

## George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

### To THE INHABITANTS OF FREDERICK

[July 1, 1791.]

Gentlemen: I express with great pleasure my obligations to your goodness, and my gratitude for the respectful and affectionate regard which you are pleased to manifest towards me.

Your ascription of my public services over-rates their value, and it is justice to my fellow-citizens that I should assign the eminent advantages of our political condition to another cause, their valor, wisdom, and virtue—from the first they derive their freedom, the second has improved their independence into national prosperity, and the last, I trust, will longer protect their social rights, and ensure their individual happiness.

That your participation of these advantages may realise your best wishes is my sincere prayer.<sup>5</sup>

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

“The business which brot. me to Georgetown being finished...I set off this morning a little after 5 Oclock...towards Philadelphia; and being desirous of seeing the nature of the Country North of Georgetown, and along the upper roads, I resolved to pass through Frederickstown in Maryland and York and Lancaster in Pennsylvania...arrived at Frederick town about Sundown.”— *Washington's “Diary,”* June 30, 1791.

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On July 3 Washington received and answered an address from the citizens of the Borough of York, and also from the Ancient York Masons of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. These addresses and answers are recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 4, at Lancaster, Washington received and answered an address from the corporation and inhabitants, both of which are entered in the "Letter Book." He arrived at Philadelphia on July 6.

### **To THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA**

[Philadelphia, May 17, 1793.]

Gentlemen: Fully persuaded, that the happiness and best interests of the people of the United States, will be promoted by observing a strict neutrality in the present contest among the powers of Europe, it gives me pleasure to learn, that the measure which I have taken to declare to the world their disposition on this head, has given general satisfaction to the Citizens of Pennsylvania.<sup>38</sup> The friends of humanity will deprecate war, wheresoever it may appear; and we have experienced enough of its evils in this Country to know, that it should not be wantonly or unnecessarily entered upon. I trust therefore, that the good Citizens of the United States will shew to the world, that they have as much wisdom in preserving peace at this critical juncture, as they have heretofore displayed valour in defending their just rights.

38. The original address from the Merchants and Traders under date of May 16, 1793, is in the *Washington Papers* and indorsed by Lear as delivered May 17.

### **To THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS OF BALTIMORE**

[Philadelphia, May 27, 1793.]

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Gentlemen: At this eventful period when caution must be united with firmness to preserve to the United States the blessings of peace, and at the same time to maintain our rights as an independent nation, it affords me no small degree of satisfaction to find that my endeavours to promote these objects, by declaring the neutrality of the U. States, have met your approbation.<sup>44</sup> While the measures of this Government are taken upon Constitutional ground, and have for their object the public good, it would be injurious to our enlightened Citizens not to rely upon their countenance and support in carrying them into effect.<sup>45</sup>

44. An address from the merchants, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*, is dated May 22.

45. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. On May 27 Lear forwarded this answer to Samuel Sterrett, chairman of the meeting.

### **To THE FREEHOLDERS AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF SALEM, IN MASSACHUSETTS**

[Philadelphia, June 7, 1793.]

Gentlemen: Placed in the situation I am by the free voice of my fellow Citizens, it becomes a duty, pleasing as it is strong, to pursue such measures as appear best calculated to promote their true interests. Under this impression I issued the late proclamation,<sup>61</sup> declaring the neutrality of the U States in the present contest between France and other European powers. In making this declaration, I was persuaded that I spoke the wishes of my countrymen, without violating any political or moral obligation. And the evidences of satisfaction which have been exhibited on this occasion, as well as the assurances of good citizens to use their influence in preserving the peace and prosperity of our infant republic, afford a new proof of that liberal and enlightened sentiment which has been so often and so honorably manifested by them on great occasions.<sup>62</sup>

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61. The Salem address, dated May 31, 1793, is in the *Washington Papers*.

62. This answer, in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*, is undated. June 7 is tentatively assigned.

### **To THE MECHANICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE**

[Philadelphia, June 7(?), 1793.]

Gentlemen: The language of your Address<sup>63</sup> shews that you have rightly estimated the purposes for which our general Government was established. And so evident are the benefits resulting to the industrious Citizens of every description throughout the United States from the operation of equal Laws, and from the security and tranquility with which they have pursued their various avocations, under a

63. The address of the Mechanical Society of Baltimore is dated June 4 and is in the *Washington Papers*. The date assigned to the answer is tentative.

Government of their own choice, that it becomes the duty of those who are entrusted with the management of their public affairs, to endeavour, by all proper means, to continue and promote those invaluable blessings. And that the happiness and true interests of a people are best secured by observing such a line of conduct as will, while they discharge their political obligations, preserve to their Country peace with other Nations, and cultivate the good will of mankind towards them, I trust no one will deny. If the Citizens of the United States have obtained the character of an enlightened and liberal people, they will prove that they deserve it, by shewing themselves the true friends of mankind and making their Country not only an Asylum for the oppressed of every Nation, but a desirable residence for the virtuous and industrious of every Country.<sup>64</sup>

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

**To THE INHABITANTS OF ALEXANDRIA**

[Alexandria, July 4, 1793.]

Gentlemen: Deeply impressed with the important advantages, which the United States will experience by remaining in peace, during the present contest among the powers of Europe; it is with the highest satisfaction that I receive this manifestation of your wishes for the preservation of that invaluable blessing: and the approbation which you express, of the measures which have been taken to secure a continuance of our present happy situation. To complete the American character, it mains for the citizens of the United States to shew to the world, that the reproach heretofore cast on republican Governments for their want of stability, is without foundation, when that government is the deliberate choice of an enlightened people: and I am fully persuaded, that every well-wisher to the happiness and prosperity of this Country will evince by his conduct, that we live under a government of laws; and that, while we preserve inviolate our national faith, we are desirous to live in amity with all mankind.<sup>4</sup>

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

**To THE INHABITANTS OF TRENTON**

[Philadelphia, July 20(?) 1793.]

Gentlemen: Having no other view, in the discharge of my public duties, but to promote the best interests of our Country, it gives me pleasure to learn, that the measures which are taken to effect that object, meet the acceptance of my fellow Citizens.

I am persuaded, that the flourishing condition of the United States, and the happy situation of our political circumstances, will not fail to impress every reflecting mind. And sure I am that there is not a well wisher to this Country who can desire to see us involved in the contest in which the powers of Europe are now engaged.

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The assurances of your determina

tion to pursue such a line of conduct as will, on your part, ensure the continuance of peace and prosperity to our Country, are no less pleasing to me, than the belief which you express, that your address conveys,<sup>24</sup> “the common sentiments and common language of the Citizens of the State of New Jersey.”<sup>25</sup>

24. The address from the inhabitants of Trenton and its vicinity is dated July 18, and is in the *Washington Papers*. This answer is undated, the date assigned being tentative.

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

### **To THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF HARTFORD**

[August 4, 1793.]

Fellow Citizens: The Address<sup>55</sup> of the Inhabitants of the City of Hartford contains sentiments too favorable to the public weal, too partial to myself not to claim and receive

55. To which this letter is the answer, is dated August 2, and is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*. It said in part: “We are fully convinced, that an impartial Neutrality is the wish of the Inhabitants of this State, and that your proclamation was received by them with cordial satisfaction and approbation.”

my affectionate acknowledgments.

It, at the same time, affords a new proof of that characteristic love of order and peace; of that virtuous and enlightened zeal, for the public good, which distinguishes the Inhabitants of Connecticut.

'Tis from dispositions like these that we may hope to avoid an interruption of the numerous blessings which demand our gratitude to Heaven; or that we may be encouraged to meet

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with firmness, confiding in the protection of a just Providence, any attempts to disturb them, which intemperance or injustice, from whatever quarter, may at any time make it our duty to encounter?<sup>56</sup>

### **To NICHOLAS CRUGER, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK**

August 18, 1793.

Six: Your letter conveying to me the resolutions of the Citizens of New York, at their late meeting, affords me much satisfaction. The approving voice of my Fellow Citizens can never be heard by me, with indifference. That of the Inhabitants of your respectable metropolis, must always give particular pleasure. A unanimity so perfect as appears to have prevailed among them, upon an occasion so interesting to our national peace and happiness, furnishes an example of good sense, moderation, and patriotic virtue, which cannot cease to be remembered to their honor.

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

On August 4 Washington wrote to Howell Lewis a long letter of instructions. From an ignorantly made copy in the Toner Transcripts, the following excerpts are given:

"You have neglected in the general Report, as the Overseers had before done in their individual ones, to give an account of the stock, work horses and occurrences [ *sic*] which had taken place the week. This I expect will be repaired; and for this purpose it was, I gave you a general Report of Mr. Whittings, that you might see the manner in which they were made....I shall agree, as you will see by the enclosed letter (left open for you to read) to raise Crow's Wages to £40, because his charge is great and I believe he is as good as any I could get for that Wages: Desire him to see the Grass-Seed sown in the Swamp he has been plowing, so soon as he can get it in perfect order, and laid smooth. He has already been instructed as to the mode of doing it, and quantity of Seed to the Acre....

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The same directions will do for McKoy...you will give him a pretty strong hint that I can have no conception of what he is employing his force about, especially the Hoe people: as he has not more corn, than eight hands instead of 18 are fully competent to: and when he knows the additional ones was sent there for the express purpose of reclaiming and putting those swamps into Grass. He must be either a very idle fellow or of hasty judgment not to arrange the work of his people to better advantage....All possible dispatch should be made by Butler to get done with his Hay, that the Waggon and a Cart, if it can be usefully employed, may assist Stuart! And as soon as all the wheat at one place is in, the Carts belonging to it, ought to be sent to some other...until all the grain is got in....

“Enquire of Peter if any of the Eleven brood Mares (not hitherto used) are without Colts and used to the Draught if so, let a couple of them be sent to Mr. Stuart to encrease his operative Plows. But tell him at the same time, that it is inconceivable to me, that out of ten Plow teams, that is, 20 horses and Mules, which I am certain was the Report to me, until they ceased to report this matter at all, he should be able to work but 7 Plows. This matter wants explanation, and I expect to receive it.

“Let Mr. Stuart be informed also that he must not feed another grain of Corn to his Work horses. Cut Oats must be given to them: and if the Clover Hay is eatable he may give them some of that also. for I find by your account of the stock of Corn on hand, compared with the week by issues to my Negroes, there is not more than enough to serve them until the end of October.

“If you could buy one or two hundred bushels of Eastern Shore Oats, for the use of Horses, that may accidentally come to Mansion House, and for my own if I should be able to reach that place, it would be very proper. For this and other purposes which may occur, I send you a Bank note for 100 Dollars; which you may change at the Collectors in Alexandria (Colo Fitzgerald's) or any other, for Cash. Keep an account of your expenditures, and be careful in laying the money out....When will the Mansion house People be done Hay Making; and what do they go about next? The Potato Grd will, I hope,

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be next worked whensoever they get into it for the reasons mentioned in former letters. And advise with Butler whether the Oat ground at Mansion house, which you say is so thinly spread with the Grass that was sown along with the Oats, might not, where wanting, have clover and Orchard Grass scattered in sufficient quantity over it, and harrowed in, as it now is, without plowing the ground. If it is not sprung up much with weeds I should think this mode would do. But it is impossible for me at this distance and unacquaintedness with the real state of the ground to give any precise opinion on what is best to be done....

“And desire all the Overseers to be very regular in penning their stock and not to keep the Pens long in a place. The doing of the latter destroy the use of manure, for one part of the field is made so rich by it, that the grain all lodges, and the rest is left too poor to bring anything.

“Mr. Dandridge by Wednesday's Post, sent Bill of Lading for the articles that were shipped in Ellwood; let them be brought home as soon as they arrive at Alexandria. Among these things is leather, which is only to be given out a side at a time, and that I may be sure it is cut to advantage, see a midling sized one of each sort cut out, that you may thereafter form an accurate opinion of what they ought to yield.

“Know from Thos Green what transactions there could be between Mr. Whitting and him, to raise an Acct. to £6.2.3. Let the several articles of the account be enumerated and advise him to be cautious in what he is about, lest he bring himself into some scrape, for it is morally certain that Mr. Whitting could not owe him a shilling. You must have a particular eye to this fellow, for a more worthless one does not, I believe live. Nothing but compassion for his helpless family would induce me to retain him a moment in my service.

“Look in the Book case in my Study, and in the Apartment under it, also in the closets in the said Study for Pamphlets, and send every single one you can find, well and securely packed up, by Ellwood. The family are in health and wishing you well, I am etc.

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“P. S. A Dutch News Paper is sent for the Gardner.”

Discerning in it a sure pledge of their firm and persevering support, I request you to make known to them, the high sense I entertain of the dispositions they have manifested, and the complete reliance I place upon those dispositions.

I cannot omit the opportunity of publicly uniting with them in acknowledging the prompt and decided cooperation of the Government of New York, towards the support of the neutrality of our Country. The disposition, hitherto shown by the chief Magistrates of the several States, in relation to this point, is a pleasing evidence of a spirit of concert for the general good, happily calculated to harmonise and invigorate all the parts of our political system.<sup>71</sup>

### To JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD

Philadelphia, August 17, 1793.

Sir: I have received with great pleasure, the resolutions of the Citizens of the County of Burlington,<sup>68</sup> which were enclosed in your letter of the 13 of this month.

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

68. New Jersey.

In addition to the high satisfaction which I feel in knowing that my measures are approved by my fellow Citizens, it affords me no small pleasure to see, that, in giving

this public testimony of their approbation, they take occasion to express those manly and independent sentiments, which are truly characteristic of a free and an enlightened people. And I must beg you to assure the Citizens of the County of Burlington, that, believing as I do, that the true interest and the happiness of its Citizens depend upon remaining in a state of peace in the present important crisis, I cannot but highly applaud their patriotic resolution to use all means in their power for the accomplishment of this desirable object,

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and that I am no less pleased with the sentiment wch. they have expressed, respecting any foreign interference in the internal administration of our Government.<sup>69</sup>

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

### **To THE CITIZENS OF KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE**

[August 14(?) 1793.]

Fellow Citizens: Being guided in the discharge of my public duties by our excellent constitution, and laws made under it; and having always in view the happiness and best interests of my fellow Citizens, I cannot for bear to express the satisfaction which I feel when, upon important and critical occasions, my countrymen approve my conduct, and do justice to the motives which influence it.

The sentiments publicly expressed by the people of different parts of the Ud. States, and the anxiety which is shewn by all considerate and well disposed citizens to preserve the peace of our country and a continuance of its prosperity, is an incontestible evidence of their enlightened wisdom in justly appreciating the blessings we enjoy beyond, perhaps, any other nation under the sun.

While I assure you, Gentlemen, of the great pleasure which it gives me, to see this public testimony of your particular attachment to our Government, and approbation of its measures;<sup>65</sup> permit me to express my gratitude for those marks of personal respect and attachment, which are evidenced in your address, and let me beg you to believe that it will ever be my study to deserve them.<sup>66</sup>

65. The address, to which this letter is an answer, is dated August 14.

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

### **To THE INHABITANTS OF RICHMOND**

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[August 28, 1793.]

Fellow Citizens: Among the numerous expressions of the public sense in favor of the measures which have been adopted for the observance of neutrality in the present war of Europe, none is more grateful to me, than that of

the Inhabitants of Richmond and its vicinity. The manner in which it is conveyed, lays claim to my affectionate acknowledgments.

In recollecting the anticipations wch. were entertained of a pacific policy, as most consonant with the situation of the United States and the genius of our Government, it is a pleasing reflection, that when the occasion for exemplifying it occurs, sentiments corresponding with it appear to pervade every part of the community. This steadiness of views, highly honorable to the national character is well calculated to support, in the administration of our affairs, a spirit constantly favorable to the great object of peace.

And tho' the best and sincerest endeavours to this end, may sometimes prove ineffectual; yet it will always be a source of consolation and encouragement, that the calamities of war, if at any time they shall be experienced, have been unsought and unprovoked. Every good citizen will then meet events with that firmness and perseverance which naturally accompany the consciousness of a good cause, the conviction that there is no ground for self-reproach.

True to our duties and interests as Americans, firm to our purpose as lovers of peace, let us unite our fervent prayers to the great ruler of the Universe, that the justice and moderation of all concerned may permit us to continue in the uninterrupted enjoyment of a blessing, which we so greatly prize, and of which we ardently wish them a speedy and permanent participation.<sup>93</sup>

93. This reply to the address of the inhabitants of Richmond was inclosed in a short note to George Wythe, who had presided at the meeting which adopted the address. The note,

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together with this reply to the address, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The address, dated August 17, is in the *Washington Papers*.

### **To THE LANDHOLDERS AND OTHER CITIZENS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY<sup>9</sup>**

[September 4, 1793.]

Fellow Citizens: No one can more sincerely deprecate the horrors of war, or more ardently

9. Eastern Shore of Maryland.

wish to continue to our Country the blessings uniformly attending peace, than I do.

To meet your approbation of a measure resulting from these motives, and from the fullest conviction that it was the duty and interest of this Country to remain neuter in a contest which has engaged most of the powers of Europe, at the expense of much blood and treasure, cannot but be extremely pleasing to me.

The miseries attending war, are recently within our own experience; and though the issue of our struggle was glorious, and the prosperity and happiness we have derived from it unequalled perhaps in any other Country, yet, I trust the good sense of the people of these United States, will never (if peace can be preserved consistently with our dignity and honor) suffer themselves to be drawn into another.

As far as my endeavours can contribute towards the preservation of this desirable object, my most active exertions shall not be wanting.<sup>10</sup>

10. This reply was inclosed in a brief note, dated September 4, to John Eccleston, chairman of the meeting of Dorchester citizens. Both the reply and note are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

### **To SAMUEL BISHOP<sup>75</sup>**

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Philadelphia, August 24, 1793.

Sir: I receive with great satisfaction the patriotic resolutions of the Citizens of New Haven, which were transmitted to me in your letter of the 20 instant. And I can with truth assure them that to receive the approbation of my fellow Citizens, I consider as my greatest glory, as to deserve it will ever be my constant study.

75. Mayor of New Haven, Conn.

On August 23 a record of the Cabinet meetings, in Jefferson's writing, at the President's house on August 1, 2, 15, 20, and 23, was signed by Jefferson, Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph. On August 2 it was unanimously agreed "that a letter should be written to the Minister of the U S. at Paris...resuming [reviewing?] the points of difference which had arisen between the government of the U S. and Mr. Genet, assigning the reasons for the opinions of the former, and desiring the recall of the latter: and that this letter with those which have passed between Mr Genet and the Secretary of state, and other necessary documents, shall be laid by Mr Morris before the Executive of the French government." The draft of this letter to Morris was agreed to August 20, and on August 23 it was decided that it should be dated August 16. This record is in the *Washington Papers*.

If the measures of Government, approved and supported by the virtuous Citizens of the United States, can secure to our Country in the present critical times, a continuance of peace and the enjoyment of its attendant blessings, which we have as it were but begun to taste, I shall feel amply compensated for the many anxious moments which I have lately experienced on account of our welfare, and we shall have fresh cause of gratitude to the Great ruler of events for his preserving goodness.<sup>76</sup>

**To ELIAS DAYTON<sup>77</sup>**

Philadelphia, August 24, 1793.

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Sir: Among the public testimonies of approbation which the late proclamation of neutrality has received from various parts of the United States, I am pleased to see that of the Inhabitants of the County of Essex in the State of New Jersey, which was transmitted to me in your letter of the 20 instant. The strong desire, to preserve our Country in a state of peace, which has been so generally expressed by the good and virtuous Citizens thereof; and the assurances they have given to support the mea

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

77. Chairman of the meeting of inhabitants of Essex County.

asures of Government which are taken to secure that object, afford a pleasing hope that we shall preserve our tranquillity during the present important crisis, and thereby confirm that respectable character which we are beginning to obtain among the nations of the Earth.<sup>76</sup>

### **To JOHN McKINLY<sup>78</sup>**

Philadelphia, August 24, 1793.

Sir: While I acknowledge the receipt of your polite Letter of the 21st instant, enclosing the resolution of a number of respectable Inhabitants of the County of New Castle,<sup>79</sup> let me request you to assure those Gentlemen, that I consider their approbation of the late proclamation of the neutrality of the Ud. States, and of the measures taken by the Government to secure to this Country a continuance of those manifold blessings which are attendant on a state of peace, as a new proof of that enlightened wisdom and philanthropic disposition which has ever marked the virtuous Citizens of the United States.<sup>80</sup>

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

78. Chairman of a meeting of inhabitants of New Castle County, Del.

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79. These resolves, dated Aug. 17, 1793, are in the *Washington Papers*.

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

### To THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON<sup>5</sup>

[September 2, 1793.]

Fellow Citizens: The motives which have induced a public expression of your sentiments at the present juncture, are such as naturally operate upon good Citizens, when points, which materially concern the happiness of their Country are the subjects of discussion.

Your approbation of my conduct on the occasion, to which it relates, could not fail to

5. Connecticut.

give me particular pleasure, and to serve as a suppotto my confidence in pursuing measures which, dictated by official duty, have for [their] object the peace and happiness of our common Country.

Sentiments sincerely friendly to the French Nation, and the most cordial wishes for their welfare, unite, I doubt not, all the Citizens of the United States; but it cannot be incompatible with these dispositions to give full weight to the great and commanding considerations which respect the immediate welfare of our own Country.<sup>6</sup>

Experienced as we have lately been in the calamities of war, it must be the prayer of every good Citizen that it may long be averted from our land, and that the blessings which a kind providence has bestowed upon us, may continue uninterrupted.<sup>7</sup>

6. After approving the neutrality proclamation, the New London address stated: "We hesitate not, Sir, to allow that our feelings take a decided part in favour of the French Nation; we regard them as the Nation who were our first and firmest friends in an hour of

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distress...yet we conceive that it would be the heighth of Folly and Madness for the United States to unnecessarily to engage in the wax.”

7. This reply to the address from the inhabitants of New London was forwarded in a brief inclosing note to Richard Law, chairman of the meeting which drew up the address to the President. This reply and note are recorded in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

### **To GOVERNOR JOSHUA CLAYTON<sup>11</sup>**

Philadelphia, September 4, 1793.

Sir: Considering, as I do, a state of peace as the greatest blessing which can attend any Country, I feel peculiar pleasure in receiving from you, the assurance of the constant and steady support of the late Grand Jury of Sussex County, to preserve to our Country a happiness so truly desirable.

Influenced by this consideration, I was led to declare these States neutral with regard to the powers now at war, and I am happy in finding the measure so generally approved by my Fellow Citizens, whose welfare it shall be my constant study to promote, and whose confidence I shall always endeavour to merit.

For the favorable sentiments they have expressed towards me, my warmest thanks are offered, and my best wishes reciprocated.<sup>12</sup>

### **To DENNIS WHELEN<sup>24</sup>**

Philadelphia, September 9, 1793.

Sir: I feel much satisfaction in receiving thro' you, at this critical period when it becomes the duty of every good Citizen to preserve peace to his Country assurances from the late Grand Jury of Chester County, of their intention to pursue every means to ensure to

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11. Of Delaware.

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

24. Foreman of the grand jury of Chester County, Pa.

the United States that inestimable blessing.

The motive which led to a declaration of the neutrality of these States, was a conviction of its being for their interest and happiness; and it affords me singular pleasure to find that measure so generally approved by my Fellow Citizens whose prosperity and ease it will always be my first care to promote.<sup>25</sup>

### To ROBERT TAYLOR<sup>20</sup>

Philadelphia, September 9, 1793.

Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, enclosing sundry resolutions entered into by the Citizens of the borough of Norfolk, it is with much sensibility I declare to you, and thro' you beg leave to make known to them, the satisfaction I derive from their approbation of, and steady and zealous determination to support measures of the Government of the U. S. arising from pure motives, and a conviction that they are essential to the welfare and happiness of our Country.

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

20. Mayor of Norfolk, Va., and chairman of the citizens' meeting.

Aided by the good sense and virtuous exertions of the enlightened Citizens of these States, I enjoy the pleasing hope that we shall be able to preserve to our Country the invaluable blessing of peace at this interesting period. Whilst the Citizens of Norfolk express their serious resolution to maintain this desirable state, it gives me pleasure to

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find them regarding, as becomes free-men, any improper interferences which might be offensive to the dignity of our Nation.

For the marks of personal respect and attachment, which the Citizens of Norfolk are pleased to express towards me, I beg you to present to them my warmest gratitude.<sup>21</sup>

### To JAMES LLOYD<sup>31</sup>

Philadelphia, September [10?], 1793.

Sir: The spirit which breathes throughout the resolutions of the Inhabitants of Kent County in the State of Maryland, lately convened at Chester town, does honor to their character as Citizens.<sup>32</sup> 'Tis by such a spirit, seconding the endeavours of the Government, that we shall have

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

31. Chairman of the meeting of inhabitants of Kent County, Md.

32. The resolutions of the meeting were forwarded to Washington, September 2, by Lloyd.

the fairest prospect of preserving our peace. 'Tis by such a spirit that in any event we shall secure the internal tranquility of our Country, its respectability, and shall be enabled to encounter with firmness any attempt, hostile to its safety, its honor, or its welfare.

The expressions of confidence and attachment towards myself contained in the same resolutions, impress me with sensations analagous to their fervour and earnestness, and to the true esteem and regard which I always feel for the respectable Citizens from whom they come.<sup>33</sup>

### To THOMAS G. PEACHY<sup>51</sup>

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Mount Vernon, September 24, 1793.

Sir: The resolutions of the Inhabitants of the Town of Petersburg and its vicinity, were transmitted to me from Philada. by the Secretary of State.

The zealous and firm declaration of my Fellow Citizens of Petersburg and its vicinity, of their conviction of the necessity of peace in order to the preservation of our present state of tranquillity and prosperity, while the people of Europe are distressed by a calamit

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

51. Chairman of the meeting of inhabitants of Petersburg, Va., and vicinity.

ous war. and their determined resolution to support every measure of Government, adopted with a view to the true interests of our Country, affords me much pleasure.

That the principles of Liberty and the rights of man may be universally disseminated, is my ardent wish; and, as far as in my power, my constant endeavours will be to advance them.<sup>52</sup>

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

### **To THE CITIZENS OF ANNAPOLIS**

[September 18, 1793.]

Fellow Citizens: Conscious of having had in view the Interest and Happiness of the people of the United States, in the discharge of my public duties; and fully persuaded that remaining in a state of neutrality during the present contest between the powers of Europe, if not

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absolutely necessary to these objects, would tend in a very considerable degree to promote them, I receive with infinite satisfaction, testimonies from my Countrymen, from various parts of the Union, expressive of their approbation of a measure intended to advance the welfare of my fellow Citizens; and none have given me more pleasure than receiving that of the Citizens of Annapolis.

The present flourishing situation of our affairs, and the prosperity we enjoy, must be obvious to the good Citizens of the United States; it remains, therefore, for them to pursue such a line of conduct, as will insure these blessings, by averting the calamities of a war.

The manner, Gentlemen, in which you are pleased to express yourselves towards me personally, merits and receives my warmest gratitude; and it will always be my greatest pride and happiness to receive the approving voice of my fellow Citizens.<sup>39</sup>

39. This reply to the address of the citizens of Annapolis was forwarded in a brief note (September 18) to Alexander Contee Hanson, chairman of the meeting. This note, together with the reply, is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On September 18 President Washington laid the southeast cornerstone of the United States Capitol building in the city of Washington. A full description of the ceremony is printed in the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette*, Sept. 25, 1793, a photostat of which is in the District of Columbia manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

### To WILLIAM NELSON, JUNIOR<sup>42</sup>

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1793.

Sir: Your Letter of the 5 instant, enclosing a copy of several resolutions entered into by the Inhabitants of the County and borough of York, I have had the pleasure to receive.

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That the well-being of our Country rests upon the cultivation of peace (consistently with public faith and our own rights) agriculture and commerce, I am well convinced; and I beg you to express to my fellow

42. Chairman of the meeting of the inhabitants of the Borough and County of York, Va.

Citizens of York County and Borough, the satisfaction I derive from the declaration of their intentions to join in preserving these blessings to the United States, and to present them my best thanks for their favorable expressions towards me personally.<sup>41</sup>

### **To JEREMIAH BANNING**

Mount Vernon, September 16, 1793.

Sir: The receipt of your Letter of the 7 instant, enclosing the resolutions of the Citizens of Talbot County, gave me much pleasure.

The approbation which the administration of the general Government has met from my fellow Citizens throughout these States cannot fail to excite in me the liveliest satisfaction; and the assurances given by them of their firm intentions to unite in keeping our Country in a state of peace at this important moment, is an additional and pleasing testimony of the unanimity and good sense of the Citizens of the U. States.

While I beg to assure the

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

Citizens of Talbot, of the reliance I place on their disposition towards the general Government, manifested in the resolutions, I also request you to make known to them the pleasure I receive from their expressions of esteem and attachment for my person; and

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to you, Sir, for your polite manner of transmitting these resolutions, my best thanks are offered.<sup>38</sup>

### To EDMUND PENDLETON<sup>40</sup>

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1793.

Sir: The resolutions of the Inhabitants of the County of Caroline, transmitted to me by you, were received with peculiar pleasure; because no Citizen of the U. States can have a more sincere desire, than I have, to see all attempts at subverting or violating the Constitution or Laws of the Land, frustrated; and it gives me much satisfaction, to be assured of the firm support of my fellow Citizens in preserving the peace and safety of our Country.

The expressions of gratitude and

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

On September 16 Washington wrote to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia two brief letters ordering that the sale of lots, both public and private, in the District of Columbia on September 17 be made at the terms decided on by the Commissioners. These letters are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (September 16) Washington also wrote to John Eager Howard, returning John Kilty's letter. The original of this letter is in the possession of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

40. Chairman of the meeting of the inhabitants of Caroline County, Va.

affection, by the Citizens of Caroline, towards the French Nation, for their generous aid and assistance extended to us in a time of need are truly laudable, and must meet the approbation of every grateful mind.

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I beg you, Sir, to assure the Citizens of Caroline, of my fixed attachment to the free principles of our Government, and of the confidence I have in the virtue and good sense of my fellow Citizens, which I trust will always counteract any measures which might tend to weaken their affection to these principles, or to alienate them from the republican Government they have established for themselves, and under which they have hitherto enjoyed unequalled prosperity and happiness.

The marks of respect and affection for my person, manifested in the resolutions, demand and receive my unfeigned acknowledgments and gratitude, which I request you to communicate to the Citizens of Caroline, and to assure them of my unremitting endeavours to advance their welfare as far as my powers and abilities extend.<sup>41</sup>

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

### **To JOHN DOUGHTY<sup>43</sup>**

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1793.

Sir: Your Letter, conveying to me the resolutions, agreed to by the Inhabitants of Morris County, the 10 inst: has reached my hands.

Their firm and manly sentiments, declared in the resolutions, and united determination to protect and defend the honor and dignity of our Country, are such as become the freemen and Citizens of the United States; and evince their firm and commendable resolution to preserve their liberty and independence inviolate. With such aid and support, under direction of Divine Providence, I trust the flourishing condition and inestimable blessings now enjoyed, will be long continued to our Country.<sup>44</sup>

### **To JOSEPH PRENTIS<sup>45</sup>**

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1793.

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Sir: With no less pleasure than you

43. Chairman of the meeting of inhabitants of Morris County, N. J.

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

45. Chairman of the meeting of the citizens of Williamsburg, Va.

transmitted them, I received, enclosed in your Letter of the 14 instant, sundry resolutions expressing the sentiments of the Citizens of Williamsburg, on the late declaration of the neutrality of these States.

Sentiments like these, evidencing the good dispositions of my Fellow Citizens, to retain the advantages we at present enjoy from a state of peace, must be pleasing to every friend of the United States, and add to the testimonies already given of the good sense of the people thereof.

I request you, Sir to offer my sincere acknowledgments to the Citizens of Williamsburg, for their pointed approbation of my personal endeavours to promote their interests, and the assurances of my best endeavours to guard their interests in whatsoever shall depend upon the Executive powers.<sup>46</sup>

**To REVEREND JAMES MADISON<sup>48</sup>**

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1793.

Sir: Every well-wisher of the U. States

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

48. Chairman of the meeting of inhabitants of James City County, Va.

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must derive pleasure from the disposition which has been shewn generally, by the citizens thereof, to repel with firmness any attempts tending to disturb their present repose. It was with much satisfaction therefore that I received the Resolutions of the Inhabitants of James City County, enclosed in your Letter of the 16 instant, containing sentiments which accord with those which have been expressed by so many respectable Citizens in every part of the Union.

While such a disposition and such sentiments are retained by my Fellow Citizens, on whose aid and support, in the discharge of the trust which they have confided to me, I place entire confidence, we may expect, under the protection of a kind providence a continuation of those blessings which these States enjoy in a superior degree.<sup>49</sup>

### To JOHN FITZGERALD<sup>70</sup>

Mount Vernon, October 8, 1793.

Sir: While the public mind is engaged, and in some degree disturbed by various

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

70. Chairman of the meeting of the citizens of Alexandria, Va.

subjects which have arisen, consequent of a War in which most of the European powers are engaged, with the highest satisfaction I have received assurances from many parts of the United States, of the determined resolution of the Citizens thereof to be neutral, thereby securing to themselves the inestimable blessings resulting from peace, and that they will give support to measures, adopted by those to whom they have confided authority for that purpose, which are dictated with an evident regard to their interests, and by a wish to promote the happiness of all the Citizens of the Union. Among those which have been received, the resolutions of my Fellow Citizens of Alexandria, enclosed by you, have contributed not a little to afford me pleasure, and justify the opinion I had

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entertained of their good sense and patriotism. I request you, Sir, to make known to them my attachment, equally with their's, to a republican system, and as far as my personal endeavours will contribute, they will be employed in supporting the principles of our fœderal Government, and defeating any attempts which might be made to violate them, or to lessen the confidence of the people therein.

I join with them also in expressions of gratitude to the French Nation for

their timely and important services rendered to these States, and it is my earnest wish that genuine Liberty and equal rights may pervade every Nation of the Earth.<sup>71</sup>

### To JOHN FITZGERALD

Mount Vernon, October 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is an answer to the resolutions of the Citizens of Alexandria, *which came under a blank cover to me*, and which were ordered to be published in the Gazette of that place. But if the 8th resolution<sup>72</sup> is not published along with the others, nor intended to be so, (which seems probable, as it is separate and distinct) I request, in that case, that the answer may not appear; because I have never taken notice of any resolutions, wherein one of them has not directed, and it has so appeared, that they should be sent to me, considering them without this, as no more than the expression of the sentiments of the Meeting to the community, without any particular application. I am etc.

PS. I wrote to you on Monday,<sup>73</sup> and shou'd be glad to hear from you on the subject of the Letter.<sup>74</sup>

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

72. The 8th resolve provided that the resolves of the meeting be sent to the President and that they be published in the Alexandria newspapers.

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73. No copy of this letter is found in the *Washington Papers*, but Fitzgerald's reply of October 11 states it was "on private business."

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

### **To LUDWELL LEE AND R. WEST**

Mount Vernon, October 24, 1793.

Gentlemen: The Address of the Landholders and Inhabitants of Fairfax County, forwarded to me by you, has been received.

It is a source of much pleasure to me to find my Fellow Citizens of Fairfax among those spirited republicans of the United States, who declare to the world their firm determination to support the Government they have chosen for themselves, and to oppose with manly resolution any attempts to weaken the public confidence therein, or to interrupt the repose they now enjoy, or a state of peace to which their interest and happiness are so closely allied.

In fulfilling the duties which are attendant on the trust with which my Countrymen have honored me, my highest gratification is in meriting and receiving their approving voice; I therefore request you to communicate to the Citizens of Fairfax the pleasure I derive from their approbation of my public conduct, and to assure them of my constant and unremitting attention to the promotion of the prosperity and happiness of my Fellow Citizens of these States.<sup>6</sup>

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

### **To THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OF GERMANTOWN**

[November 6, 1793.]

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Gentlemen: The readiness with which the Trustees of the public School of Germantown tender the buildings under their charge,<sup>14</sup> for the use of Congress, is a proof of their zeal for furthering the public good; and doubtless the Inhabitants of Germantown generally, actuated by the same motives, will feel the same dispositions to accommodate, if necessary, these who assemble but for their service and that of their fellow Citizens.

Where it will be best for Congress to remain will depend on circumstances which are daily unfolding themselves, and for the issue of which, we can but offer up our prayers to the Sovereign Dispenser of life and health. His favor too on our oft, the good sense and firmness of our fellow Citizens, and fidelity in those they employ, will secure to us a permanence of good government.

If I have been fortunate enough, during the vicissitudes of my life, so to have conducted myself, as to have merited your approbation, it is a source of much pleasure; and shou'd my future conduct merit a continuance of your good opinion, especially at a time when our Country, and the City of Philada. in particular, is visited by so severe a calamity, it will add more than a little to my happiness.<sup>15</sup>

14. The offer of the trustees is signed by Henry Hill, Saml. Ashmead, Joseph Ferree, Christian Schneider, and Samuel Mechlin.

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

**\*To NICHOLAS LEWIS<sup>21</sup>**

Germantown, November 16, 1793.

Sir: While I acknowledge that all power is derived from the people, and that the Federal Government has been instituted for their happiness, I cannot but unite in the attachment expressed by the freedom of Albemarle<sup>22</sup> to the Constitution of the U States. Harmony with foreign Nations is a blessing which we ought to prize and to cherish; and from a

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desire of cultivating it the proclamation was issued. Such a measure became the more eligible, as it neither cancelled nor weakened our obligations to the French Nation.<sup>23</sup>

### To EDWARD STEVENS<sup>24</sup>

Germantown, November 16, 1793.

Sir: The resolutions of the Yeomanry of Culpeper, announcing their determination to resist all attempts to destroy the foederal

21. Chairman of the meeting of the freemen of Albemarle, Va.

22. The Albemarle address is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Oct. 24, 1793.

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

24. Chairman of the meeting of the yeomanry of Culpeper, Va.

Government, or violate its principles, bespeak a laudable interest in the national prosperity.<sup>25</sup> Among the means of accomplishing the general happiness, peace with all nations is an obvious policy. It is our duty too to remember the services of the French Nation, and to pursue the republican spirit of our Constitution.

In whatever degree I may be conceived to have contributed to the public welfare, it is very acceptable to me to know that my conduct is approved by the Yeomanry of Culpeper.<sup>26</sup>

### To ALEXANDER WHITE<sup>29</sup>

Germantown, November 23, 1793.

Sir: The advantages which result from a state of peace and amity (preserved upon respectable conditions) with all nations, and particularly when applied to our Country, yet

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in its infancy, are too striking to need elucidation, and such as must be obvious to the least accurate enquiry into the subject.

25. The Culpeper Resolutions are in the *Washington Papers* under date of Oct. 25, 1793.

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

29. Chairman of the meeting of citizens of Frederick County, Va.

To secure these advantages to the United States, it was thought expedient to pursue a friendly and impartial conduct towards the belligerent powers; and with a view to this object, and to the advancement of the prosperity of these States, the proclamation declaring the actual state of things was thought right and accordingly issued, and I am pleased to find the measure approved by the enlightened Citizens of Frederick County.

I cherish a grateful recollection of the distinguished services rendered to our Country by the French Nation, and unite my wishes to those of my Fellow Citizens of Frederick, that it may establish a Government for itself upon those principles, which are best calculated to make it happy.

If in the discharge of the duties attendant on the trust committed to me by my Fellow Citizens, my conduct should meet their approbation, it will be my highest glory, and I am happy to have it approved by the Citizens of Frederick County.<sup>30</sup>

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

### **To WILLIAM AYLETT BOOTH<sup>59</sup>**

Philadelphia, December 18, 1793.

Sir: The attachment, expressed by the resolutions of Shenandoah County, to the Constitution of the U. States; the importance of cultivating peace and harmony with all

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the world, by just and honorable means; and the grateful acknowledgment of the services rendered by the French nation, meet my full assent. For the favorable sentiments towards myself, I must entreat you, Sir, to communicate my thanks to my Fellow Citizens of Shenandoah.<sup>60</sup>

59. Chairman of the meeting of citizens of Shenandoah County, Va.

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

### **To THE ARTILLERY COMPANY OF THE TOWN OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND**

[February, 1794.]

Gentlemen: For your kind congratulations on the anniversary of my birthday, and the other obliging expressions of your Address I pray you to accept my grateful thanks.<sup>12</sup>

To cherish those principles which effected the revolution, and laid the foundation of our free and happy Government, does honor to your patriotism; as do the sentiments of commiseration for the sufferings of the unfortunate, and the good wishes for the happiness of the great family of mankind, to your philanthropy.

Your prayer for me, is reciprocated by the best vows I can offer for your welfare.

12. The address of the artillery company is dated Feb. 22, 1794, and it and this answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The date of the answer is, of course, tentative.

On March 3 Washington acknowledged to Nathaniel Pendleton, chairman of a meeting of Savannah citizens, the receipt of a commendatory address from the citizens, dated Jan. 8, 1794. Both the address and answer are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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On this same day (March 3) Washington also gave a certificate to John Jay and Rufus King “as an evidence that they were not the *authors* of the report that Mr. Genet had declared he would appeal from the President to the People.” This certificate was given to J. K. Paulding by Jared Sparks, and sold at auction in March, 1931. Reference to this matter is in the letter from Alexander J. Dallas to Thomas Jefferson, Dec. 3, 1793, in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.