

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1790.

Sir: Your letter dated the 3d. inst: enclosing to Mr. Short,⁶ came to my hands by the mail of Wednesday.

The appointment of that gentleman to negotiate the Loans in Holland, and the Instructions you have given for his government, meet my approbation.⁷ The first as no inconvenience it is conceived will result from his absence from Paris, is a measure of economy; the latter, are full and cautionary; and under his Agency will, it is to be hoped, be satisfactorily executed. I am etc.⁸

6. William Short

7. The instructions to Short from Secretary Hamilton are dated Sept. 1, 1790, and are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1790.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 10th. instt. relative to the establishment of the boats or Cutters for the protection of the revenue, I have to observe, that, if there appears to exist a

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necessity for equipping the whole number therein mentioned, the arrangement for building and stationing them, seems judicious, and is to me perfectly satisfactory.

It is my wish that your Enquiries, respecting proper characters to command these Vessels, may be extended to the States south of Virginia. Mr. Lear can furnish you with the List of Applications already made. Two persons, with nearly equal recommendations, have offered themselves from Philadelphia, Captains Montgomery and Roach.⁹ There are several respectable names subscribed in favor of each of these persons; some of them, I believe, in favor of both: such is the facility, with which, on certain occasions, recommendations are granted. It would seem, however, that they are both classified; but, in favor of the former, it is stated that he now fills a subordinate station in the revenue, which he accepted with a view of being brought into notice when such an appointment, as that which he now solicits, should be made.

Captain Barney¹⁰ was not at Baltimore when I passed through, nor cou'd I learn with certainty whether he wished

9. James Montgomery and Isaac Roach. Their application are in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

10. Capt. Joshua Barney.

to receive the appointment or not.¹¹ But I was informed that he had written in answer to an intimation made to him, by you or one of his friends, on the subject, whence I suppose his wish may be collected.

There is a Mr. Richard Taylor of this State, an applicant for one of the appointments, who from my knowledge of him, appears to be a proper person both as to character, and experience in the profession.

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Remarking to you that the advantage, which might accrue from their superintendance, seems to suggest the propriety of nominating the Commanders before the Vessels are put on the stocks; you have my permission to carry the arrangement for building the Boats or Cutters, stated in your letter into immediate effect, in such extent as to your judgment shall seem necessary for die public service. I am &c.12

11. Barney had written (August 25) to Tench Coxe that he could not accept an appointment to command one of the revenue cutters as the pay was too small Barney's letter is in the *Applications for Office under Washington* in the Library of Congress.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1790.

Sir: Mr. John Cogdell having resigned his appointment as Collector of the port of George town in south Carolina, I have to request that you will make enquiry respecting a proper person to succeed him.

Mr. Corbin Braxton, having also resigned his appointment as Surveyor of the ports of Richmond and Manchester, Colonel Heth²⁴ informs me that he has nominated Mr. Z. Rowland²⁵ to do the duties of the office until another together with one from Colonel Griffin on²⁶

24. William Heth.

25. Zachariah Rowland.

26. Samuel Griffin.

the same subject, are herewith transmitted.

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I enclose to you, a letter from Mr. Thaddeus Burr to Colonel Humphreys, recommendatory of Capt. John Maltbee to the command of a revenue Cutter, and a recommendation of Capt. Montgomery by some Citizens of Philadelphia, to a similar station. These papers are not intended to influence your opinion in favor of these persons farther than as they may serve to form a comparison of their merits with other candidates. I am etc.²⁷

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1790.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you, your letter dated the 15th. Ult^o. containing your sentiments on the questions I had propounded for your opinion and advice is come duly to hand.³¹ I feel myself much obliged by the full and able consideration you have bestowed on the subject.³² From present appearances, however, it does not seem as if there would be occasion for any decision on either point which gave birth to my questions. I am etc.³³

31. Hamilton's reply to the Queries to the Heads of the Departments, Aug. 27, 1790, *ante*, q. v., is an A. D. S., 25 pages 4° in length, and is in the *Washington Papers*. (See note 78 to the Queries to the Heads of the Departments, Aug. 27, 1790, *ante*.)

32. A brief note of thanks for information forwarded is also dated October 3 and addressed to Hamilton by Washington. It is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 6, 1790.

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Sir: I have received your letter of the 29th. Ultio. The papers concerning Capt. Lyde, put into your hands by the Vice President, which you say were enclosed to me, have not been transmitted, but from the recommendations in favor of Captain Williams, I think him entitled to a preference.

Not being possessed of any commissions, I have to request (unless your farther enquiry should point to more proper characters) that you will signify to the

undermentioned persons my intention to appoint them to command the revenue Cutters on the stations opposite their respective names, and that you will furnish them with the necessary instructions for proceeding to superintend the building and equipment of their several Vessels.

Hopley Yeaton New Hampshire

John Foster Williams Massachusetts

Richard Law Connecticut

Patrick Dennis New York

James Montgomery Pennsylvania

Simon Gross Maryland

Richard Taylor Virginia

William Hall South Carolina

I am etc.37

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

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To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1790.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th inst. I received yesterday on my return from an excursion up the Potowmack.

I acquainted you on the 15th. instant⁴⁶ that I had appointed Mr. Woodbury Langdon Commissioner of Loans for the State of New Hampshire; but as it is probable from his brothers letter to you, that he will decline the appointment, I have now to inform you that I have no objection to Mr. Keith Spence the person recommended by Mr. John Langdon provided that, on enquiry, you find him to be the person best qualified to discharge the duties of the Office.

Mr. Lear's knowledge of characters in the State of New Hampshire will assist your information on this subject. I am etc.⁴⁵

46. This brief note is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 28th. ultimo. The measures which you have taken to forward the building and equipment of the revenue Cutters, and to procure information respecting proper characters to be appointed inferior officers, meet my approbation.

You will please to inform Captain Law⁵³ of his appointment, and furnish him

53. Richard (?) Law.

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with instructions similar to those you have given to the other Commanders, I am etc.

P.S. Captain Taylor declines his appointment and I am not informed of a person qualified to receive it.⁵⁴

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, November 8, 1790.

Sir: I have received your letters of the 26th Ult: and 1st. Inst. The objection stated by you to the appointment of Mr. Spence⁶¹ being conclusive, I now enclose a letter from Mr. Wingate⁶² to me recommendatory of another Candidate, with my answer occasioned by the previous appointment of Mr. Woodbury Langdon, but should that Gentleman finally determine not to accept, and you learn, on enquiry, that Colo. Rogers⁶³ is qualified to discharge the duties of the office, I shall have no objection to appoint him.

The enclosed application from Captain Kelly,⁶⁴ for the command of one of the revenue Cutters, will receive your consideration, and be compared with the pretensions of other applicants.

In my letter of the 4th instant I informed you that Capt: Taylor had declined his appointment, he has since in consequence of your letter to him, waited upon me and agreed to accept. Observing that he should pursue your instructions for superintending the building and equipment of the Vessel, he expressed a doubt what kind of Vessel could be built for the sum limited, which would answer the purposes of the service. Swiftness of sailing being especially required, he thought that the pilot-boat construction would be best on that account, though very inconvenient in point of accommodation; and he submitted the idea of taking such pilot boats as had, upon trial been found to

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61. Keith Spence, of Portsmouth, N. H.

62. Paine Wingate.

63. Nathaniel Rogers.

64. Capt. Thomas Kelly, of Newbern, N.C.

excel in the requisite of sailing. I am etc.65

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, November 11, 1790.

Sir: Since writing to you yesterday I have received your letter of the 6th inst: enclosing the copy of one from Mr. Skinner⁶⁶ to you, wherein he expresses his intention to continue in Office, which in conformity to your opinion, I am willing he should do. You will therefore destroy the letter, which I enclosed to you in my last, for Colo. Thomas.

The person recommended by Capt. Taylor to be his first Mate is represented to me as a deserving man, and qualified for that station. I am etc.65

66. William Skinner. He was Commissioner of Loans for North Carolina.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, March 15, 1791.

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By Virtue of the several Acts, the one entitled “An Act for raising and adding another regiment to the military establishment of the United States and for making further provision for the protection of the frontiers”, and the other entitled “An Act making an appropriation for the purpose therein mentioned”, I do hereby authorise and empower you by yourself or any other person or persons to borrow on behalf of the United States, within the said States or elsewhere a sum or sums not exceeding in the whole, three hundred and thirty two thousand six hundred and eighty six Dollars and twenty Cents, and to make or cause to be made for that purpose such Contract or Contracts as shall be necessary, and for the interest of the said States in conformity to the said several acts subject to the restrictions and limitations therein respectively contained; and also to this further restriction, that the United States shall have a right to reimburse the principal and interest of the monies which shall be borrowed in pursuance hereof, at the end of the present year or as soon thereafter as they shall think fit. And for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.⁸⁹

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, March 19, 1791.

Pay or cause to be paid to the Secretary of State Forty thousand Dollars to be applied to the purposes of the Act, intituled “An Act providing the means of Intercourse between the United States and foreign Nations” for which this shall be your warrant.⁷

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, March 15, 1791.

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Having thought fit pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Act entitled, "an Act repealing after the last day of June next the duties heretofore laid upon distilled Spirits imported from abroad and laying others in their stead, and also upon Spirits, distilled within the United States and for appropriating the same" to divide the United States into the following fourteen Districts, namely, one to consist of the State of New Hampshire, another to consist of the State of Massachusetts, another to consist of the State of Rhode Island, and Providence plantations, another to consist of the State of Connecticut, another to consist of the State of Vermont, another to consist of the State of New York, another to consist of the State of New Jersey, another to consist of the State of Pennsylvania, another to consist of the State of Delaware, another to consist of the State of Maryland, another to consist of the State of Virginia, another to consist of the State of North Carolina, another to consist of the State of

South Carolina, and another to consist of the State of Georgia; and having by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appointed the following persons to be supervisors of the sd. Districts respectively, that is to say, for the District of New Hampshire, Joshua Wentworth, for the District of Massachusetts, Nathal. Goham, for the District of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, John S. Dexter; for the District of Connecticut, John Chester; for the District of Vermont, Noah Smith; for the District of New York, William S. Smith; for the District of New Jersey, Aaron Dunham; for the District of Pennsylvania, George Clymer; for the District of Delaware, Henry Latimer; for the District of Maryland, George Gale; for the District of Virginia, Edward Carrington; for the District of North Carolina, William Polk; for the District of South Carolina, Daniel Stevens; and for the District of Georgia, John Matthews.

I do hereby in further execution of the said powers make and establish the following supplementary arrangements Vizt.

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First, that the compensations to the said Supervisions respectively shall be as follow. To the Supervisor of New Hampshire a salary of five hundred Dollars, and a commission of one half per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Massachusetts a salary of 800 Dollars and a Commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Rhode Island and Providence plantations a salary of 500 Dollars and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of

Connecticut a salary of 600 Dollars and a Commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the supervisor of Vermont a salary of 400 Dollars and a Commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of New York a salary of 800 Dollars and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of New Jersey a salary of 400 Dollars and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Pennsylvania a salary of one thousand Dollars and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Delaware a salary of 400 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Maryland a salary of 700 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of Virginia a salary of 1000 Dollars and a Commission of one per Cent.

To the Supervisor of North Carolina a salary of 700 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

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To the Supervisor of South Carolina a salary of 700 Dollars and a commission of one per cent.

To the Supervisor of Georgia a salary of 500 Dollars and a commission of one per Cent.

Secondly, That the States hereafter mentioned shall be distributed into the following Surveys of Inspection and under the dispositions and regulations which follow Vizt.

The Districts of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Providence plantations, of Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland for the present, and Georgia shall severally, form, each one survey, and the duties of Inspector of each Survey shall be performed by the Supervisor of the District comprehending the same.

Massachusetts shall form three Surveys

No. 1, 2, and 3, the first consisting of the Province of Maine; the second, of the Counties of Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Hampshire and Berkshire, the third of the residue of the State.

The duties of Inspector of the Survey No. 1 shall for the present be performed by the Supervisor.

For the Survey No. 2. there shall be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 500 Dollars, and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ pr. Cent. To this office I shall appoint Jonathn: Jackson.

For the Survey No. 3 there shall also be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 500 Dollars, and a Commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ pr. Cent. To this office I shall appoint Leonard Jarvis.

Pensylvania shall form four Surveys No. 1. 2. 3 and 4: the first consisting of the City and County of Philadelphia and the Counties of Bucks and Montgomery. The duties

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of Inspector of this survey shall for the present be performed by the Supervisor. The second consisting of the Counties of Berks, Northampton, Luzerne and Northumberland. the third consisting of the Counties of Delaware, Chester, Lancaster, York, Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Mifflin and Huntington. the fourth consisting of the Counties of Bedford, Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington and Alleghany. To each of the three last surveys there shall be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 450 Dollars and a Commission of one per Cent. I shall appoint for No. 2. James Collins and for No. 4. John Neville. It is my wish to appoint for No. 3. Edwd. Hand. But as his acceptance of the office is doubted,

and some inconveniences might attend a refusal; I have concluded to leave a Commission with a Blank for the name; desiring that you will take measures to ascertain the disposition of the said Edward Hand, and if this should appear to be in favor of an acceptance; that the blank be filled with his name; if against it with the name of John McDowel.

With regard to the District of Virginia, I shall postpone any farther arrangements till my arrival within that State.

North Carolina shall form five Surveys No. 1. 2. 3. 4. and 5., the first consisting of the counties of Wilmington, Onslow, New Hanover, Brunswick, Bladen, Duplin, Anson, Richmond, Moore, Cumberland, Robertson⁸³ and Sampson; the second, of the Counties of Carteret, Hyde, Beaufort, Pitt, Cravin, Jones, Dobbs [*sic*] Johnson,⁸⁴ Wayne, the third of the Counties of Kurretuck,⁸⁵ Campden, Pasquotank, Perqumans, Chowan, Gates, Hartford,⁸⁶ Zyrich [*sic*]; the fourth of the counties of Northampton, Martin, Halifax; Nash, Edgecomb, Warren, Franklin, Caswell, Orange, Randolph, Grandville, Wake and Chatham: the fifth of the Counties of Mecklinbergh, Montgomery, Roan,⁸⁷ Iredell, Surry, Stokes, Rockingham, Gilford, Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke, Wilkes. I shall appoint for the present the Collector of Wilmington as Inspector of Survey No. 1, the Collector of Newburn as Inspector of No. 2. The Collector of Edenton as Inspector of Survey No. 3, and the compensation in each Case shall be a commission of two pr. Cent.

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To each of the Surveys Nos. 4. and 5. there shall be an Inspector whose compensation shall be a salary of 450: Dollars, and a Commission of one pr. Cent.

83. Robeson.

84. Johnston.

85. Currituck.

86. Hertford.

87. Rowan.

It is my present intention to appoint for No. 4 John Whitaker, and for No. 5 John McDowel. But as I shall have an opportunity of further enquiry in the course of my journey through the State, I shall leave commissions with blanks which are not to be filled till after the tenth day of June next; but if nothing to the contrary is heard from me by that day, the Blanks are severally to be filled with the names above mentioned.

The State of South Carolina shall form three Surveys No. 1. 2. and 3. the first consisting of the Counties of Colleton, Berkely, Washington, Mareon [sic], Bartholomew, Charlestown, Granville, Hilton, Lincoln, Shrewsbury, Winton, Orange, Lexington and Lewisburgh, the second consisting of the Counties of Wingan, Williamsburgh, Liberty, Kingston, Darlington, Chesterfield, Marlborough, Clarendon, Clermont, Lancaster, Kershaw, Richland, Fairfield, Chester, York. The third consisting of the Counties of Edge field, Abbeville, Newbury, Laurens, Union, Spartanburgh, Greenville, Pendleton. The duties of Inspector of Survey No. 1. to be performed by the Supervisor. The Collector of Georgetown to be the Inspector of No. 2. with a salary of three hundred Dollars, and a Commission of 2 pt. Cent. And for Survey No. 3, there shall be an Inspector, whose compensation shall be a salary of 450. Dollars and a commission of one per Cent. To this office I shall appoint Andrew Pickens.

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The commission in each case shall be computed upon the Nett product of the duties on Spirits distilled within the United States, and within the jurisdiction of the Officer to whom it is allowed, which nett product shall be determined by deducting at each stage of the computation all antecendent charges.

Thirdly, That at every port where there is a Collector and Surveyor, the Surveyor shall be an Inspector; and at every port where there is a Collector only, he shall be an Inspector. The duties of these Inspectors except in the Cases herein before specified, shall extend only to spirits imported from foreign Countries.

Fourthly, That, for the sake of uniformity, the Officers to be appointed by the respective supervisors shall be denominated Collectors of the Revenue.

Fifthly, That the compensation to those Officers respectively shall be a commission on the sums which shall from time to time be collected by each, of two per Centum, on the duties arising on spirits distilled from foreign materials; and of 4 per Centum, on the duties arising on Spirits distilled from materials of the growth or production of the United States.

Having thus made known to you the arrangements which I have thought fit to adopt, you will proceed to notify them to whomsoever it may concern. And you will add such instructions to the respective officers, as shall be necessary for their government in the execution of their several offices, in conformity to the Law, and to the tenor of these presents.⁸⁸

88. A paraphrase of this letter is entered in another "Letter Book" (No. 25) as a record of presidential action and dated March 15, in which several variations are to be noted, to wit, the North Carolina county of Duplin is there given as Dauphin, and Zyrich is given as Tyrrell. In South Carolina, Lexington County is omitted. Jonathan Jackson was named inspector of Survey No. 2, in Massachusetts, and Leonard Jarvis of Survey No. 3.

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For Maryland, two surveys were established: "No. 1 comprehends the Counties of St. Mary's, Somerset, Calvert, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent, Charles, Talbot, Dorchester, Baltimore, Ann Arundel, Worcester, Hartford, Cecil, and Prince Georges. No. 2 consists of the Counties of Montgomery, Washington, Frederick and Alleghany. The Supervisor of the District, George Gale, officiates as Inspector of Survey No. 1, his compensation is a salary of Seven hundred Dollars, and a commission of one percent. Philip Thomas has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 2. with a salary of Four hundred and fifty Dollars, and a commission of one per cent.

"Virginia," on which action was postponed March 15 "has been divided into seven Surveys of Inspection. No. 1 consists of the Counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, King George, Caroline, Hanover, Henrico, Charles City, York, Gloucester, Matthews, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, King William and New Kent: No. 2 of the Counties of Stafford, Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Culpeper, Orange, Albemarle, Louisa and Spotsylvania; No. 3 of the Counties of Goochland, Fluvanna, Amherst, Bedford, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Amelia, Powhatan, Cumberland, Buckingham, Prince Edward and Campbell: No. 4 of the Counties of Princes-Anne, Chesterfield, Norfolk, Isle of Wight, Sussex, Surry, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Brunswick, Greensville, Southampton, Nansemond, Accomack and Northampton; No. 5, of the Counties of Frederick, Berkly, Hampshire, Hardy, Monongalia, Ohio, Harrison, Randolph, Pendleton, Augusta, Rockingham and Shenandoah; No. 6. of the Counties of Rockbridge, Botetourt, Montgomery, Wythe, Washington, Russel, Greenbriar, and Kanhawa; No. 7 consists of the District of Kentucky. Edward Carrington has been appointed Supervisor with a salary of one thousand Dollars, and a Commission of one per centum. Drury Rasgsdale has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 1 Edward Stevens of No. 2. Mayo Carrington of No. 3. Thomas Newton of No. 4. Edward Smith of No. 5. James Brackenridge of No. 6. and Thomas Marshall of No. 7. The compensations to these Officers are, to each a salary of four hundred and fifty Dollars, and a Commission of one per centum."

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For “North Carolina....William Polk has been appointed Supervisor, and a salary of seven hundred Dollars, and a commission of one per cent have been assigned him as a compensation. James Read has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 1. John Daves of No. 2. Thomas Benbury of No. 3. John Whitaker of No. 4, and Joseph McDowell the elder of No. 5. The compensation to the Inspector of Surveys No. 1. 2. and 3. are, to each, a Commission of two per Centum; those inspectors being also Officers of the customs. A salary of four hundred and fifty Dollars and a commission of one per cent have been assigned as a compensation to the Inspectors of Surveys No. 4 and 5. respectively.”

In “South Carolina....The duties of Inspector of Survey No. 1 are performed by the Supervisor, Daniel Stevens, to whom a salary of seven hundred Dollars and a Commission of one per cent have been assigned as a compensation. Benjamin Cudworth has been appointed Inspector of Survey No. 2. and Sylvanus Walker of No. 3. the compensation assign'd to the Inspector of Survey No. 2, is a salary of three hundred Dollars and a commission of two per centum, to the Inspector of survey No. 3 a salary of four hundred and fifty Dollars and a Commission of one per Cent.

“Georgia forms one survey. The Supervisor, John Matthews, officiates as Inspector. The compensation assigned him is a salary of five hundred Dollars, and a Commission of one per centum.

“The Ports, at which neither surveyor nor collector resides, have been placed under the inspection of the Collector or Surveyor of the District to which they belong, as the one or the other is the Inspector of the Revenue for the Port where he resides. The duties of these Inspectors axe confined to Spirits imported from abroad; and, as they bear an analogy to those which they have been accustomed to perform, no compensation has been assigned....

“The Officers directed, by the 18th. Section of the Law, to be appointed by the Supervisors, have been denominated Collectors of the Revenue. Their number has been

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of necessity left to the discretion of the Supervisor, with these general intimations, that they should be in all cases as few as the proper execution of the business would permit, and that, in regard to the collection of the duties on Stills, one for each County would suffice. But this regulation necessarily varies, as the stills are more or less dispersed. where they are much scattered two, three, or more counties have been assigned to the same person. The compensation to these officers is a commission, on the sums collected by each, of two per centum on the product of the duties on spirits distilled from foreign materials; and of four per centum on the product of the duties arising from Spirits distilled from Domestic materials, whether per gallon or by the Still. This difference was dictated by the different nature of the Business.”

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, February 16, 1791.

Sir: “An act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States” is now before me for consideration.

The Constitutionality of it is objected to. It therefore becomes more particularly my duty to examine the ground on which the objection is built. As a mean of investigation I have called upon the Attorney General of the United States, in whose line it seemed more particularly to be, for his official examination and opinion. His report is, that the Constitution does not warrant the Act. I then applied to the Secretary of State for his sentiments on the subject.⁵² These coincide with the Atty. General's;

52. A press copy of Jefferson's opinion (February 15) is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

and the reasons for their opinions having been submitted in writing, I now require, in like manner, yours, on the validity and propriety of the above recited Act:⁵³ and that you may know the points on which the Secretary of State and the Attorney General dispute the

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constitutionality of the Act; and that I may be fully possessed of the argument *for* and *against* the measure, before I express any opinion of my own, I give you an opportunity of examining and answering the objections contained in the enclosed papers. I require the return of them, when your own sentiments are handed me (which I wish may be as soon as is convenient;) and further, that no copies of them be taken, as it is for my own satisfaction they have been called for.⁵⁴

53. A copy of Hamilton's opinion follows this letter in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The draft is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, Feb. 23, 1791, post.)

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Wednesday noon, February 23, 1791.

Sir: I have this moment received your sentiments with respect to the constitutionality of the Bill, "to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States."

This bill was presented to me by the joint Commee. of Congress at 12 o'clock on Monday the 14th. instant. To what precise period, by legal interpretation of the constitution, can the President retain it in his possession, before it becomes a Law by the lapse of ten days?⁶⁸

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

Hamilton's reply was "that you have ten days exclusive of that on which the Bill was delivered to you, and Sundays. Hence in the present case if it is returned on Friday at any time while Congress are setting, it will be in time. It might be a question, if returned after their adjournment on Friday." This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

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Mount Vernon, April 4, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th. Ult came duly to hand. For the information contained in it, and for the notes which accompanied the same, I thank you.

Every expedient, as I believe you know, is in operation to avert a War with the hostile Indian tribes, and to keep those who are in treaty with us in good temper; but I am nearly thoroughly convinced that neither will be effected, or, if effected, will be of short duration while land jobbing and the disorderly conduct of our borderers is suffered with impunity; and whilst the States individually are omitting no occasion to interfere in matters which belong to the general Government.

It is not more than four or five months since the Six Nations or part of them were assured (through the medium of Colo. Pickering) that thence forward they would be spoken to by the Government of the United States *only* and the same thing was repeated in strong terms to the Cornplanter at Philadelphia afterwards. Now, as appears by the extract from Mr. King, the Legislature of New York are going into some negotiations with these very people. What must this evince to them? Why, that we pursue no system, and that our declarations are not to be regard. [*sic*]

To sum the whole up in a few words: the interferences of States, and the speculations of Individuals will be the bane of all our public measures.⁵¹ Sincerely and Affectionately I am etc.

51. John C. Hamilton prints the following portion of Hamilton's reply to this letter, dating it April 10: "It is to be lamented, that our system is such as still to leave the public peace of the Union at the mercy of each State government. This is not only the case as it regards direct interferences, but as it regards the inability of the national government, in many particulars, to take those direct measures for carrying into execution its views and engagements which exigences require. For example; a party comes from a county

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of Virginia into Pennsylvania, and wantonly murders some friendly Indians. The national government, instead of having power to apprehend the murderers and bring them to justice, is obliged to make a representation to that of Pennsylvania; that of Pennsylvania again is to make a representation to that of Virginia. And whether the murderers shall be brought to justice at all, must depend upon the particular policy and energy and good disposition of two State governments, and the efficacy of the provisions of their respective laws; and the security of other States, and the money of all, are at the discretion of one. These things require a remedy.” Hamilton's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*, and no copy or draft is found in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Charleston, May 7, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letters of the 11th and 14th of last month. Concluding from Mr. Shorts statement of his negotiation in Amsterdam, and from the opinions offered in your letter of the 11th, that the loan has been obtained on the best terms practicable, and that its application in the manner you propose will be the most advantageous to the United States, I do hereby signify my approbation of what has been already done, as communicated in your letters of the 11th.

and 14th. of April. Assenting to the further progress of the loans as recommended by you in these letters, I request that instructions may be given for completing them agreeably thereto. I am &c.66

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

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Mount Vernon, June 13, 1791.

My dear Sir: I am arrived at this place and just in time to acknowledge (in a hasty manner by this days Post, the first opportunity that has offered of writing to Philadelphia since I left Savannah) the receipt of your private letter of the 17th. of April by Mr. Smith who lodged it at Cambden, through which it was known my route would be on my return to the seat of the Government.

Mr. Wolcott⁷⁹ may be informed that it is my intention to appoint him to the office of Comptroller⁸⁰ With respect to his success as Auditor, I shall suspend my determination (if no manifest inconvenience will result from it) until my

79. Oliver Wolcott, jr

80. Comptroller of the Treasury.

arrival in Philadelphia, which however, is not likely to happen before the 5. or 6 of July as (by appointment at the last meeting) I am to meet the Commissioners, under the residence Act on Monday the 27th. inst: at Georgetown, and may, for aught I know to the contrary, be detained there several days; and afterwards must move slowly, on account of the exhausted condition of my horses.

No letters from the Northward or Eastward of this, bearing date between the 15th. and 30th. of May have come to my hands; and having abundant evidence before I reached Charleston of the slow movements of the mail through the three Southernmost States, I did, before I left that place, on the 9th. of that month direct that all letters which might be for and following me to be returned to Fredericksburgh as the first place I should touch the post line upon my return. But, these directions not arriving in Richmond in time (as I conjecture) the letters of that interval, agreeably to the superscriptions which I am informed were on them, were forwarded from that place to Taylors Ferry, in expectation of meeting me there; but to this circumstance, which was unknown to me, and to finding from better

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information than I set out with, that it would be more convenient to cross James River higher up than at Taylors; is to be ascribed my missing the communications which were made between the 15. and 30. of May as mentioned before. These dispatches I may be long without, and perhaps never get; for there are no cross posts in those parts,

and the letters, which will have to pass through *many* hands, may find *some* who are not deficient in curiosity.

My return to this place is sooner than I expected; owing to the uninterruptedness of my journey by sickness, from bad weather, or accidents of any kind whatsoever. Having obtained before I left Philadelphia the most accurate account, I could get there, of the places and roads through, and by which I was to perform my tour; and the distances between the former; I formed my line of march accordingly; fixed each day's journey and the day to halt; from neither of which have I departed in a single instance, except staying, from a particular circumstance, two days in Columbia, and none at Charlotte, instead of one at each; and crossing James River at Carters Ferry in place of Taylors, as was the original intention. But the improbability of performing a tour of 1700 miles (I have already rode more), with the same set of horses without encountering any accident, by which a deviation would be rendered unavoidable appeared so great, that I allowed eight days for casualties, and six to refresh at this place when I should have returned to it. None of the former having happened, account for the 14 days I shall remain here before the meeting with the Commrs; one of whom Mr. Johnson chief Justice of the

State of Maryland, and living at a pretty considerable distance from Georgetown; having made his arrangements agreeably thereto, would not be able to meet me sooner.

I mention this matter, that, if there is any thing pressing in either of the Departments, it may be known where I am. With affectionate regard I am etc.⁸¹

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, July 29, 1791.

Upon a full consideration of the reasons offered by Mr. Short, in his correspondence with you, for removing the restrictions laid upon him by his present instructions, so far as relates to his not opening a loan for more than a certain sum, and not being allowed to open a new Loan until the terms of the preceding one shall have been ratified here. I have thought it expedient and for the interest of the United States that those restrictions should be removed. And I do hereby authorise you to inform Mr. Short that he may open at his discretion loans for the United States, at such times and places, and for such sums as he may find adviseable within the limitations of the respective Laws authorising these Loans.³⁰

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

RATIFICATION OF THE DUTCH LOAN

City of Philadelphia, September 1, 1791.

To all whom it may concern, greeting, Whereas the Legislature of the U.S. of America, by their Acts passed on the fourth and twelfth days of August, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, authorised the President of the U. S. to borrow on their behalf certain sums of money therein named, or any lesser sums, for the purposes therein stated, and to make contracts respecting the foreign Debt of the U.S.; and the President thereupon gave to Alexander Hamilton esquire, Secretary of the Treasury of the U.S., full powers by himself, or any per. son appointed by him, to carry the

purposes of the said Acts into execution, and the said Alexander Hamilton in pursuance of the said powers, having authorised Messieurs William and John Willink, and Nicholas and Jacob Van Staphorst & Hubbard in that behalf, the said William and John Willink, and

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Nicholas and Jacob Van Staphorst & Hubbard have accordingly entered into Contract with certain persons for the Loan of three millions of Florins which contract was made known, and acknowledged by the said William Willink for William and John Willink, and by the said Nicholas Van Staphorst for Nicholas and Jacob Van Staphorst & Hubbard before Petrus Cornelius Nahuys Notary at Amsterdam in the N. Netherlands on the twelfth day of November in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here follows the text of the contract]

Now Know Ye, that the President of the United States of America having seen and considered the said Contract, hath ratified and confirmed, and by these presents doth ratify and confirm the same and every article thereof.

In testimony whereof he has caused the seal of the U.S. to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with his hand.⁷⁵

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

On September 1 the President published a similar ratification confirming a loan of 2,500,000 florins, negotiated by William Short, Charge d'Affaires at the Court of France, at Amsterdam, through the same agents as above. This ratification is entered in the "Letter Book" in the Washington Papers.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Head of Elk, September 16, 1791.

Dr. Sir: Whilst I was in Wilmington waiting breakfast today, I made the best enquiry time and circumstances would permit, for some fit character to fill the office lately held by Doctr. Latimer.¹ Several persons were mentioned, but the weight of information was spoken of by Mr. Vining² as a man of respectable character, of decision and temper. He now

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is, or lately has been high Sheriff of the County of Kent; and no man, it is said, could have discharged the duties of that Office better. Mr. Bedford,³ though he had another person in view, (Majr. Jacquet),⁴ accords in this opinion of Barratt.⁵ Doctor Latimer, whom I afterwards called upon, at New port, for the purpose of enquiry, also speaks well of Barratt. He did indeed, before I mentioned the name of Barratt to him, say that he thought Majr. Patten⁶ of Dover the best person that readily occurred to him for this office, but yielded a ready assent to the qualifications of Barratt. None knows whether he would, or would

1. Henry Latimer. He had resigned his position as Supervisor of Delaware.
2. John Vining.
3. Gunning Bedford.
4. Peter Jacquet.
5. Andrew Barratt.
6. John Patton(?).

not accept the appointment. Among other things, urged in his favor by Mr. Vining, are his living near the centre of the State, amidst the Stills, and where the most discontent is said to be. To Mr. Chew of Philada. Mr. Vining particularly appeals for the character of Mr. Barratt.

If his testimony is in favor of this character, I think it will be an eligible appointment. A blank Commission, signed, has been left with Mr. Lear for the Supervisor of the Delaware District. With much esteem and regard I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

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Mount Vernon, September 24, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 22d. inst: enclosing a copy of one from the French Minister; and have to inform you, that your proceedings with respect to the request of the Minister of France, meet my entire approbation.¹⁰ I am etc.¹¹

10. Ternant had written Hamilton (September 21) of the alarming state of affairs in Hispaniola [the Slave Rebellion of 1791 in San Domingo] asking for a loan, not exceeding \$40,000, with which to send urgently needed provisions to that island. Hamilton reported to the President that United States funds were available to that amount and that he had placed that sum at the command of the French Minister. These letters axe recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 24th. ulto., (enclosing a letter from Govr. St. Clair, and sundry papers relating to the subject of the settlements which have been made under purchases from Judge Symmes)¹⁴ I have duly received. The Secretary of State, as well as I recollect, has already written both the Govt. St. Clair and Judge Symmes on this subject; but whether he has or has not, it can make no material difference to let the matter rest until my return to Philada. when I shall pay the necessary attention to it.¹⁵ I am etc.¹⁶

14. John Cleves Symmes.

15. The "Miami Purchase" dispute was not finally settled until 1792, when an act of Congress was approved Apr. 12, 1792, establishing the boundaries of Symmes' purchase. "Sundry papers relating to the purchase by Judge Symmes of the Lands on the Great

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Miami” were laid before Congress, with a brief message from the President, Nov. 11, 1791. This message is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, May 7, 1792.

For carrying into execution the provisions in that behalf made by the Act intituled “An Act for raising a farther sum of money for the protection of the Frontiers, and for other purposes therein mentioned,” I do hereby

authorise you the said Secretary of the Treasury to agree and contract with the President Directors and Company of the Bank of the United States; with any other body politic or corporate within the United States, or with any other person or persons, for a loan or loans to the United States of any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole Five hundred and twenty three thousand five hundred Dollars to be advanced and paid in such proportions and at such periods as you shall judge necessary for fulfilling the purposes of the said Act. Provided that the rate of interest of such loan or loans shall not exceed five per centum per annum, and that the principal thereof may be reimbursed at the pleasure of the United States. And I hereby promise to ratify what you shall lawfully do in the premises.⁹¹

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, May 9, 1792.

For carrying into execution the provisions of the Eleventh section of the Act intituled “An Act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States,” I do hereby authorise you the said Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe by one or more subscriptions, on behalf

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and in the name of the United States, for such number of shares of and in the capital stock of the said Corporation as together shall amount to two Millions of Dollars, and the same to pay for out of any monies which shall have been or shall be borrowed by virtue of either of the Acts, the one intituled; "An Act making provisions for the Debt of the United States," and the other intituled, "An Act making provision for the reduction of the public Debt": And I do further authorise you to borrow of the said Corporation for and on account of the United States an equal sum, namely, Two Millions of Dollars to be applied to the purposes for which the said monies shall have been procured, and to be reimbursable in Ten years by equal annual installments, or at any time sooner or in any greater proportions that the Govern

ment may think fit.⁹⁶ Provided that the interest on the said sum so by you to be borrowed, shall not exceed the rate of six per centum per annum; hereby empowering you to enter into and conclude with the said Corporation such contracts and Agreements as shall be necessary for fulfilling the purposes aforesaid, and promising to ratify whatever you shall lawfully do in the premises.⁹⁵

96. The agreement between the Secretary of the Treasury and the president and directors of the Bank of the United States was approved by Washington, June 1.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

City of Philadelphia, June 30, 1792.

For carrying into execution the provisions of the third section of the Act intituled, "An Act making certain appro

priations therein specified, passed the Eighth day of May in this present year.

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I do hereby authorise you the said Secretary of the Treasury in the name and on the credit of the United States to borrow of any body or bodies politic, person or persons whomsoever the sum of Fifty thousand Dollars;⁵² and to enter into such agreements for the reimbursement thereof as shall be needful and proper; hereby promising to ratify whatever you shall lawfully do in the premises.⁵³

52. The total amount authorized in Section 3 for expenses of foreign intercourse.

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1792.

Sir: I learn with pleasure from the War Office, by the Secretary's last dispatches, that our Northwestern frontier is in a state of tranquility: it may be construed into an indication that *some* of the messages which have been sent by Government have reached the hostile Tribes, and have

occasioned them to deliberate thereon. Devoutly is it to be wished that the result may be favorable, both for themselves and the Ud. States.

No expectation of this, however, ought to suspend, or in the smallest degree relax the preparations for War; but as War under any circumstances is expensive, and with such a long and rugged land transportation as the one by which we have to convey the supplies for the Army must, for the quantum of them, be extremely so. It behoves us to be as precise in all our arrangements, as œconomical in our provisions, as strict in our issues, and as correct in accounting for them to the War or Treasury Departments (as the case may happen to be) as possible. That I may know under what regulations these matters are, I have, by this days Post, written to the Secretary of War desiring him to report to me the mode which is pursued by his direction from thence, for providing, transporting,

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issuing and accounting for them. If the Treasury Department has an agency in any of these matters, I require a similar report from thence also.

Mr. Kean by a Letter which I have received from him, accepts his renewed Commission for settling the Accounts between the United States, and the individual States; which, please to say to him, gives me pleasures, and add, that any efforts he can make to bring this business to a speedy and happy issue, I shall consider as rendering an important service to the Union; because I view the closing of these Accots. *speedily* as extremely essential to it's interest and tranquility. Let me know if Mr. Langdon (the Commissioner) is returned to his duty? and in that case, when? I am etc.⁹²

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 5, 1792.

Sir: Since the date of my last dispatch to you of the 1st: instant, I have received your Letters of the 26 and 30 ulto., and have affixed my signature to the arrangement of Compensations to the Officers of Inspection⁹⁸ in consequence of additional latitude give to the President of the United States by the Act of the last Session, entitled "An Act concerning the duties on spirits distilled within the United States."

I have done this on full conviction that the best information the nature of the case would admit, has been obtained at the Treasury to keep the aggregate within the limitations of the Law, and to proportion the Compensations to the services of the respective Officers;

98. This document was signed by the President, August 4, in accordance with the provisions of the act of May 8. It divided the States into districts, as well as fixing the compensations of inspectors. It is entered in full in the "Letter Books" in the *Washington Papers*.

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presuming also that it appeared essential (from a full view of circumstances, and the benefits likely to be derived from the measure, to the public) that an increase of the Officers of Revenue was really necessary; for I should be unwilling to add to the former establishment, unless the propriety of it was apparent. Unless the Attorney General should be of opinion that the President of the United States has power under the Act of March, 1791, or the subsequent one of last Session, to appoint (in the recess of the Senate) an Inspector of the Survey newly constituted in Maryland, it must remain, as is proposed, under the immediate direction of the Supervisor.

If, after these regulations are in operation, opposition to the due exercise of the collection is still experienced, and peaceable procedure is no longer effectual, the public interest and my duty will make it necessary to enforce the Laws respecting this matter, and however disagreeable this would be to me, it must nevertheless take place.

The Collector was not at Baltimore when I passed through that place; but from the Naval Officer⁹⁹ I learnt that the service would sustain no loss by the resignation of the Master of the Maryland Revenue Cutter; that the first Mate was a more competent character, and that the general expectation was that he would be appointed to command it. That I might know how far the sentiments of others accorded with those of the Naval Officer, I requested the Supervisor (Mr. Gale)¹ to make enquiry and to inform me of the result; but not having heard from him since, the first Mate (his name I do not recollect) may be notified by you, of my intention to commission him Master so soon as I am provided with Commissions for that purpose, at

99. An officer of the Customs service. The name comes down from colonial times. He acts concurrently with the Collector of Customs, assists in estimating duties, countersigns clearances, certifies accounts, etc., etc. He is thus a check on the Collector.

1. George Gale. He was supervisor of the Maryland district.

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present I have none. The same may be given to John Adams as first, and Benjamin Gunnison as second Mate of the Revenue Cutter in New Hampshire: and to Ashur Cook first and John Fenley second mate of the New York Cutter. The third Mate for the latter may remain for further enquiry and consideration.

If your information with respect to the proposed characters for the Cutter in New Hampshire is not such as you can entirely rely upon, Mr. Lear who is on the spot might afford you some aid in the investigation of them, or others. I am etc.

P.S. As I have neither time nor inclination to copy the enclosed, I would thank you for having a transcript of it made and sent to me.²

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1792.

Sir: This will merely inform you that your letter of the 10th. with it's enclosure, and that of the 11th. Inst: have been duly received; and that if the Regulations of your Department, mentioned in the former, are carried strictly into execution, the most happy consequences, it is to be hoped, will result from them. I am etc.¹⁹

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, August 31, 1792.

Sir: The enclosed Letter was written agreeably to the date, but, by an accident, was omitted when my other letters were sent to the post office on Monday last; since wch. 'till yesterday afternoon, I have been absent from home.

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On my return, amongst other Letters I found the enclosed from the Inspector of the 5th. survey in the State of North Carolina. The picture drawn by him of the temper of the people in the District entrusted to his Inspection, is a very unpleasant and disagreeable one. It is forwarded for your consideration, and opinion of the measures necessary to be taken in the premises; particularly whether the Governor of that State ought to be written

to on the subject; and in that case, to desire that you would draft a letter proper for the occasion.

Your Letter of the 27. instant is also before me; and my opinion on the points therein submitted is, that part of the Loan lately obtained in Holland, should be applied in discharge of the Debt due to the foreign Officers agreeably to the Authority given by the act alluded to in your letter, and because the interest of the United States requires it to be done; and that it ought to be paid in a mode which shall exempt the parties from the loss which would attend the depreciation of Assignats, without, however, occasioning loss to the United States: The first is an act of justice due to the officers, and the latter an act of prudence becoming the Government. I am etc.²⁹

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 7, 1792.

Sir: The last post brought me your letter of the 1st instant, with the enclosures respecting the disorderly conduct of the Inhabitants of the Western Survey of the District of Pennsylvania, in opposing the execution of what is called the Excise Law; and of the insults which have been offered by some of them to the Officers who have been appointed to collect the duties on distilled spirits agreeably thereto.

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Such conduct in *any* of the Citizens of the United States, under *any* circumstances that can well be conceived, would be exceedingly reprehensible; but when it comes from a part of the Community for whose protection the money arising from the Tax was principally designed, it is truly unaccountable, and the spirit

of it much to be regretted.

The preliminary steps taken by you in ordering the Supervisor of the District to repair to the Survey where these disorders prevail, with a view to ascertain in person "the true state of the Survey; to collect evidences respecting the violences that have been committed, in order to a prosecution of the offenders; to ascertain the particulars as to the Meeting which appears to have been held at Pittsburg; to encourage the perseverance of the officers in their duty, and the well disposed inhabitants in discountenancing such violent proceedings &c. &c."46 are prudent and proper, and I earnestly wish they may have the desired effect. But if, notwithstanding, opposition is still given to the due execution of the Law, I have no hesitation in declaring, if the evidence of it is clear and unequivocal, that I shall, however reluctantly I exercise them, exert all the legal powers with which the Executive is invested, to check so daring and unwarrantable a spirit. It is my duty to see the Laws executed: to permit them to be trampled upon with impunity would be repugnant to it; nor can the Government longer remain a passive spectator of the contempt with which they are treated. Forbearance, under a hope that the Inhabitants of that Survey would recover from the delirium and folly into which they were plunged, seems to have had no other effect than to encrease the disorder.

If it shall be the Attorney General's opinion, under a full consideration of the case (adverting, as I presume he will, as well to the Laws and Constitution of Pennsylvania, as to those of the United States) that the Meeting which appears to have been held at Pittsburg was illegal, and the members of it indictable; and it shall further appear to you from

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46. As shown by Hamilton's letter of September 1, as printed in Hamilton's *Works* (J. C. Hamilton edition, New York: 1851), vol. 4, P. 285, the quotation properly ends with the word "officers," a line above. The original letter is not now found either in the *Washington Papers* or the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

such information as you may be able to obtain, from a comparative view of all circumstances that it would be proper to bring the matter before the Circuit Court to be holden at York town in October next, you have all the sanction and authority I can give to do it. I am &c.47

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

On September 7, Bartholomew Dandridge furnished the following statement to Dr. James Craik: "Agreeably to your request, I shew'd Mr. Campbell's Letter to you, to the President of the U.S. who appeared to be exceedingly surprised at the Contents, and at the liberty wch. had been taken in making declarations for him which he had never made for himself. He added, that to the best of his recollection, he never exchanged a word with Bushrod Washington on the subject of Colo. Mercer's Election, much less to have given a decided opinion of his fitness or unfitness to represent the District for which he is a Candidate. That such a measure would have been inconsistent with the role he has prescribed to himself, and which he has invariably observed, of not interfering directly nor indirectly with the suffrages of the people in the choice of their Representatives; and said he wished that Bushrod Washington might be called upon to certify what, or whether any conversation of the kind ever passed between them on this subject, as it was desired that everything might stand upon it's proper foundation.

"The above is what Doctr. Craik was authorised to say, or write to Mr. Fendal, on the subject of a letter from Mr. Campbell to him, signifying that Colo. [John F.] Mercer or some of his friends were reporting that I had, to Bushrod Washington, declared that he was

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the best Representative in Congress, and that it was my earnest wish that he should be rechosen by the State of Maryland.”

The last paragraph was signed by Washington.

From the “Letter Book” copy in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to John Francis Mercer, Sept. 26, 1792, *post.*)

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 17, 1792.

Sir: Your Letters of the 8 and 9 inst: are received. The letter came to me on Saturday morning by Express, from the Post Office in Alexandria. I gave the Proclamation my signature, and forwarded it in the afternoon of the same day, by a special messenger, to the Secretary of State for his countersign. If no unforeseen delay happens, the return of it may be in time for *Friday*'s Post, so as to be with you on the Tuesday following.

It is much to be regretted that occurrences of a nature so repugnant to order and good Government should not only afford the occasion, but render such an interference of the Executive indispensably necessary. When these happen, and lenient and temporizing means have been

used, and serve only to increase the disorder; longer forbearance would become unjustifiable remissness, and a neglect of that duty which is enjoined on the President. I can have no hesitation therefore, under this view of the case, to adopt such legal measures to check the disorderly opposition which is given to the execution of the Laws laying a duty on distilled spirits, as the Constitution has invested the Executive with; and however painful the measure would be, if the Proclamation should fail to produce the effect desired, ulterior arrangements must be made to support the Laws, and to prevent the prostration of Government.

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Were it not for the peculiar circumstances of my family, I would return to the Seat of Government immediately; at any rate I hope to do it in the early part of next month, or before the middle thereof. With esteem &c.60

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Sir: Under cover of this Letter you will receive the Proclamation which is just returned to me with the counter signature of the Secretary of State. I have erased the words "dictated by weighty reasons of public exigency," and scored others with a pencil, which you are hereby authorised to take out or retain as you may think best.

As the Instrument is drawn I could do no other than fill up one of the blanks with the

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

name of the place at wch. I *now* am; but, as it is to have a general circulation you may decide upon the propriety of this, and alter or let it stand according to your judgment. With esteem etc.61

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, September 24, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of the 17th. instant came to my hands by the last post. Under your statement of the conduct of Thomas Davis Freeman Surveyor of the Port of Plymouth and Inspector of the Revenue of the same, there can be no question with respect to the propriety of superceding him in Office; and from the character given of Mr. John Armistead of that place

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by the Collector and Inspector, and more particularly by Mr. Johnston of the Senate, there can be as little doubt of his fitness to fill it. I have no objections therefore to Mr. Armstead's doing it accordingly, of which you may inform him, and that a Commission will be sent to him for this purpose as soon as circumstances will permit. With esteem etc.⁷⁸

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

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d. ulto., with it's enclosures, came duly to hand.

Lest any *material* disadvantage should result from delay, I have signed the Act which has been drawn by the Commissioner of the Revenue and approved by you, for arranging allowances to the Supervisors &c., and now forward it; but I would rather, if this is not likely to be the case, have it retained in your hands until my arrival in Philadelphia, as I wish for some explanations, which I have not the means of obtaining from the want of the former Act of the 4th. of August; a copy of which I requested might be returned to me, but from a misconception of my meaning, a copy of my letter was sent in lieu thereof. I now request a copy of the Act of the 4th. of Augt. and of the present one also.

Before any nomination, or appointment of a Keeper of the Lighthouse on Cape Henry takes place, it would be proper to examine the List of Applicants (and I think there are several) who have applied to me for this Office, and is to be found among my papers by Mr. Lear. If the person recommended by Colo. Parker is intemperate in drinking, it is immaterial whether you can recollect his name or not; for, with me, this would be an insuperable objection, let his pretensions and promises of reformation be what they may. I have been once taken in by the fair promises of Major Call to refrain, and the strong

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assurances of his friends that he would do it; but will not, knowingly, trust again to the like from any one.

I have by this Post, directed the Attorney General to attend the Circuit

Court in York Town, and see that the Indictments are legally prosecuted and properly supported.⁸⁹ I am etc.⁹⁰

89. Against those inhabitants of Pennsylvania who had opposed the operation of the excise law.

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