerations, if not misrepresentations are apt to be made of objects at so great a distance, and those who have lands for sale will naturally give them a gloss which perhaps a purchaser would hardly fine.

It would therefore be much more satisfactory to the purchaser, and far more creditable to the Country, if those persons who wish to purchase land here, and become settlers upon it themselves, would come into the country and purchase upon the spot; they would then suit their taste in point of situation, have a variety to chuse from and see and learn with truth all the circumstances necessary for them to know, to become Settlers.

When this method is pursued, I am persuaded that every one who comes over with a view to establish himself here may do it much to his satisfaction, and if he has with him the means of purchasing, it can certainly be done on much better terms than it could be through an Agent. I am etc.88

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

To REVEREND WILLIAM SMITH⁹²

Philadelphia, May 8, 1792.

Sir: I learn with much satisfaction from your letter of the 28th. of April, that you propose to undertake a history of the American revolution,

92. Formerly provost of the College of Philadelphia, Pa.

and shall with pleasure procure you any aids I can towards the faithful execution of the work.

I will, therefore, desire the heads of the executive departments to communicate to you such papers of useful information in their respective offices as they, in their discretion, shall think may be communicated with propriety. I am etc.⁹³

To GOVERNOR GENERAL BRETAGNE¹⁴

Philadelphia, June 3, 1792.

Sir: I have received the duplicate of the polite letter which you did me the honor of writing to me on the 28th. of may 1791. The first has not reached my hands.

The obliging manner in which you express your wishes to prove the sincerity of your attachment to the United States by keeping up and encouraging the treaty of amity which unites France and America, merits the acknowledgments of the good citizens of this Country, as well as the protection which you mention to have given to the American Vessels on the coast of the Isle of Belle Isle, where you commanded in the late war.

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The Constitution of the Society of the Cincinnati does not permit the President to decide on the qualifications for admission into that Society. He can only grant diplomas to such as may have been admitted in

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

14. Of the French Windward Islands.

On June 6 Washington signed form letters to the King and Queen of Great Britain (George III and Charlotte Sophia, of Mecklenburg-Strelitz), announcing the appointment of Thomas Pinckney as Minister to Great Britain. Drafts of these forms by Thomas Jefferson are in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

conformity to the general Institution. And in order to be better informed of the pretensions of foreign Officers for admission, power was given to Count de Rochambeau, the Marquis de la Fayette and the Count d'Estaing to admit such as should appear to have well-grounded pretensions, to wear the Insignia of the Order; and the Certificate of those Gentlemen being transmitted to the Secretary of the Society (which office is now filled by General Knox) will entitle the person to whom it is granted to a Diploma.

With sentiments of due consideration I have the honor etc.

[H.S.P.]

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, June 8, 1792.

Gentlemen: The Bearer of this, Mr. James Hoben, ¹⁵ was strongly recommended to me by Colo. Laurens, and several other gentlemen of South-Carolina when I was there last year, as a person who had made architecture his study, and was well qualified, not only for planning or designing buildings, but to superintend the execution of them. He informs

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me that he intends to produce plans of the two buildings next month, agreeably to the advertisement of the Commissioners, and is now on his way to view the ground on which they are

15. Hoban. His plans for the President's house were judged the best and he chose the gold medal offered in the "Premium" advertisement. (See Approval of a Competition, Mar. 6, 1792, *ante*.)

to stand. I have given him this letter of introduction, in order that he might have an opportunity of communicating his views and wishes to you, or of obtaining any information necessary for completing the plans. But, as I have no knowledge of the man or his talents, further than the information which I received from the Gentlemen in Carolina, you must consider this letter merely as a line of introduction, for the purposes mentioned. With esteem etc.¹⁶

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

To CAPTAIN THOMAS FORREST²⁸

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.

Sir: The publication which you had the politeness to send me last fall, entitled "Proceedings relative to Ships tendered for the service of the united East India Company," reached my hands some time in April; and lately I have been favored with your voyage from Calcutta &c.

These marks of attention are received, with gratitude, and merit my best thanks, which I beg you to accept for your very great politeness. I am etc.²⁹

28. Of London.

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

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To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.³⁰

Sir: I had the pleasure a few days ago to receive your letter of the 28th. of September, enclosing a letter from the Earl of Buchan, and accompanied with some Seeds of the Swedish Turnip or *Ruta Baga* . At the same time I received from Mr. Campbell,³¹ a Bookseller in New York *Six* volumes of the Bee,³² which he informed me were transmitted by your directions. In your letter you mention'd having sent the *four* first volumes of the Bee, and the Earl mentions in his that he has sent me a sett. I therefore concluded, that the six volumes which I have received are those mentioned by his Lordship; and especially as the pamphlet on wool, by Sir John Sinclair, which you observed in your letter accompanied the Books which you sent was not with those which I received. I mention these circumstances in order that, if there is any mistake in the transmission of the books, it may be set right.

I feel no less grateful, Sir, for your polite attention, whether the books which I have received be those sent by yourself or by the Earl. I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the Swedish Turnip seed, and the particular account which you were so good as to give me respecting it. As I have spent great part of my life (and that not the least pleasing) in rural affairs, I am always obliged by receiving such communications or novelties in that way, as may tend to promote the system of husbandry in this Country.

When you first determined upon publishing the Bee, the Earl of Buchan had the goodness to transmit to me the plan of

30. Sparks and Ford print this letter as of June 26.

31. Samuel Campbell.

32. An Edinburgh periodical devoted to agriculture, politics, and miscellany.

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the work, with which I was much pleased, and from the answer which I then gave to his Lordship's letter, I have considered myself as a subscriber to the publication, and must beg to be informed to whom, or in what manner I shall cause payment to be made for it.

I have not yet had it in my power to peruse those volumes of the Bee, wch. I have received, but I promise myself much entertainment and information from them; for the extensive and liberal ground upon which you appear to have undertaken the work, must make it interesting to the good Citizens of every Country, and for your complete success in it you have my best wishes. I am &c.³³

To REVEREND GEORGE SKENE KEITH⁴¹

Philadelphia, June 22, 1792.

Revd. Sir: I have received your letter of the 14th. of January, together with the Copies of a pamphlet on Weights, Measures and Coins, which accompanied it.

On the 7th. of May I acknowledged the receipt of your letter⁴² dated July 1st. 1791, and its enclosure, which did not get to my hands 'till sometimes this Spring.

I have now to request you will accept my thanks for this further

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

41. Then located near Aberdeen, Scotland.

42. This acknowledgment, a brief note by Tobias Lear, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

mark of politeness and attention in sending me this additional number of your tracts, as well as for the manuscript which accompanied them. The subject of your Book is of high importance to society in general, and particularly to the Commercial World. If an uniformity

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of weights and measures could be established upon a proper foundation through the several nations of Europe and in the United States of America, it's advantages would be great indeed; and so important is the object that we ought not to lose sight of it, altho' it may not be attained at the present moment.

I have caused the letter to Mr. Barclay,⁴³ and one of the Pamphlets to be sent to Easton agreeably to your request. I am etc.⁴⁴

43. Rev. John Barclay, of St. Luke's parish, Easton, Md.

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

To WOODBURY LANGDON

July 2, 1792.

Sir: I am commanded by the President of the United States to inform you, that it is indispensably necessary you should without delay repair to the seat of Government to prosecute jointly with your colleagues the business of your office as Commissioner.⁵⁶ It being of great and real importance that the settlement of the public accounts should be brought to a close as speedily as possible; and, as in order to this, it is essential that it should be pursued with diligence and perseverance, I am further instructed by the President to say, that if any circumstances in your situation should be incompatible with your immediate and steady attendance, it is proper you should resign the Office; for, however he should regret the necessity of a change at such a stage of the business, which could not fail to be attended with inconvenience, he must regard this as a less evil than frequent interruptions of it's course, by absences of the Commissioners. I have the honor etc.⁵⁷

56. For settling accounts between the United States and individual States.

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57. This letter is signed "Tobs. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To DAVID RITTENHOUSE⁶⁵

United States of America, July 9, 1792.

Having had under consideration the letter of the Director of the Mint of this day's date, I hereby declare my approbation of the purchase he has made of the house and lot for the Mint; of the employment of Mr. Voight⁶⁶ as Coiner; of the procuring fifteen tons of Copper, and proceedings to coin the Cents and half Cents of Copper, and Dimes and half dimes of silver; and I leave to his discretion to have such alterations and additions made to the buildings purchased, as he shall find necessary; satisfied that under his orders no expence will be incurred which reason and necessity will not justify. And I desire that he will make out an Estimate of the sums of money which will be wanting for these purposes, and of the times at which they will be wanting, in order to enable the Treasury to make arrangements for furnishing them with convenience.⁶⁷

65. Director of the United States Mint.

66. Henry Voight.

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A press copy of the draft, in Jefferson's writing, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To ROBERT MORRIS**

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Jno. Auge. Spotswood, son of General Spotswood. The enclosure, communicates the ideas of the father, and the wishes of the Son as fully as it is in my power to make them known to you, and when compared with the former letters from Genl. Spotswood to me, which you have seen, leaves nothing more

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for me to add on this subject than to say that your good Offices in behalf of the young Gentleman will oblige the father, the Son and myself.

I have no knowledge of the young man, nor have I the least reason to distrust the character given of him by his father; but it is a fathers account, and you, better than I well know whether any, and what allowances are to be made for it.

Mrs. Washington joins with me in a tender of best wishes for Mrs. Morris yourself the rest of the family. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.⁸¹

***To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Gentlemen: Your favor of the 19th, accompanying Judge Turner's⁸² plan for a Capitol,

81. From a photostat of the original in the possession of the Rosenbach Company, of New York (1930).

82. Judge George Turner.

I have duly received; and have no hesitation in declaring that I am more agreeably struck with the appearance of it than with any that has been presented to you. I return it without delay, because (among other reasons for doing it) Mr. Turner wishes to receive it, in any event, immediately.

There is the same defect, however, in this plan as there is in all the plans which have been presented to you, namely: the want of an Executive apartment: wch. ought, if possible, to be obtained. The Dome, which is suggested as an addition to the center of the edifice, would, in my opinion, give beauty and grandeur to the pile; and might be useful for the reception of a Clock, Bell, &ca. The Pilastrade too, in my judgment, ought (if the plan is adopted) to be carried around the semicircular projections at the ends; but whether it is

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necessary to have the elevation of the upper Storey 41 feet is questionable; unless it be to preserve exactness in the proportion of the several parts of the building; in that case, the smaller rooms in that Storey would be elevated sufficiently if cut in two, and would be the better for it in the interior provided they can be lighted. This would add to the number of Committee rooms of which there appears to be a deficiency: And quere, would not the section B in the North division of plan No. 2 be more usefully applied as a library than for the purpose it is designated?

Could such a plan as Judge Turner's be surrounded with Columns, and a colonade like that which was presented to you by Monsr. Hallet (the roof of Hallet's I must confess does not hit my taste) without departing from the principles of Architecture, and would not be too expensive for our means, it would, in my judgment, be a noble and desireable Structure.

But, I would have it understood in *this* instance, and *always* , when I am hazarding a sentiment on these buildings, that I profess to have no knowledge in Architecture, and think we should (to avoid criticisms) be governed by the established rules which are laid down by the professors of this Art.

I think you have engaged Mr. Hoben upon advantageous terms; and hope if his industry and honesty are of a piece with the specimen he has given of his abilities, he will prove a useful man and a considerable acquisition. The enclosed Is handed to you, merely because it is my wish that you should be possessed of every information of the kind that comes to my knowledge. The person therein mentioned (Stevens)⁸³ was a Lieutt. Colonel of Artillery during the War, and was (and for aught I know to the contrary, is) a Sober, honest and good tempered man. Very industrious, Fertile in invention and resources, and great at execution. He was, as I have been informed, bred a house Carpenter; but how well acquainted he may be with that business, or how far he may be able to carry on work in a masterly manner upon a grand scale, I have no data to decide upon. He is a native of Boston, but since the War has lived in New York, where he carries on the business of a lumber Merchant to (I believe) a considerable extent. With great esteem etc.⁸⁴

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83. Ebenezer Stevens, of Rhode Island.

84. From the *Letter of the President of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress, where some later scribe has changed the year to 1793. The A. Df. S. in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* varies from this letter sent in minor verbal details only.

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

(Private and Confidential)

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1792.

My dear Sir: I have not yet received the new regulation of allowances to the Surveyors, or Collectors of the duties on Spirituous liquors; but this by the bye. My present purpose is to write you a letter on a more interesting and important subject. I do it in strict confidence, and with frankness and freedom.

On my way home, and since my arrival here, I have endeavoured to learn from sensible and moderate men, known friends to the Government, the sentiments which are entertained of public measures. These all agree that the Country is prosperous and happy; but they seem to be alarmed at that system of policy, and those interpretations of the Constitution which have taken place in Congress. Others, less friendly perhaps to the Government, and more disposed to arraign the conduct of its Officers (among whom may be classed my neighbour, and quandom friend Colo. M85) go further, and enumerate a variety of matters, wch. as well as I can recollect, may be adduced under the following heads. Viz.

First. That the public debt is greater than we can possibly pay before other causes of adding new debt to it will occur; and that this has been artificially created by adding

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together the whole amount of the debtor and creditor sides of the accounts, instead of taking only their balances; which could have been paid off in a short time.

2d. That this accumulation of debt has taken for ever out of our power those easy sources of revenue, which, applied to the ordinary necessities

85. George Mason.

and exigencies of Government, would have answered them habitually, and covered us from habitual murmurings against taxes and tax gatherers; reserving extraordinary calls, for extraordinary occasions, would animate the People to meet them.

3d. That the calls for money have been no greater than we must generally expect, for the same or equivalent exigencies; yet we are already obliged to strain the *impost* till it produces clamour, and will produce evasion, and war on our Citizens to collect it, and even to resort to an *Excise* law, of odious character with the people; partial in its operation; unproductive unless enforced by arbitrary and vexatious means; and committing the authority of the Government in parts where resistance is most probable, and coercion least practicable.

4th. They cite propositions in Congress, and suspect other projects on foot, still to encrease the mass of the debt.

5th. They say that by borrowing at # of the interest, we might have paid off the principal in # of the time; but that from this we are precluded by its being made irredeemable but in small portions, and long terms.

6th. That this irredeemable quality was given it for the avowed purpose of inviting its transfer to foreign Countries.

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7th. They predict that this transfer of the principal, when compleated, will occasion an exportation of 3 millions of dollars annually for the interest; a drain of Coin, of which as there has been no example, no calculation can be made of its consequences.

8th. That the banishment of our Coin will be compleated by the creation of 10 millions of paper money, in the form of Bank-

bills, now issuing into circulation.

9th. They think the 10 or 12 pr. Ct. annual profit, paid to the lenders of this paper medium, are taken out of the pockets of the people, who would have had without interest the coin it is banishing.

10th. That all the Capitol employed in paper speculation is barren and useless, producing, like that on a gaming table, no accession to itself, and is withdrawn from Commerce and Agriculture where it would have produced addition to the common mass.

11th. That it nourishes in our citizens vice and idleness instead of industry and morality.

12th. That it has furnished effectual means of corrupting such a portion of the legislature, as turns the balance between the honest Voters whichever way it is directed.

13th. That this corrupt squadron, deciding the voice of the legislature, have manifested their dispositions to get rid of the limitations imposed by the Constitution on the general legislature; limitations, on the faith of which, the States acceded to that instrument.

14th. That the utlimate object of all this is to prepare the way for a change, from the present republican form of Government, to that of a monarchy; of which the British Constitution is to be the model.

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15th. That this was contemplated in the Convention, they say is no secret, because its partisans have made none of it; to effect it then was impracticable; but they are still eager after their object, and are predisposing every thing for its ultimate attainment.

16th. So many of them have got into the legislature, that, aided by the corrupt squadron of paper dealers, who are at their devotion, they make a majority in both houses.

17th. The republican party who wish to preserve

the Government in its present form, are fewer even when joined by the two, three, or half a dozen antifederalists, who, tho' they dare not avow it, are still opposed to any general Government: but being less so to a republican than a Monarchical one, they naturally join those whom they think pursuing the lesser evil.

18th. Of all the mischiefs objected to the system of measures before mentioned, none they add is so afflicting, and fatal to every honest hope, as the corruption of the legislature. As it was the earliest of these measures it became the instrument for producing the rest, and will be the instrument for producing in future a King, Lords and Commons; or whatever else those who direct it may chuse. Withdrawn such a distance from the eye of their Constituents, and these so dispersed as to be inaccessible to the public information, and particularly to that of the conduct of their own Representatives, they will form the worst Government upon earth, if the means of their corruption be not prevented.

19th. The only hope of safety they say, hangs now on the numerous representation which is to come forward the ensuing year; but should the majority of the new members be still in the same principles with the present; shew so much dereliction to republican government, and such a disposition to encroach upon, or explain away the limited powers of the Constitution in order to change it, it is not easy to conjecture what would be the result, nor what means would be resorted to for the correction of the evil. True wisdom they acknowledge should direct temperate and peaceable measures; but add,

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the division of sentiment and interest happens unfortunately, to be so geographical, that no mortal can say that what is most wise and temperate, would prevail against what is more easy and obvious; they declare, they can contemplate no evil more incalculable than the breaking of the Union into two, or more parts; yet, when they view the mass which opposed the original coalescence, when they consider that it lay chiefly in the Southern quarter, that the legislature have availed themselves of no occasion of allaying it, but on the contrary whenever Northern and Southern prejudices have come into conflict, the latter have been sacrificed and the former soothed.

20th. That the owers of the debt are in the Southern and the holders of it in the Northern division.

21st. That the antifederal champions are now strengthened in argument by the fulfilment of their predictions, which has been brought about by the Monarchical federalists themselves; who, having been for the New government merely as a stepping stone to Monarchy, have themselves adopted the very construction, of which, when advocating its acceptance before the tribunal of the people, they declared it insusceptable; whilst the republican federalists, who espoused the same government for its intrinsic merits, are disarmed of their weapons, that which they denied as prophecy being now become true history. Who, therefore, can be sure they ask, that these things may not proselyte the small number which was wanting to place the majority on the other side; and this they add is the event at which they tremble.⁸⁶

These, as well as my memory serves me, are the sentiments which, directly and indirectly, have been disclosed to me. To obtain light, and

86. The numbered paragraphs are, practically, verbatim copies from Jefferson's letter to Washington, May 23, 1792, which is in the *Washington Papers*. It is printed in *Jefferson's Writings* (P L. Ford, editor, Federal edition: 1904), vol. 6, p. 487.

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Hamilton's reply to this letter is dated Aug. 18, 1792, and is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. His inclosing letter, of the same date, is in the *Washington Papers*. Both are printed in *Hamilton's Works* (Lodge edition, 1904), vol. 2, pp. 426, *et seq.*

to pursue truth, being my sole aim; and wishing to have before me *explanations* of as well as the *complaints* on measures in which the public interest, harmony and peace is so deeply concerned, and my public conduct so much involved; it is my request, and you would oblige me by furnishing me, with your ideas upon the discontents here enumerated; and for this purpose I have thrown them into heads or sections, and numbered them that those ideas may apply to the correspondent numbers. Although I do not mean to hurry you in giving your thoughts on the occasion of this letter, yet, as soon as you can make it convenient to yourself it would, for more reasons than one, be agreeable, and very satisfactory to me.

The enclosure in your letter of the 16th was sent back the Post after I received it, with my approving signature; and in a few days I will write to the purpose mentioned in your letter of the 22d. both to the Secretary of War and yourself. At present all my business, public and private, is on my own shoulders; the two young Gentlemen who came home with me, being on visits to their friends, and my Nephew, the Major, too much indisposed to afford me any aid, in copying or in other matters. With affectionate regard &c.⁸⁷

87. From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To JAMES McHENRY**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your Letter of the 17th. of July came duly to hand. I could, with pleasure, spend a day in Baltimore on my return to Philadelphia, if time and circumstances would permit,

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but it is not for me at this moment to say whether either would suit: besides, I shall confess to you candidly, I have no relish for formal and ceremonious engagements and only give into them when they cannot be avoided; among other reasons, because it oftentimes, if not always, proves inconvenient to *some* of the party bestowing, if it is not to the party receiving the compliment of a public dinner; being, a tax which I am as unwilling to impose, as many are to pay if false delicacy would allow them to express their real sentiments. If it should so happen that I can, conveniently, spend a day in Baltimore as I return it would give me pleasure to dine with yourself and a few other friends in a social way; and on this footing let the matter rest, as no previous notice of my coming is necessary in this case.

Having begun a letter to you, I will add something to it of public concern, Mr. Potts,⁷ the District Attorney of Maryland, has resigned that Office. Who in general estimation is best qualified to fill it? Mr. Robt. Smith has been spoken of. Mr. Hollingsworth⁸ has been mentioned, and Mr. Tilghman⁹ and Mr. Hammond have also been thought of, but the two last living on the Eastern Shore; and Baltimore, being the principal theatre for the Courts, it would be inconvenient to both those Gentlemen to

7. Richard Potts.

8. Zebulon Hollingsworth.

9. William Tilghman.

attend and the appointment no inducement to their removal. Which then of the other two would be most eligible? Would Mr. Smith if he should be deemed *most* so, accept? or is there any other person more preeminently qualified than either of the Gentlemen I have named? Your sentiments, freely given, on these enquiries will much oblige Dear Sir etc.

To JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1792.

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Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 26 ulto. enclosing one from Mr. Barclay, containing the Petition of our prisoners in Algiers, came duly to hand. Everything that my powers and means will enable me to do consistent with justice and policy, shall not be wanting to the relief of these unfortunate captives; and I would fain hope they will not be ineffectually employed. With sincere esteem and affectionate regard, I am etc.19

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

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 26, 1792.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. enclosing answers to certain objections communicated to you in my letter of the 29th. Ult. came duly to hand; and although I have not, at yet, from a variety of causes, been able to give them the attentive reading I mean to bestow, I feel myself much obliged by the trouble you have taken to answer them; as I persuade myself, from the full manner in which you appear to have taken up the Subject, that I shall receive both satisfaction and profit from the perusal.

Differences in political opinions are as unavoidable as, to a certain point, they may, perhaps, be necessary; but it is exceedingly to be regretted that subjects cannot be discussed with temper on the one hand, or decisions submitted to without having the motives which led to them improperly implicated on the other: and this regret borders on chagrin when we find that men of abilities, zealous patriots, having the same *general* objects in view, and the same upright intentions to prosecute them, will not exercise more charity in deciding on the opinions and actions of one another. When matters get to such lengths, the natural inference is, that both sides have strained the Cords beyond their bearing, and, that a middle course would be found the best, until experience shall have

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decided on the right way, or, which is not to be expected, because it is denied to mortals, there shall be some *infallible* rule by which we could *fore-judge*

events.

Having premised these things, I would fain hope that liberal allowances will be made for the political opinions of each other; and instead of those wounding suspicions, and irritating charges, with which some of our Gazettes are so strongly impregnated, and cannot fail if persevered in, of pushing matters to extremity, and thereby to tare the Machine asunder, that there might be mutual forbearances and temporizing yieldings *on all sides* . Without these I do not see how the Reins of government are to be managed, or how the Union of the States can be much longer preserved.

How unfortunate would it be if a fabric so goodly, erected under so many Providential circumstances, and in its first stages, having acquired such respectability, should from diversity of sentiments or internal obstructions to some of the acts of Government (for I cannot prevail on myself to believe that these measures are as yet the deliberate acts of a determined party) should be harrowing our vitals in such a manner as to have brought us to the verge of dissolution. Melancholy thought! But one at the same time that it shows the consequences of diversified opinions, when pushed with too much tenacity, it exhibits evidence also of the necessity of accommodation, and of the propriety of adopting such healing measures as may restore harmony to the discordant members of the Union, and the Governing powers of it.

I do not mean to apply this advice to any measures which are

passed or to any particular character; I have given it in the same *general* terms to other Officers of the Government. My earnest wish is, that balsam may be poured into *all* the wounds which have been given, to prevent them from gangrening and from those fatal consequences which the community may sustain if it is withheld. The friends of the Union

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must wish this; those who are not, but wish to see it rended, will be disappointed, and all things I hope will go well.

We have learnt through the medium of Mr. Harrison to Doctr. Craik, that you have some thoughts of taking a trip this way. I felt pleasure at hearing it, and hope it is unnecessary to add that it would be considerably encreased by seeing you under this roof; for you may be assured of the sincere and Affecte. regard of yours, &c.

PS. I pray you to Note down whatever may occur to you, not only in your own department but other matters also of general import that may be fit subjects for the Speech at the opening of the ensuing Session.

***To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 26, 1792.

My dear Sir: The purpose of this letter is merely to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 5th.²⁸ and 13th. instt., and to thank you for the information contained in both without entering

28. Randolph's long letter of this date is in the *Washington Papers*. In it he discusses the political situation of the United States and urges Washington to serve a second term. Among many important statements in that letter are these: "It is much to be regretted, that the judiciary, in spite of their apparent firmness in annulling the pension-law, are not, what some time hence they will be, a resource against the infractions of the constitution, on the one hand, and a steady asserter of the foederal rights, on the other. So crude is our judiciary system, so jealous are state-judges of their authority, so ambiguous is the language of the constitution, that the most probable quarter, from which an alarming discontent may proceed, is the rivalship of those two orders of judges....the precedent,

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fixed by the condemnation of the pension-law, if not reduced to its precise principles, may justify every constable in thwarting the laws. In this threatening posture of our affairs, we must gain time, for the purpose of attracting confidence in the government by an experience of its benefits, and that man alone, whose patronage secured the adoption of the constitution, can check the assaults, which it will sustain at the two next sessions of congress....Should a civil war arise, you cannot stay at home. And how much easier will it be, to disperse the factions, which are rushing to this catastrophe, than to subdue them, after they shall appear in arms? It is the fixed opinion of the world, that you surrender nothing incomplete. I am not unapprized of the many disagreeable sensations, which have laboured in your breast, But let them spring from any cause whatsoever, of one thing I am sure, (and I speak this from a satisfactory inquiry lately made) that if a second opportunity shall be given the people of showing their gratitude, they will not be less unanimous than before.”

into the details of either.

With respect, however, to the interesting subject treated on in that of the 5th., I can express but one sentiment at this time, and that is a wish, a devout one, that whatever my ultimate determination shall be, it may be for the best. The subject never recurs to my mind but with additional poignancy; and from the declining State in the health of my Nephew, to whom my concerns of a domestic and private nature are entrusted it comes with aggravated force. But as the allwise disposer of events has hitherto watched over my steps, I trust that in the important one I may soon be called upon to take, he will mark the course so plainly, as that I cannot mistake the way. In full hope of this, I will take no measure, yet a while, that will not leave me at liberty to decide from circumstances, and the best lights, I can obtain on the Subject.

I shall be happy in the mean time to see a cessation of the abuses of public Officers, and of those attacks upon almost every measure of government with which some of the Gazettes are so strongly impregnated; and which cannot fail, if persevered in with

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the malignancy they now teem, of rending the Union asunder. The Seeds of discontent, distrust, and irritations which are so plentifully sown, can scarcely fail to produce this effect and to Mar that prospect of happiness which perhaps never beamed with more effulgence upon any people under the Sun; and this too at a time when all Europe are gazing with admiration at

the brightness of our prospects. and for what is all this? Among other things, to afford Nuts for our transatlantic, what shall I call them? Foes!

In a word if the Government and the Officers of it are to be the constant theme for Newspaper abuse, and this too without condescending to investigate the motives or the facts, it will be impossible, I conceive, for any man living to manage the helm, or to keep the machine together. But I am running from my text, and therefore will only add assurances of the Affecte. esteem and regard with which I am &c.

[H.S.P.]

To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 31, 1792.

Dear Sir: The characters given of Messrs. Smith and Hollingsworth³⁰ by you, comports very much with those I have received from others, and therefore of the two, the preference is given to the former. But as neither stand upon such high grounds as Mr. Tilghman or Mr. Hammond, and it is my duty as well as inclination to fill offices with the most suitable characters I pray you to make all the indirect enquiry you can whether either of the last named Gentlemen would accept; and, as the nature of the Case seems to require, would make Baltimore the place of residence.

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If the result is unfavourable, be so good as to cause the enclosed to be delivered.³¹ This case requires a little delicacy in the management and I am persuaded it will receive it from you. I am, etc.³²

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you dated the 26th. of Augt., I have been favored with your Letter bearing the same date, covering Mr. Bordely's⁴³ "Sketches on rotations of Crops." Permit me thro' you to offer

30. Zebulon Hollingsworth. He was nominated November 19 for District Attorney of Maryland and confirmed by the Senate November 21.

31. The enclosure was the appointment of Robert Smith to succeed District Attorney Potts of Maryland. Smith declined.

32. From a copy in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

43. John Beale Bordley.

him my sincere thanks for this instance (among many others) of his politeness. The subject is interesting and important, and as soon as I have leisure, for at present I am fully occupied, I will give it an attentive perusal.

You add, "no incidents in the political line attract any notice, except those which relate to the supposed temper of Virginia, and the measures projected at the next Session. Of these you must have heard, and therefore I omit them."

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The truth is, I go out no where; and those who call upon me, observe a silence which leaves me in ignorance in all these matters. You would oblige me therefore by an explanation of the above paragraph. Colo. Bassett is here, he came up this day week to see my poor Nephew, who I suppose is near his end; but was seized hand and foot, with the Gout on the road, and has not been out of his bed since; nor in a condition to communicate what he knows, if he was disposed to do it. I am etc.⁴⁴

To JAMES SEAGROVE

Mount Vernon, September 4, 1792.

Sir: It was necessary for the express, that brought your despatches to me, to proceed to the War Office with my sentiments there upon. Enclosed you have the result. To these I have

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

nothing to add, but my entire approbation of the zeal and intelligence with which you have conducted matters with the Creek Indians; my good wishes for the perfect restoration of your health, and my hope that it may comport with your inclination and views to superintend that business, agreeably to the plan suggested by the Secretary of War.

As I do not perceive, that any mention is made of it in the letter from the Secretary of War to you, it may not be amiss to inform you, that one hundred dollars have been advanced to Mr. Jas. Jordan, to defray the expences of his journey; for which he must account to you. With esteem, I am &c.⁴⁵

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

To JOHN CHURCHMAN

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Mount Vernon, September 10, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of the 5th. did not get to my hands until the 8th; and this is the first opportunity that has since offered to give the receipt of it an acknowledgement. I have enclosed you two short letters of introduction to our Ministers at the Courts of London and Paris.⁴⁸ I wish your voyage may answer your own expectation, and that mankind may receive benefit from the discovery, being etc.⁴⁹

48. The letters of introduction to Thomas Pinckney and Gouverneur Morris are dated September 10 and are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The original of the letter to Morris is in the Huntington Library.

49. The original of this letter is in the possession of Edwin Churchman of New York.

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 11th. accompanying an Official one of the 9th. came safe, as did your other private letter of the 9th. and I feel myself obliged by the observations contained in, the first respecting the Proclamation.

As the former Proclamations, on similar occasions, have been Counter

signed by the Secretary of State, I have, for *that* reason, and for another which has some weight in my mind; thought it best not to depart in *this* instance from the precedent that has been set; and therefore, as it cannot (unless unforeseen delays happen) be with-held from you more than Six days longer than if it had been returned by this days Post, I dispatched, by Express, the Proclamation to Mr. Jefferson for the purpose above md.

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I have no doubt but that the Proclamation will undergo many strictures; and as the effect proposed may not be answered by it; it will be necessary to look forward in time to ulterior arrangements.; and here, not only the Constitution and Laws must strictly govern; but the employing of the regular Troops avoided if it be possible to effect order without their aid; otherwise there would be a cry at once, "The Cat is let out;59 we now see, for what purpose an Army was raised." Yet, if no other means will effectually answer, and the Constitution and Laws will authorise these they must be used as the Dernier resort.

If you remain in opinion, that it would be advisable for the Presidt. to transmit the Proclamation to the Govrs. of No. and So. Carolina, and to the Govr. of Pennsylvania, I pray you to draught such letters to them, to be forwarded from hence (with Proclamations wch. must also be sent to me) as you may think best calculated to produce the end proposed. I am &c.

59. "Of the Bag" is here crossed out.

To JAMES McHENRY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 21 [1792].

Dear Sir: Fearing some accident may have prevented my last (enclosing a letter for Mr. Robt. Smith) from reaching your hands,72 I take the liberty of giving you the trouble to receive this, requesting to be informed if this be the fact, and if not what has been the result of your enquiries in the business Committed to you.

I have had many applications in favor of Mr. Hollingsworth as a fit character for the Attorney, and lately, one from the District Judge in his behalf. No answer has been given to any of them, awaiting to hear from you first.

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With sincere esteem, etc.⁷³

***To GEORGE GALE⁶²**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 4th. Instr. came duly to hand, but previous to the receipt of it I had been under the necessity of giving the Secy. of the Treasury some direction for the Commd. of the Revenue Cutter of Maryland. I am not less obliged however ever for the trouble you have been at to obtain the information you gave me on this point.

72. On October 3 Washington wrote again to McHenry, asking him to hold the letter to Robert Smith in his hands until he (the President) returned to Philadelphia. A copy of this letter is in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

73. From a copy in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

62. Formerly Member of Congress from Maryland.

I would thank you for relating, in as precise terms as you can recollect, what you told me (as I passed through Baltimore) Colo. Mercer had said of my sentiments respecting his Speeches and opinions and conduct in Congress, and the manner in which he had come at or had understood them to be mine. With much esteem etc.⁶³

To HUGH WEST

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of this date is now before me.⁶⁷ I am very sorry that your endeavours to be employed in some one of the public Offices in Philada., have been unsuccessful;

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and hope the business which you have now in contemplation to undertake, may be attended with advantage. if, therefore, I can make it comport with my own numerous calls for money, I will furnish you with the sum requested in your Letter, before my return to Philadelphia.68 I am etc69

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

67. West's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

68. He requested the loan of \$100.

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

To THE GOVERNORS OF PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA

United States, September 29, 1792.

Sir: Inclosed you will find the copy of a Proclamation which I have thought proper to issue in consequence of certain irregular and refractory proceedings which have taken place in particular parts of some of the States, contravening the Laws therein mentioned81

I feel an entire confidence that the weight and influence of the Executive of—will be cheerfully exerted in every proper way, to further the objects of this measure, and to promote on every occasion, a due obedience to the Constitutional Laws of the Union. With respect, I am etc.82

***To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Mount Vernon, September 29, 1792.

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Gentlemen: Your letter of the 1st. instant from George Town came duly to hand. The delay in acknowledging the receipt of it, has proceeded from a belief that if the

81. Some opposition to the excise tax had developed in the Carolinas.

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

orders were transmitted before the sale of lots (appointed to be holden on the 8th. of next month) they would get to your hands in time.

Enclosed is an order from the President of the United States authorising the above Sale, and an another for disposing thereafter, of lots by private Sale, at such times, and on such terms as you shall deem best calculated to promote the growth of the Federal City, and the essential interests thereof.⁸³ With esteem I am etc.⁸⁴

83. A broadside issued in Sept. [?], 1792, giving the "Terms and Conditions declared by the President of the United States, this seventeenth day of October, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, for regulating the Materials and Manner of the Buildings and Improvements on the Lots in the City of Washington," and also "Terms of the Sale of Lots in the City of Washington, the Eighth Day of October, 1792," is in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

84. From *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, September 30, 1792.

Dear Sir: I was favored with your Letter of the 26th. Inst: enclosing one from Arthur Campbell Esqre., for the perusal of which I thank you. The information contained in it, is

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extremely agreeable, for it has brought the supposed dead to life, and a valuable man back to his Country again.

I congratulate you on your return to Richmond in good health. In a few days I shall commence my journey for Philadelphia. Always. I am etc.⁸⁶

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Sir: It is highly important that the proceedings in the Indictments of those who have opposed themselves *unwarrantably* to the Laws laying a duty on distilled Spirits, should be placed on legal ground and prosecuted properly; it is my desire, therefore, that you will attend the Circuit Court at York town, to be held the of this month, and see that that business is conducted in a manner to which no exception can be taken with propriety: and for the further purpose, also, of giving to this measure of Government a more solemn and serious aspect. I am &c.⁸⁷

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

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

***ERRORS OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE INDIANS**

[February, 1792.]

Have not these been repaired by the subsequent treaties, and purchases from those who claimed the Soil?

Some of the tribes it is said would not attend the Treaty at Fort Harmer, because they expected a relinquishment of their right to the land wd. be demanded.

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May it not rather be said, that while they could War with impunity, they were better pleased, and found it more profitable to plunder, than to hunt, especially as they were stimulated to the first by the B. Traders, and the withholding of the Western Posts from the U. States.

But, we are involved in actual War! Is it just? or, is it unjust?

Mr. H—6 cannot believe *fully* in the latter because he is for providing, *in part*, the means for carrying it on.

Is this to be done by Offensive, or defensive operations?

Defensive ones, I say, and I speak it boldly from experience, and from the nature of things, is not only impracticable against *such an enemy*, but the expence attending it would be ruinous both to our finances and frontier settlements.

If offensive measures are to be carried on, must not troops advance into the enemy's Country? What possible objection then can there be to the establishing of Posts there, when these Posts answer the double purposes of annoyance and security?

Cannot these Posts, if Peace should be concluded, be either demolished? or retained *merely* for the protection of our trade with these people; and to restrain settlements

6. Benjamin Hawkins, Senator from North Carolina.

on the Indian lands? without which it would be no easy matter. this, experience has proved, and Mr. H— is not to be told that the Miami Village is a considerable distance from the B— Garrison at Detroit; what cause then for alarm.

True it is, pacific Overtures, were to have preceeded hostile measures last Campaign, and as true it is they did so. Though *all* the avenues through which they were intended could not be opened, yet enough were opened to inform the Indians of the disposition of

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the government towards them, and the obstacles in the others are strong evidences of the difficulties this government have to encounter.

The Kiskaskies is a circuitous, if not a dangerous rout by which to communicate with the Indians, with whom we are at War.

The Canadian French, subjects to G. B. are not to be relied upon, unless particular characters could be selected, and that is hardly to be done with certainty and precision.

The defeat of the 4th. of November7 may be ascribed to several causes, perhaps to none, more justly than to the short enlistment of part of the force.

Mr. H—'s ideas and mine with respect to the force, the composition of the Troops, and the time for which they are to be engaged, differ very widely indeed for &ca. &ca., reasons to be assigned.

The number of hostile Indians, according to Mr. H—, is under rated. The estimate last year was 1200 when confined to the Miami and Wabash Tribes; *now* we have good reasons to believe that the Delawares, Wyendots and others were in the Action with Genl. St. Clair.

Plan of the Secretary of War having passed thro' the hands of the P— and remaining in them (as will appear by a recurrence to dates) ten or more days, is a strong presumption of its

7. Of St. Clair's expedition.

having been considered and approved by him.

Motives of delicacy have, uniformly restrained the P— from introducing any topick which relates to Legislative matters to members of either house of Congress, lest it should be suspected that he wished to influence the question before it.

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A Committee, from either house, would, in his opinion (so far as the business related to legislative matters) have been *new*, and embarrassing. If it did not mean to be governed by the sentiments which were drawn from the P— why ask his opinion, as the official application for, and disregard of them, could not fail to wound his feelings.

A free communication to a friend, on any matter depending, when *asked*, he would have no scruple to make.

The Sentiments of members of Senate, or their view, are unknown to the P— and what may be the object of the Secretary of War, or others he knows not; his own are not concealed. Nor can he see more danger in raising men for 3 years than for 3 months, when with-holding their pay and subsistence will discharge them at any time, but he can see an *immense* difference between the advantages of the one over the other. They are too numerous and selfevident to need detail: a few only will suffice; Short enlistments will, nay must, have an incontrollable influence upon *all* the operations. Long enlistments enable one to take advantage of time and circumstances. In the first case, before men become acquainted with

their duties or the Service they are destined for, their term expires; and there is to be a second edition of them. In the other case they grow more valuable every month, and at half the expence of new men. In the first case too it is impossible [to] retain a man an hour beyond the term of his engagement. In the other he is bound for three years and may be discharged in three months or three days if the Service will admit of it.

No man wishes less than the P— to see a standg. army established; but if Congress will not Exact a *proper* Militia law (not such a milk and water think [*sic*] as I expect to see if I ever see any) Defence, and the Garrisons will always require some Troops. It has ever been my opinion that a select Militia properly trained might supercede the necessity for these but I despair on that head.⁸

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, June 10, 1792.

My dear Sir: In the revolution of a great Nation we must not be surprized at the vicissitudes to which individuals are liable; and the changes they experience will always be in proportion to the weight of their public character; I was therefore not surprised, my dear Sir, at receiving your letter dated at Metz which you had the goodness to write me on the 22d of January. That personal ease and private enjoyment is not your primary object

8. This document is undated, but indorsed by Washington: "Communication of Sentiments to Mr. Hawkins consequent of a letter of his." This letter, dated February 10, is in the *Washington Papers*. Ford prints this document immediately after Oct. 10, 1791, without; however, assigning any date to it.

I well know, and until peace and tranquillity are restored to your Country upon permanent and honorable grounds I was fully persuaded, in my own mind, that you could not be permitted long to enjoy that domestic retirement, into which you had fondly entered.

Since the commencement of your revolution our attention has been drawn, with no small anxiety, almost to France alone; but at this moment Europe in general seems pregnant with great events, and to whatever nation we turn our eyes there appears to be more or less cause to believe, that an important change will take place at no very distant period. Those philanthropic spirits who regard the happiness of mankind are now watching the progress of things with the greatest solicitude, and consider the event of the present crisis as fixing the fate of man. How great! How important, therefore, is the part, which the actors in this momentous scene have to perform! Not only the fate of millions of the present day depends upon them, but the happiness of posterity is involved in their decisions.

You who are on the spot cannot, I presume, determine when or where these great beginnings will terminate, and for us, at this distance to pretend to give an opinion to

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that effect would at least be deemed presumptuous. We are however, anxious that the horrors of war may be avoided, if possible, and the rights of man so well understood and so permanently fixed, as while despotic oppression is avoided on the one hand,

licentiousness may not be substituted for liberty nor confusion take place of order on the other. The just medium cannot be expected to be found in a moment, the first vibrations always go to the extremes, and cool reason, which can alone establish a permanent and equal government, is as little to be expected in the tumults of popular commotion, as an attention to the liberties of the people is to be found in the clark Divan of a despotic tyrant.

I assure you, my dear Sir, I have not been a little anxious for your personal safety, and I have yet no grounds for removing that anxiety; but I have the consolation of believing that, if you should fall it will be in defence of that cause which your heart tells you is just. And to the care of that Providence, whose interposition and protection we have so often experienced, do I cheerfully commit you and your nation, trusting that he will bring order out of confusion, and finally place things upon the ground on which they ought to stand.

The affairs of the United States still go on in a prosperous train. We encrease daily in numbers and riches, and the people are blessed with the enjoyment of those rights which can alone give security and happiness to a Nation. The War with the Indians on our western frontier will, I hope, be terminated in the course of the present season without further effusion of blood; but, in case the measures taken to promote a pacification should fail, such steps are pursued as must, I think, render the issue by the sword very unfavorable to them.

Soon after the rising of Congress I made a journey to Mount Vernon, from whence

I returned but a few days ago, and expect, (if nothing of a public nature should occur to detain me here) to go there again some time next month with Mrs. Washington and her two little grand children, where we shall continue 'till near the next meeting of Congress.

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Your friends in this Country are interested in your welfare, and frequently enquire about you with an anxiety that bespeaks a warm affection. I am afraid my Nephew George, your old Aid, will never have his health perfectly re-established, he has lately been attacked with the alarming symptom of spitting large quantities of blood, and the Physicians give no hopes of a restoration unless it can be effected by a change of air, and a total dereliction of business, to which he is too anxiously attentive. [He will, if he should be taken from his family and friends leave three fine childn. viz. two Sons and a daughter, the eldest of the boys he has given the name of Fayette to and a fine looking child he is.]

Hamilton Knox Jay and Jefferson are well and remember you with affection. Mrs. Washington desires to be presented to you in terms of friendship and warm regard, to which I add my most affectionate wishes and sincere prayers for your health and happiness, and request you to make the same acceptable to Madm. le Fayette and your children. [I am &c.]¹⁷

17. The draft is by Tobias Lear. The words in brackets are in the writing of *Washington*.

***To THE EARL OF BUCHAN**

Philadelphia, June 20, 1792.

My Lord: I presume you will, long before this reaches you, have received my letter of the first of May, in answer to the honor of your Lordships favor of the 28th. of June, by Mr. Robinson.²⁵ In that letter, I have stated, that the reason of my having so long delayed acknowledging the receipt of it, was a wish that the portrait, which you were pleased to request, should accompany the letter.

It was not till the 10th. instant that I had the honor to receive your Lordships second favor of the 15th. of September which was enclosed in a letter from Doctr. James Anderson, and accompanied with *six* volumes of the Bee. These were forwarded by a Bookseller at New York, who mentions his having received directions from Doctr. Anderson to transmit

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them to me. I must therefore beg your Lordships acceptance of my warmest thanks for this additional testimony of your politeness. Considering myself as a subscriber to the *Bee* I have written to Doctor Anderson to know in what manner I shall pay the money,²⁶ that it may get regularly to his hands.

With sincere prayers for the health and happiness of your Lordship; and gratefully impressed with the many marks of attention which I have received from you. I have the honor etc.²⁷

25. Archibald Robertson.

26. Buchan has indorsed this letter with a statement that Washington had inclosed five guineas as his subscription to the *Bee*.

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

***To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 21, 1792.

My dear sir: Since writing to you on the 28th. of January I have received your several favors of the 27th. of Decr. from Paris; 4th. of February, 17th. and 21st. of March, and 6th. and 10th. of April from London. I thank you very much for the interesting, and important information contained in several of these letters particularly that of the 4th. of February. If the last article, of which it is comprised, should in your judgment, require an acknowledgment I shall rely on your goodness to make it in suitable and respectful terms. You can be at no loss to discover the paragraph to which I allude.³⁵

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The plot thickens, and development must have begun; but what the final issue will be, lies too deep for human ken. I will hope for the best, without allowing myself to wander in the field of conjecture for the result. Your letters, though extremely interesting in point of information, require but little to be said in the way of reply. The accts. given therein will be treasured up, to be acted upon as circumstances will warrant, and as occasions may present. One thing however I must not pass over in silence, lest you should infer from it that Mr. D—36 had authority for reporting that the United States had asked the mediation of G: Britain to bring about a peace between them and the Indians. You may be *fully* assured, Sir, that such mediation *never* was asked;

35. The French revolutionists were said to have set on foot a scheme for an alliance with Great Britain. “You may judge from hence,” wrote Morris, “how much Dependence is to be placed on these newfangled Statesmen, The King and Queen are wounded to the Soul by these rash Measures. They have I believe given all needful Assurances to The Emperor and King of Spain: a confidential Person has desired me to assure *you* on their Behalf that they are very far from wishing to change the System of French Politics and abandon their old Allies, and therefore if any advantage is taken of the present Advances to Britain that you will consider them as originating merely in the madness of the Moment, and not as proceeding from *them* or as meeting with *their* approbation, *but the contrary*.” Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

36. Henry Dundas. He was home secretary of Great Britain.

that the asking of it *never* was in contemplation, and, I think I might go further and say, that it not only *never will* be asked but would be rejected if offered. The United States will never have occasion, I hope, to ask for the interposition of that power or any other, to establish peace within their own territory.

That it is the wish of that Government to intermeddle and bring this measure to pass, many concurrent circumstances, (small indeed when singly considered), had left no doubt on

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my mind before your letter of the 6th. of April came to hand. What is there mentioned of the views of Mr. P—37 as well as of the assertions of Mr. D— is strong as “proof of holy writ” in confirmation of it. The attempt has, however, in its remotest movements, been so scouted as to have retarded, if it has not entirely done away the idea; but I do not hesitate to give it to you my *private* and decided opinion, that it is to these interferences, and to the underhanded support which the Indians receive (notwithstanding the open disavowal of it) that all our difficulties with them proceed. We are essaying every means, in our power, to undeceive these hostile tribes with respect to the disposition of this Country towards them; and to convince them that we neither seek their extirpation nor the occupancy of their Lands (as they are taught to believe) except such of the latter as has been obtained by fair treaty, and purchase bona fide made, and recognized by them in more instances than one. If they will not after this explanation (if we can get at them to make it) listen to the voice of peace, the sword must decide the dispute; and we

37. William Pitt.

are, though very reluctantly, vigorously preparing to meet the event.

In the course of last winter I had some of the chiefs of the Cherokees in this City, and in the Spring I obtained (with some difficulty indeed) a full representation of the Six nations, to come hither. I have sent all of them away well satisfied; and fully convinced of the justice and good dispositions of this government towards the Indian Nations, *generally*. the latter, that is the Six Nations, who before, appeared to be divided, and distracted in their Councils, have given strong assurances of their friendship; and have resolved to send a deputation of *their* tribes to the hostile Indians with an Acct. of all that has passed; accompanying it with advice to them, to desist from further hostilities. With difficulty *still* greater, I have brought the celebrated Captn. Joseph Brant to this City, with a view to impress him also with the equitable intentions of this government towards *all* the Nations of his colour. He only arrived last night, and I am to give him an Audience at twelve this day.

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Nothing has, as yet, been hinted on this side of the water, to any of the Officers of Government, of the other matter mentioned in your letter of the 6th. of April; though suspicions of it have been entertained.³⁸

Knowing from the letters of the Secretary of State to you, that you are advised in all matters of public concern, and will have transmitted to you the Laws as they are enacted, and the Gazettes as they are published, I shall not trouble

38. Morris had written: "Those who conceive the french Jacobins to be at the Bottom of a great King-Killing Project...infer that the King of Prussia should take care of himself and be cautious of his Cooks and Companions." Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

you with a detail of domestic occurrences. The latter are *sur* charged, and *some of them* indecently communicative of *charges* that stand in need of evidence for their support.

There can be but few things of a public nature (likely to fall in your line, requiring to be acted upon by this government) that may not be freely communicated to the Department to which it belongs; because, in proceedings thereon, the head of the department³⁹ will, necessarily be made acquainted therewith. But there may nevertheless be other matters, more remote in their consequences, of the utmost importance to be known that not more than one intermediate person would be entrusted with; *here* , necessity as well as propriety, will confine you to a point. Cases, *not altogether* under the controul of necessity, may also arise to render it advisable to do this and your own good judgment will be the best direction in these. With much truth and Affection, I am, &c.

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Philadelphia, June 22, 1792.

Dr. Sir: I have now before me your letters of the 9 of January and 12 of February to which it will not be in my power to reply so fully as my inclination would lead me

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39. Government.

to do if I had no avocation but those of a personal nature.

I regret exceedingly that the disputes between the protestants and Roman Catholics should be carried to the serious alarming height mentioned in your letters. Religious controversies are always productive of more acrimony and irreconcilable hatreds than those which spring from any other cause; and I was not without hopes that the enlightened and liberal policy of the present age would have put an effectual stop to contentions of this kind.

The present appears to be an eventful moment in Europe. The declaration of War by France against the King of Hungary will probably soon discover what part the several Nations in Europe will take; but when or where these agitations which now shake that quarter of the globe will terminate is beyond the Ken of human wisdom. Notwithstanding our local situation and political circumstances guard us against an interference in the contests between the European powers; yet we cannot be indifferent as to the issue of a business in which the happiness of so many millions of our fellow citizens is involved. We have had nothing from France since the declaration of War, but are waiting with no small degree of anxiety for further intelligence which may enable us to form some *conjecture* on this momentous business.

I am happy in being able to inform you that the affairs of this Country are still going on in a prosperous train. The harvest through the several States, so far as

I have been able to extend my enquiries, promises to be abundant for the quantity sown; and it is said by those who are well acquainted with the subject, that there has never been a year in which so much land has been cultivated in grain, particularly wheat, as in the present. I paid a visit to Mount Vernon immediately on the rising of Congress, and was much pleased to find the appearance of crops of my own farms much more flattering

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than I had known them for many years past, and the Country generally exhibited the face of plenty. An insect called the Hessian Fly, has made it's appearance and done some mischief in parts of this State, Delaware and Maryland; but the destruction occasioned by this enemy will bear but a very trifling proportion to the whole crop of the Country, and I am informed that it's ravages where it has been found this year, are far less than those committed by the same insect some years ago. An investigation of the natural history and progress of this insect is now taking place in order to see if some effectual measures cannot be fallen upon to prevent it's devastations. As it is a subject deeply interesting to every individual in the community I flatter myself that such enquiries and communications will be made respecting it as will lead to it's extirpation.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in sincere wishes for the health and happiness of Lady Newenham and yourself. I am etc.⁴⁵

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

***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, June 30, 1792.

Dear Sir. Your favor of the 15th. came duly to hand,⁴⁸ but at a time when I was much engaged with the Secretary of State in despatching Mr. Pinckney to the Court of London, and in considering other business of importance.

I shall repeat in this letter what I have declared to you on a former occasion, viz, that wishing to promote the public weal, and to make justice and impartiality the lines by which to walk to accomplish this, every information that can enable me to tread on such firm grd., or which would enable me to investigate with more accuracy the characters of public men,

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or the utility of public measures; cannot fail of being acceptable to me, whilst I have any thing to do with either, particularly the latter.

Having premised these truths, I shall add, on the subject of your letter, that I can no more condemn G. K.49 on the evidence of Colo. D—s50 letter to you; than I am disposed to go into a *full* vindication of his conduct against the implications which are contained in that Letter. When assertion stands against assertion, recourse must be had to collateral circumstances to come at the truth, or the preponderating weight; but these are not necessary in the instance before us, for it will not be unfair to declare, that the conduct of Colo. D— is uncandid, and that his letter is equivocal. He acknowledges in it,

48. Lee's disappointment at not having been appointed to command the Army, succeeding St. Clair, is recorded in this letter. He wrote:

“You cannot be a stranger to the extreme disgust, which the late appointment to the command of the army excited among all orders in this state, whether the same be lust or not, is immaterial at present, or whether taking into view all the circumstances of the case a better appointment could have been made is by no means the object of my enquiry. The event was the subject of general conversation, during which period Col. Darke visited Richmond, and of course became a party in the opinions and communications given on the occasion. What he said to me was in my judgment necessary to you, and I took the liberty to write to Col. Darke, requesting him to commit to paper the conversation between us the previous day. This he did, and I enclose it for your perusal.

“I thought it proper to send you the original, although the handwriting is rather obscure, lest a copy might in any degree change the meaning of the communication. If Col. Dark is right it follows clearly that in a very important matter to yourself and the community, one of your officers exerted himself to encrease certain difficultys which obstructed the execution of your own wishes, instead of endeavoring to remove them, acting in obedience to his own desire rather than following the decision of his superior. If your ministers dare thus to

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do, you must be subject to hourly impositions, and the national concerns will be regulated by their and not your judgment. I have not nor shall I lisp a word of this communication to the gentlemen whom it concerns. For yourself only it is intended. It is not in my power to ascertain whether the same be true or not; you can readily distinguish this fact. Col. Darke is a man of truth and honor, and he speaks positively. You will I trust, be the event as it may impute my conduct to the motives which produce it, respect and attachment to yourself. Personally I do not feel on the occasion, only that I cannot dissemble the gratification which the opinion you were pleased to express of my talents afforded, and indeed I am candid to declare, that I prefer such a testimonial, to the office itself to which I might have been appointed.”

Lee did, however, make a marginal comment on Darke's letter, as follows: “Two conversations with the secretary of war; the first of which he urged the objections to my rank, persuading Col Dark that he could not in honor serve under me. The second conversation the same idea was pressed and the information given as to my appointment.” Both Lee's letter of June 15 and Darke's letter to Lee of May 12 are in the *Washington Papers*.

49. Gen. Henry Knox.

50. Col. William Darke.

that when I asked if he would serve, if you should be appointed to the chief command, that he gave no answer; but does not, in any part of his letter tell you what answer he gave G K to the same question; unless you take the following for one, when he was applied to, to know if he would accept of an appointment “I told him I first wanted to know who would command the Army, and said *something of you, and some other*” but are these equivocal expressions to be placed against the positive declaration of the other? especially too, when Colo. D— in relating the conversation which passed between himself and me, has mistaken both the substance and tendency of it; For you may be assured,

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Sir, I never mentioned your name, or the name of any man living to him as one who was in the smallest degree fixed on, for the command. The Secretary of War, himself, was unacquainted with the final decision when Colo. D— left this City. The truth is, I never was more embarrassed in any appointt and the object of my conversation with the latter was to learn the public sentiment as far as it could be obtained from him, with respect to this matter; And to questions of this tendency he said he had heard Morgan, Scott, and yourself mentioned on his journey through, and from Kentucky to his own house and, if I understood the significancy of things not expressed he compd. himself. I took an occasion *then*, to observe, that I conceived few men were better qualified for such a command than you were and asked if he thought your junr. rank in the late Army would be an objection with those who had been your seniors

in it to serve under you; his reply, (when a little pushed by bringing the case home to himself for I wanted to draw an explicit declaration from him) was, that he believed it would be an unpleasant, or a grating thing, or words to that effect; but the manner, more than the expression throughout the whole of the conversn. which was after dinnr. and when we were alone led me to conclude that it would not be relished by him. What his real intensions might be at that time; when he was speaking to G K, or lastly to you no one but himself is master of.

I have no hesitation in declaring to you that the bias of my inclination was strongly in your favor; but, that the result of my enquiries, direct and indirect, of Military, and indeed of other characters (who were well disposed to see you in nomination) was, that if you were appointed to the Command it would be vain to look for Senior Officers to act subordinately; or if they consented, it would be so grudgingly as, more than probably, the seeds of Sedition would be coeval with the formation of the Army; such being the nature of military pride. Admitting this, then one of two things would inevitably have followed; either an army composed of discontented materials, or of junr. characters; the first might be attended with

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fatal consequences; the other (however excellent the Officers might be) if any disaster should befall the Army it would instantly be ascribed to the inexperience

of the principal Officers in stations to which they had never been accustomed; thereby drawing a weight upon my shoulders too heavy to be borne. This was my *own* view of the subject; and the principle upon which I acted; not, be assured, because G K was of this, or of that opinion. The fact, I sincerely believe is, that he was as much puzzled as I was, to fix on the first Officer, under the circumstances that existed.

How far the appointment of G W51 is a popular, or an unpopular measure is not for me to decide. It was not the determination of a moment, nor was it the effect of partiality or of influence; for no application (if that in any instance could have warped my judgment) was ever made in his behalf from any one who could have thrown the weight of a feather into his scale but because, under a full view of *all* circumstances he appeared most eligible. To a person of your observation and intelligence, it is unnecessary to remark that an appointment which may be unpopular in one place, and with one set of men, may not be so in another place or with another set of Men and vice versa; and that to attempt to please every body is the sure way to please nobody; of course the attempt would be as idle as the execution would be impracticable. G W has many good points as an Officer, and it is to be hoped, that time, reflection, good advice, and above all, a due sense of the importance of the trust which is committed to him, will correct his foibles, or cast a shade over them. With esteem and regard. I am &c.

51. Gen. Anthony Wayne.

***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

Philadelphia, July 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th. Ult. was presented to me yesterday by Mr. Williams, 58 who, as a professional man, may, or may not be, a luminary of the first magnitude for

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ought I know to the contrary. But to be frank, and I hope you will not be displeased with me for being so, I am so heartily tired of the attendance which, from one cause or another, I have bestowed on these kind of people, that it is now more than two years since I have resolved to sit no more for any of them; and have adhered to it; except in instances where it has been requested by public bodies, or for a particular purpose (not of the Painters) and could not, without offence, be refused.⁵⁹

I have been led to make this resolution for another reason besides the irksomeness of sitting, and the time I loose by it, which is, that these productions have, in my estimation, been made use of as a sort of tax upon individuals, by being engraved, and that badly, and hawked, or advertised for Sale. With very great Esteem and regard I am &c.⁶⁰

58. William J. Williams.

59. The portrait was not executed until September, 1794, in Philadelphia. Having been refused a sitting at the above time, Williams offered the Masonic Lodge No. 22 of Alexandria the finished work, if the lodge would request him to make a portrait. The lodge approved this idea Aug. 29, 1793. The resultant portrait was executed in pastel, and is now in the possession of the lodge.

60. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Harry McN. Bland, of New York.

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, July 9, 1792.

Dr. Sir: Altho' I did not acknowledge the receipt of the letter you wrote to me some time ago respecting Bowls,⁶⁸ I was not unmindful of the contents; but upon consulting some professional gentlemen, I was informed that his being brother to the noted Bowls was not, without some overt act of his own, sufficient to lay hold of him.⁶⁹

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If nothing more happens than I am aware of at present, I shall leave this City on thursday with Mrs. Washington and the children for Mount Vernon; and if the weather is tolerable, and ourselves and horses keep up, I shall be, I expect, at George Town on Monday or tuesday of the week following.

I shall bring with me, or send on if I am likely to be delayed, the plans for the public buildings which were sent, I believe, by the Commissioners, to Mr. Jefferson; but if none more elegant than these should appear on or before the 16 instant, the exhibition of architecture will be a very dull one indeed. My best wishes to Mrs. Stuart and the family; and, I am etc.⁷⁰

68. William Augustus Bowles. He was a loyalist from Maryland during the Revolutionary War.

69. A brother to William Augustus Bowles.

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

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, October 18, 1792.

My dear Sir: I did not require the evidence of the extracts which you enclosed me, to convince me of your attachment to the Constitution of the United States, or of your disposition to promote the general Welfare of this Country. But I regret, deeply regret, the difference in opinions which have arisen, and divided you and another principal Officer of the Government; and wish, devoutly, there could be an accommodation of them by mutual yieldings.

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A Measure of this sort would produce harmony, and consequent good in our public Councils; the contrary will, inevitably, introduce confusion, and serious mischiefs; and for what? because mankind cannot think alike, but would adopt different means to attain the same end. For I will frankly, and solemnly declare that, I believe the views of both of you⁹³ are pure, and well meant; and that experience alone will decide with respect to the salubrity of the measures wch. are the subjects of dispute. Why then, when some of the best Citizens in the United States, Men of discernment, Uniform and tried Patriots, who have no sinister views to promote, but are chaste in their ways of thinking and acting are to be found, some on one side, and some on the other of the questions which have caused these agitations, shd. either of you be so tenacious of your opinions

93. Hamilton and Jefferson.

as to make no allowances for those of the other? I could, and indeed was about to add more on this interesting subject; but will forbear, at least for the present; after expressing a wish that the cup wch. has been presented, may not be snatched from our lips by a discordance of *action* when I am persuaded there is no discordance in your *views* . I have a great, a sincere esteem and regard for you both, and ardently wish that some line could be marked out by which both of you could walk. I am &c.⁹⁴

***To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**

(Private)

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

My dear Sir: Although your letter of the 10th. of June, which I have received, did not paint the prospects of France in the most pleasing colours; yet the events which have since taken place give a more gloomy aspect to the public Affairs of that Kingdom than your letter gave reason to apprehend.

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A thousand circumstances, besides our distance from the Theatre of Action, made it improbable that we should have, in this Country, a fair statement of facts and causes through the medium of the public prints; and I have received no other accounts than what have come in that channel. But taking up the most favorable of these, gloomy indeed appears the situation of France at this

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

junction. But it is hardly probable that even you, who are on the spot, can say with any precision how these things will terminate; much less can we, at this distance, pretend to augur the event. We can only repeat the sincere wish that much happiness may arise to the French Nation and to Mankind in general out of the severe evils which are inseparable from so important a Revolution.

In the present State of things we cannot expect that any Commercial Treaty can now be formed with France; but I have no doubt of your embracing the proper moment of arrangement and of doing whatever may be in your power for the Substantial interest of our Country.

The Affairs of the U. States go on well. There are some few clouds in our political Hemisphere but I trust that the bright sun of our prosperity will disperse them.

The Indians on our Western and Southern frontiers are still troublesome, but such measures are taking³ as will, I presume, prevent any serious mischiefs from them; I confess, however, that I do not believe these tribes will ever be brought to a quiescent state so long as they may be under an influence which is hostile to the rising greatness of these States.

From the complexion of some of our News-papers Foreigners would be led to believe that inveterate political dissensions existed among us, and that we are on the very verge of

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disunion; but the fact is otherwise; the great body of the people now feel the advantages of the General Government, and would not,

3. Six hundred stands of arms were sent from the United States' arsenals to South Carolina on the plea from that State. The correspondence between Secretary Lear and Samuel Hodgdon on this matter (October 16–18) is recorded in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

I am persuaded, do any thing that should destroy it; but these kind of representations is an evil wch. must be placed in opposition to the infinite benefits resulting from a free Press; and I am sure you need not be told that in this Country a personal difference in political sentiments is often made to take the garb of general dissensions.

From the Department of State you are, I am informed, furnished with such papers and documents, from time to time, as will keep you more particularly informed of the state of our affairs; I shall therefore add nothing further to this letter than assurances of being always and sincerely Yours etc.

[N.Y.P.L]

To DOCTOR WILLIAM DAVIES SHIPLEY¹

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: I have been honored with your polite Letter of the 23d. of May, together with the works of your late Right Revd. father Lord bishop of St. Asaph, which accompanied it. For the character and sentiments of that venerable Divine while living, I entertained the most perfect esteem, and have a sincere respect for his memory now he is no more. My best thanks are due to you for his works, and the mark of your attention in sending them to me; and especially for the flattering expressions respecting myself, which are contained in your letter. I am etc.²

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1. Dean of St. Asaph.
2. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Dear Sir: Where your Letter of the 21st of December last has been travelling since it left you, I cannot tell; but it did not get to my hands till within a few weeks past; when I likewise received your's of the 15th. of July, introducing Mr. Anderson. I was sorry to see the gloomy picture which you drew of the affairs of your Country in your letter of December; but I hope events have not turned out so badly as you then apprehended. Of all the animosities which have existed among mankind, those which are caused by a difference of sentiments in religion appear to be the most inveterate and distressing, and ought most to be deprecated. I was in hopes, that the enlightened and liberal policy, which has marked the present age, would at least have reconciled *Christians* of every denomination so far, that we should never again see their religious disputes carried to such a pitch as to endanger the peace of Society.

The Affairs of this Country still wear a prosperous aspect. Our Agriculture, Commerce and navigation are in a flourishing state. In some parts of the Country the crops of Indian corn (maize) have been injured by the drought in summer, and early frosts in autumn. We have, however, a happiness, which is scarcely in any other Country; for such is the extent of the U. S. and so great a variety of climate and soil do they embrace, that

we never need apprehend a universal failure of our crops, and a consequent famine.

I have spent part of the summer at Mount Vernon, and have but just returned to the seat of Government, where I am so much engaged in attending to business, which has accumulated during my absence, and in preparing such business as will be necessary to

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lay before the Legislature at their meeting early in next month, that I have but little time to attend to any affairs of a private or personal nature; I am therefore persuaded, that you will to these impute causes the shortness of this letter. Mrs. Washington unites with me in respects and best wishes for Lady Newenham and yourself. I am &c.4

***To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR**

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 18th. of May, enclosing the Pamphlet and papers which you had the goodness to send me.

While I beg your acceptance of my acknowledgements for the polite mark of attention in transmitting these things to me, I flatter myself you will be assured that I consider the subject therein recommended as highly important to Society, whose best interests I hope will be promoted by a proper investigation of them, and the happiness of mankind advanced thereby.

I have to regret that the duties of

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

my public station do not allow me to pay that attention to Agriculture and the objects attached to it (which have ever been my favorite pursuit) that I could wish; but I will put your queries respecting Sheep into the hands of such Gentlemen as I think most likely to attend to them and answer them satisfactorily; I must, however, observe that no important information on the subject can be expected from this Country where we have been so little in the habit of attending either to the breed or improvement of our Stock. With great respect and esteem etc.5

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5. From the facsimile in *Letters on Agriculture...to Arthur Young...and Sir John Sinclair* (Franklin Knight edition: 1847).

To CAPTAIN JOHN DOWNING⁹⁵

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: The warm and earnest manner in which you have recommended your son, in your letter to me of the 21 of June,⁹⁶ makes me regret the necessity I am under of informing you, that I see no prospect of the young gentleman's wish being gratified in this respect; for so numerous and so respectable are the applications for military appointments from our own citizens that scarcely one in four of these can be gratified; and to grant that to a foreigner which is claimed by so many of our own citizens, unless under some very peculiar circumstances, might be styled not only unjust, but impolitic. I am therefore persuaded, Sir, that you will receive this matter in it's true light, and be assured that I have a proper sense of the respectable manner in which you mention this Country as well as of the polite expressions towards myself, which are contained in your letter. I am etc.⁹⁷

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, October 21, 1792.

Dr. Sir: You informed me when I was at George town on my way to this City, that Colo. Mercer upon receiving, or being told of Colo. Hamilton's letter to him, requesting to know if the words with which he was charg'd

95. Of the British artillery.

96. Downing's letter was dated from St. Christopher, West Indies.

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

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by Major Ross as having uttered in his public harangues against the conduct of the Secretary of the Treasury, were true; expressed, if I understood you rightly, much surprize at the application; as he, *Colo. Hamilton*, must be conscious of his having attempted to *bribe him, Colo. Mercer*, to vote for a further assumption of the State debts, and that this surprize was expressed at a public table before many gentlemen.

This is a charge of so serious a nature that it is incumbent on *Colo. Hamilton* to clear it up, or for the President of the United States to take notice of it. For this reason, before I communicate the matter to *Colo. Hamilton*, I beg to be informed whether I precisely understood the information you gave me, and in that case, who were the persons that heard *Colo. Mercer* express himself to that effect. It was my intention to have asked this at the time you mentioned the matter, but I was diverted from it by something that occurred at the moment, and the variety of things which have been thrown in my way since I came to this place have prevented it till now.

With great esteem &c.8

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

On October 29 Washington signed an additional order, revising and altering the order of Aug. 4, 1792, fixing the compensations of inspectors and supervisors for collecting the tax on distilled spirits according to the act of May 8, 1792. This order is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, November 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter to Messrs. Carmichael and Short¹² (now returned) is full and proper. I have added a word or two with A pencil, which may be inserted or not as you shall think

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best. The intention of them is to do away the charge of Sovereignty over more than are within our own territory.

The erasures from the Speech, as you advise, are made, except exchanging the word, "high," for "just." If facts will justify the former (as I think they indubitably do) policy, I conceive, is much in its favor: For while so many unpleasant things are announced as the Speech¹³ contains, it cannot be amiss to accompany them with communications of a more agreeable nature. I am etc.¹⁴

12. Of Nov. 3, 1792. A press copy of a copy is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

13. The fourth annual address to Congress, Nov. 6, 1792, *post*.

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

The following note is entered in the "Letter Book" under date of November 5: "The President informed the Committee [consisting of Mr. Strong and Mr. Izard from the Senate, and Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Key, and Mr. Moore, from the House] that he would meet both Houses tomorrow at twelve O'Clock, in the Senate Chamber, and lay before them such communications as he thought proper for the occasion."

***To BENJAMIN STODDERT**

Philadelphia, November 14, 1792.

Sir: Your favor of the 24th Ult. came duly to hand, but the variety of important matters which pressed between the receipt of it, and the meeting of Congress, allowed me no time to give it an earlier acknowledgment: and now, I pray you to consider what I am about to say, as coming from me in my private capacity.

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It has always been my opinion, and still is so, that the Administration of the Affairs of the Federal City ought to be under the *immediate* direction of a judicious and skilful superintendant, appointed by, and subject to the orders of the Commissioners (who, in the eye of the law, are the responsible characters). One in whom is united knowledge of Men and things, industry, integrity, impartiality and firmness. And, that this person should reside on the Spot. This, I believe, is also the opinion of the Commissioners. and if they think Mr. Blodget possesses these qualifications (I know very little of him myself, and after what has happened, shall be cautious in recommending) or, that he is the *most* competent character that presents who is willing to undertake, and ready to enter upon the duties of such an Office; their appointment of him will meet my entire approbation.

I can readily conceive, Sir, that the motives to your communication were pure and laudable, and shall

give you credit for them accordingly. On my part, permit me to add, that I have a mind open to information, and a disposition always to correct abuses (that shall come properly before me) as far as I am able; but I am sure it is unnecessary to remark to a person of your observation, that from the two great interests which divide the Federal City, and the lesser ones into which these are branched, it will be found difficult if not impossible for any set of Commissioners whatsoever to steer clear of censure. One wants this thing, another wants that thing, and all or most of them, perhaps want things which our resources are incompetent to the accomplishment of. You will excuse my candour therefore, my good Sir, for observing that there is in my judgment but one line of conduct proper for these Gentlemen to pursue, and that is to take a comprehensive view of the trust reposed in them, the general expectation of the community at large, and the means to effect it. form their plans agreeably thereto upon sound and just principles and to see that they are carried into effect by whomsoever they shall employ in the Execution thereof, without regard to any local concern or interest whatsoever. Such a conduct will meet general approbation; and of none, I am persuaded more than your own. With esteem I am &c.25

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

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, November 17, 1792.

Gentlemen: I have duly received your letter of the 13th of October, enclosing a list of the sale of lots in the federal City; with the prices of which I am more gratified than I am by the number which have been disposed of. I am pleased to find that several of your Mechanics were among the purchasers of lots, as they will not only, in all probability, be among the first improvers of them, but will be valuable citizens.

I agree with you in opinion that the ground in such eligible places as about the Capitol and the President's House, should not be sold in squares; unless there are some great and apparent advantages to be derived from specified buildings; immediate improvement, or something which will have a tendency to promote the advancement of the City.

The circumstances under which Mr. Blodget bid off the square near the Capitol, were such as occur at almost every public sale, and in that instance, his having done so, appeared very proper for the interest of the public: I agree, however, with you, that it would be best for the circumstance not to be generally known.

How far the idea which Mr. Blodget suggests of having an Agent to pass through the several States, to dispose of lots, might be beneficial or not, I am unable to say; but it appears to me, that

if a respectable and responsible Character, in the principal town of each State, could be authorized to dispose of the public lots, as purchasers might appear; provided the matter could be so arranged that no confusion or inconvenience should arise from the same lot being disposed of by two or more agents, (which might possibly be done by monthly returns being made from the several Agents to the Commissioners, ascertaining the day,

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and even hour of each sale, to be by them confirmed previous to any payments: a small per Centum to be allowed the Vender; and all private sales to cease a month before every public sale) it would be a means of accommodating persons in different parts of the Union, and would expedite the sale of the lots. But this, as well as Mr. Blodgets suggestion (which rather appears to me to be hawking the lots about) must be weighed and determined upon according to your best judgment and information.

I think that a further public sale in the spring, or early in the summer, would be advantageous. For it is desirable that every opportunity which could be made convenient, on account of the season and other circumstances, to dispose of lots in this way, should be embraced.

In proportion as numbers become interested in the federal City, and the public works advance, a constant attendance at the spot will be more and more requisite on the part of those who superintend or direct the business thereof; and I am of opinion it will be found necessary, as neither of the Commissioners reside there, that some active and competent character, vested with proper

authority by them, should be constantly on the ground to superintend the business carrying on there. But who this person shall be, is altogether with yourselves to chuse, and the various and essential qualifications requisite in him will readily occur to you. With great esteem &c.28

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia November 19, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have run over the four numbers of Genl. Green's letters to Congress, herewith returned; and find nothing contained in them, unmarked by you, which ought, in my opinion, to be withheld from the Public. Even those of the 3d. of Novr. 1780, tho' quite

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unnecessary, might pass with an explanatory note on the *then* value of our paper currency.

It probably is best to [leave] out the scored part of No. 1, page 14, although, I am persuaded, it is no more than a statement of a fact, and not an unimportant one. In No. 4, latter part of page 57, nearly the same sentiment as that erased is conveyed. I am etc.²⁹

28. From a press copy of the unsigned letter in the writing of Tobias Lear in *District of Columbia Letter and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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

Jefferson's note at the bottom of the letter states that Mathew Carey "was permitted to make from the Secretary of State's office a selection of state papers for publication particularly those, of the commander in chief, and of the Generals commanding in separate departments. he submitted his selection to me to see if it contained anything which ought not to be published. I marked a very few passages and starded them to the President. the above is his answer."

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, November 24, 1792.

Sir: It appears to me necessary, that processes should issue without further delay, upon the Indictments found at the last Circuit Court held at York Town in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in reference to the Laws laying a duty on spirits distilled within the United States; and proper that they should be served by the marshal of the District of Pennsylvania in person. I am to desire, that the requisite arrangements may be taken, with the Attorney and Marshal of the before mentioned District, for these purposes; in doing which you are authorised to signify to the latter, my expectation of his immediate agency in the business.³⁵

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

To ARTHUR CAMPBELL

Philadelphia, November 24, 1792.

Sir: While I acknowledge the rect. of your letter of the 20 ulto. on the subject of Indian Affairs in your quarter, and thank you for the information it contains, let me assure you that I am always ready to receive any information that relates to the public welfare; and as my sole view is to promote this to the utmost of my power and ability, I am ever open to the opinions of well informed persons in those matters with which their situation or circumstances may have given them an opportunity of being well acquainted: and I shall consider such information and sentiments as you may think proper to communicate on the occurrences which may take place in your quarter as a mark of attention. I am etc.³⁵

To CLEMENT BIDDLE³⁷

Philadelphia, November 28, 1792.

Sir: In obedience to the command of the President of the United States I have the honor to inform you, that while the president sincerely regrets the cause which prevents you from immediately executing in person the service which

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

37. United States marshal for the Pennsylvania district.

is required, relative to the processes issued at the Circuit Court against the persons indicted for a riot in Washington County; yet so strongly is he impressed with the propriety of this business being executed by the marshall in person, and so much does he rely on your judgment and zeal in the discharge of this duty, that he considers the inconveniences which might be occasioned by a small delay in the matter, as being less than the

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disadvantages which might result from it's being executed by a Deputy. The President is therefore willing that the execution of this service should be postponed for a short time, in hopes that your health will then be so well established as to enable you to perform it in person.

I have the honor etc.³⁸

***To DAVID STUART**

Philadelphia, November 30, 1792.

Dear Sir: Knowing that tomorrow is the time appointed for the monthly meeting of the Commissioners at George Town, I had intended to have written you a line or two on a particular subject by Wednesday's Post, but one thing or another put it out of mind until it was too late. I now set down to do it, as the letter in the common course of the Post will reach George Town on Monday, probably, before you shall have left that place.

You will consider what I am

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

now about to say as a *private* communication; the object of which is only to express *more* freely than I did in my last letter to the Commissioners, the idea that is entertained of the necessity of appointing a Superintendant of the execution of the plans and measures wch. shall be resolved upon by the Commissioners of the federal City. one who shall always reside there, and being a man of skill and judgment, of industry and integrity, would from having a view of the business constantly before his eyes, be enabled to conduct it to greater advantage than the Commissioners can possibly do unless they were to devote their *whole* time to it. Instances of this are adduced by some of the Proprietors, particularly in the alteration which has taken place in the Bridge, the delay consequent thereof &ca. It is remarked by some of (the best disposed of) them, that although you meet monthly,

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spend much time together, and are truly anxious to forward this great object; yet, from the nature of the thing, you cannot acquire at those meetings the minute information which a proper character always on the spot would do; and which is indispensably necessary to do in order to avoid mistakes, and to give vigor to the undertaking. And besides, add they, a man of fertile genius, and comprehensive ideas, would, by having the business always before him, seeing, shewing to, and conversing with Gentlemen who may be led, either by curiosity or an inclination to become

adventurers therein, to view the City, obtain many useful hints by means of which, and his own reflections, might suggest many useful projects to the consideration of the Commissioners at their *stated*, (say) quarterly meetings; or at such occasional ones as he might, in cases of importance and emergency, be empowered to call.

But where, you may ask, is the character to be found who possesses these qualifications? I frankly answer I know not! Major L'Enfant (who it is said is performing wonders at the new town of Patterson) if he could have been restrained within proper bounds, and his temper was less untoward, is the only person with whose turn to matters of this sort I am acquainted, that I think fit for it. There may, notwithstanding, be many others although they are unknown to me.

Mr. Blodget seems to be the person on whom many eyes are turned, and among others who look that way, are some of the Proprietors. He has travelled, I am told, a good deal in Europe; and has turned his attention (according to his own Account) to Architecture and matters of this kind. He has staked much on the issue of the Law establishing the permanent residence; and is *certainly* a projecting genius, with a pretty general acquaintance: to which may be added, if he has any influence in this Country, it must be in a quarter where it is most needed; and where, indeed, an antidote is necessary to the poison which Mr. F—s C—t40 is spreading; by insinuations, that the accomplishment of the Plan is no more to be expected than the fabric of a vision, and will vanish in like manner. But

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40. Francis Cabot(?).

whether with these qualifications, Mr. Blodget is a man of industry and steadiness, and whether (as soon as it is necessary) he would take up a settled abode there, are points I am unable to resolve. [As an Architect Mr. Jefferson has a high opinion of Mr. Hallet, but whether Mr. Hallet has qualities, and is sufficiently known to fit him for general superintendency I cannot not even *pretend* to give an opinion upon. If Mr. Blodget is contemplated for this office, would it not be well to be *on* or *off* with him at once. I hear he is held in suspence on this head.]

Have you yet decided on a Plan for the Capitol? Mr. Carroll talked of their being sent hither. Is any thing done towards the foundation of the President's house? What number of lots are bona fide sold? In what squares do they lye? Let your Clerk send me a list. Do you receive offers to purchase at private Sale? If you have fixed on a time for another public Sale, ought not notice thereof to be *immediately* given, and measures adopted to make the thing known in Europe as well as in this Country: Inserting advertisements in the Gazettes of the latter at intervals between this and the sale, by way of remembrancer. A little expence in these would be profitably incurred: How does Ellicot go on? I am etc.⁴¹

41. From *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

To JOHN HAMILTON MOORE⁴⁵

Philadelphia, December 2, 1792.

Sir: I have the pleasure to receive a few days ago, the two elegant Charts of the Sea coast of North America, which you had the goodness to send, and the politeness to dedicate to me.

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It is unnecessary for me to make any comment upon the utility of such works when executed by a person of ability. The discerning part of mankind will always venerate the promoters of science wheresoever they may be found and in this instance the many who may be benefited by your useful Charts will not forget to whom they owe that advantage. At present permit me to offer my best thanks and acknowledgments to you for this mark of attention, and to assure you that I shall always feel interested in the welfare of those who may promote the cause of science and humanity by laudable exertions. I am etc.⁴⁶

45. Of London.

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

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, December 9, 1792.

Dear Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your Letter of the 1st. inst:⁵⁰ and expressing my sincere wishes that your personal happiness may be promoted by the election you have made to continue

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

in your State Legislature, I cannot but regret the loss of your services to the United States in your Senatorial capacity. I am persuaded however, that your endeavours to serve your Country will be no less exercised in the station which you have chosen to hold than they have been heretofore in that which you have relinquished.

It gives me pleasure to find that Mr. Benjamin Harwood has accompanied his application for the appointment to the Loan office, with those respectable and strong recommendations which have been forwarded in his behalf, as I find a great relief in discharging this part of my duty, (which is not the least embarrassing) when the opinions

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of worthy and respectable characters unite in testifying to the merits, integrity and ability of the Candidate.⁵¹

Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for your health and happiness with, Dear Sir, Your etc.⁴⁹

51. On December 9 Washington wrote to Gov. Thomas Sire Lee, thanking him for his recommendation of Benjamin Harwood. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY

Philadelphia, December 12, 1792.

Sir: Through the hands of the Vice president of the United States, Mr. Adams, I received a few days ago your acceptable present of the print representing the death of the Earl of Chatham. This work, highly valuable in itself, is rendered more estimable in my eye, when I remember that America gave birth to the celebrated artist who produced it.

For the honor you have done me in this mark of your attention, I pray you to accept my best thanks, and the assurance of my being, Sir, etc.⁵²

***To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 18, 1792.

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Gentlemen: Your letter to the Secretary of State, dated if I recollect rightly, the 5th. instant; intimating among other things, that you had failed in an attempt which had been made to import workmen

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

from Scotland equally with that for obtaining them from Holland, fills me with *real* concern: for I am very apprehensive if your next campaign in the Federal City is not marked with vigor, it will cast such a cloud over this business, and will so arm the enemies of the measure, as to enable them to give it (if not its death blow) a wound from which it will not easily recover. No means therefore, in my opinion, should be left unessayed to facilitate the operations of next year. Every thing, in a manner depends upon the celerity with which the public buildings are then carried on. Sale of Lots, private buildings, good or evil report, all, all will be regulated thereby; nothing therefore short of the absolute want of money ought to retard the work.

The more I consider the subject, the more I am convinced of the expediency of importing a number of workmen from Europe to be employed in the Federal City. The measure has not only œconomy to recommend it, but is important by placing the quantity of labour which may be performed by such persons upon a certainty for the term for which they shall be engaged.

Upon more minute enquiry, I am informed that neither the Merchants *here* nor in *Holland* will undertake to procure Redemptioners from Germany; and that the most eligable and certain mode of obtaining from thence such Mechanics and labourers as may be thought advisable to procure from that quarter, will be to engage some person, a German, to go from hence into Germany where he is acquainted, to procure the requisite number of men and bring them to the Shipping port, which is generally Amsterdam or Rotterdam, and that any Merchant here

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(who is engaged in Shipping trading to Holland) will engage to have a Vessel ready to take them on board at a time which shall be fixed, and bring them to any Port of the United States that may be specified, and receive the amount of their passage on delivery of them. The person who may be employed to go over to Germany will expect, it is said, an advance of one guinea per head for the number wanted, to enable him to pay the expences of such as may not be able to bear their own from the place where he procures them to the Shipping Port, and this advance is accounted for and taken into consideration at the time of paying for their passage when they arrive here. The customary passage, it seems, is eleven guineas per head, and the compensation of the person employed to procure them is either one guinea a head for as many as he may deliver, part of which is paid by those who employ him to go over, and part by the merchant who furnishes the Vessel to bring them, as he receives a benefit by the freight, or, the person employed keeps an account of his necessary expences while on this business, which is paid by his employers, and a consideration for his services is made him according to a previous agreement.

The term of time for which these people are bound to serve, depends much, it is added, upon their age or ability as labourers, or their skill as mechanics; the former generally serve three or four years; and the latter (if good workmen at their trade) two. But in this case, that it would be better for

the person employed to get them, to have them indented at the time of engaging them, specifying the number of years they are to serve to commence at the time of their landing in the U.S.; and that he ought to be furnished with the necessary forms of Indentures and particular instructions on this head before he goes over. And if mechanics of a particular description are most essential it would be well, in order to secure their Services beyond the term for which they might be engaged for their passages, to stipulate at the time of engaging them, that they should serve one, two or three years over and above that time at £ per year. And as it may happen, that some good mechanics may be willing to come

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over who are able to pay their own passage, might it not be well to empower the person sent to engage them a per year for (say) four years? In all cases to provide, that if those who engage as mechanics should be found incompetent to the business for which they engage, from a want of skill or knowledge in it, and shall appear to have used imposition in engaging themselves as such, they shall be obliged to serve the time of common labourers.

Should you be of opinion that it would be expedient to import a number of workmen, and the mode here pointed out, meet your ideas, no time should be lost in carrying it into effect; and if you have not contemplated a proper character for this business and will inform me thereof I will endeavour to obtain one in this City to go over to Germany, and a Merchant also to furnish the Vessel at the time and place which shall be agreed on between them.

It is not, however, my wish that the idea of importing workmen should be confined solely to Germany. I think it ought to be extended to other places, particularly, Scotland from whence many good and useful mechanics may undoubtedly to be had. I have been more particular in respect to Germany because they may probably be obtained from thence on better terms than from other quarters, and they are known to be a steady, laborious people. It will be necessary, if you should determine upon an importation from Germany, to state the number of mechanics you would wish in each trade, to be brought from thence, as well as the number of labourers.

Mr. George Walker who is in this City, informs me, that he shall Sail for Scotland about the first of January, and says if he could render any service in this business he would willingly do it. To get workmen, is part of the business which carries him over but how far after the part he has acted with respect to yourselves you may chuse to confide in him, is fitter for you than it is for me to decide; especially as I know no more of his private character and circumstances than I do of the terms on which he would undertake to render the Service.

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A thought has also occurred to me, and though crude and almost in embryo, I will nevertheless mention it. It is, if the character of Mr. Hallet (from the knowledge you have acquired of it) is such as to have impressed you with confidence in his abilities and activity, whether in the unsettled state of things in France he might not be employed *this* winter in engaging from that Country and bringing over in the Spring such workmen, and on such terms as might be agreed upon.

Boston too has been mentioned as a place from whence many, and good workmen might be had but the reasons which have been assigned for the failure here are not within my recollection if I ever heard them.

Upon the whole, it will readily be perceived in what a serious light I consider delay, in the progress of the public buildings; and how anxious I am to have them pushed forward. In a word the next is the year that will give the tone to the City, if marked with energy, Individuals will be inspirited, the Sales will be enhanced, confidence diffused, and emulation created; without it, I should not be surprized to find the lots unsaleable, and every thing at a stand. With great and sincere regard and esteem. I am.

To REVEREND THORNTON FLEMING, VALENTINE COOKE, AND WILLIAM McLENAHAN

Philadelphia, January 30, 1793.

Gentlemen: I was pleased to find by your representation (dated the 19 of Decemr. 1792, and which did not get to my hands 'till a few days ago) that the opposition to the Law of the United States laying a duty on distilled spirits, is not so universal in the Counties of this State, West of the Alleghaney, as it has been generally represented; and that you are determined to use your influence in your several spheres to inculcate the necessity and advantage of a peaceable compliance

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with that Law. Your conduct on this occasion is that of good Citizens, and certainly meritorious; for so generally acceptable does that law appear to be throughout the U.S. that I think it would not have met with the opposition which it has in your quarter, if falsehoods and misrepresentations respecting it's operation and tendency had not taken place of fair and candid explanation, which, I am persuaded, is only wanting to lead to a ready acquiescence on the part of the people at large; and I hope and trust that those good and enlightened characters, who have at heart the true interests of the public, will endeavour to effect by fair and just representations, what it would be extremely painful, however necessary, to carry into operation by compulsive means.⁹⁵

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Gentlemen: The regular course which the affairs of The Federal City are likely to move in by the appointment of a Superintendant, who may relieve you from details, and from all sacrifices of time except your periodical meetings, enables me now to proceed, on more certain ground, to the subject of compensation. That a proper compensation should be made you, must undoubtedly be the public expectation as well as your own, although the Law is silent thereupon. In proposing the sum, I do not see that I can take a better guide than that of the Legislature, which in fixing the compensation for members of Congress¹ has furnished a kind of standard to which for

95. The letter sent (an L. S.) is in the St. Louis Mercantile Library and varies from this "Letter Book" copy in minor verbal details only.

1. Congressional salaries, established by the First Congress, were \$6 a day and \$6 for every 20 miles of travel to and from Congress.

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services and qualifications in a certain line may be referred. I should therefore propose to you Six Dollars a day, for the days of actual service, and milage for travelling, in lieu of service and all expences to commence from the first day of the present year.

With respect to the past, I have more difficulty to name a sum, because I do not know the time you have actually sacrificed, and perhaps it would not be practicable for yourselves to state it. On the best judgment I am able to form of it, however, I should propose the sum of One thousand Dollars, each, for your services preceding the commencement of the present year. Should these propositions not exactly meet your own ideas, I shall be very happy to receive your observations on them. With great esteem, I am etc.

PS. My meaning is, that the above sum of One thousand dollrs. should be exclusive of your expencies.²

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Gentlemen: I have had under consideration Mr. Hallet's plans for the Capitol, which undoubtedly have a great deal of merit. Doctor Thornton³ has also given me a view of his. These last come forward under some very advantageous circumstances. The Grandeur, Simplicity, and Beauty of the exterior; the propriety with which the apartments are distributed; and the œconomy in the mass of the whole structure, will, I doubt not, give it a preference, in your eyes, as it has done in mine, and those of several others whom I have consulted, and who are deemed men of skill and taste in Architecture. I have therefore thought it better to give the Doctor time to finish his plan,

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2. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress. The P.S. is in the writing of Washington.

3. Dr. William Thornton.

and for this purpose to delay 'till your next meeting a final decision. Some difficulty arises with respect to Mr. Hallet, who, you know, was in some degree led into his plan by ideas we all expressed to him. This ought not to induce us to prefer it to a better; but while he is liberally rewarded for the time and labour he has expended on it, his feelings should be saved and soothed as much as possible.

I leave it to yourselves how best to prepare him for the possibility that the Doctor's plan may be preferred to his. Some ground for this will be furnished you by the occasion you probably will have for recourse to him as to the interior of the apartments, and the taking him into service, at a fixed allowance, and I understand that his necessities render it material that he should know what his allowance is to be.⁴ With great esteem &c.⁵

To THOMAS JOHNSON

Philadelphia, February 1, 1793.

Sir: While I acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 16 of february, I cannot but express the regret with which I received the resignation of your Office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court,⁶ and sincerely lament the causes which produced it.

It is unnecessary for me to say how much I should have been pleased had your health and other circumstances permitted you to continue in Office; for besides

4. Dr. Thornton's plans were followed.

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5. In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

6. Of the United States. (See Washington's letter to the Senate, Feb. 28, 1793, *post.*)

the difficulty of finding characters to fill the dignified and important station of Judge, in whom are combined the necessary professional, local and other requisites, the resignation of persons holding that high office conveys to the public mind a want of stability in that Department, where it is perhaps more essential than in any other. With sentiments of the highest esteem and regard, and sincere wishes for your health and happiness, I am etc.⁷

***To DAVID STUART**

Philadelphia, February 1, 1793.

Dear Sir: Yesterday I wrote two letters to the Commissioners. One public, the other private. The first giving ideas of the compensation which ought to be made them for their past, and an allowance for future Services. In doing this I did not, as the Law is silent, chuse to be governed wholly by my own judgment; and therefore took the opinion of known friends to the District, and to yourselves. The result, you have handed to you in the letter above mentioned. I hope it will be satisfactory; if not, say wherein it is otherwise. The sum therein mentioned is exclusive of your expences, which, it is presumed, have been paid from the public fund.

Doctr. Thornton's Plan for the Capitol, is so much superior to any I have seen, that I have no hesitation in giving it a decided preference. He will attend your meeting in March; which, if the sitting continues a few days, or if delayed until Monday the 4th. of that month, and the Commissioners to

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

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On February 1 “The Wabash and Illinois Indians met the President on business at his house this day at 12 O'clock, where they continued 'till 3 O'clock. Present, the Secretary of State, the Secy of War, Govr. St. Clair, the Atty. Genl. Genl. Lincoln, Capt Prior and the Gentlemen of the President,s family. 8 men and 3 women of the Indians: 2 Indian Interpreters and one french Do. (see the President's speech and the Indians' reply).” No copy of the President's speech is now found in the *Washington Papers*, but a press copy of Jefferson's record of the Indian speeches on February 1 and 4, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. These notes end as follows: “The President then assured them that he would take into consideration what they had said, and would give them an answer on another day, whereupon the Conference ended for the present.” The *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* records for February 4: “The Wabash and Illinois Indians met the President at his House this day at 2 O'clock, where after making speeches, and delivering a pipe and strings of Wampum, they dined with the Presidnt. Present, six men and two women of the Indians and the two French Interpreters, viz Capt. Marrat and — Jous. The Secy of State, the Secy of War, the Arty Genl. Govt. St. Clair Colo. Pickering and the gentlemen of the President's family were present and dined here, except Colo. Pickering. The Secy of State took notes of the Indians speeches.”

be in George Town during that Week, They would have an opportunity of seeing most, if not all the Southern Members who will be returning home by land, as Congress must rise the third of that Month. Many advantages would result, in my opinion, if pains was taken to make them better acquainted with this matter than most of them seem to be. The exertions of next Summer will, if great, be all in all in this business. With much regard I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, February 10, 1793.

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Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letter and duplicate of the 8th ultimo, enclosing the deposition of Benjamin Cleveland respecting the murder of some Cherokee Indians, which was transmitted to me agreeably to a Resolve of the Legislature of South Carolina.

I cannot on this occasion forbear expressing the extreme regret with which I learn that so cruel and unprovoked a murder has been committed by the white people, and particularly at this juncture. In vain may we expect peace with the Indians on our frontiers, so long as a lawless set of unprincipled wretches can violate the rights of hospitality, or infringe the most solemn treaties, without receiving the punishment they so justly merit.

So deeply is the safety and happiness of every good Citizen and industrious settler on our frontiers involved in these atrocious acts, that unless they will exert themselves to prevent such outrages, or to bring the perpetrators of them to condign punishment, no treaties can secure them, neither will it be in the power of the Government of the United States to protect their persons and property from the depredations of the Indians. With sentiments of respect &c.17

To URIAH FORREST

Philadelphia, January 20, 1793.

Sir: Previous to the receipt of your Letter of the 10th inst. enclosing a copy of Mr. Ellicott's answer to the attempt wh. you made to dissuade him from quitting the business in wh. he is engaged, I had learnt, with concern, that there had been some altercation between him and the Commissioners of the federal District, relative to the time and money which had been expended in running and marking the lines within the City: and indeed, as I passed through George Town last fall, I understood that some of the proprietors expressed a dissatisfaction at the tardiness with which that business appeared to be executing. I was then in hopes, that there might be no substantial cause for complaint on that score,

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but that the dissatisfaction arose more from the impatience of those persons who were interested in the completion of the business, than from any improper delay or tardiness on the part of Mr. Ellicott; and I flattered myself that I should never hear more of the subject. But sorry I am to find that I have been disappointed in this hope, and that the matter has occasioned a serious difference

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

The *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* notes that on February 11 "The Indians of the six nations now in Phila. with Captn. Hendricks and his Brother of the Stockbridge Indians and Colo. Lewis of the Canada Indians, dined with the President, together with the Secy of War, Govr. St. Clair, Genl. Putnam, Colo. Pickering. Captns. Prior, Mills and Kersey, Lt. Melcher and Dr. Carmichael. Before dinner the President delivered a short speech to the Indians, thanking them for having gone to the Western Indians with Messages from the U.S. and requesting that they wd. attend the treaty proposed to be held the ensuing spring, and generally expressive of friendship and good will: wh. was answered by the Farmer's Brother, in a style of friendship and goodwill and promising that the Chiefs of the six nations will attend the proposed treaty."

between the Commissioners and Mr. Ellicott.

I perfectly agree with you, Sir, "that the City has infinitely more to dread from the discord and want of union among it's friends, than from all the power of it's enemies" and am therefore persuaded, that every considerate person, who is interested in it's establishment, will use his influence to heal differences and promote harmony among those engaged in the execution of the work.

The dispute between Mr. Ellicott and the Commissioners is, I believe, but little known at present out of the circle of George Town, and I am therefore convinced, that if Mr. Ellicott's sole object is to make its merits known, as far as a knowledge of its existence extends, he could do it as well, or better, by other means than he could by a News paper publication,

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which would only tend to promote personal disgust and hurt the progress of the City. And if Mr. E. is serious in the declaration of his attachment to that spot, as the permanent seat of Government, he cannot but give up a determination which will manifestly be productive of much detriment to the establishment. With great esteem, I am etc.

To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Philadelphia, February 10, 1793.

Dear Sir: It was not 'till the 8 instant that I had the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 10 ulto. with a copy of the first part of the proceedings of the Society for the promotion of Agriculture,

Arts and Manufactures in the State of New York, which accompanied it.

While I beg you to accept my best thanks for your politeness in sending me this book, I bestow, with pleasure, the tribute of praise that is due to the patriotic characters who have instituted, and support so useful a Society.

Convinced as I am that the prosperity of our Country is closely connected with our improvement in the useful Arts, I sincerely rejoice to find another Establishment calculated to promote it's best interests, added to those truly valuable ones which before existed. With great esteem and regard, I am etc.16

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, February 12, 1793.

Sir: The hostile Indians having requested that all the Treaties which have been entered into with the several Western and Northern Tribes, may be produced at the proposed Meeting at Sandusky; therefore, in order that the Commissioners for the proposed treaty should be fully informed on the subject of their mission, it would be proper that a summary

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view shou'd be formed of all the Treaties which have been made with the aforesaid Indians, from the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768 to the present time inclusively; and any well grounded exceptions to the validity of any treaty to be noticed. The parties on both sides which made the several treaties; and in cases of the relinquishment of Lands, the consideration given should be specified. And, perhaps, to have a more comprehensive view of the subject, it

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

would be necessary to extend the enquiry prior to the time above mentioned, so as to comprehend any treaties with the French, relatively to the cession of Lands by the Indians North West of the Ohio.

In the Enquiry it will be necessary to note, as far as the information shall be attainable, the acknowledged proprietors of the Lands relinquished to the Whites, as may have been conceded generally by other Indians bordering on the tribes who may have relinquished the said Lands.

I request that you will undertake this subject, and lay the result before me at as early a period as conveniently may be.¹⁸

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

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM PATERSON

Philadelphia, February 20, 1793.

Sir: The resignation of Mr. Johnson, one of the Associate Justices, having occasioned a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, it is incumbent on me to bring forward a suitable character to fill that place. In performing this part of my duty, I think it necessary to select a person, who is not only professionally qualified to discharge that important trust; but one who is known to the public, and whose conduct meets their

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approbation. Under this impression, Sir, I have turned my thoughts upon you; and, if you will permit me to nominate you for this office, I shall have the satisfaction to believe, that our Country will be pleased with and benefited by the acquisition.

As an appointment to this Office must be made before the close of the present Session of the Senate, which is near at hand, and it would be convenient if it could be done before the rising of the Supreme Court which is now sitting, in order that

the Judges may make their arrangement of the Circuits, it is necessary that I should know your determination as early as possible. I have the honor &c.³²

To THE SECRETARIES OF THE TREASURY, AND WAR

February 27, 1793.

Sir: As the day is near at hand, when the President-elect is to take the oath of qualification,⁴⁰ and no mode is pointed out by the Constitution or law; I could wish that you, Mr. Jefferson (Genl. Knox, or Colo. Hamilton) and Mr. Randolph could meet tomorrow morning, at any place which you may fix between yourselves; and communicate to me the result of your opinions as to time, place and manner of qualification.

P.S. Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Randolph have suggested the idea of meeting at the War Office at *nine o'Clock* tomorrow morning, if this is convenient and agreeable to you, you will be there accordingly; if otherwise you will be so good as to let me know.⁴¹

32. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's message to the Senate, Feb. 28, 1793, *post.*)

40. Oath of office.

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

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The following memorandum, in the writing of Edmund Randolph, under date of February 27, is in the *Washington Papers*:

"If the qualification is to be in private, T. J., A. H. K. and E. R., are of opinion, that Mr. Cushing should administer the oath to the President at his own house, where such officers, or others, as he may notify, will attend. T. J. and A. H. think, that it ought to be in private.

"H. K. and E. R. on the other hand think, that the qualification ought to be in public: and that the Marshal of the district should prepare the house of Representatives for the purpose where Mr. Cushing shall administer the oath. The Pres. to go without form, accompanied with such gentlemen, as he thinks proper, and return preceded by the Marshall.

"Monday, 12 o'clock, is presumed to be the best time.

"But as the mode will be considered by the public, as originating with the President, it is submitted to him for his decision."

On March 1 a further opinion was given by Knox and Randolph, and a qualified one by Hamilton, as follows:

"It is our opinion,

"1. That the President ought to take the oath in public.

"2. That the time be on Monday next at twelve o'clock in the forenoon.

"3. That the place be the Senate-chamber.

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“4. That the Marshal of the district inform the Vice-President, that the Senate-chamber, being the usual place of the president's public acts, is supposed to be the best place for taking the oath; and that it is wished, that the chamber be open.

“5. That it may be informally notified to the Vice-President governor [of Pennsylvania] and foreign ministers, that the oath is to be taken at the time and place above mentioned.

“6. That Mr. Cushing be requested to attend; and administer the oath.

“7. That the President go without form attended by such gentlemen, as he may choose, and return without form, except that he be preceded by the Marshal. H. Knox, Edmund Randolph.

“My opinion given yesterday was founded on prudential considerations of the moment; though I think it right in the abstract to give publicity to the Act in question. If this is to be done on the present occasion, I see no objection to the above form. I am not, however, satisfied that prudential considerations are not equally ballanced. A. Hamilton.”

Hamilton's opinion is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To DAVID STUART**

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Dear Sir: The Official letter from the Commissioners to me, dated the 8th of last month, promising their Sentiments on the subject of compensation, so soon as a meeting was had with Mr. Johnson, prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your private letter of the same date, and on the same subject, until now; nor shall I do more than slightly touch upon it until I receive the further Sentiments of the board, thereupon.

It may not be amiss, however, in this friendly, and confidential manner; previously to regret that the expectations of the Commissioners, and the opinions of those who were consulted

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on the compensation proper to be made them, for past, and future services, should accord so little. It is to be observed (as was mentioned in my last) that the Law authorizing the appointment contemplates no pay. Justice however requires it, and therefore, such as it was conceived would meet the concurrence of the public, was allotted. In similar cases it rarely happens, if ever, that high, if any Saileries are allowed. Instance the Directors of the Potomac Company; of the Canal; Navigations of this State; the Bank, &ca. &ca. I do not quote these cases, however, to prove that Saileries ought not

to be allowed in the case of the Commissioners of the federal district, for the past, and compensation for their future Services; but only to shew that necessity of their being as low as could comport with justice. With respect to your ideas of a future allowance, I am bold in assuring you, that, no *fixed* Sallery in the United States (however they have been reprobated for their extravagance) from the Chief Magistrate to the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives is equal to One thousand dollars clear of expences. The reasons are too obvious, to stand in need of enumeration; and I must candidly declare, that I see little use for a Superintendant if more will be requir'd of the Commissioners than either to form, or to adopt plans; give the great outlines thereof in Instruction; and leave the detail and execution to the Superintendant, who ought as I have declared in a letter to you dated the 30th. of November last, to be always on the Spot (unless the duties of the trust should take him away, to facilitate the objects of it). Under this idea, could it suit any person better than yourself to visit the federal City once every three or four months, suppose every two months, when you have an Estate opposite to it that has a claim to a share of your attention. As to the suspicion which may arise, if you serve for daily pay, that your Sessions will be prolonged by it, they are not worth regarding. The malevolence of man is not to be avoided; but instead of *touching* the subject only, in the manner I proposed, I find I am enlarging upon it, and therefore will change it.

Mr. Jefferson is at a loss to discover what could have proceeded from him to Mr. Ellicott, that should have occasioned any discontent in the mind of the latter, with the Com

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missioners, and having shewn me the *only* letters which (he says) he has written to him for many months I see nothing therein on which to found the conjecture contained in the latter part of your letter of the 8th. of February.

As I do not take the George Town paper, and have seen no extracts from it in any other, I do not know to what it is you allude in your letters of the 8 and 18th. instt. which came to hand a few days ago. Mr. Ellicot has never come near me since his return to the City; no explanation therefore on this, the case of Mr. Young, or any other subject has taken place between us.

With respect to Mr Young's renewed application for a change towards the point, &ca. I scarcely know what answer to give, at this time. A change in one instance will, I am certain, open a wide door which could not easily be shut. Therefore, before I could consent even to take the matter into consideration, it would be necessary to have an accurate plan of the parts; deliniated upon paper, with the alterations he proposes; and to have the Commissioners opinion of the consequences resultg. from the adoption of it, in writing; for unless there are some powerful reasons for discrimination, it would be bad policy to comply with the request of one of the Propriators, and reject the application of another. It is possible, and not improbable that I may be at George Town on my way to Mount Vernon about the first of April; when, if every thing was prepared for it, I might on the spot be better able to give an opinion. But, as Mr. Young is in the occupancy of the whole, I see no cause for a hasty decision, which may create (if an alteration should take place) discontents in other quarters. No letter to me, has been received from him as yet. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.⁵⁰

50. From a letter press copy in *District of Columbia Letters and Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Gentlemen: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 5 of January and 8 of february. The former enclosing a List of the squares actually divided &ca., copies of two letters from Majr. Ellicott, and a statement of your certain funds and probable expenditures for the year 1793.

Altho' I have written to you since the receipt of your first Letter; yet, I have not 'till this moment had time to touch upon the several points therein mentioned, which seemed to require a particular answer.

As it is of importance that the squares should be divided and finished as soon as circumstances will admit, I trust that no time will be lost in obtaining a suitable and well qualified person to complete that business, if the services of Majr. Ellicott cannot be counted upon to finish it.

I think with you that the expence of surveying and marking the lines of the District should, and I have no doubt will be defrayed by the United States; but it was not thought best to lay the matter before Congress at this Session. In justice, the expence pence of surveying the City should be refunded from the same source; but on this point a question would be more likely to arise than on the former.

The proprietor's claim of payment for a quantity of Land in the squares intersected by the two cross Streets &ca. is a subject on which I am not qualified to give an opinion; but I should suppose a reference to the terms of agreement with those Gentlemen would decide the matter. If it should not, the mode which you mention of leaving

it to proper and impartial Judges appears to be the best.

When it was suggested to increase the dimensions of the President's House, one fifth. I had no idea that it would carry the expence of that building to anything like the sum of

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£77,900 Sterling, which is estimated by Mr. Hoben. And if that should be the case, I am decidedly of opinion that it would be best to take the plan on it's original scale as you mention. It was always my idea (and if I am not mistaken, Mr. Hoben coincided in the propriety and practicability of it) that the building should be so arranged that only a part of it should be erected at present; but upon such a plan as to make the part so erected an entire building, and to admit of an addition in future, as circumstances might render proper; without hurting, but rather adding to the beauty and magnificence of the whole as an original plan. I was led to this idea by considering that a house which would be very proper for a President of the United States for some years to come, might not be considered is corresponding with other circumstances at a more distant period: and therefore, to avoid the inconvenience which might arise hereafter on that subject, I wished the building to be upon the plan I have mentioned. But I confess, that I cannot see how so great an increase of expence would arise from the small encrease of dimensions proposed; and am much mistaken indeed if it does not far exceed any ideas he let out at the time his plan was adopted. However, as I do not profess to be an accurate Judge of these matters, I cannot undertake to say that the additional expence is inconsistent.

In order that no means in our power for raising a fund commensurate with the objects in view for the ensuing season, may be left untried, I enclose you a draft on the Maryland Treasury for the third instalment of that State, agreeably to the request in your letter of the 8 of february.

In looking over your statement of the "certain funds" for the year 1793, I observe that after mentioning the sum "now in the Treasurer's hands", you say, "his advances on account, as money has been wanted, not covered by warrants" &ca., it struck me on reading this, that it might be possible that some inconvenience might arise from having money paid without a special warrant. While the present Gentleman, who acts as your Treasurer, continues in that office, there can be no apprehension of any evil arising from having money paid without being covered by a warrant; but in the event of his death, or withdrawing of the

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present Commissioners, might not some difficulty arise on that head? I merely suggest this for your consideration, as it struck me, without any intention of viewing the matter in a reprehensible light. I do not mean by special warrants, that the Treasurer should have a warrant for every trifling payment that may be made; but as you will probably have before you at stated periods, estimates of monies that may be wanted before the next meeting, a general warrant might be given to the Treasurer for the amot. of the sum, accompanied with a copy of the estimate, under cover of which he could make the payments. You will, however, consider this as a mere suggestion to guard against inconveniences that might happen; but not intended by any means to dictate to you the mode of transacting your business. With great esteem etc.

P.S. I enclose a small pamphlet which was handed to me by Mr. Jefferson, who observes that it contains some ideas which may merit attention, in due time, at the Federal City.⁵²

52. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

Gentlemen: This will be handed to you by Doctor Thornton of this City, who goes forward to lay before you a plan which he has prepared for the Capitol proposed to be built in the federal City.

Grandeur, Simplicity and Convenience appear to be so well combined in this plan of Doctor Thornton's, that I have no doubt of its meeting with that approbation from you, which I have given it upon an attentive inspection, and which it has received from all those who have seen it and are considered as judges of such things.

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How far the expense of such a building, as is exhibited by the plan, will comport with the funds of the City, you will be the best judges, after having made an estimate of the quantity of materials and labour to be employed in executing it. And to obviate objections that may be raised on this head, it should be considered, that the external of the building will be the only *immediate* expense to be incurred. The internal work, and many of the ornamental parts without, may be finished gradually, as the means will permit, and still the whole be completed within the time contemplated by law for the use of the building. With very great esteem I am etc.⁴⁷

47. In the writing of Tobias Lear in *Letters of the Presidents of the United States to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia* in the Library of Congress.

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, March 4, 1793.

Dear Sir: Since writing my Letter of yesterday, I have received the enclosed from Mr. Jefferson, which I send to you just as I recd. it. I am etc.⁵⁵

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, March 11, 1793.

Sir: I have to request that you will examine with a careful attention, all the Laws passed during the last Session of Congress, and select therefrom such parts or clauses as require the *special* agency of the President to carry them into effect, and report the same to me; together with Department thro' or by which such things are to be executed.⁶⁴

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

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The following is entered in the "Letter Book" immediately following this letter: "Note. The enclosed was the copies of two letters written by Mr. Jefferson to Mr. Ellicott; wch, he says is all that he has written to him in the years 1792 and 1793.

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

To WILLIAM RAWLE⁶⁹

March 13, 1793.

Whereas it appears to me, from the representation of several respectable persons, and from sundry affidavits, that William Kerr and Alexander Beer, who were lately indicted in the Circuit Court of the United States, holden in the Town of York, in the State of Pennsylvania, for a riot, were innocent of the offence, with which they stand charged; and they may be exposed to great trouble and expence in defending themselves unless the

69. United States attorney for the Pennsylvania district.

Indictment be discontinued: I have therefore thought fit to instruct, and I do hereby instruct you forth with to enter a Nolle prose qui on the indictment aforesaid: and for so doing let this be filed as your warrant.⁷⁰

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, March 15, 1793.

Dear Sir: I was exceedingly pleased to learn from your Letter of the 15 ulto., that a spirit of improvement in military knowledge was rapidly taking place among the militia of your State; and I should be happy to give a mark of my approbation of so laudable an emulation, by complying with your Excellency's request, if it could be done with propriety. but applications of a similar nature having been heretofore made and refused; and it being thought proper to avoid complying with them, from a persuasion of the necessity of

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keeping the artillery of the United States as much together as circumstances would permit, and from knowing that if the request was granted in one instance, it could not be denied in any. I am therefore under the necessity of declining to comply with the wish of your Excellency for the loan of some brass field peices from the Arsenal of the Ud. States, for the use of the Volunteer companies of Artillery in Charleston; and I am persuaded you will see that my conduct in this respect is unavoidably the result of my duty to the public. I am etc.⁷⁴

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

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

To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, March 16, 1793.

Dear Madam: I addressed a few lines to you on the 31st of January, in a state of entire uncertainty in what country or condition they might find you; as we had been sometimes told you were in England, sometimes in Holland, and at sometimes in France. Your letter of Octob: 8, 1792, first relieved me from doubt, and gave me a hope that, being in France, and on your own Estate, you are not as destitute as I had feared, of the resources which that could furnish. But I have still to sympathize with you on the deprivation of the dearest of all your resources of happiness, in comparison with which, others vanish. I do it in all sincerity of my friendship for him, and with ardent desires for his relief; in which sentiment I know that my fellow-citizens participate.

The measures which you were pleased to intimate in your letter, are perhaps not exactly those, which I could pursue; perhaps, indeed not the most likely, under actual circumstances to obtain our object. but be assured, that I am not inattentive to his condition, nor contenting myself with inactive wishes for his liberation. My affection to his nation and to himself are unabated, and notwithstanding the line of separation which

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has been unfortunately drawn between them I am confident that both have been led on by a pure love of liberty, and a desire to secure public happiness; and I shall deem that among the most consoling moments of my life which shall see them reunited in the end, as they were in the beginning, of their virtuous enterprise. Accept I pray you the same lively sentiments of interest and attachment to yourself and your dear children, from Dr. Madm. Your most obt. and devoted servt.⁷⁷

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

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, March 22, 1793.

Sir: I send you a Letter of the 26 ulto. from William Bingham Esquire to the Secretary of the Treasury, together with the documents accompanying it. I desire your opinion on the following points arising upon these papers.

I. Whether the proceedings heretofore by the United States in Congress assembled have transferred from Mr. Bingham to the public, the consequences of the transaction in question, so as to make the suit now depending properly an Affair of the Government.

II. Whether the Executive is competent to the requisite measures of defense and security against any unfounded pretensions of the claimants, Plaintiffs or Prosecutors, or whether further special provision by law is necessary.

III. If the Executive be so competent; what is the proper course, under the existing circumstances to be pursued.⁸⁶

To DAVID HUMPHREYS⁸⁷

Philadelphia, March 23, 1793.

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My dear Sir: Closely engaged in the business incident to my Office during the Session of Congress, and as closely employed since in making arrangements for carrying into effect the laws then passed, and in discharging other public duties, I have not 'till this moment found myself enough at leisure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d. of July; and being now on the eve of setting out for Mount Vernon, I shall be able to do but little

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

87. United States Minister to Portugal.

more than barely acknowledge the receipt of it, and of your favors of the 23d. of January and the 8 of february, both of which have reached my hands within these few days.

Even if I had time, it might not be proper for me to reply particularly to the several parts of your letters, especially to that of the 23d, July. I shall therefore content myself at present, my dear Sir, with making a few general observations on the existing state of things, and rely upon your being assured that, however concise my letter may be, it does not become so from any diminution of my regard for you.

If it can be esteemed a happiness to live in an age productive of great and interesting events, we of the present age are very highly favored. The rapidity of national revolutions appear no less astonishing, than their magnitude. In what they will terminate, is known only to the great ruler of events; and confiding in his wisdom and goodness, we may safely trust the issue to him, without perplexing ourselves to seek for that, which is beyond human ken; only taking care to perform the parts assigned us, in a way that reason and our own consciences approve of.

All our late accounts from Europe hold up the expectation of a general war in that quarter. For the sake of humanity I hope such an event will not take place; but, if it shou'd, I trust that we shall have too just a sense of our own interest to originate any cause, that may involve us in it; and I ardently wish we may not be forced into it by the conduct of other

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Nations. If we are permitted to improve without interruption, the great advantages which nature and circumstances have placed within our reach, many years will not revolve before we may be ranked not only among the most

respectable, but among the happiest people on this Globe. Our advances to these points are more rapid than the most sanguine among us ever predicted. A spirit of improvement displays itself in every quarter, and principally in objects of the greatest public utility, such as opening the inland navigation, which is extensive and various beyond conception; improving the old roads and making new ones; building bridges and houses, and in short pursuing those things which seem eminently calculated to promote the advantage and accommodation of the people at large. Besides these, the enterprises of individuals shew at once what are the happy effects of personal exertions in a Country, where equal Laws and equal Rights prevail.

For myself, you see me again entering upon the arduous duties of an important Office to which the unanimous voice of my Country has once more called me. To you, who know my love of retirement and domestic life, it is unnecessary to say that, in accepting this re-appointment, I relinquish those personal enjoyments to which I am peculiarly attached. The motives which induced my acceptance are the same which have ever ruled my decision when the public desire (or, as my countrymen are pleased to denominate it, *good*) was placed in the scale against my personal enjoyment or private interest. The latter I have ever considered as subservient to the former; and perhaps in no instance of my life have I been more sensible of the sacrifice than in the present; for at my age the love of retirement grows every day more and more powerful, and the death of my nephew, the poor Major, will, I apprehend, cause my private concerns to suffer very much.

This melancholy event took place on the 5th of last month at Colo. Bassett's, where he had gone, hoping to benefit from a change of air and situation. Altho' it had been long expected: and indeed, to me, of late appear'd inevitable; yet I have felt it very keenly.

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You will receive from Mr. Jefferson every official communication necessary for your conduct, together with Laws, public papers, &ca. He will also inform you that the steps which you took in consequence of Mr. Barclay's death, met my entire approbation.⁸⁸

I set out with intimating that my Letter would be very short; but upon looking back I find it can hardly be said to have that fault, and, lest it should partake of another at least as bad, I shall close it with assuring you that you have the best wishes, for your health and happiness, of Your sincere friend etc.⁸⁹

88. Thomas Barclay, the American consul in Morocco, had died suddenly. Humphreys had taken charge of his public business.

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

To THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States, March 27, 1793.

Sir: In consequence of your Letter to me of the 25 inst: stating the opinion of the Secry. of State, the Secry. of the Treasury and yourself, on the subject of a Suit instituted against Mr. Bingham; and suggesting the propriety of giving instructions to the Attorney for the United States in the Massachusetts District to appear in behalf of Mr. Bingham, provided that Mr. Bingham will execute certain engagements as mentioned in your letter aforesaid, I do hereby direct you to take such steps in this Affair as may be proper, and for the interest of the United States to pursue.⁹¹

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

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

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Philadelphia, March 25, 1793.

My Dear Sir: It was not 'till the middle of February that I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 23d. of October. If you, who are at the fountain head of those great and important transactions which have lately engrossed the attention of Europe and America, cannot pretend to say what will be their event, surely we, in this distant quarter, should be presumptuous indeed in venturing to predict it. and unwise should we be in the extreme to involve ourselves in the contests of European Nations, where our weight could be but small; tho' the loss to ourselves would be certain. I can however with truth aver that this Country is not guided by such narrow and mistaken policy as will lead it to wish the destruction of any nation, under an idea that our importance will be increased in proportion as that of others is lessened. We should rejoice to see every nation enjoying all the advantages that nature and it's circumstances would admit, consistent with civil liberty, and the rights of other nations. Upon this ground the prosperity of this Country would unfold itself every day, and every day would it be growing in political importance.

Mr. Jefferson will communicate to you such official information as we have to give, and will transmit the Laws, public papers &c.

I have thought it best, My Dr. Sir, not to let slip this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your Letter, lest no other should occur to me very soon, as I am called to Mount Vernon by the death of my Nephew, Major Washington, and am on the point of setting out for that place tomorrow. I need not tell you that this is of course a very busy moment with me, it will therefore account for the conciseness of this letter by which however you must not measure my regard.

You see me again entering upon the arduous duties of an important office I do it so contrary to my intention, that it would require more time than I have prescribed to myself, to assign the reasons and therefore I shall leave them for your own suggestion, aided by the publications which you will find in the Gazettes. I am etc.90

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

On March 25 Washington wrote the following certificate for Tobias Lear's accounts: "I do hereby certify that I have examined the Accounts which have been kept by Mr. Tobias Lear, on my behalf, from the commencement of my Administration of the Government of the United States down to the 31st. day of December One thousand seven hundred and ninety two, as will appear by the Journal and Ledger which contain them, and that I am perfectly well satisfied with the clearness and justness of them." This certificate is in the Huntington Library; a duplicate is in the *Washington Papers*.