

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To JAMES SEAGROVE

Philadelphia, September 14, 1791.

Sir: Three letters of yours, two bearing the 16 and the other the 25 of August are just come to hand. Your former letters in July have also been received.

The Secretary of War will write to you on the subject of Indian affairs, and the Secretary of State will do the same on the business which respects the Negroes, when he returns from the visit he is now making to his family in Virginia.

It falls to my province to thank you for your communications of a private nature, which are very interesting and satisfactorily detailed. At all times it will afford me pleasure to receive information with respect to the situation of matters in that quarter, not only as they regard ourselves, but neighhours also, Spaniards and Indians. I am etc.⁹⁹

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

In the afternoon of Thursday, September 15, Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, which he reached September 20.

To SAMUEL POWEL

Philadelphia, September 20, 1791.

Sir: In order to prevent any misapprehension of the purport of the conversation which I had the honor to hold with you today, I beg leave to communicate, in this way, the observations of the President, which I before conveyed verbally. Upon reading in the

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papers the debates of the Legislature of Pennsylvania upon the bill for granting a sum of money to defray the expences of building a House for the President of the United States &ca. The President observed to me that he was sorry to find some of the Gentlemen had taken up an idea that he was not accommodated to his satisfaction in the house, which he now occupies; and seemed to urge *on this ground* the necessity of having a house erected for the President. But he wished the Gentlemen to be informed that this was not the case, for he felt himself perfectly satisfied with the house in which he resides. The President farther observed that if the house in question was even now finished he should not go into it; for he had, at a very considerable expence, accommodated his furniture to his present residence, and it was not probable that it could be made to suit another house so well; and as the time for which he was elected to his present station would expire within two years, his getting new furniture answerable to a house which might be built was out of the question, and again repeated that he was perfectly satisfied with his present accommodations, and should not remove into any other house (if he was permitted to occupy this) during the term of his Presidency.

These sentiments the President wished might be known

by some indirect communication to the Legislature. But at the same time wished them to be conveyed as sentiments relating to himself personally; for he was apprehensive from the idea held up in the House of Representatives, that measures might be taken to build a house for the President at this moment to accommodate *him*, when otherwise it might be thought best to delay or defer it. The President likewise wished it to be impressed that he could not have the most distant intention of interfering in any thing which the Legislature of Pennsylvania thought proper to do on the subject, by conveying these sentiments; but, finding the matter had been taken up on the ground of his not being well accommodated, he thought it necessary to give this explanation to do away that opinion.

In a conversation with Mr. Gallatin.⁷ I communicated these things to him, he informed me that the bill had passed the House of Representatives, and was then before the Senate,

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and wished to know if he might be at liberty to relate the substance of our conversation. I told him he might, and find that he has done it accordingly. I will take this opportunity to mention that some time before my conversation with Mr. Gallatin, I had, by the President's order, conveyed the same sentiments to Miers Fisher Esq. in answer to some enquiries which he made respecting the President's accommodations, and building a house &ca.

The trouble of this letter needs some apology to you Sir, which I hope will be found in my wish to give a clear explanation of the subject of it. I have the honor etc.⁸

7. Albert Gallatin.

8. This letter is signed "Tobias Lear, S. P. U, S." in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To MIERS FISHER

Philadelphia, September 20, 1791.

Sir: As one year has nearly elapsed since the President of the United States first occupied Mr. Morris's house in High Street, I shall be much obliged to you to inform me of the day when the rent commenced, the annual amount of the rent, and to whom it must be paid, in order that a settlement for the first year may take place when that year expires.

I have taken the liberty, Sir, of requesting this information from you, because all my communications on the subject have hitherto been with you. I have the honor etc.

P.S. You informed me in the spring that the rent would be five hundred pounds currency, and I only mention it now to be clearly ascertained with the other points.⁹

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

To JOHN DANDRIDGE

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Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 6 ultimo found me at this place, but not until it had travelled to Philadelphia and back again.

As I never entertained a suspicion of your having any intention to impose upon me by a misrepresentation of the assets of your Father's estate. So you and your good Mother may rest assured that I have no disposition to contribute to her distresses by withdrawing from her the use of those Negroes which were purchased on my account (under the friendly judgment which had been obtained at your desire in my behalf) and left in her possession. When I want the negroes she shall have such timely notice of it as will prevent inconvenience. All I require at present is that the property in them may stand upon such clear and unequivocal ground as to admit of no dispute hereafter.

Your Aunt and all the family (except my nephew Major Washington) are well, and join me in every good wish for yourself and Mother, and the rest of the family.

With great esteem etc.¹⁷

17. The original letter, now in the possession of Leonard Opdyke, of Boston, Mass., varies from this "Letter Book" copy in minor verbal details.

To JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 2, 1791.

Sir: The details with which you have been pleased to favor me (under date of 24. ult.) of the unfortunate insurrection of the negroes in Hispaniola, came duly to hand; and I pray you to accept my best thanks for the trouble you have taken to give them. What the final issue of this affair may be is difficult at this distance, and with the imperfect information we

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have to foretell; but certain it is the commencement has been both daring and alarming. Let us, however, hope for the best. I would fain hope that *this* , and your *other* business may be so arranged as to give me the pleasure of welcoming you to this seat of retirement before I leave it, which by appointment is to happen on the 16 instant.

I shall add no more than assurances of the sincere esteem etc.²¹

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

To HUGH O'CONNOR

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1791.

Sir: By desire of the President of the United States I have to inform you that your letter to him of the 22 ult. has been received. The President directs me also to let you know that with respect to the contract, which you say was made with Mr. Deakins for land, it is his opinion that there must have been some considerable misunderstanding in the matter, as no land situated in the part of the country you mention, can be bought for any thing like the price of half a dollar per acre, which is the price the President understands you were to have the lands for. The President not having been concerned in buying or selling land for some considerable length of time, cannot give you any information, with certainty, where or at what price you can suit yourself in land, nor is it in his power (from the multiplicity of business to which he is obliged to attend) to make any enquiries of that kind in your behalf; but being willing to afford you every assistance he can he directs me to transmit to you the Virginia gazette and Alexandria advertiser, wherein you will find advertised for sale by Messrs. Hooe and Little of Alexandria, sundry parcels of land, among the rest one called the Catoctan tract, on the Potomac river, which he thinks would answer your purpose as it will be sold in a body, or divided into small tracts as may suit the Purchaser, and from what knowledge he has of that part of the country, he believes the land to be pretty good. The price of the land and title which can be made to it the President must leave to your further

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enquiries; he has reason however to believe that the price will be from two to three pounds per acre. I am etc.²⁹

29. This letter is signed "B. Dandridge" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1791.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is a letter for Mr. Muse,³⁸ requesting him to put my papers into your hands, and to give you such information with respect to the business, as is necessary to bring you acquainted with the present state of it. After you have read the letter, and noticed the contents, seal and deliver it to him.

Receive from Mr. Muse all the blank leases, with which I have furnished him, as well as those which have been filled up and executed. It will be indispensably necessary for you to get the precise state of the rents, which are due on each tenement, the ability of the tenants, and the prospect of receiving the rents. Make yourself Master also of the disputes, if any there be, to which the Tenements are subject.

From long experience I have laid it down as an unerring maxim that to exact rents with punctuality is not only the *right* t of the Landlord, but that it is also for the benefit of the Tenant, that it should be so; unless by uncontrollable events, and providential strokes the latter is rendered unable to pay them; in such cases he should not only meet with indulgence, but, in some instances with a remittal of the rent. But, in the ordinary course of these transactions, the rents ought to be collected with the most rigid exactness, especially from *my* Tenants who do not, for most of the farms, pay a fourth of what the tenements would let for if they were now in my possession. If it is found difficult for a Tenant to pay *one* rent, it is more difficult for him to pay *two* ; when *three* are due he despairs, or cares

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little about them; and if it runs to a greater number, it is highly [probable] that, to avoid paying any, he will leave you the bag to hold. For these reasons, except under

38. Battaile Muse.

the circumstances before mentioned, it is my desire that you will give all the Tenants *timely* notice that you will give no indulgences beyond those allowed by the covenants in the leases. If they find *you strict*, they will be punctual; if otherwise, *your* trouble will be quadrupled, and I can have no dependence upon my rents which are now my principal support, since, by the diligence of Mr. Muse the Tenants are brought into a proper way of thinking and acting respecting them; and my crops are almost continually failing me.

As there have been many transfers, and some without any privity of mine, altho' it is contrary to a covenant in the Leases, it is a matter which will claim your particular attention; and, as I have already observed, as the leases of old date are given for less than one fourth of their *present value*, it is my particular request, that you will endeavor to investigate, with great accuracy, and inform me of the result, what lives still remain in each lease throwing the proof, (unless you are advised by able Counsel that it cannot be done) where the Lessees are not to be produced, upon the Tenant to shew that they are actually in existence.

As all the rents become due on or before the first day of January in every year, and distrainable at the expiration of a certain number of days thereafter I shall expect that in some short and reasonable time after the days of grace expire the amount of your collection will be paid into the hands of Major Geo: A. Washington, my present Attorney, or whosoever hereafter may have the superintendence of my business in this State during my absence in the service of the public.

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Although I flatter myself that there is no occasion for the admonition, yet I will accompany this appointment with suggesting to you, that business is rarely well executed that is not diligently pursued, and that the same consequences of neglect will happen

to you, that would to any idle, inattentive, or deficient Collector, if any of these should appear in your conduct; and the more so as it is owing to the attentive and close watchings of Muse, that this resource has been productive and useful to me, and that many rents have been recovered, which appeared to be desperate, by his activity and perseverance.

If they are admitted in the first instances, you will have a thousand pleas to forbearance; but considering the low and easy rents, at which my Tenants stand, I know of none which ought to be admitted except losses by fire, by storms, or such droughts as are apparent and well attested; for bad crops proceeding from idleness, may, and will be a constant plea as they ought to be inadmissible.

It is of essential consequence that you should examine accurately whether the covenants in the leases, with respect to the buildings to be erected, Orchards to be planted, meadows to be made, and woods to be preserved, have been complied with. These were important objects with me at the time the leases were granted, and are so still, well knowing how much they would contribute to enhance the value of the lots, at the expiration of the term for which the leases were given. My best wishes attend Mrs. Lewis and yourself, and I remain Your affectionate Uncle.

P.S. If, as I have heard, you should not conceive the collection of my rents to be an object sufficient to engage your attention, the letter for Mr. Muse is not to be given him.³⁹

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

To BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1791.

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Sir: As you have intimated at different times your inclination to give up the collection of my rents, and as Mr. Robert Lewis, a nephew of mine, is now settled in Frederick, and is willing to undertake it, I request that you will put the leases and other papers belonging to that business into his hands, and I would thank you for giving him such a statement of matters respecting the circumstances under which the several tenements are, the rents due thereon, and the train in which things are, to obtain them, as your knowledge of facts will enable you to do. This will be an essential and pleasing service to me, and I have no doubt of your dispositions to comply with the request.

As my leases, in the early stages of them, were given upon very low rents, but with covenants to erect certain buildings, and to make other improvements, which were specified, and which I knew would add vastly to the value of the lots when they should revert to me again, I wish as far as you are enabled to do it that you would, in case of their noncompliance, give the reasons to Mr. Lewis of their failure, and the steps you had taken, or were about to take, to enforce the measure or to annul or set aside the lease. I am etc.³⁷

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

To HARRIET WASHINGTON⁵⁶

Philadelphia, October 30, 1791.

Dear Harriot: I have received your letter of the 21st. instant, and shall always be glad to hear from you. When my business will permit inclination will not be wanting in me to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, and this I shall do more cheerfully as it will afford me opportunities at those times of giving you such occasional advice, as your situation may require.

At present I could plead a better excuse for curtailing my letter to you than you had for shortening of yours to me, having a multitude of business before me while you have

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nothing to do, consequently you might, with equal convenience to yourself, have set down to write your letter an hour or two, or even a day sooner, as to have delayed it until your Cousin was on the point of sending to the Post-Office. I make this remark for no other reason than to shew you it is better to offer no excuse than a bad one, if at any time you should happen to fall into an error.

Occupied as my time now is, and must be during the sitting of Congress, I nevertheless will endeavor to inculcate upon your mind the delicacy and danger of that period, to which you are now arrived under peculiar circumstances. You are just enter. hag into the state of womanhood, without the watchful eye of a Mother to admonish, or the protecting aid of a Father to advise and defend you; you may not be sensible that you are at this moment about to be stamped with that character which will adhere to you through life; the consequence of which you have not perhaps attended to, but be assured it is of the utmost importance that you should.

Your cousins, with whom you live are well qualified

56. Daughter of Washington's deceased brother Samuel.

to give you advice, and I am sure they will if you are disposed to receive it. But if you are disobliging, self-willed, and untowardly it is hardly to be expected that they will engage themselves in unpleasant disputes with you, especially Fanny, whose mild and placid temper will not permit her to exceed the limits of wholesome admonition or gentle rebuke. Think then to what dangers a giddy girl of 15 or 16 must be exposed in circumstances like these. To be under but little or no controul may be pleasing to a mind that does not reflect, but this pleasure cannot be of long duration, and reason, too late perhaps, may convince you of the folly of mis-spending time. You are not to learn, I am certain, that your fortune is small; supply the want of it then with a well cultivated mind; with dispositions to industry and frugality; with gentleness of manners, obliging temper, and such qualifications as will attract notice, and recommend you to a happy establishment for life.

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You might instead of associating with those from whom you can derive nothing that is good, but may have observed every thing that is deceitful, lying, and bad, become the intimate companion of and aid to your Cousin in the domestic concerns of the family. Many Girls before they have arrived at your age have been found so trustworthy as to take the whole trouble of a family from their Mothers; but it is by a steady and rigid attention to the rules of propriety that such confidence is obtained, and nothing would give me more pleasure than to hear that you had acquired it. The merits and benefits of it would redound more to your advantage in your progress thro' life, and to the person with whom you may in due time form a matrimonial connexion than to any others; but to none would such a circumstance afford more real satisfaction, than to Your affectionate Uncle.⁵⁷

57. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

To CHARLES VANCOUVER⁵⁹

Saturday, November 5, 1791.

Sir: The President of the United States has received your letter of this date⁶⁰ offering for his acceptance a curiously invented plough and in obedience to his command I have the honor to inform you that the President has a grateful sense of your politeness in requesting his acceptance of this machine, and although it would be inconsistent with his general rule to receive it as a present yet he would gladly become possessed of it by paying the cost, was he not fully convinced, from repeated experiments, that all machines used in husbandry that are of a complicated nature, would be entirely useless to him, and impossible to be introduced into common use where they are to be worked by ignorant and clumsy hands, which must be the case in every part of this country where the ground is tilled by negroes; and,

59. Then at the "Connestoga Wagon" tavern in Philadelphia.

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60. In the *Washington Papers*.

as you observe that this plough is adapted to light and gentle soils, this would alone destroy its utility to the President, the land which he cultivates about Mount Vernon being of a remarkably stiff and tenacious nature. I have the honor etc.⁶¹

To ALEXANDER MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, November 7, 1791.

Sir: Your letter of the 1st. of October, informing me of the alteration which had taken place in the plans and intentions of the south Carolina Yazou company, was received with much pleasure and satisfaction.

This change of measures is highly worthy of the good sense which dictated it. To have proceeded on the former plan would have been acting in direct violation of the laws and proclamations made and issued under the authority of the United States. To have persisted in a conduct of this kind would have been as little becoming the character of good citizens as consistent with the good sense which the Company have now shewn they are possessed of.

It was with extreme regret that I have heretofore received information of the plans and intentions of this Company, considering that their views, if carried into effect, would militate with the best interests of the United States. But I was never without hope that upon a serious and candid review of the matter, and the consequences which it might produce, their better judgment would lead to the measure which I am now happy to find they have adopted.

61. This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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Permit me here to observe that any communications which have been made to me on this subject cannot be considered as coming to me in my official capacity, it would therefore be improper for me to lay them before the Legislature of the United States, and I must request you will consider this letter as written in my private, not in my public character.

I beg you to be assured, Sir, that I have a proper sense of those sentiments of personal respect and attachment which are expressed in your letter, and that I am etc.⁶⁵

To MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE⁶²

Philadelphia, November 7, 1791.

My Lord: The letter with which you were pleased to honor me, dated the 4th. of July, was presented to me by Lord Wycombe.⁶³

Permit me to thank your Lordship for introducing so worthy and intelligent a young Nobleman to my acquaintance, and to regret that his stay in this Country is so short as not to have allowed him to investigate it more. We flatter ourselves however that the impression it has made on him is not unfavorable, and we should have hoped a better knowledge of it would not have weakened the first impressions.

This Country has a grateful recollection of the agency your Lordship had in settling the dispute between Great Britain and it, and in fixing the boundary between them: It is to be wished that the same liberal policy was pursued, and every germe

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

62. William Petty.

63. Sons of the Marquis of Lansdowne.

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of discontent removed, that they might be reciprocally beneficial to each other, their laws, language, and customs being much assimilated [sic]. I beg your Lordship to be assured of the great respect and consideration, with which I have the honor etc.⁶⁴

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

On November 8 Washington wrote to Gov. Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina, introducing Lord Wycombe, the son of the Marquis of Landsdowne. He wrote similar letters, on the same date, to John Rutledge, William Moultrie, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, and Edward Rutledge. These letters are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To GOVERNOR ALEXANDER MARTIN

Philadelphia, November 14, 1791.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's private letter of the 27th of September, which accompanied your public communication of the cession of certain pieces of land in North Carolina for the purpose of building light-houses thereon.

I request your Excellency will receive my thanks for the kind Congratulations which you express on my return from my southern tour in perfect health; and at the same time I beg you to be assured, that the reception which I met with among the Citizens of North Carolina, as well as those of the other states which I visited, was in the highest degree pleasing and satisfactory. My object in that journey was not to be received with parade and an ostentatious display of opulence. It was for a nobler purpose. To see with my own eyes the situation of the Country, and to learn on the spot the condition and disposition of our Citizens. In these respects I have been highly gratified, and to a sensible mind the effusions of affection and personal regard which were expressed on so many occasions is

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no less grateful, than the marks of respect shewn to my official Character were pleasing in a public view. I am etc.⁷²

72. In the writing of Tobias Lear. From a photostat of the original in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

To MARY BRISTOW

Philadelphia, November 14, 1791.

Madam: By the enclosed letter (which has been sent to London and returned to me in consequence of your not being found agreeably to its direction) you will see I was not inattentive to the letter which you wrote to me on the 22nd. of October 1790. Since which time I have received another letter from you to the same effect as the former dated July 5, 1791, and as circumstances continue to be the same with me as when the enclosed letter was written, that will serve as a reply to both. I will take the liberty to add that if your application should be made to some Gentleman in Virginia, on whose good offices you could depend, it might be the means of satisfying your enquiries on that subject. I have the honor etc.⁷³

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

To REVEREND ELIPHALET PEARSON

Philadelphia, November 14, 1791.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 10th. of September enclosing by order of the American academy of arts and sciences, Judge Lowell's⁷⁴ eulogy on the late Governor Bowdoin.⁷⁵

I must beg, sir, you will present my proper acknowledgments to the Academy, for this mark of attention, and at the same time receive yourself my thanks for the polite manner

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in which you have transmitted to me the eulogy on that worthy character, and for the catalogue of Harvard College which accompanied it. I am etc.⁷⁶

74. John Lowell. He was United States judge for the District of Massachusetts.

75. Gov. James Bowdoin.

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

On November 14 Lear wrote to Rev. Elhanan Winchester, in London, England, acknowledging for the President "a set of your lectures upon the prophecies that remain to be fulfilled." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (November 14) Lear also wrote to Rev. Auley Macauley, the President had received his letter "in behalf of a poor old man in your neighbourhood whom you mention as a near relation of the late Dr, Franklin, and request that the President will bring the situation of this poor man and his grandson before Congress to obtain some relief for them. In obedience to the President's commands, I have the honor to inform you that the President brings no business before Congress but what is of a public nature, and such as his official character renders it necessary for him to communicate to that Body. His departure therefore in this case from his uniform practice could not be warranted. The President moreover directs me to inform you that Dr. Franklin has left several near relations with handsome property in this city, to whom, or through whom it seems most proper that application should be made, and that there is most probably a Grandson of Dr, Franklin's in London at this time (he having gone over there last Fall)." Lear's letter is recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To MONSIEUR JORRÉ

November 15, 1791.

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Sir: The President of the United States has received the letter which you addressed to him on the 12 instant, and in obedience to his command I have the honor to observe to you that the President is very sorry that circumstances and propriety do not admit of gratifying, so far as might depend on him, the views and expectations with which you appear to have come to this country.

It is perhaps a fact too well known to make it necessary to mention it here, that numerous applications are made for every office created under this government, and it always happens where an office is desirable either for its respectability or emolument that it is sought for by those who have rendered services to their country in the course of the revolution either in the cabinet or the field, and so far from wanting men of respectable talents to fill places which require them that it is frequently a nice point to determine who among the applicants of this character have the best claims to public notice on account of services rendered. Upon this view of the matter the President is convinced, Sir, that your own good sense must approve of the conduct, which he uniformly pursues in making nomination of appointments to office, which is to unite in the applicant fitness of character and abilities with services rendered to the public in the time of common danger, and sure the President is that you must see the imputation which would certainly follow the appointment of a foreigner to an office whatever may be his abilities in preference to those who have fought and bled for their country and are fully equal to the discharge of the duties of its several offices.

The President conceives it unnecessary to point out to you the advantages which are held out to foreigners by this government. It grants them equal protection with its own citizens, and leaves them in the full exercise of all their rights civil and religious; but for the reasons before mentioned he is persuaded you will see the justice as well as propriety of giving a preference to our own citizens in all appointments to offices. I am etc.⁷⁷

77. This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

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To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Philadelphia, November 16, 1791.

Dear Sir: The Office of Auditor in the Department of the Treasury of the United States is not yet filled. Reasons unnecessary to detail at this time have hitherto prevented it. The closed points out what is expected from the Officer and the emoluments of the office.

If Mr. Richard Harrison,⁷⁸ now your Son in law (on which I congratulate you) inclines to accept it, I will bring him forward in nomination to the Senate.

He must decide without delay, and if on the side of acceptance he must come on without loss of time as there are many candidates for that office and the public business suffering for want of the appointment. Let me hear from you or him by the return of the Post.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington unites, attend you, Mrs. Craik and the rest of your family. I am etc.⁷⁹

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 14, 1791.

My dear Sir: When I addressed a private letter to you a few days ago I had no more idea that Monday the 24th. instt. was the day appointed for the meeting of Congress, than I had of its being dooms-day, until it was mentioned to me in a letter which I have just received from Mr. Lear (who was under the like mistake). It had taken such deep root in my mind that the *last* Monday in the month was the time that I never

78. Nominated to the Senate on Nov. 25, 1791, and confirmed November 29.

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

consulted the Law or made any enquiry about it; and meant to move leisurely on in the course of next week for Philadelphia and for that purpose had directed Page to send off his Stage Coach so as to be at George-Town on tuesday the 18th. This discovery, however, will oblige me, as soon as I am provided with the means, to accelerate my Journey; and it induces me at the same time to urge you more earnestly to be prepared against my arrival with what my last requested. How far, in addition to the several matters mentioned in that letter, would there be propriety do you conceive in suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of Cotton, and Hemp in such parts of the United States as are adapted to the culture of these articles ? The advantages which would result to this Country from the produce of articles, which ought to be manufactured at home is apparent but how far bounties on them come within the Powers of the Genl. Government or it might comport with the temper of the times to expend money for such purposes is necessary to be considered and without a bounty is given I know of no means by which the growth of them can be *effectually* encouraged. The establishment of Arsenals in convenient and proper places is, in my opinion, a measure of high national importance meriting the serious attention of Congress; and is one of those measures which ought to be brought to their view.

Yesterday I received the resignation of John Spotswood Moore Surveyor of West Point in this State. I mention it now, that if opportunities should present, you

may make the necessary enquiries into the fitness of Alexr. Moore, his Brother, whom he recommends as a Successor. With affectionate regard, etc.³⁶

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

George Town, October 17, 1791.

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My dear Sir: I am thus far on my way to Philadelphia, and if the disagreeableness of the weather (for it is now raining) does not prevent it, shall proceed to Bladensburgh at least to night; but be my dispatch what it probably may, the mail which leaves this tomorrow, will arrive in Philadelphia before me.

This being the case, and time pressing, I forward the enclosed suggestions of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, who are both at this place and from whom I requested information of the several matters that had occurred to them, proper for communication.⁴¹ I am etc.⁴²

***To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

Philadelphia, November 22, 1791.

My dear Sir: Mr. John Trumbull, with whom you are acquainted, is engaged in Painting
36. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Alwin J. Scheuer, of New York City.

41. To Congress.

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

a series of Pictures of the most important Events of the Revolution in this Country, from which he proposes to have plates engraved. I have taken peculiar satisfaction in giving every proper aid in my power to a subscription for supporting this work, which has been likewise patronized by the principle people of this Country. In the hope of meeting the patronage of the French Nation (to whose honor as well as that of America this plan is directed) Mr. Trumbull informs me he has ordered a Subscription to be opened in Paris. And the object of this letter is to engage your support to the subscription in that City and other parts of the Nation where it may be offered. I should not, however, do justice to

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Mr. Trumbull's talents and merits were I barely to mention his views and wishes on this occasion.

His pieces, as far as they are executed, meet the warm applause of all who have seen them. The greatness of the design, and the masterly execution of the Work equally interest the man of a capacious mind and the approving eye of the Connoisseur. He has spared no pains in obtaining from the life the likenesses of those characters, French as well as American, who bore a conspicuous part in our Revolution; and the success with which his efforts have been crowned will form no small part of the value of his pieces.

To you, my dear Sir, who know Mr. Trumbull as a man and as an Artist, it would perhaps have been hardly necessary to say so much as I have done on this occasion. But I could not in Justice say

less of him when I believe in his profession, he will do much honor to the liberal art of Painting, as well as credit to this his native Country.

I cannot conclude this letter without congratulating you most sincerely on the King's acceptance of the Constitution presented to him by National Assembly, and upon the happy consequences which promise to flow upon your Country, as well as to mankind in general, from that event. The prayers and wishes of the friends to the human race have attended the exertions of your Nation, and when your affairs are completely settled under an energetic and equal government the hearts of good men will be gratified, and no one will rejoice in your felicity, and for the noble and disinterested part you have acted more than your sincere friend and truly Affectionate &c.

[N.Y.H.S.]

To WILLIAM SHOTWELL

Philadelphia, November 21, 1791.

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Friend Shotwell: The President wants to purchase about one thousand wt. of clover, and six or seven bushels of Timothy Seed, and wishes you to let him know what they can be bought for now with you. If the seeds are

obtained by the month of February next, it will be soon enough for the President's purpose; but he must depend upon them at that time, if he should determine to have them from N. York, which will depend on the price they bear there. You will, therefore, let me know, as soon as you can, after receiving this letter, whether they can be had *now*, and the *price*, and likewise whether it would be best to wait until the month of February for a lower price, or a more plentiful supply. I am etc.⁸⁴

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, November 21, 1791.

My dear Sir: At the earnest request of Mr. Jorre I make known to you, that he came over to this Country with an idea of obtaining some appointment under our Government; but he now finds that idea to have been false; for propriety, as you, my dear Sir, well know, would not admit of a foreigners being preferred to office before one of our own Countrymen, who suffered so much to effect the revolution, and who certainly ought now to enjoy the official benefits arising from it; especially too, as there is not an office created for which there are not many applicants,

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

and always among them some who claim attention from their public services.

From the recommendation which Mr. Jorre brought to me, he appears to be a man of good character and abilities; and he seems to have given up every other pursuit for the sake of coming here. But finding that he can not accomplish his wishes by obtaining a public appointment, he is about to return to France, and, as I before observed, has earnestly

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requested I would make known the foregoing circumstances to you, in order that, if he should make any application for an appointment under your Government, he might have some unquestionable proof to produce of the views with which he came to this Country, and of the cause of his disappointment.

But, my dear Sir, you must not conceive from this letter that I mean in any degree to interfere with appointments in France. It is written only for the purpose before mentioned. But at the same time it affords me the pleasure of telling you how much and how sincerely I am etc.⁸³

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

To WILLIAM SHOTWELL

Philadelphia, November 25, 1791.

Gentlemen: I have received your favor of the 22d. instant, informing of the price of clover and Timothy seed; the former at # per lb. and the latter from 17/ to 18s. per bushel, and have now to request that you will obtain at once, for the President about four hundred wt. of dover seed, and seven bushels of Timothy.

If there is a certainty of a vessel's sailing from New York for Alexandria, in Virginia, before the Potowmack closes, the President wishes you to send the above seed in her, addressed to Major George A. Washington, at Mount Vernon, to the care of Mr. W. Wilson in Alexandria, and enclose to the President the bill of lading, &c. Should there not be a vessel going from New York, you are then requested to send the seeds to the City by the first vessel that may sail after obtaining them, the there will be a vessel sailing from this place for Alexandria in about 10 or 15 days.

The amount of the seeds, &c. shall be paid immediately upon receiving your account, either to any person you may wish in this place, or it shall be remitted to you.

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I will thank you to let me know as soon as you have the seeds in readiness whether they will go from N. York to Alexandria, or be sent to this place.

I am etc.⁸⁶

86. This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 6 Lear again wrote to Shotwell that on account of the high price of the clover seed "the President thinks it best to get only two hundred weight instead of four." This letter is also recorded in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOSHUA JOHNSON

Philadelphia, December 5, 1791.

Sir: The packet which accompanies this, and is addressed to Arthur Young Esquire, is put under a cover to you in order to ensure a safe conveyance for it to that Gentleman; and the sametime I must request you will be so good as to forward it to Mr. Young by some private opportunity, if any should offer without delaying its transmission too long for that purpose, as the expence of postage for so large a packet would probably be considerable. But if no conveyance by a private and safe hand should offer, I must desire you will forward it by the Post, and pay the postage thereon yourself, which you will please to charge in your acct. with the United States. I am etc.

P. S. We have had a report here of the death of Mr. Young.⁹⁶ Should this be true, you will please to return the enclosed packet to me.⁹⁷

96. Young did not die until the year 1820.

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

To BENJAMIN WALKER⁹⁸

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Philadelphia, December 5, 1791.

Dear Sir: Finding, on enquiry, that there is no vessel expected to sail for London the present season, and observing in the New York papers that two Ships were advertised to sail from thence to London, I have forwarded to your hands the enclosed packet, addressed to Joshua Johnson Esquire, our Consul at London; and request you will have the goodness to transmit it to that Gentleman by some safe and careful hand. If you know of any person going passenger in either of these vessels, or in the packet, to whom it could be confided, it might perhaps be a good mode of conveying by such an one. My principal object for wishing to have it put into this channel of transmission is, that it may not have to pass thro' the Postoffice to get to Mr. Johnson's hands, as it would do, if sent by the ordinary course of the mail. The postage on it would be considerable, and in this instance, an unnecessary expence.

As your situation necessarily gives you a knowledge of all vessels sailing from your port, I have been led to trouble you on this occasion, and must rely on your judgment to give the enclosed such conveyance either by the Captain or some Passenger

98. Naval officer of the port of New York. He was formerly aide to the Commander in Chief.

as may be most likely to carry it directly to its destination; and will thank you to inform me, after you have sent it, by whom, and in what vessel it has gone.

Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for Mrs. Walker and yourself, with your etc.99

***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

Philadelphia, December 7, 1791.

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Dear Sir: At the sametime that I address the letter which accompanies this to you, officially, permit me to offer my sincere congratulations on your Appointment to the Government of Virginia, and to add my best wishes for the prosperous Administration of the important Office which you now fill, as well as for your personal happiness.

An anxiety to do well, which is inseperable from high Offices, generally increases with the importance of the trust committed to our charge; and to that drawback you must lay your Account. But that you may experience as few troubles and difficulties as the nature of your situation will permit, is the sincere wish of Dear Sir etc.³

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

3. From a photostat of the original in the University of Chicago Library.

On December 8 Washington wrote a brief note of thanks to Elbridge Gerry: "The President and Mrs. Washington have received the pears and the curious fluted Cymbing which Mr. Gerry has been so good as to send them, and beg his acceptance of their best thanks for this mark of polite attention." This note was sold at auction in 1926.

To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1791.

Dear Sir: Unfortunate and melancholy as the event is, which has given rise to your communication of the 8 instant, I sincerely thank you for it.

Since the receipt of your letter official account of the defeat is come to hand, and is herewith enclosed.⁹ As the *whole* of it went to Congress, it was thought best to expunge no part of that which should be given to the public; otherwise the throwing away of Arms, and some other things would have been with-held. With sincere regard and affection, I am etc.⁷

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***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Philadelphia, December 5, 1791.

Sir: In a letter which I addressed to you on the 15th. of August, acknowledging the receipt of your favor dated the 25th. of January preceeding, I

8. Lee's letter, in the *Washington Papers*, is dated Dec. 16, 1791.

9. St. Clair's report of his defeat was addressed to the Secretary of War and dated Nov. 9, 1791 No copy of it is now found in the *Washington Papers*. It is printed in the *American State Papers*.

On January 31 Lear wrote to Knox, returning St. Clair's letter "which the President thinks it would be well to publish." This letter of January 31 is recorded in the "Letter Book," and a weak press copy is also in the *Washington Papers*.

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

promised to answer the queries contained in it, in detail.

Accordingly, I took measures for that purpose, by writing to some of the most intelligent Farmers in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia; as you will perceive by the circular letter herewith enclosed: and have obtained the answers from the three last mentioned States that are thereunto annexed. I did not extend my enquiries to the Northward of New York, nor to the Southward of Virginia; because in neither extremity of the Union, in my opinion, is the climate, Soil, or other circumstances well adapted to the pursuits of a *mere* Farmer, or congenial to the growth of the smaller Grains.

I have delayed the information I am about to give you, in expectation of receiving answers which have been promised me from the States of New York and New Jersey; but as

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they are not yet arrived, and a Vessel is on the point of Sailing for London, I shall put this Packet under cover to Joshua Johnson Esqr. our Consul at that Port; with a request to him, that it may be forwarded to you, by a safe conveyance. The others shall follow as opportunities may present; it being my wish to give you a comprehensive view of the different parts of this Country: although I have no hesitation in giving it at the sametime as my opinion, if I had a new establishment to make in it, that it would be, under the knowledge I entertain of it at present (and I have visited all parts from

New Hampshire to Georgia inclusively) in one of the three States of which you are furnished with particular Accounts. New York and New Jersey do not differ much in Soil, or Climate, from the Northern parts of Pennsylvania. Both are pleasant, and both are well improved, particularly the first. But the Country beyond these, to the Eastward, (and the farther you advance that way it is still more so) is unfriendly to Wheat, which is subject to a blight or mill-dew, and of late years, to a fly, which has almost discouraged the growth of it. The lands, however, in the New England States are strong, and productive of other Crops; are well improved; populously seated; and as pleasant as it can be in a Country fast locked in Snow sevl. months in the year.

To the Southward of Virginia the climate is not well adapted to Wheat; and less and less so as you penetrate the warmer latitudes; nor is the Country so thickly settled, or well cultivated. In a word, as I have already intimated, was I to commence my career of life anew, I shd. not seek a residence north of Pennsylvania, or South of Virginia: nor, but this I desire may be received with great caution, for I may, without knowing I am so, be biassed in favor of the River on which I live should I go more than 25 miles from the margin of the Potomac, in less than half that distance, in some places I might seat myself

either in Pennsylvania, Maryland or Virginia, as local circumstances might prompt me.

Having said thus much, some of the reasons which lead to this opinion, may be expected in support of it. Potomac River then, is the centre of the Union. It is between the extremes

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of heat and cold. It is not so far to the south as to be unfriendly to grass, nor so far north as to have the produce of the Summer consumed in the length, and severity of the winter. It waters that soil, and runs in that climate, which is most congenial to English grains, and most agreeable to the Cultivators of them.

It is the River, more than any other, in my opinion, which must, in the natural progress of things, connect by its inland navigation (now nearly compleated 190 measured miles up to Fort Cumberland, at the expence of £50,000 Sterlg. raised by private subscription) the Atlantic States with the vast region which is populating (beyond all conception) to the Westward of it. It is designated by law for the seat of the Empire; and must, from its extensive course through a rich and populous country become, in time, the grand Emporium of North America. To these reasons may be added, that, the lands within, and surrounding the district of Columbia are as high, as dry, and as healthy as any in the United States; and that those above them, in the Counties of Berkeley in Virginia, Washington in Maryland, and Franklin in Pennsylvania (adjoining each other) at the distance of from Sixty to 100 miles from Columbia, are inferior

in their natural state to none in America.

The general Map of North America, which is herewith enclosed, will shew the situation of this district of the United States. And on Evans's Map of the Middle Colonies, which is on a larger scale, I have marked the district of Columbia with double red lines; and the Counties adjacent to, and above it, of which particular mention has been made, with single red lines.

The last mentioned Map shews the proximity of the Potowmac (which is laid down from actual Survey) to the Western Waters, and it is worthy of observation, that the Shenandore, in an extent of 150 miles from its confluence, through the richest tract of land in the State of Virginia, may (as is supposed) be made navigable for less than £2,000. The South branch of Potowmac (100 miles higher up, and) for a hundred miles of its extent, may be made navigable for a much less sum. And the intermediate waters on the Virginia

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side, in that proportion, according to their magnitude. On the Maryland side (the river Potowmac to the head of the North branch being the boundary between the two States) the Monocasy and Conogocheag are capable of improvement to a degree which will be convenient and beneficial to the Inhabitants of that State, and to parts of Pennsylvania.

The local, or State taxes, are enumerated in the answers to the circular letter; and these from the nature of the Government, will probably decrease. The taxes of the General Government

will be found in the Revenue laws, which are contained in the volume that accompanies this letter.

“The Pennsylvania Mercury, and Philadelphia Price current” is sent that you may see what is, and has been, the prices of the several enumerated Articles which have been bought, and sold in this market at different periods, within the last twelve months.

An English farmer must entertain a contemptible opinion of our husbandry, or a horrid idea of our lands, when he shall be informed that not more than 8 or 10 bushels of Wheat is the yield of an Acre; but this low produce may be ascribed, and principally too, to a cause which I do not find touched by either of the Gentlemen whose letters are sent to you, namely, that the aim of the farmers in this Country (if they can be called farmers) is not to make the most they can from the land, which is, or has been cheap, but the most of the labour, which is dear, the consequence of which has been, much ground has been *scratched* over and none cultivated or improved as it ought to have been; Whereas a farmer in England, where land is dear and labour cheap, finds it his interest to improve and cultivate highly, that he may reap large crops from a small quantity of ground. That the last is the true, and the first an erroneous policy, I will readily grant, but it requires time to conquer bad habits, and hardly anything short of necessity is able to accomplish it. That necessity is approaching by pretty rapid strides.

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If from these communications you shall derive information or amusement, it will be but a small

return for the favors I have received from you; and I shall feel happy in having had it in my power to render them. As they result from your letter of the 25th, of January, and are intended for your private satisfaction it is not my wish that they should be promulgated as coming from me. With very great esteem I am etc.¹

1. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. W. Rosenbach, of New York City. The autograph draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JEAN BAPTISTE TERNANT

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 22, 1791.

Dear Sir: I accept, with great pleasure, the new and elegant print of the King of the French, which you have been so obliging as to send to me this morning as a mark of your attachment to my person. You will believe me, Sir, when I assure you, that I have a grateful and lively sense of the personal respect and friendship expressed in your favor which accompanied the Print, and that I am etc.¹⁵

To WILLIAM JACKSON

Philadelphia, December 26, 1791.

Dear Sir: At the same time that I acknowledge the receipt of your letter, notifying me of your intention to enter upon a professional pursuit, and, during the ensuing term, propose yourself for admittance as a practitioner of law in the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania, I beg you to be persuaded, that my best

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

wishes will accompany you in that or in any other walk into which your interest or inclination may lead you.

That your determination is the result of the best view you have of your circumstances and expectations, I take for granted, and therefore shall say nothing which might embarrass the decision; but declare to you that your deportment so far as it has come under my observation, has been regulated by principles of integrity and honor and that the duties of your station have been executed with abilities, and I embrace the occasion your address has afforded me to thank you for all your attentions, and for the Services which you have rendered me since you have been a member of my family.

Let your departure from it be made perfectly convenient to yourself and believe me to be with sincere esteem and regard, Dear Sir your etc.²⁰

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

To MARY BUTLER²⁶

Philadelphia, January 6, 1792.

Madam: I received duly your letter of the 22nd. ultimo.

Permit me to assure you that, in a public view, I consider the recent misfortune greatly enhanced by the loss of the truly gallant General Butler; and that I deeply participate in the grief which affects you on this distressing event.

A small detachment of troops had been ordered to be stationed at Pittsburg, previously to the receipt of your letter; these since he [*sic*] reinforced by a more considerable detachment now on their march to that place.

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I sincerely hope, that you will render the present pressure of your afflicted experience all the powerful consolations of Religion and Philosophy. I am etc.²⁷

26. Widow of Gen. Richard Butler, who was killed at "St. Clair's defeat."

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

***To BUSHROD WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, January 8, 1792.

Dear Bushrod: I have long suspected, but, such has been my situation for some years back, that I have not been able to ascertain the fact, that a tract of about 1200 acres wch. I hold on four mile-run near Alexandria has had the Wood thereon dealt pretty freely with by unauthorised persons in its vicinity. The enclosed from Mr. Whiting gives information of a particular act. He is directed in a letter of this date, to wait upon Colo. Little; and with such proofs of the trespass as he can obtain, to call upon you therewith. If they shall appear to you indubitable, I am resolved, as an example, to punish the aggressors; and pray you to issue a process against them, and to prosecute the same in the name of George Auge. Washington, as my Attorney, who I think has been announced as such in the Gazettes of Alexandria and Richmond; and, I presume, has a power from me to that effect.

Lest any misconception of Whiting's should lead me, or you into an error, I beg you will, when an opportunity shall present itself, inquire of Colo. Little whether the Hoop poles were, incontestibly, taken from my land; who the persons are that did it; who to prove it; and whether there can be any demur to the propriety (legality I mean) of bringing the Suit in the name of G: A: Washington as my Attorney, not being willing to have my own name called in Court, on this occasion.

Your Aunt joins me in best wishes, and

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compliments of the Season to you and Nancy, and I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

To JOSEPH WILLIAMS³²

Philadelphia, January 14, 1792.

Sir: I take the earliest opportunity, after receiving your letter of the 11th. instant, to inform you of the President's sentiments on the subject of it.

I think I mentioned to you when I had the pleasure of seeing you in this place, that the President had, when on his tour to the southward, been prevailed upon by the strong solicitations of Colonel Washington and several other Gentlemen of South Carolina, to promise that he would let his Spanish Jack be carried to that State for a time, if they should think proper to send for him. When I mentioned your application for one of the Jacks, the President informed me, that Colo. Washington had sent for the Spanish Jack, and that he was now on his way to South Carolina, and added, that as one of the Jacks was already gone, he cou'd not by

32. Of Connecticut.

any means think of parting with the Knight of Malta for a season, as his dependance for Mules must now be placed on him; and that, as the young Jack had never yet been tried, it would be out of the question to rely upon him for the Services which might be expected, I therefore did not incline to let either of them go from Mount Vernon, at least not for the ensuing season. The President more over observed, that he had no inclination to part with either of his Jacks, unless a *very considerable price* should be offered: conceiving that the benefits which might result from them to the Country at large could be diffused, without his dispossessing himself of their property.

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Had it been convenient for the President to have let you had one of his Jacks, he would only have done it for a stipulated sum for the season, to be paid in cash, as that would have been more agreeable to him (and perhaps equally as well for you) than to have received a certain proportion of what he might bring in. I am etc.³³

To THOMAS PINCKNEY

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 16, 1792.

Dear Sir: I do myself the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th. of November,

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

and to express the satisfaction which I feel in finding you are disposed to go abroad in the public character which was suggested to you.

The Secretary of State will give you the official information of your Appointment to the Court of London; and I am pleased that the public service will allow you such time as may be necessary for you to make arrangements for your departure, and permit you to take your passage in a pleasant and safe season of the year.

To a sincere desire that your exertions for the public good may be crowned with the fullest success, permit me to add, my best wishes for the welfare and happiness of your family: and to assure you, that I am etc.³⁹

To JAMES WILSON

(Private)

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Philadelphia, January 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your goodness will, I am persuaded, excuse my not giving an earlier consideration to the subject which you presented to my view in your letter of the 31st. ultimo. A variety of occurrences, some of them not very pleasing, have happened since that period to absorb my attention.

My opinion with respect to the advantages, which would result from such a digest of Laws as was sug

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

gested by you, is the same now it was at the time we conversed on the expediency of drawing a line between the powers of the General and State governments, with a view to avoid those evils which otherwise might result from a contention. But from the best consideration my leisure has enabled me to bestow on the subject, I question much whether the time is yet arrived, the necessity so generally apparent, or the temper of Congress so well framed for these things, as to render such a proposition acceptable. And I doubt still more, whether at any time its coming from the executive would be the most auspicious mode of bringing it forward; as it might be construed into an implication of want of discernment in that body to foresee the utility of, or of abilities to execute or to direct a measure of so much importance. I am &c.49

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, January 25, 1792.

Sir: The President presuming from your general acquaintance with Mills and Millers, that you will be able to give him the best information

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

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of the annual sum for which he can obtain a *first rate* Miller, that is, one capable of taking charge of an merchant mill, for his mill in Virginia, in addition to the perquisites which he allows to his present miller, and which will be here stated, has directed me to write to you for that purpose.

The present miller has provided for him a good and convenient dwelling house, within a few yards of the mill, with a Garden adjoining, sufficiently large, to raise such vegetables and garden roots as are necessary for his family, and other accommodations suited to such a dwelling, he is furnished with a Cow and keeping for the same, he receives 5.00 wt. of Pork per annum, is permitted to keep as many dunghill fowls as he may have occasion for in his family (but is not allowed to raise any for sale), and has his wood found him and brought to his door. There is moreover a smart young negro man who acts as an Assistant in the mill, in which business he has been employed for several years and of course may be calculated upon as understanding the common and ordinary business of a mill. The present miller by his agreement (which would also be expected from any other) is to superintend a Cooper's shop, which is within a few rods of the mill, where two negro men and a boy are kept at work, and to work at the business himself when he is not actually engaged in the mill. he is likewise to do any small repairs to the mill which may be necessary such as putting in cogs &c. and such things as do not require the aid of a professed Mill-wright. The duties at this mill are far from being heavy; for from the month of April to

the month of November there is scarcely water enough to grind for the President's own people, and at other times there is not always work enough to keep her employed. But a miller who may be engaged must not calculate from these circumstances, upon being *idle* any part of his time; for it is the Presidents intention, if practicable, to turn such streams into his mill-Race, as will keep her going at all times, and if that should not be done, the Coopers business will give employment to an industrious man. As to the situation of the mill &c. your brother, who was there last fall, can give the best information.

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Upon this view of the matter, the President wishes you to let him know for what annual sum, in addition to the before mentioned perquisites, he could be able to obtain such a miller as is before mentioned: and likewise to inform him of the wages and perquisites (if any) that are given to such a person at the Brandy Wine and other noted Mills.

The President will be thankful for this information as soon as it can be obtained, in order that he may be able therefrom to make arrangements with respect to his mill immediately. If you know of any complete miller that can be obtained about the last of May next, you will be so good as to let the President know his name, abode, and other qualities; the first of June being the day when the year for which his miller is engaged, expires, he must determine three months before that time whether he shall engage him for another year, or get a new one. A married man with a small family would be preferred to a single one, as his

inducements to be absent would be less.⁵⁰

To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

(Private)

Philadelphia, January 28, 1792.

My dear Sir:⁵⁷ Your favor of the 30th of September came duly to hand, and I thank you for the important information contained in it.

The official communications from the Secretary of State, accompanying this letter, will convey to you the evidence of my *nomination*, and *appointment* of you to Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States at the Court of France; and my assurance, that both were made with *all my heart*, will, I am persuaded, satisfy you as to that fact. I wish I could add that the *advice* and *consent* flowed from a similar source. Candour forbids it,

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and friendship requires, that I should assign the causes, as far as they have come to my knowledge.

Whilst your abilities, knowledge in the affairs of this Country, and disposition to serve it, were adduced and asserted on one hand; you were charged on the other hand, with levity and imprudence of conversation and conduct. It was urged that your habits⁵⁸ of expression indicated a *hauteur* disgusting to those, who happen to differ from you in sentiment;⁵⁹ and among a people, who study civility and politeness more than any other nation, it must be displeasing; that in France you were considered as a favorer of Aristocracy, and unfriendly to its

50. This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

57. Jefferson's copy, in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, has "Dear Sir."

58. Jefferson's copy has "mode."

59. Jefferson's copy has "opinion."

Revolution (I suppose they meant constitution). That under this impression, you could not be an acceptable public character, of consequence would not be able, however willing, to promote the interest of this Country in an essential degree.⁶⁰ That in England you indiscreetly communicated the purport of your Mission in the first instance, to the Minister of France, at that Court, who availing himself in the same moment of the occasion, gave it the appearance of a movement through his Court. This, and other circumstances of a similar nature, added to a close intercourse with the opposition Members, occasioned distrust, and gave displeasure to the Ministry; which was the cause, it is said, of that reserve which you experienced in negotiating the business which had been intrusted to you.

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But not to go further into detail, I will place the ideas of your political adversaries, in the light which their arguments have presented them to me: vizt. That the promptitude, with which your lively and brilliant imagination is displayed, allows too little time for deliberation and⁶¹ correction; and is the primary cause of those sallies, which too often offend, and of that ridicule⁶² of characters, which begets enmity not easy to be forgotten, but which might easily be avoided, if it was under the control of more caution and prudence. In a word, that it is indispensably necessary, that more circumspection should be observed by our representatives abroad, than they conceive you are inclined to adopt.

In this statement you have the pros and

60. Jefferson's copy omits "in an essential degree."

61. Jefferson's copy has "or."

62. Jefferson's copy had "indiscret treatmt. of characters, wch but too freqly. results from ye enmity produced by it, and wch. mt. be avoidd. if they were under ye guidance of more caution and prudence, and it is indispensably necessary more reserve and caution shd be observd. by our representatives abroad yn they conceive you are possd of."

cons; by reciting them, I give you a proof of my friendship if I give none of my policy or judgment. I do it on the presumption, that a mind conscious of its own rectitude fears not what is said of it, but will bid defiance to and despise shafts that are not barbed with accusations against honor or integrity.⁶³ And because I have the fullest confidence (supposing the allegations to be founded in whole or part) that you would find no difficulty, being apprized of the exceptionable light in which they are viewed, and considering yourself as the representative of this Country, to effect a change, and thereby silence, in the most unequivocal and satisfactory manner, your political opponents.

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Of my good opinion, and of my friendship and regard, you may be assured, and that I am etc.⁶⁴

To HENRY DORSEY GOUGH⁶⁶

Philadelphia, February 4, 1792.

Six: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your polite letter of the 1st. instant, and to inform you that the very fine mutton which you have had the goodness to send me has come to hand in the best order.

While I beg your acceptance of my thanks for this mark of polite attention, permit me to express the satisfaction which I feel in learning from your letter

63. Jefferson's copy has "of it."

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

66. Of Baltimore County, Md.

the success you have met with in your laudable attempts to improve the breed of our Sheep, by introducing among them the broad-tail'd persian breed. I have ever been satisfied in my own mind, that by a proper attention to our Sheep (particularly in Maryland and Virginia, where the climate and other circumstances seem to be peculiarly favourable to the object) they might be made not only a most profitable subject to the farmer, but rendered highly important in a public view, by encouraging extensive establishments of woolen manufactories from the abundance of wool which they could furnish.

During the time of my residing at home, between the close of the war and the entrance on my present office, I had paid much attention to my Sheep, and was proud in being able to produce perhaps the largest mutton and the greatest quantity of Wool from my Sheep that could be then produced. But I was not satisfied with this, and contemplated

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further improvements both in the flesh and wool by the introduction of other breeds, which I should by this time have carried into effect, had I been permitted to pursue my favorite occupation. I am however much pleased to find that some Gentlemen seem to view this matter in the light which it deserves, and exert themselves in promoting it; and if I cannot give my aid by a personal attention to the object, those who do, will always have my best wishes for their success. I am etc.⁶⁷

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

On February 4 Lear wrote to the Attorney General, by the President's command, asking an opinion on the legality of the appointment and continuance of Charles William Frederick Dumas, United States Agent at the Hague during the Revolutionary War and after. A press copy of Jefferson's opinion on the retention of Dumas (February 4) is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The Attorney General's opinion is not now found in the *Washington Papers*. On February 15 Lear returned all the papers in the case to Jefferson. Lear's note is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, February 5, 1792.

Sir: By the post of Friday I received your letter of the 28th. ultimo, and thank you, in behalf of the President, for the information you have been so good as to obtain and communicate respecting a miller.

The President has no *wish* to part with his present miller, if he should incline to continue where he is upon *reasonable* terms; but as the work done at the mill will not allow of extravagant wages, the President is desirous of ascertaining the annual sum for which he can obtain a *first rate* miller (who at the same time shall be a man of strict integrity, of sobriety and industry) in addition to the perquisites mentioned in my former letter. When this is known, if his present miller will not continue for the same sum, he shall have

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no hesitation in parting with him. I have, therefore, Sir, to beg the further favor of you to learn from the Mr. Robinson mentioned in your letter, or any other person possessing the necessary qualifications, the *annual sum* for which he would engage to take charge of, and conduct the Presidents Mill, in addition to the perquisites before mentioned to you, and let me receive information thereof as soon as you can. After this information is received, the President will be able to determine whether he shall continue

his present miller, or take another, as soon as he can write to Mount Vernon, and receive an answer from thence.

It may be necessary to observe here, that the Miller who has charge of the Presidents Mill, must be a man of strict integrity, and one in whom a confidence can be placed to conduct the business of the mill, without being constantly looked after; for so numerous are the avocations of whoever superintends the President's affairs, during his absence from home, that they can only pay a *general* attention to the Mill, and of course much must depend, in that case, on the honesty of the Miller, as well as on his ability to manage the business committed to his charge. A Miller, tho' engaged for the year, may receive his wages as they become due, by the month or quarter, as he pleases.

You observe in your letter, that "Gentlemen from the southward offer higher wages than are given at the Brandy-Wine Mills, and that there are frequent instances where those who go for the sake of the wages, return for their health." I am happy in being able to inform you, in reply to this, reasoning from the past, a person need be under no apprehension of unhealthiness at the President's Mill, for since the time of its being built in the year 1770, to the present day, there have been but two Miller's engaged there, and they have both, with their families, enjoyed as much health as any persons or families in any place whatever.

The first Miller, whose name was Roberts, was employed there from the building of the Mill, 'till the year 1785. He was perhaps, one of the *first* millers in this Country; but being incorrigibly addicted to drunkenness, the President was obliged to part with him on that

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account, after having endured with him, in consideration of his extraordinary ability as a Miller, 'til his conduct, from drunkenness, was no longer tolerable. After his dismissal, the man who is now there was engaged, and, as I observed before, neither of them suffered in themselves or families any more inconvenience from sickness, than what is incident to a family in any situation whatever. I am etc.⁶⁸

To HERCULES MULLIGAN

Philadelphia, February 6, 1792.

Sir: The President is desirous of getting some black mole skin, like that of which you made him a pair of breeches when he was in New York, and not being able to procure any in this City he has directed me to request, if there is any in N. York, that you will be so good as to get and send to him as much as will make three pair breeches; and the amount of which shall be remitted to you as soon as it gets to him, and the price is known. I am etc.⁶⁸

68. This letter is signed "T. Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Philadelphia, February 7, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 4th. of December should have received an earlier acknowledgment, if the pressure of public business would have sooner permitted me to make the necessary enquiries relative to the object of it. And I was induced to delay the matter until I found myself at leisure, from an idea that no inconvenience could result to you or your Son, from a short postponement, as your letter mentions his being now in London, and not expected in this Country 'till March.

Captn. Truxton,⁶⁹ with whom you express a wish that your son might sail, is now in London, and Mr. Morris informs me that he will sail from thence to India, and may be expected to return here in about 18 months, and is good enough to add, that if your

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Son shou'd be in the Country at that time, and incline to go an India Voyage with Captn. Truxton, he would provide a birth for him; but he must not expect the place of Chief mate in his first voyage to India; for great dependance being placed on the Chief mate of those Ships in respect to Seamanship and Experience, a man who has been to India and proved himself capable of the birth, is generally obtain to fill it.

If your Son should not wish to delay a voyage to India 'till the return of Captn. Truxton, there

69. Capt. Thomas Truxtun (Truxton).

will be vessels sailing from this place next Summer on board of one of which he may undoubtedly get the birth of Second or third mate; but as his sole object in such a voyage will be to gain knowledge and experience in his profession, it may be proper for him to be well ascertained of the character and talents of the Captain, on this line, under whom he may sail.

It will give me pleasure to promote the enterprising views of your Son in this way, by any information I can obtain and communicate respecting it. I will still continue my enquiries, and if I can, at the Season when the Indianmen are fitting out, hear of a suitable birth for him, I shall not fail to let you know it; for I am pleased to find that there are some young Gentlemen of respectability, stepping forward with ardor in a profession, where they may render service to their Country at a future period. With great esteem I am etc.70

To OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

Philadelphia, February 7, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have received a letter from General Moultrie of South Carolina, dated December 29th. informing that he had sent to me, by the Baltimore Packet (which was to sail next

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

day) the following plants, to wit: 2 boxes with sweet shrubs; 2 boxes with Italian Myrtle; one box with two apopynaxes; one box with two olianders, and two boxes with the Palmitto Royal.

Now, my dear Sir, as I have received no account of the arrival of these plants at Baltimore, I am apprehensive that some accident has befallen them, and must beg the favor of you to make an enquiry respecting them, and if they have reached Baltimore, to let me know what state they are in; and should they have escaped destruction from the severity of the weather, I must add to the trouble of the enquiry, a request, that, if the plants are found in such preservation as to be worth sending to Mount Vernon, you would have the goodness to cause them to be sent there by the first Vessel which may be bound that way. And, in order to prevent a double transportation and perhaps a delay which may be ruinous to them, it would be a pleasing thing to me if the Captain of the Vessel that may carry them to the Potomack, would land them at Mount Vernon in his way up the River.

The amount of freight from Charleston, and other charges upon these plants you will be so obliging as to ascertain and let me know, that it may be paid.

With great regard etc.74

[MD.H.S.]

74. In the writing of Tobias Lear.

To OLIVER EVANS

Philadelphia, February 24, 1792.

Sir: I have favoured with your letter of the 20th. instant, and have communicated the same to the President, who observes, that the wages which Mr. Robinson demands is higher

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than he expected from your letter to me of the 28th. of July; in which you state the wages of a first rate miller at the Brandy Wine mills to be from £5:10 to £6 pr. month, without any perquisites, and the duties heavy. Mr. R. demands 75£ per year in addition to perquisites, almost sufficient to support a family. However, as I mentioned to you in my last letter, that the President did not wish to part with his present miller, if he should incline to continue on reasonable terms, and my principal object in writing to you was to know the terms upon which he could obtain a Miller, in case he should under the necessity of getting a new one, the President can not give a *decided* answer to Mr. R. until he knows the intention of his present Miller, for which purpose he has written to Virginia, and will probably receive an answer

from thence towards the last of this, or in the beginning of next month; and as soon as he hears from thence, I will give you immediate information of his determination.

The dry weather continuing till the setting in of the frost, has prevented the President's mill from giving a fair trial to your improvements, little or no work having been done there since they were erected. This puts it out of the President's power to give at present a certificate of their utility from experiment. I am etc.⁸⁹

To DAVID SHEPHERD

Philadelphia, February 25, 1792.

Sir: I thank you for the information which you have given me in your letter of the 30th of Decr. respecting the intention of the Tomlinsons and others to dispute my title to a tract of land called the Round Bottom.

I wish these persons, and any others who may be disposed to dispute my title to that land, to be informed in the most explicit and pointed manner, that it is my fixed determination to defend, at all events, every inch of that land which is within the lines of my patent. If, therefore, any encroachments are made thereon, the person or persons by whom they are

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made may depend upon being prosecuted as long as there shall be any shadow of right or justice in so doing.

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

I have nothing to say respecting any surveys which may be made *without* the lines of my patent; but let them beware of the consequences of coming *within* them. I am etc.⁹⁴

To REUBEN SLAUGHTER

Philadelphia, February 25, 1792.

Sir: I thank you for the information given me in your letter of the 21st. of November last, of your claiming 200 acres of the land within the limits of my Survey on the Great Kanhawa; as it gives me an opportunity of letting you know my fixed determination to defend my title to all that land within the lines of my patent, and to warn you in the most pointed manner not to make any settlements thereon, or to exercise any other right of proprietorship within the limits of my patent.

It may be proper to inform you, that, in the year 1769 or 1770, there was a special order of the Governor and Council of Virginia, for reserving all the lands on the Great Kanhawa to satisfy the military claims of myself and others of the first Virginia Regiment. That in 1770 I was myself on the Great Kanhawa with the Surveyor to look out the land for the military claims; and that my Patent for the tract you speak of has been in my possession for many years. I cannot therefore entertain the smallest doubt of the legality

94. In the writing of Tobias Lear. From the original in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

and validity of my title to every acre of land within the lines of that patent; and from a conviction of this I am resolved to defend it at all events, and to prosecute to the extremity of the law every encroachment, that may be made upon the boundaries of it. I therefore

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desire you will consider this letter as a solemn warning not to make any Settlement, or exercise any other right of proprietorship on any part of the land within the lines of my patent: assuring you that if you should, after this warning persevere in your intention of settling or otherwise encroaching upon my land, you must expect to be prosecuted as far as right and justice will admit. I am etc.93

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

To JAMES MERCER

Philadelphia, February 29, 1792.

Dear Sir: I take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th. instant, to shew you that I have not been inattentive to the contents of it. But I must delay giving a definitive answer to your request for using my name in the Suit which you propose to institute, until the return of your Brother, Colo. John Mercer, to this City, shall enable me to learn from him whether the decree of chancery entitled him to use the names of the trustees without their express permission; which if it did, would render an express permission unnecessary in this case. Or, until I am informed of the kind of Suit, and against whom my name is to be drawn forth; and also, what steps can now be taken, so as to place this debt upon the same footing with those, which have been paid out of the aggregate fund. For however inclined I am to give every facility in my power toward the recovery of the debt which you mention; yet prudence will suggest that a permission to use my name in a suit should be granted but with great caution, and only where it may be *absolutely necessary*: as I am resolved that no voluntary act of mine shall again involve me in a business from which I have been discharged by a decree of the High Court of Chancery of the State of Virginia. I am etc.5

5. From the " Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The original is in the possession of Robert W. Dona, of London.

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To THE CHIEF JUSTICE

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 6, 1792.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 27th. of January came safely to hand (but not by Judge Cushing)²² as did your letter of the 23d. of September, for which I thank you.

It is with pleasure I congratulate you on the increase of your family, and the restoration of health to Mrs. Jay, both of which we have heard.

Mr. B—'s²³ motion, alluded to in your letter of the 27th. of January,²⁴ is only the prelude, I conceive, to what is intended to follow, as occasions shall present themselves.

I am persuaded your goodness will excuse my not having acknowledged the receipt of your letters, of the above date, at an earlier period. Many matters of a public nature have pressed upon me, some of them not very pleasant ones.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. W— cordially unites, are presented to Mrs. Jay and yourself, and with affectionate regard I am etc.²⁵

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

(Confidential)

Philadelphia, March 6, 1792.

My dear sir: Your letter of the 24th. uli

22. William Cushing.

23. Aaron Burr, Senator from New York.

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24. Jay had written (January 27): "Mr. Burr's motion gave me much Concern, and the Issue of it much Satisfaction. I regret that the Senate were not more unanimous. Similar attempts in future may be encouraged by their having divided so equally on the Question. It is in my opinion a Question very important in its Consequences; so much so, that if the Senate should make and retain that Encroachment on the Executive, I should despair of seeing the Government well administered afterwards." Jay's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The matter, probably, was the appointment of Ministers abroad. Cf. *Executive Journal*, Dec. 22, 1791–Jan. 16, 1792.

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

mo, did not reach me 'till the 28th. You will not find it difficult to imagine, that in the particular circumstances of your community, at the existing juncture, I may have experienced embarrassment, from the nature of different applications, in relation to the office of Supervisor; and you will, I trust, do justice to the motives, which have reluctantly prevented a compliance with your recommendation.¹⁶ After a careful attention to all the considerations, which would naturally enter into the subject, I have concluded to nominate Mr. Morris,¹⁷ the late Chief Justice of your State, to the Office.

This nomination has been unsolicited by that Gentleman, or by any friend of his; nor have I any evidence, that it will be acceptable to him; or of his inclinations in the event which is pending: But, in adverting to his long and faithful public services, to his real sacrifices, and to his present, as I am informed, distressful retirement, I found a combination of strong inducements to direct my choice towards him.

I beg you to be assured of the sincere esteem and affectionate regard, with which I am
&c.¹⁸

To JOHN ARMSTRONG

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(Private)

Philadelphia, March 11, 1792.

Dear Sir: I am persuaded that no one will be more ready than yourself to make the proper allowances for my not having sooner acknowledged the receipt of your friendly

16. Clinton had recommended Dr. William Tillotson.

17. Richard Morris.

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

letter of the 23d. of December, as you there express a conviction, that the pressure of my public duties will allow me but very little time to attend to my private correspondences. This is literally the truth, and to it must be imputed the lateness as well as the brevity of this letter.

The loss of the brave Officers and men, who fell in the late unfortunate affair at the westward,³ is, I hope, the only one which the Public sustain on the occasion, that cannot be readily repaired. The loss of these is not only painful to their friends; but is a subject of serious regret to the Public. It is not, however, our part to despond; we must pursue such measures as appear best calculated to retrieve our misfortune, and give a happy issue to the business. I am sure there never was a people, who had more reason to acknowledge a divine interposition in their affairs, than those of the United States; and I should be pained to believe that they have forgotten that agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution, or that they failed to consider the omnipotence of that God who is alone able to protect them.

Your friendly wishes for my happiness and prosperity are received with gratitude, and are sincerely reciprocated by, dear Sir, your affectionate, &c.⁴

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To WILLIAM MOULTRIE

Philadelphia, March 14, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge

3. "St. Clair's defeat."

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

the receipt of your letters of the 28th. of November, and 29th. of December, and to inform you that the plants which you had the goodness to send me, arrived at Norfolk (the ice not permitting the Vessel to reach Baltimore) where they are put into the hands of a Gentleman, who will forward them to Mount Vernon by the first opportunity.

Were I not assured of the pleasure which you take in obliging me, I should be at a loss how to express my acknowledgments for the kind attention which you have shewn to my wishes in sending these plants. But you have not, however less of my thanks from the circumstance of my knowing your goodness.

I am persuaded that Lord Wycombe will not consider Charleston as among the least agreeable of the places he has visited in the United States. The acknowledged hospitality and politeness of its inhabitants cannot fail of making proper impressions upon the respectable foreigners who may visit that City.

The unfortunate affair to the westward is, I hope, more to be regretted on account of the loss of those brave Officers and men who fell on the occasion, than of any other serious influence it may have on our public affairs. We are, happily, in a situation to repair every other loss, but that of lives.

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I shall give you the trouble of presenting me to the recollection of the Ladies in the circle in which you move, and that you would be assured of the sincere esteem and regard with which I am etc.¹²

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

To GOVERNOR CHARLES PINCKNEY

(Private)

Philadelphia, March 17, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 8th. of January, and their duplicates. That of a public nature, on the subject of a proposed application from yourself to the Governor of East Florida, for the redelivery of certain fugitives charged with having forged the Indents assumed by the U. States, will be answered by the Secretary of State.¹³ To your private favor I shall now reply. And in the first place, let me beg your acceptance of my thanks for the remembrance of, and kind attention to my wishes in sending the box of seeds, which I have received by Captain Ort.

I am flattered by the regret which you express at having been absent from Charleston during the stay of Lord Wycombe in that City, and being thereby deprived of an opportunity of paying the attention which you wished to that Nobleman to whom I had given a letter for you; and am glad that his intention of returning among you, after having visited the Floridas, will permit you to do it.

I must say that I lament the decision of your legislature upon the question of importing Slaves after March 1793. I was in hopes that motives of policy, as well as other good reasons supported by the direful effects of Slavery which at this moment are presented, would have operated to produce a total prohibition of the importation of Slaves

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13. See Washington's letter to the Secretary of State, Mar. 25, 1792, *post*.

whenever the question came to be agitated in any State that might be interested in the measure.

Our misfortune at the westward is certainly a circumstance much to be regretted: but it affords consolation to know, that every public loss on that occasion may be readily repaired, except that of the lives of the brave Officers and men, who fell in the conflict. I believe with you, that the absence of the Cherokee chiefs from their Nation at so critical a moment, was a fortunate event; and I trust they have received such impressions here, as will not fail to have a happy influence in their nation with regard to us.

If in the course of our military arrangements, it should be found compatible with the plan which it is proposed to adopt, to require the services of Genl. Pickens, I shall not be unmindful of your recommendation of that Gentleman; and from his talents, knowledge, and influence, should look for the best effects. But I most sincerely join with you in hoping, that the war with the Indians may not extend so far to the southward, as to render your frontiers an object of immediate defence. I beg my best respects may be presented to Mrs. Pinckney, and to Colo. Laurens,¹⁴ when you see him. With very great esteem and regard, I am &c.¹⁵

To SAMUEL POTTS

Philadelphia, March 18, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 31st. of October, on the sub

14. Henry Laurens.

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

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ject of a Legacy left by Mrs. Savage to Mrs. Bomford, has been received; and shall be transmitted to the Revd. Mr. Fairfax, whose avocations not being of the constant and indispensable nature that mine have been and still are, having given him better opportunities of attending to the affairs of the late Mrs. Savage than I have had; his knowledge of the situation of that business is therefore much more accurate than mine. You will see by the enclosed copy of a letter which I wrote to Mrs. Bomford on the 6th. of January 1790, that it has been totally out of my power to pay any attention to the Affairs of Mrs. Savage since the year 1775, and that I have referred her to Mr. Fairfax, to whom I must likewise beg leave to refer you. I am etc.15

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

To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX

Philadelphia, March 19, 1792.

Dear Sir: I enclose you a letter which I have received from a Mr. Samuel Potts, on the subject of a Legacy left to Mrs. Bomford by the late Mrs. Savage.

It is unnecessary to detail to you, my dear Sir, the causes which have put it out of my power to pay any attention to the affairs of Mrs. Savage since the year 1775. You know them well. And I can only assure you that they still exist, and in a stronger degree, if possible, than heretofore. I must, therefore, as I have before mentioned to you, rely upon your endeavours to have every thing relative to that unfortunate womans affairs brought to a close as speedily as the nature of the case will admit: and as you must have a much better knowledge of the present situation of them than I can have, I have referred Mr. Potts (as I before did Mrs. Bomford herself) to you for information on the subject; not doubting but you

will give him all the satisfaction in your power relative to the business.

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Mrs. Washington joins her best wishes for yourself, Mrs. Fairfax and your family, to those of, Dear Sir, Your etc.¹⁶

To HANNAH FAIRFAX WASHINGTON²²

Philadelphia, March 24, 1792.

Dear Madam: Having lately received from Sir Isaac Heard²³ a letter, with a sketch of a genealogical table of the family of Washington,²⁴ I have taken the liberty to enclose copies of them to you, begging your assistance to enable me to comply with the request he has made (if among the Papers of my deceased relation there be any trace of this matter) that I will complete the sketch, by making the additions which are there wanting, or rather by filling up the blanks.

As I have heretofore paid but little attention to this subject, and my present avocations not permitting me to make the necessary researches now, I am induced to ask your aid, presuming, as your late Husband's father was older than mine you might, either from your own knowledge or a recurrence to documents, or tables in your possession, be able to complete the sketch, and thereby put it in my power to comply with the request of St. Isaac Heard, which seems to be made with

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

22. Widow of Warner Washington, and then living at "Fairfield," Va.

23. Garter King of Arms, College of Heraldry, London.

24. In the *Washington Papers*.

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much earnestness, and to which an attention seems due, on account of his politeness. This must be my excuse for giving you the trouble of receiving and answering this letter as soon as you can make it convenient.²⁵ I am etc.²⁶

To DAVID STUART

Philadelphia, April 8, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letter from the Commissioners to Mr. Jefferson of the has been laid before me, and I have desired him to approve the Contract respecting the bridge over Rock-creek: but in future, it would be more agreeable to me, after a plan, or the principles leading to the measure, is approved, not to have the details or the execution suspended for a reference to me. Because, to judge properly of the matter must (in many instances) depend upon calculation; upon accustomed modes; established prices, and usages of different places; none of which my time and avocations will allow me to investigate with promptness; consequently the business must be delayed (if I take time for examination) or I must decide in the dark, if I do not.

This has actually been the case with respect to the Bridge above mentioned; for if I had been called upon to say what such a bridge wou'd cost, I should have guessed less than the contract price. And though the Items which form the aggregate, may contain no more materials than are indispensably necessary; and the prices of them, and rates

25. Mrs. Washington's reply, dated April 9, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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

of work, not more than usual, yet, from a want of knowledge in these matters, both appear high to me.

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Not for this reason, but because you have jealous and ill-disposed people about you, my advice to you, is to act with caution in all your contracts: and I give it with the freedom of friendship, because it has been insinuated, before the contract was made, that sufficient notice had not been given; and of course you would have no competitors for the undertaking of the Bridge.⁴⁷

Did Major L'Enfant assign any reason for his rejection of the compensation which had been offered him? Has any person applied for the Office of Superintendant? A Mr. Blodget has been recommended by some of the Proprietors; but except being pretty deeply interested in the City, having been a pretty considerable traveller in European Countries, and an observant man with some taste, it is said, I can say nothing of his qualifications for such a trust. How far he is a man of industry, arrangement, and integrity I know not, having a very slight acquaintance with him personally, and less knowledge of his abilities.

There is such an intimate connection in political and pecuniary considerations between the federal district and the inland navigation of the Potowmac, that no exertions, in my opinion, shou'd be dispensed with to accomplish the latter. For, in proportion as this advances, the City will be benefited. Public and private motives therefore combine to hasten this work. My best wishes to Mrs. Stuart and the family. I am etc.⁴⁸

47. The bridge was to be of stone. It was located, says Bryan, in his *History of the National Capital*, "across Rock Creek on a line with K street." Insecurely constructed, it either fell or had to be taken down in 1795, and was not replaced during Washington's presidency.

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

***To ELIZABETH WASHINGTON LEWIS**

Philadelphia, April 8, 1792.

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My dear Sister: If your Son Howell is living with you, and not usefully employed in your own Affairs; and should incline to spend a few months with me, as a writer in my Office (if he is fit for it) I will allow him at the rate of Three hundred dollars a year, provided he is diligent in discharging the duties of it from breakfast until dinner, Sundays excepted. This sum will be punctually paid him and I am particular in declaring beforehand what I require, and what he may expect, that there may be no disappointment, or false expectations on either side. He will live in the family in the same manner his brother Robert did. If the offer is acceptable he must hold himself in readiness to come on immediately upon my giving him notice. I take it for granted that he writes a fair and legible hand, otherwise he would not answer my purpose; as it is for recording letters, and other papers I want him. That I may be enabled to judge of his fitness let him acknowledge the receipt of this letter with his own hand, and say whether he will accept the offer here made him, or not. If he does, and I find him qualified from the specimen he gives in his letter I will immediately desire him to come on which he must do without a moments delay, or I shall be obliged to provide another instead of him.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in best wishes, and love for you and yours and I am,
etc.⁴⁶

46. From a facsimile in the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 21, p. 294.

To JOHN CANNON

Philadelphia, April 19, 1792.

Sir: After the letter which I wrote in September last, I did not expect to have waited 'till this time for a reply. I therein stated, in as strong terms as decency would permit, the impression that your conduct, with respect to my business in your hands, had made upon me; and had no doubt but it would have drawn you to a settlement of your accounts with

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me, or at least produced some explanation from you: Neither of which have, however, been effected by it.

It is unnecessary for me to make any comment on your conduct in this business, you must yourself be forcibly struck with the impropriety of it. I shall, therefore, only observe, that however painful it may be to my feelings, and opposite to my wishes, yet I shall be obliged, in justice to myself, to pursue another mode of application, if this should be found ineffectual. I am etc.⁵⁶

To ELIZABETH WILLING POWEL

Philadelphia, April 23, 1792.

Dear Madam: I pray you to accept my compliments and thanks for having favored me with the perusal of the enclosed "Strictures &c." and an assurance that the sentiments, and charges therein con

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

tained, have not given me a moments painful sensation.⁵⁷

It is to be regretted, however, that the author, if his object was to convey accurate information to the public mind, had not devoted a little of the time and pains he appears to have employed in writing this Pamphlet, in the investigation of facts. Had he done this, he would, or might have found, many of his charges as unsupported as the "Baseless fabric of a vision."

With very great esteem, regard and affection I have the honor etc.⁵⁸

To ELIZABETH WASHINGTON LEWIS

Philadelphia, April 26, 1792.

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Dear Sister: Mr. James Robardet, who has taught my two Grand children dancing proposes going into your part of the Country to establish a School, if he should meet with sufficient encouragement, and has requested that I would give him a line of recommendation to some of my friends. Mr. Robardet's attention to my grand children, and the progress which they have made under his instruction, induce me to recommend him on these accounts from my own knowledge: He has likewise kept a dancing School in this City the winter past, in which I am informed he has given much satisfaction, and his conduct has been marked with decency and propriety, so far as I have heard.⁶¹

57. Mrs. Samuel ("Eliza") Powel's letter of April 21, forwarding the pamphlet, is in the *Washington Papers*.

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

61. This same letter, which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, was sent to Mrs. William(?) Herbert in Alexandria, Va., with the necessary change to "Dear Madam:"

***To OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS**

(Private)

Philadelphia, April 26, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. Instt. came duly to hand, as did the one to which it alludes.⁵⁹ To the latter I could make no reply for reasons which will (perhaps have) occurred to you. Sensible however, if you had not assured me of it, that you meant not to give me pain by the proposition therein contained, I can assure you that I feel none, and that, with the same esteem and regard I always professed to have for you, I remain etc.⁶⁰

To THE EARL OF BUCHAN

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Philadelphia May 1, 1792.

My Lord: I should have had the honor of acknowledging sooner the receipt of your letter of the 28th. of June last, had I not concluded to defer doing it 'till I could announce to you the transmission of my portrait, which has been just finished by Mr. Robinson,⁶⁶ (of New York), who has also undertaken to forward it. The manner of the execution does no discredit, I am told, to the artist, of whose skill favorable mention has been made to me. I was further induced to intrust the ex

59. Both of Williams's letters (March 22 and April 18) are in the *Washington Papers*. The purport of the letter of March 22 was that Williams might be elected Governor of Maryland, and he suggested, in that event, that William Smith succeed him as Collector of the Port of Baltimore.

60. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E.F. Bonaventure, of New York.

66. Archibald Robertson. Washington committed to him this letter to Buchan in a brief note of May 1, which is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

ecution to Mr. Robinson, from his having informed me, that he had drawn others for your Lordship, and knew the size which would best suit your collection.

I accept with sensibility and with satisfaction, the significant present of the Box which accompanied your Lordship's letter.⁶⁷ In yielding the tribute due from every lover of mankind to the patriotic and heroic virtues, of which it is commemorative, I estimate, as I ought, the additional value which it derives from the hand that sent it; and my obligation for the sentiments that induced the transfer.

I will, however ask, that you will exempt me from a compliance with the request relating to its eventual destination. In an attempt to execute your wish in this particular, I should feel embarrassment from a just comparison of relative pretensions, and shou'd fear

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to risk injustice, by so marked a preference. With sentiments of the truest esteem and consideration, I remain &c.68

***To SIR ISAAC HEARD**

Philadelphia, May 2, 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 7th. of December was put into my hands by Mr. Thornton; and I must request you will accept my acknowledgments, as well for the polite

67. Buchan's letter of Sept. 15, 1791, was abstracted by Sprague, who left a copy in the *Washington Papers*, which reads: "Some time ago I did myself the pleasure to transmit to you by Mr. Robertson of Aberdeen a testimony of my sincere respect contained in a box made of the venerable oak which sheltered our great Wallace after his defeat at Falkirk, which box was cut out of the tree by the proprietor and sent to the Corporation of Goldsmiths at Edinh and by them presented to me with the freedom of their company in the box above mentioned and which I hope you will receive. It is a respectable curiosity and will I flatter myself be a relic of long endurance in America, as a mark of that esteem with which I have the honor to be, &c."

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

manner in which you express your wishes for my happiness, as for the trouble you have taken in making genealogical collections relative to the family of Washington.

This is a subject to which I confess I have paid very little attention. My time has been so much occupied in the busy and active scenes of life from an early period of it that but a small portion of it could have been devoted to researches of this nature, even if my inclination or particular circumstances should have prompted the enquiry. I am therefore apprehensive that it will not be in my power (circumstanced as I am at present) to furnish you with materials to fill up the sketch which you have sent me, in so accurate

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a manner as you could wish. We have no Office of Record in this Country in which exact genealogical documents are preserved; and very few cases, I believe, occur where a recurrence to pedigree for any considerable distance back has been found necessary to establish such points as may frequently arise in older Countries.

On comparing the Tables which you sent with such documents as are in my possession, and which I could readily obtain from another branch of the family⁸⁰ with whom I am in the habits of correspondence I find it to be just. I have often heard others of the family, older than myself, say that our ancestors who first settled in this Country came from some one of the Northern Counties of England, but whether from Lancashire, Yorkshire or one still more northerly I do not precisely remember. The Arms enclosed in your letter are the same that are held by the family here, though

80. See Washington's letter to Hannah Fairfax Washington, Mar. 24, 1792, *ante*.

I have also seen, and have used as you may perceive by the Seal to this Packet a flying Griffen for the Crest.

If you can derive any information from the enclosed lineage which will enable you to complete your Table, I shall be well pleased in having been the mean to assist you in those researches which you have had the politeness to undertake, and shall be glad to be informed of the result, and of the ancient pedigree of the family, some of whom I find intermixed with the Ferrers &ca.

Lawrence Washington, from whose Will you enclose an abstract was my Grand father; the other abstracts (which you sent) do not, I believe, relate to the family of Washington in Virginia; but of this I cannot speak positively. With due consideration I am etc.

***WASHINGTON GENEALOGY**

Philadelphia, May 2, 1792.

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In the year 1657, or thereabouts, and during the Usurpation of Oliver Cromwell

John and Lawrence Washington, Brothers Emigrated from the north of England, and settled at Bridges Creek, on Potomac river, in the County of Westmoreland. But from whom they descended the subscriber is possessed of no document to ascertain.

John Washington was employed as General

against the Indians in Maryland, and as a reward for his Services was made a Colonel; and the Parish wherein he lived was called after him.

He married Ann Pope, and left issue two Sons, Lawrence and John, and one daughter Ann, who married Major Francis Wright. The time of his death the subscriber is not able to ascertain,⁶⁹ but it appears that he was Interred in a Vault which had been erected at Bridges Creek.

Lawrence Washington his eldest son, married Mildred Warner, daughter of Colo. Augustine Warner of Gloucester County, by whom he had two sons, John and Augustine, and one daughter named Mildred. He died in 1697 and was interred in the family Vault at Bridges Creek.

John Washington the eldest son of Lawrence and Mildred, married Catharine Whiting of Gloucester County, where he settled, died⁷⁰ and was buried. He had two Sons, Warner and Henry, and three daughters, Mildred, Elizabeth and Catharine, all of whom are dead.

Warner Washington married, first, Elizabeth Macon daughter of Colo. William Macon of New Kent County, by whom he had one Son, who is now living and bears the name of Warner. His second wife was Hannah, youngest daughter of the Honble. William Fairfax; by whom he left two Sons and five daughters, as follow: viz. Mildred, Hannah, Catharine, Elizabeth, Louisa Fairfax and Whiting. The three oldest of the daughters are married.

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69. About 1677, according to Ford.

70. Sept. 1, 1746, according to Ford.

Mildred to — Throckmorton,⁷¹ Hannah to — Whiting,⁷² and Catharine to — Nelson.⁷³ After his second marriage he removed from Gloucester and settled in Frederick County, where he died, in 1791, and was buried.

Warner Washington his son married — Whiting⁷⁴ of Gloucester, by whom he has many sons and daughters; the eldest is called Warner and is now nearly if not quite of age.

Henry, the other Son of John and Catharine Washington, married the daughter of Colonel Thacker⁷⁵ of Middlesex County, and died many years ago, leaving one Son, Thacker, and two or three daughters.

Thacker Washington married the daughter of Sir John Peyton⁷⁶ of Gloucester County and lives on the family estate, left to his Grandfather John at Machodac in the County of Westmoreland. He has several Children, but what are their Sex, is not known to the Subscriber.

Mildred, daughter of John and Catharine of Gloucester was twice married, but never had a child; Elizabeth never was married; Catharine married Fielding Lewis by whom she had a son and daughter, John, the eldest, is now living, Frances died without issue.

Augustine, son of Lawrence and Mildred Washington, married Jane Butler, the daughter of Caleb Butler of Westmoreland April 20th. 1715 by whom he had three Sons, Butler (who died young) Lawrence and Augustine, and one daughter Jane, who died when a child. Jane, wife of Augustine died Novr. 24th. 1728 and was buried in the family Vault at Bridges Creek.

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Augustine then married Ball⁷⁷ March 6th. 1730: by whom he had issue George now President of the United States born February 11th. (old style) 1732; Betty, born June 20th. 1733; Samuel, born Novr. 16th. 1734; John Augustine, born Jany. 13th. 1735; Charles May 1st.

71. Albion Throckmorton, according to Ford.

72. Peter Beverly Whiting, according to Ford.

73. John Nelson, according to Ford.

74. Mary Whiting, according to Ford.

75. Anne, daughter of Col. Edwin Thacker, according to Ford.

76. Harriet Peyton, according to Ford.

77. Mary Ball.

1738; and Mildred June 21st. 1739; who died Octr. 28th. 1740. Augustine departed this life April 12th. 1743 aged 49 years and was interred at Bridges Creek in the Vault of his Ancestors.⁷⁸

Lawrence, Son of Augustine and Jane Washington, married July 19th. 1743; Ann, eldest daughter of the Honble. William Fairfax of Fairfax County, by whom he had issue Jane, born Sepr. 27th. 1744, who died Jany. 1745. Fairfax born August 22d. 1747 who died in Octo. 1747, Mildred, born Sepr. 28th. 1748 who died in 1749, Sarah, born Novr. 7th. 1750 who died in 175-. In 1752 Lawrence himself died aged about 34 and was interred in a Vault which he had caused to be erected at Mount Vernon in Fairfax County where he settled after he returned from the Carthage Expedition and died.

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Augustine, Son of Augustine and Jane Washington married Ann, daughter and Co-heiress of William Aylett of Westmoreland County, by whom he had many children, all of whom died in their non-age and single except Elizabeth (who married Alexander Spotswood of Spotsylvania County, Grandson of Genl. Spotswood Governor of Virginia, by whom she has a number of Children), Ann (who married Burdet Ashton of Westmoreland, by whom she had one or two children and died young), and William who married his cousin Jane, daughter of John Augustine Washington by whom he has four childn. (names unknown to the subscriber), Augustine lived at the ancient mansion seat in Westmoreland County where he died⁷⁹ and was interred in the family Vault.

George eldest son of Augustine Washing

78. Hannah Washington's letter (Apr. 9, 1792) states that "Augustine [Washington] moved to prince William Co. in the year 1734."

79. Apr. 12, 1743, according to Ford.

ton by the second marriage was born in Westmoreland County, and married Jany. 6th. 1759 Martha Custis, widow of Danl. Parke Custis and daughter of John Dandridge, both of New Kent County. Has no issue.

Betty, daughter of Augustine and Mary Washington became the second wife of Fielding Lewis, by whom she had a number of Children, many of whom died young, but, five sons and a daughter are yet living.

Samuel, Son of Augustine and Mary was five times married. First to Jane, daughter of Colo. John Champe. 2d. to Mildred daughter of Colo. John Thornton. 3d. Lucy daughter of Nathanl. Chapman. 4th. Ann daughter of Colo. Willm. Steptoe and widow of Willoughby Allerton, 5th. to a widow Perrin. Samuel, by his second wife, Mildred, had issue one son, Thornton, who lived to be a man, was twice married and left three Sons. He died in, or about the year By his fourth wife Ann he had three Sons, Ferdinand, George Steptoe and

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Lawrence Augustine, and a daughter, Harriot. Ferdinand lived to be married, but died soon after leaving no issue; the other two sons and daughter are living and single. Samuel had children by his other wives, but they all died in their infancy. He departed this life, himself, in the year 1781 at Harewood in the County of Berkeley where he was buried.

John Augustine, son of Augustine and Mary, married Hannah Bushrod, daughter of Colo. John Bushrod of Westmoreland County, by whom he has left two Sons, Bushrod and Corbin; and two daughters, Jane and Mildred. he had several other Children, but they died young. Jane, his eldest child married (as has been before observed) William Washington, son of Augustine

and Ann Washington and died in 1791 leaving four Children (names unknown to the subscriber).

Bushrod married in 1785 Ann Blackburn daughter of Colo. Thomas Blackburn of Prince William County, but has no issue. Corbin married a daughter of the Honble. Richd. Henry Lee, by whom he has three sons (names unknown). Mildred married Thomas Lee, son of the said Richard Henry Lee. John Augustine died in Feby. 1787 at his estate on Nomony in Westmoreland County and was there buried.

Charles Washington, son of Augustine and Mary married Mildred Thornton, daughter of Colonel Francis Thornton of Spotsylvania County, by whom he has four Children, George Augustine, Frances, Mildred and Samuel. George Augustine married Frances Basset, daughter of Colo. Burwell Basset of New Kent by whom he has had four Children, three of whom are living, viz. Anna Maria, George Fayette, and Charles Augustine. Frances married Colo. Burgess Ball by whom she has had several children. Mildred and Samuel are unmarried.

Mildred Washington, daughter of Lawrence and Mildred, and Sister to John and Augustine Washington married — Gregory by whom she had three daughters, Francis, Mildred and Elizabeth, who married three brothers, Colo. Francis Thornton, Colo. John Thornton and

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Reuben Thornton, all of Spotsylvania County. She had for her second husband Colo. Henry Willis, and by him the present Colo. Lewis Willis of Fredericksburgh.

The above is the best account the subscriber is able to give, at present, absent as he is, and at so great a distance from Virginia, and under circumstances too which allows no time for enquiry of the family of Washington from which he is lenially descended.

The descendants of the first named Lawrence, and the second John, are also numerous; but for the reasons before mentioned, and from not having the same knowledge of them, and being moreover more remote from their places of residence. And in truth not having enquired much into the names or connection of the lateral Branches of the family I am unable to give a satisfactory account of them. But if it be in any degree necessary, or satisfactory to Sir Isaac Heard Garter Principal King of Arms; I will upon intimation thereof, set on foot an enquiry, and will at the sametime endeavor to be more particular with respect to the births, names, ages and burials of those of the branch to which the subscriber belongs.

To THOMAS PAINE

Philadelphia, May 6, 1792.

Dear Sir: To my friends, and those who know my occupations, I am sure no apology is necessary for keeping their letters so much longer unanswered, than my inclination would lead me to do. I shall therefore offer no excuse for not having sooner acknowledged

the receipt of your letter of the 21st. of July. My thanks, however, for the token of your remembrance, in the 50 copies of "Rights of Man," are offered with no less cordiality, than they would have been, had I answered your letter in the first moment of receiving it.⁸⁹

The duties of my Office, which at all times, especially during the Session of Congress, require an unremitting attention, naturally become more pressing towards the close of

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it; and as that body have resolved to rise to-morrow, and as I have determined, in case they should, to set out for Mount Vernon on the next day, you will readily conclude that the present is a busy moment with me; and to that I am persuaded your goodness will impute my not entering into the several points touched upon in your letter. Let it suffice, therefore, at this time, to say, that I rejoice in the information of your personal prosperity; and as no one can feel a greater interest in the happiness of mankind than I do, that it is the first wish of my heart, that the enlightened policy of the present age may diffuse to all men those blessings, to which they are entitled, and lay the foundation of happiness for future generations. With great esteem etc.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing, I have received your letter of the 13th. of February, with the twelve

89. Paine printed 16,000 copies of *The Rights of Man* and, at the time of his letter, July 21, 1791, all but three or four thousand had been distributed. He stated that “when the whole are gone, ... I shall then make a cheap edition, just sufficient to bring in the price of the printing and paper, as I did by *Common Sense*.” Paine's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

copies of your new work, which accompanied it, and for which you must accept my additional thanks.⁹⁰

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Philadelphia, May 6, 1792.

Dear Sir: I made Mr. Morris acquainted with the contents of your letter of the 14th. of March, relative to your Son; and am informed by him, that if your son should be in Philadelphia, agreeably to your intention of sending him here, as mentioned in your letter, there is no doubt but many opportunities may occur of his making a voyage previous to the return of Captain Truxton from the East-Indies, which is expected to be sometime next

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Spring, or Summer; but Mr. Morris observes, that it is impossible, for him now to point the particular voyage or vessel in which he may be employed. When he is on the spot, opportunities of employment in his line will not be wanting, he thinks, if the skill, character and appearance of the applicant are approved. With great esteem etc.⁹¹

90. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. A hasty copy by Jefferson is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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

***To GIUSEPPE CERACCHI**

Philadelphia, May 10, 1792.

The President of the United States presents his Compliments to Mr. Ciracchi and with many thanks for his offer of the very elegant figures sent him, begs leave to restore them again to Mr. Ciracchi. His

situation calling for uniformity of conduct in these cases, he relies that Mr. Ciracchi will ascribe it in the present instance to its true motives, and accept the assurances the President now gives of the high sense he entertains of his talents and merit.

[H.V.L.]

To CHARLES CARTER

Mount Vernon, May 19, 1792.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th. ultimo was on its way to Philadelphia whilst I was on my journey to this place;⁹⁷ owing to which I did not receive it until it reverberated; this must be my apology for not giving the receipt of it an earlier acknowledgment.

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It would give me pleasure to receive your Son into my family, if it could be made tolerably convenient to me; or if any advantage was likely to result from it to the young Gentleman himself. I was in no *real* want even of Howell Lewis, but understanding that he was spending his time rather idly, and at the same time very slenderly provided for by his father, I thought for the few months which remained to be accomplished of my own. servitude, by taking him under my care, I might impress him with ideas, and give him a turn to some pursuit or other that might be serviceable to him hereafter; but what that will be I am at present as much at a loss to decide as you would be; for as the heads of the different departments have by law the appointment of

97. Washington had left Philadelphia May 10 for Mount Vernon.

their own Clerks; are responsible for the conduct of them; are surrounded always with applicants, and, I presume, have their own inclinations and friends to gratify. I never have, in a single instance, and I am pretty sure I shall not now begin, recommending any one to either of them.

My family, now Howell is admitted into it, will be *more* than full, and in truth *more* than is convenient for the House, as Mr. Dandridge (a Nephew of Mrs. Washington's) is already one of it, and but one room for him, Howell and another person to sleep in, all the others being appropriated to public or private uses.

If your Son Charles is of age, and it should be yours and his own inclination to pursue a military course, I would, if any vacancy should happen (at present there is none) in one of the Regiments endeavor to place him therein. You will perceive I have made age the condition; the reason is, it is established as a rule in the War Office to appoint none knowingly, that are under it. My best respects to Mrs. Carter. I am &c.98

To HANNAH FAIRFAX WASHINGTON

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Mount Vernon, May 20, 1792.

Dear Madam: To the variety and importance of public business which presses upon me towards the close of the Session of Congress, and which leaves not a moment to attend to my private concerns, you will have the goodness to impute this late acknowledgment of the receipt of your obliging

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

favor of the 9th. of April.

Permit me now, my dear Madam, to offer my best thanks for your kind attention to the request contained in my former letter, and for the information which you have been so good as to furnish me with relative to the genealogy of the family of Washington.

I return herewith the Will of Lawrence Washington agreeably to your desire.

Mrs. Washington received with much pleasure your kind remembrance and affectionate regards, and would, were she here, where I am come for a few days only, return the same with much sincerity to which permit me to add the best wishes and ardent prayers for your happiness. I am etc.⁹⁹

To GABRIEL P. VAN HORNE

Baltimore, July 14, 1792.

Sir: By order of the President of the United States, I beg leave to inform you, that one of the President's horses, which had been sick previous to his leaving Philadelphia,⁷⁴ was so far reduced and tired by the time he reached Bush-town, that the President was under the necessity of leaving him at that place in care of Mrs. Stiles.

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The President requests the favor of you to enquire, and as soon as the horse is able to travel, that you will contrive to send him to Alexandria, either by driving him in one of your Stage Coaches (

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

74. Washington left Philadelphia, July 11.

as he is a carriage horse), or by causing one of your Stage Drivers to lead him.

The President will willingly pay any expence which may attend the sending the Horse to Alexandria. I am etc.⁷⁵

***To JOHN LEWIS**

Mount Vernon, July 20, 1792.

Dr. Sir: I was in hopes the letter wch. was written to you at my request, by my Nepw. G. A: Washington, dated the 25th. of March, wd. have rendered a further application from me to you, on that subj. unnecessary; but as he says you have made no reply to it; as I am informed that my power of attorney to you was regularly recorded in Gates County No Carolina and that Mr. Cowper⁷⁷ is making great improvements upon the land (which is an evidence that the bargain with him is closed and of course the money paid, as that was the condition of it) and, as you are upon the point of removing to Kentucky. I must, and do *insist positively* upon receiving my moiety of the money, which has been paid by Mr. Cowper or any person in his behalf before you go, and to know how the ballance stands.

You must be sensible, Sir, it was my opinion at the time you proposed to make sale of this land that the moment was not favorable for it; but, as the Affairs of your fathers Estate pressed, and my own want of money was great, I consented to its being done; but I

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75. This letter is signed "Bw. Dandridge" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

77. John Cowper.

cannot nor will not consent to lye out of my moiety of the money that has been receid in payment. I am etc.⁷⁸

***To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER**

Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Sir: Your favor of the 10th. did not get to my hands until Saturday last, although I sent to the Post Office regularly, every Post day since I came to this place for the lettrs. wch. I expected.

Your letter conveys no specific assurance of the time, or manner of discharging the bale which is due to me. I am placed on no better, indeed on no worse ground, than I stood years ago with respect to this debt; and you cannot have forgotten that these were my apprehensions, which I expressed to you upon more occasions than one. Why then should I be told at this late day after every endeavor on my part to accommodate matters to your convenience, of your intention of offering all your property for sale when part of it ought to have been applied to my use years since? or to what purpose (for me I mean) is it that you should offer property for sale, if the price set thereon will admit no purchasers, or if sold that the money is to be converted to other uses than for my benefit? The latter you must be sensible I know to have been the case, and the other, as it respects negroes which you

78. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

offered to me formerly, and from other circumstances, I have no reason to disbelieve.

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It is not from inclination, that I become acquainted with any Gentlemans circumstances, and far is it from my practice to investigate what he owes; but you must excuse me when I tell you, that I have heard enough of yours to give me some uneasiness, as well on your acct. as on mine. To two facts I shall glance. A Gentn. in Phila., witht. having the least suspicion (I believe) how matters stood between you and me, was enquiring into the value of your Marlborough Estate; and through another channel I understd. the reason was that your debt to him was considerable; and that, *that was the mean* by which he was to be secured. The other, is the Agency of Mr. Montague who I know is determined to push the settlement of that business. Others I have also heard of: but nothing, I beg you to be persuaded, Sir, but my own interest in the case, would have induced me to mention them to you. Hard indeed then would it be upon me if after twenty odd years indulgence and receiving *any thing*, and *driblets* as they were offered which dissipated [mutilated] as inscrutably as the morning dew that I should be *still* postponed or put off with vague promises, until perhaps, you and your property may have parted.

There can be no difficulty in settg. *this*, or any other Acct. where the debits and credits are regular, and the intentions of the parties are fair; and I am persuaded if you will be at the trouble of riding to this place, a few hours will ascertain the bale which is due to me; or in case a disagreement should arise on any point, it might be so stated as that an impartial Umpire might decide it for us witht. trouble or lawsuits; besides, I have at this place a number of letters, Papers, and the Mill Books,

which might throw light upon things which to you may seem to want explanation, and cannot be had elsewhere. Other matters also might be more clearly explained, and better understd. by oral conversation than is practicable by letter. I know of nothing (at present) that will call me from home soon, unless I should go to the New City the first day of next month; of which I gave the Commrs. some, but no positive intimation. However, if you are inclined to comply with this request, and will name the precise day you will be here, I will not be from home.

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I beg you to be assured, that it will be extremely irksome and painful to me to go into a Court of Justice for the recovery of what is due to me, and for which I have with very great inconvenience and disadvantage to myself, waited so long; but it must be the case unless it can be averted by some measure wch. possibly, may be adopted at the meeting wch. is now proposed, and which it may be well for you to think on, previous thereto.

I have not yet been called upon legally to answer the complaint of Henshaw; but shall be ready to do it whenever it shall be found necessary or expedient and for that purpose shall keep the Bill, and the answer which you have drawn until I either see you, or hear from you again. The answer as drawn mistated a fact with respect to the power vested in Mr. Lund Washington. The truth of that matter stands thus. The Sale as you have recited, was made in Novr. 1774 on 12 months credit. In May following I went to the second Congress as a member thereof, witht. givg. Lund Washtn. then or at any time thereafter [mutilated]

powers fully expecting to return as soon as the business of the Session should close; but, being chosen to commd. the Army, I proceeded to Cambridge and from thence, as soon as it became apparent to me that my absence from home was likely to be of much longer continuance than I had calculated upon, I wrote to Colo. Tayloe informing him thereof, and desiring him to take the *sole* management of the trust wch. had been commitd. to us jointly upon himself, as my situation would no longer permit me to pay any further attention to it, and because I should not consider myself responsible for any transaction subsequent to the Sale. previous to which he had thrown the whole burthen upon me and nothing remained for him to do but appoint a Collector (if he did not chuse to be at the trouble himself), and submit the money to the decision of the court agreeably to its decretal Order. What *he* did, or rather what he neglected to do, would be tedious to relate, and I presume can compose no part of my answer. and with respect to the particular instance of depreciation as stated in the answer my memory is not furnished with the circumstance at prest. I am etc.80

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80. From a photostat of the original draft in the possession of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

***To RICHARD CHICHESTER**

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1792.

Sir: On my return home I found your note of the 6th.⁵ and Mr. Whiting shewed me the letter you had written to him on the same subject the next day.

When the first came to this place I was from home, and when the second was presented to me I was too much engaged to write myself, but desired Mr. Whiting to inform you of my objections as I should do as soon I had leisure.

I should feel no dis-inclination,

5. Dated from Newington, Va.

Sir, to comply with your request could I be of opinion that any other than my domestic deer were to be found in the skirt of Wood you wish to drive, or that the probability of finding one of these did not greatly exceed that of rousing any other. I have about a dozen deer (some of which are of the common sort) which are no longer confined in the Paddock which was made for them, but range in all my woods, and often pass my exterior fence.

It is true I have scarcely a hope of preserving them long, although they come up almost every day, but I am unwilling by any act of my own to facilitate their destruction; for being as much affraid of Hounds (on which acct. I parted with all mine) as the wild deer are, and no man living being able, (as they have no collars on) to distinguish them whilst they are running from the wild deer, I might, and assuredly should have them killed by this means. For this reason as it can be no object since Mr. Fairfax, I am informed, is unwilling to have his Woods at Belvoir hunted, I am desirous of preserving mine. I am, etc.⁶

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6. From a photostat of the original in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

On August 8 Washington, in collaboration with John Francis Mercer signed a letter addressed to Francis Deakins and Benjamin W. Jones, requesting them “to fix a valuation on that Woodstock manor, in Montgomery County [Maryland] which shall be assigned as the part of Mrs. Sophia Mercer,” A copy by Bartholomew Dandridge is in the *Washington Papers*.

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1792.

Sir: The letter herewith enclosed is left open for your *private* perusal, and transmission. Two motives prompt me to this measure, the first is, the christian name of a Mr. Jones, high sheriff of Montgomery County, the person intended to be associated with your brother in the business referred to them in the said letter, was unknown to Colo. Mercer and myself: the second, that before his name should be inserted, I might be ascertained from some person in whom I could place confidence, that Mr. Jones is a gentleman of good character, not interested in fixing the price at more than the land would *actually* sell at for *ready money* ; and who will decide impartially between Colo. Mercer and myself; for it is to be considered by these Gentlemen, that it is to all intents and purposes a ready money bargain.

I made choice of your brother Colo. Francis Deakins, to say what the *Cash* price of the Land shall be. Mr. Jones was the choice of Colo. Mercer, but his name by consent was to be withheld for the reasons above mentioned, as I had never heard of the gentleman until he was brought forward on this occasion.

I do not wish to delay the insertion of his name until I hear from you: on the contrary, if in your opinion Mr. Jones comes under the description I have required, I pray you to add his

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name to that of your Brothers, in the enclosed Letter, then seal, direct and forward it to the latter, that the business may be brought to a close as soon as it can be with convenience.

I am etc.¹⁰

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

To JOHN LEWIS

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1792.

Dr. Sir: I have sent your brother Howell to Fredericksburgh to receive from you my moiety of the money which has been paid to you by Mr. Cooper⁷⁰ for the Land in Gates County No. Carolina. I expect it will be fully paid, and a statement of the Accots. rendered, by which I can hereafter settle with, and receive whatever may be due for my part, from Mr. Cooper, without giving you any further trouble in the receipt of it, and exact statement of the Agreement, and of the account with him, therefore, becomes necessary in order to enable me to do this. I am etc.⁷¹

To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Mount Vernon, September 26, 1792.

Sir: Your Letter of the 15th. hast: was presented to me by Mr. Corbin on his return from Philada.

As my object in taking your Land near Monocacy (in payment of the Debt due from the Estate of your deceased Father to me) is to convert it into Cash as soon as possible *without loss*, I can have no other objection to an advantageous partition of the Tract than what might result from the uncertainty of the price that may be affixed to it, and the consequent

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70. John Cowper (Cooper).

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

possibility that the amount of a moiety may exceed the sum which is due to me by the last Settlement of the Accts.; thereby occasioning a payment of money, instead of receiving it. If these difficulties were removed, I have none other to your proposal of dividing the Tract into two equal parts, and fixing the property therein by lot. A mean of doing this, I will suggest. It is, if you have not heard the sentiments of the Gentlemen, or either of them, who were chosen to affix a *ready money* price on the Land (and I give you my honor I have not, and moreover that I have never exchanged a word on the subject with any one, except what I told you was Colo. Win. Deakins's opinion of it's worth) I will allow you seven Dollars pt. acre for a moiety; to be ascertained in the manner before mentioned. I name seven dollars for the following reasons: 1st. because I have been assured by the above Gentleman (who professes to be well acquainted with the Land) that, in his judgment, it would not sell for more than six Dollars Cash, or seven dollars on credit; and 2d. because you have set it at eight dollars yourself, without being able to obtain that price. Five hundred and fifty acres (if the tract contains 1100) wou'd then be within the compass of my claim; and the surplus, if any, I would receive in young Cows, or full grown heifers from Marlborough at three pounds a head, if more agreeable to you than to pay the Cash. Your answer to this proposal, soon, would be convenient to me, as I shall be on my return to Philada. in a short time.

I come now to another part of your Letter, and in touching upon it, do not scruple to declare to you that I was not a little displeas'd to find by a letter from Capt'n. Campbell, to a Gentleman in this neighbourhood, that my name had

been freely used by you or your friends, for electioneering purposes, when I had never associated your name and the Election together; and when there had been the most scrupulous and pointed caution observed on my part, not to express a sentiment

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respecting the fitness, or unfitness of any Candidate for representation, that could be construed, by the most violent torture of the words, into an interference in favor of one, or to the prejudice of another. Conceiving that the exercise of an influence (if I really possessed any) however remote, would be highly improper; as the people ought to be entirely at liberty to chuse whom they pleased to represent them in Congress. Having pursued this line of conduct *steadily*, my surprise, and consequent declaration can be a matter of no wonder, when I read the following words in the letter above alluded to:

I arrived yesterday from Philadelphia, since which I find Colo. Mercer has openly declared, that Mr. Richd. Sprigg, jur; informed him, that Bushrod Washington told him that the President in his presence declared, that he hoped Colo. Mercer would not be left out of the next representation in Congress; and added that he thought him the best representative that now goes or ever did go to that Body from this State.

I instantly declared to the person who shewed me the letter, "that, to the best of my recollection, I never had exchanged a word to, or before Bushrod Washington on the subject of your Election; much less to have given such a decided opinion. That such a measure would have been incompatible with the rule I had prescrib'd to myself, and which I had invariably observed,

of not interfering directly, or indirectly with the suffrages of the people, in the choice of their representatives; and added, that I wished B. Washington might be called upon to certify what, or whether any conversation had ever passed between us on this subject, as it was my desire that every thing should stand upon its proper foundations."79 Other Sentiments have been reported as mine, that are equally erroneous.

Whether you have, upon any occasion, expressed yourself in disrespectful terms of me, I know not: it has never been the subject of my enquiry. If nothing impeaching my honor, or honesty, is said, I care little for the rest. I have pursued one uniform course for three score years, and am happy in *believing* that the world have thought it a right one: of it's being so,

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I am so well satisfied myself, that I shall not depart from it by turning either to the right or to the left, until I arrive at the end of my pilgrimage. I am etc.80

***To JAMES MERCER**

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: It has long been in my mind to ask you, tho' I have never yet done it, if you could give me any information of a Conveyance of the Lotts I purchased at Colo. Mercer's Sale of Land in Frederick County in the year 1774. I can find no deeds for these Lotts amongst

79. See note to Washington's letter to the Secretary of War, Sept. 7, 1792, *ante*.

80. Copy is by Bartholomew Dandridge.

my Land Papers; but by recuring to Letters which have passed between you and me (in a settlements of Accounts with your Brother Colo. Jno. F. Mercer in August last) it would appear as if this had been done through your Agency. If so, your memory, (much better I am persuaded than mine) may furnish you with the fact; and with the circumstances attending it. Or, if it should not, and you would be so obliging when in Richmond to examine the Clerks Office of the General Court to see if any Deeds from *you* to me by way of re-conveyance (for this I think was the mode suggested) are on record, it would be doing me an acceptable favor. If none is to be found there nor in the Fredek. Office I am yet without a *legal* title to the land, although the purchase money has been allowed in the settlement before alluded to, with interest thereon agreeably to the tenor of the Sale.

With sincere esteem and regd. I am etc.

To ELIZABETH WASHINGTON LEWIS

Mount Vernon, October 7, [1792].

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My Dr. Sister: As Mrs. Washington and myself expect to set out tomorrow for Philadelphia, and the Major and Fanny the day after, if the vessel which is to carry him to Colo. Bassets, arrives in time, I have taken the

advantage of the good opportunity afforded by Mr. Robert Lewis of sending Harriet to Fredericksburg. It is done at this time (notwithstanding your proposed visit to Albemarle), 1st. because it would be improper to leave her here after we are all gone; 2nd. because there would be no person to accompany her down afterwards; and 3d because it might be inconvenient for her to travel alone.

She comes, as Mrs. Washington informs me, very well provided with everything proper for a girl in her situation: this much I know, that she costs me enough to place her in it. I do not however want you, (or any one else) to do more by her than merely to admit her into your family whilst this House is uninhabited by a female white woman, and thereby rendered an unfit place for her to remain at. I shall continue to do for her what I have already done for seven years past; and that is to furnish her with such reasonable and proper necessaries as she may stand in need of, notwithstanding I have had both her brothers upon my hands, and I have been obliged to pay several hundred pounds out of my own pocket, for their boards, schooling, clothing &c. &c. of them, for more than the period aforementioned; their father's estate being unable to discharge the Executions as fast as they are issued against it.

Harriet has sense enough, but no disposition to industry, nor to be careful of her clothes. Your example and admonition, with proper restraints may overcome the two last; and to that end I wish you would examine her clothes and direct her in their use and application of them; for without this they will be, I am told, dabbled about in every hole and corner, and her best things always in use. Fanny was too easy, too much of her own indolent disposition and had too little authority

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to cause, either by precept or example, any change in this for the better and Mrs. Washington's absence has been injurious to her in many respects: but she is young, and with good advice may yet make a fine woman. If, notwithstanding the suggestion that she is well provided with everything (except a Cloak which may not be had in Alexandria, and may be got at Fredericksburgh) a deficiency is found and you wish to supply it, there will be no occasion for your laying in advance more than ten days; as I could at any time remit a bank note in a letter, to you in four days after I was made acquainted with the amount. I do not mean by this to launch into expensiveness; she has no pretensions to it, nor would the state of my finances enable me to indulge her in that if she had.

Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for the perfect restoration of your health, and every other blessing. I am etc.⁹¹

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

***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Philadelphia, June 18 [-21], 1792.

Sir: Your letter of the 18th. of Jany. was received about a fortnight ago. For the Annals which you have had the goodness to send me, I pray you to accept my thanks. No directions having accompanied the second sett, and presuming they were intended for the Agricultural Society in this City, I have, in your name, presented them to that body.

As far as it is in my power, I will endeavour to solve the doubts which are expressed in your queries, contained in the above letter and first. "Labour is so slightly touched on, that I know not how to estimate it."

The information on this, as well as on other points of my last communication, was given in transcripts of the letters I have received in answer to certain queries, hastily submitted, to some intelligent Gentlemen of my acquaintance, in the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland

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and Virginia. If therefore the article of labour was not sufficiently enlarged upon, or, if there appeared too great a diversity in the price of this article, in that of land, and of other things, to be easily reconciled and understood; you must ascribe the inconsistency, or omission, to that cause; and to the habits, and value which is set on these things in the different States, and even in different parts of the same State.

South of Pennsylvania, hired labor is not very common, except it be at harvest, and sometimes for cutting grass. The wealthier farmers perform it with their own black Servants, whilst the poorer sort are obliged to do it themselves. That labour in this Country is higher than it is in England, I can readily conceive. The ease with which a man can obtain land,

in fee, beyond the Mountains, to which most of that class of people repair, may be assigned as the primary cause of it. But high wages is not the worst evil attending the hire of white men in this Country, for being accustomed to better fare than I believe the labourers of almost any other Country, adds considerably to the expence of employing them; whilst blacks, on the contrary, are cheaper; the common food of them (even when well treated) being bread, made of the Indian Corn, Butter milk, Fish (pickled herrings) frequently, and meat now and then; with a blanket for bedding: In addition to these, ground is often allowed them for gardening, and priviledge given them to raise dung-hill fowls for their own use. With the farmer who has not more than two or three Negros, little difference is made in the manner of living between the master and the man; but far otherwise is the case with those who are owned in great numbers by the wealthy; who are not always as kind, and as attentive to their wants and usage as they ought to be; for by these, they are fed upon bread alone, which does not, on an average, cost more than seven dollars a head pr. Ann (about 32/. Sterling).

From these data, in aid of my last communications, you will be able to form an idea of the cost of labour in this Country. It varies, however, in the different States as I have already observed, and sometimes in the same State; but may be said to vibrate with white men,

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between ten and fifteen pounds, and for black men between Eight and twelve pounds sterling pr. Ann,

besides their board. No difficulty, I should conceive, would be found in obtaining those of either description on the terms here mentioned; but I do not advance this with certainty, not having been in the habit of hiring any, myself, for several years past. Blacks are capable of much labour, but having (I am speaking generally) no ambition to establish a *good* name, they are too regardless of a *bad* one; and of course, require more of the masters eye than the former. Formerly, I have given to *skillful* and *careful* Cradlers, a dollar a day during harvest; which was a sixth more than the usual price; but then, I knew the men, and that they would oblige themselves to cut *clean*, and lay *well*, four acres of Wheat a day (if it did not stand very heavy on the ground); or, if I preferred it, they would cut by the Acre paying them at the rate of a dollar for every four acres. There are men who will rake and bind as fast as the Cradlers will cut the grain, but to do this is deemed hard work, and when done, entitles 'them to Cradlers wages. These people eat three times a day (once perhaps of milk) and are allowed a pint of spirits each man. A Barn floor, with straw and a blanket, serves them *at harvest* for lodging.

When I observed in a former letter that, "all our labour was performed by Negros," I must have alluded to the Custom in Virginia, the State in which I then lived, and from which I wrote; my last communication to you, was on a more extensive Scale, comprehending the practices, and prices of Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as different parts of Virginia; which (latter) is a state of great extent, differing much in its products and culture.

The English Statute acre is the measure by which we have hitherto

bought and sold land; and the price of land, as handed to you in my last, includes buildings, fences, arable, meadow, in short the improvements of every sort appertaining to the tract, on which they are placed. To a stranger at a distance, this aggregate mode of estimating the value of a farm is, it must be confessed, dark, and unsatisfactory; but

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to the parties present, who see and examine every thing, and judge for themselves, it is quite immaterial. The *Seller* warrants the title, and quantity which he sells; and *both* form an opinion of the total worth of the premises. It rarely happens, however, that buildings and other improvements are estimated by the purchaser at near what they cost the Seller, especially on *old* farms which have been a good deal worked; the received opinion being, that fresh land without improvements, is more to be desired than worn, and much abused land is with such as are usually found thereon; but this is to be considered as a general, not an invariable rule; for the better and more attentive farmers keep their farm in high order, and value the improvements accordingly.

Never having been in England, I ought not to hazard an opinion, or attempt a comparison between the Soil of that Country and this, in their virgin and unimproved State; but from what I know of the one, and have heard of the other, I should decide in favor of the latter at a distance from the Sea-board; which from the highlands of Neversink (in East Jersey) to Florida inclusively, is flat; and with but few exceptions, sandy, and generally

of mean quality. From the falls of the Rivers to the Mountains, which is generally from Sixty to 100 miles, and above the latter, except the craggy hills and mountains which lye between the Eastern and Western waters; the best lands are found: They are strong, and after having been used, and abused in a shameful manner, will, with a little repose, get covered with white clover. The upper Country is healthiest also.

You seem surprised, and no wonder, to hear that many of our farmers, if they may be so called, cultivate much ground for little profit; because land is cheap, and labour is high; but you will remember, that when I informed you of this fact, I reprobated at the sametime both the practice and the principle. The history however of it, is this, a piece of land is cut down and kept under constant cultivation, first in Tobacco and then in Indian Corn (two very exhausting plants) until it will yield scarcely anything; a second piece is cleared and treated in the same manner; then a third, and so on until probably, there is but little more to clear. When this happens, the owner finds himself reduced to the choice of one of

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three things; either to recover the land which he has ruined, to accomplish which he has perhaps neither the skill, the industry, nor the means; or to retire beyond the Mountains; or to substitute quantity for quality, in order to raise something. The latter has been generally adopted; and with the assistance of horses, he *scratches* over much ground, and Seeds it, to very little purpose as you may suppose, and have been informed; for I presume an English farmer would bestow more labour on *one* acre by deep and frequent ploughings, besides the dressings he gives to the land, than the other does on *five* acres. It is but justice, however, to Pennsylvania, to

declare that her husbandry (though not perfect) is much better; and her crops proportionably greater. The practice above mentioned applies more particularly to the Tobacco States which, happily, are yielding more and more every year to the growth of Wheat, and as this prevails the husbandry improves. Instances could be enumerated, and where no extraordinary dressing or management has been used, of land yielding from thirty to forty bushels of Wheat pr. acre, that *has been* very much exhausted.

Your mode of calculating the taxes of this Country, being unusual *with us*, I may not accurately understand it; and as the Virginia method was, if I recollect rightly, detailed in my former accounts, I know not how to give you a more distinct idea of them than by exhibiting the items of the specific charges on every species of taxable property, viz, on Land, Negros, Stock &ca. This, as it respects an estate in Virginia with which I am very well acquainted, I am enabled to do, and will do. We have a road tax besides but it is light, and in most of the States paid by a contribution of labour, which rarely exceeds two days in the year, for each male labourer. Dutiable articles is a distinct tax, the quantum of which depends upon the consumption, and the consumption upon the disposition of the consumer: with the aid therefore of the Laws (which I sent you) every man can calculate, better than I am able to do for him, the amount of his own expenditures

in this way. An additional duty, or excise, was imposed last Session; and this being now sent, will, if I am not mistaken (with what was mentioned in my former communication)

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bring every *tax, direct, and indirect* , to your view, to which property, in this Country, is subjected; either by the general government, or the laws of the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, to which my observations have been confined.

Beef, and other meats; Grain of all sorts, and flour; Butter; Cheese; and other things in quantities to make them an object; are always, I conceive, in demand; and are sought after by the purchasers. The sale of lesser articles, at a distance from market towns, may, sometimes, stick on hand; but rarely, I believe forego a sale if they are worth the transportation. Sheep thrive very well in the middle States, though they are not exempt from diseases, and are often injured by dogs; and more so as you approach the Mountains, by wolves. Were we to use horses less, and Oxen more on our farms (as they do in the New England States) we should, unquestionably, find our account in it; yet, strange as it may seem, *few* are in the practice of the latter, and *none* push the raising of Sheep to the extent they might, and ought to do. The fact is, we have, in a manner, everything to learn that respects neat, and profitable husbandry. Bakewells breed of Sheep are much celebrated, and deservedly I presume; but if entrusted to a common Bailiff (or what with us is called an Overseer) would, I should apprehend, soon degenerate for want of that care and attention, which is necessary to preserve the breed in its purity. But, the great impediment is, the British Statutes. These discourage men of delicacy in this Country from attempting what might involve the Master of a Vessel in serious

consequences if detected in the breach of them. Others however, less scrupulous, have attempted to import English Rams with Success, and by this means our flocks in many places are much improved; mine for instance, 'though I never was concerned directly nor indirectly in the importation of one, farther than by buying lambs which have descended from them, the average weight of the fleeces being 5 lbs.

Our modes, system we have none, are so different from yours, generally speaking, and our business being carried on so much within ourselves, so little by hiring, and still less

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by calculation, that I frankly confess to you, I am unable to solve your query respecting Sheepwalks, or how many sheep an acre of Woodland pasture would support.

I shall have pleasure at all times as far as I possess the means, or can command them, to give you every information that can contribute to your *own* satisfaction, or that of a *friend* ; but I am so thoroughly persuaded of my inability to throw new lights upon any branch of husbandry in a Country where it is so well understood as in England; and, that anything I could write to you on that subject, would only serve to expose the defective practice of my Countrymen, and be considered as the beacon of our ignorance, that I am disinclined to see any production of mine in a work, where so much useful information is conveyed to the public, as is to be found in your Annals of Agriculture.

With very great esteem I am etc.

PS. June 21st. I have not yet received the account of taxes I promised you, and for which I had written to Virginia; but I will send it by the first conveyance after its arrival. This letter goes by Mr. Pinckney Minister from the U. States to the Court of London, through which channel I recommend any letters you may favor me with to pass, who being detained a day or two longer than was expected, by the Vessel in which he is to embark, has given me an opportunity of asking Mr. Jefferson (who is well acquainted in the South Western parts of Virginia, near Charlottesville), and Mr. Peters (one of the best farmers in the State of Pennsylvania, about Six miles from this City) to give me there sentiments on the several queries contained in your letter. These you will find enclosed herewith, in there own words. On applying to Colo. Hamilton for the statement mentioned in Mr. Peters' letter he put into my hands, together with the statement, several communications which were made to him last year by some of the most respectable farmers in this part of the Country, in consequence of an application from him for information on certain points respecting farms, And as they appeared to contain some matters worth attention I had them copied, and they are also enclosed. Mine, and each of theirs, is written without any previous consultation; and may be considered (my estate, in the neighbourhood of which

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I am best acquainted (lying abt. midway between theirs) as the opinions of men living North, South and in the centre of the District, of which an account was given to you in my communications of the 4th. of December last.⁴⁰

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

Jefferson's notes and letter are in the *Washington Papers* under date of June 18. All the replies sent to Washington, in answer to his request, are entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers* immediately following this letter to Young.

***To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER**

Philadelphia, June 30, 1792.

Sir: I little expected that I should have had occasion, at this time (after the pointed assurances you gave me more than three years ago, of discharging what was due to me, fully to remind you that I have received only Three hundred and eighty pds. of the balance; and to ask what I am to expect from you in future.

I delayed from day to day while you were in this City (until it was too late) to apply to you on this subject, in hope, and in expectation that you would not have left town without mentioning it yourself. Before I apply to the Executors of Colonels Tayloe and Thornton who were securities for the money loaned to your deceased father, John Mercer Esqr., I will await the receipt of your answer to this letter, which I hope will be given as soon as you can make it convenient.

It has been of little avail hitherto, to inform you of the causes of my want of this money; although, in more instances than one, I have done it with the utmost truth and candour: nor should I say anything further to you on this head now, were I not in a manner compelled to declare, that from an occurrence which did not exist before, I have a call upon me for

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a considerable sum, in a few months; against which, it is *indispensably necessary* that I should be provided. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Philadelphia, October 20, 1792.

Sir: I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the book that accompanied your polite letter of the 9th. of June which came duly to my hands.

I presume you have long before this received my letter which was committed to the care of Mr. Pinckney, our Minister at the Court of Great Britain, and shall be very glad if the contents of it afforded you the information which it was intended to communicate; for I am persuaded, that I need not repeat to you how sincerely I wish success to those laudable exertions which you are making to promote the important interest of Agriculture and the cause of humanity. With very great esteem etc.⁶

***To THE INSPECTORS OF TOBACCO AT ALEXANDRIA**

Philadelphia, October 21, 1792.

Gentn: In 1790 I had 13 Hhds. of Tobo. Inspected at the Warehouses in Alexandria; and in 1791 12 more were also Inspected at the same place.

Not meeting a price that I was disposed to take, they remain there still. my Nephew Majr. Washington either before, or since your care of these Warehouses was allowed to stow them in a secure place, therein; but as it is now more than a year since this happened, and a good deal of Tobacco may, possibly, have been recd. and delivered in that period, they may have been displaced. I have

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

on the presumption of this directed Mr. Whiting my Manager, at such time as you shall please to appoint, to take some hands with him and again collect and well secure them. I do not mean that they should be reinspected at this time; but to be placed only in a state of security. Before delivery, it will be necessary I presume to have the condition of the Tobo. examined, or if the Law requires it, or if any advantage would result from it, I have no objection to its being done now. I recollect to have been informed that the Tobo. was put up dry, and that it was of a good sort and of superior quality; if so it will not have suffered from its age. I am etc.

***To JAMES MERCER**

Philadelphia, November 1, 1792.

Dear Sir: I pray you to accept my thanks for your obliging attention to my request respecting the conveyance of Lots which I purchased at the Sale of Colo. Mercers Estate; and for sending the Deeds from Mr. Muse to me. I see no occasion of a Copy of the re-conveyance of the above lots from you to me, as I am persuaded they were drawn with correctness; and because it appears by the Clerks certificate on the back of the Deed to you, that it was duly recorded.

Permit me before I close this letter, to express my regret that want of health, or any other cause should have prevented

you from making me the visit you proposed whilst I was at Mount Vernon; and to assure you that it will ever give me sincere pleasure to see you at that place. And I will also unite my regret to yours for the death of our old friend, and acquaintance Colo. Mason.⁹ With Affectionate regard etc.

Library of Congress

9. George Mason, of "Gunston Hall." He died Oct. 7, 1792.

***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Philadelphia, December 2, 1792.

Sir: I must begin this letter with an apology: no apology ought to be so satisfactory as the truth; and the truth is, that not receiving the account of the taxes of a Virginia Estate for which I had written (before I left this City during the recess of Congress) as mentioned in my letter to you of the 18th. of June, the promise I then made of forwarding it to you in my next, had escaped me altogether, until I was reminded of it, lately, by a circumstance too trivial to mention.

A copy of the account is now annexed, the name of the Proprietor of the Estate is not inserted, but on the authenticity of it you may rely. That you may understand the principle on which the Land tax in Virginia is founded, it will be necessary to inform you, that by a law of that State, the Inhabitants of it are thrown into districts, say Parishes, in each of which, or for two, or more of them united, Commissioners are appointed to assess the value of each man's land that lies within it; on which a certain per centum is uniformly paid.

No Negroes under twelve years of age are taxed, nor are any under Sixteen subjected to the payment of County, or Parish levies. Horses, at present, are the only species of Stock, in that State, which pays a tax. Carriages were, when I left Virginia, and I believe still are, subject to a tax by the Wheel. It was then if I recollect rightly, about five dollars each wheel; but whether it is more or less now; or whether there be any at all, is more than I am able with certainty to inform you. With very great esteem and regard I am etc.

For public taxes, and for County and Parish levies.

Dr. In Truro Parish 1792 Tax on 6320 Acs. of Land for 1791 £13.8.7 114 Negroes a 2/6 14.5.0 87 Horses a 6d. 2.3.6 107 County and Parish levies a 29 lbs. Tobo. each 3013.
Fairfax Parish (adjoining) Tax on 3420 Acres of Land 6.6.3 24 Negroes a 2/6 3.0.0 15

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Horses 6d. 7.6 23 County and Parish levies a 29 lbs. Tobo. each 567. 3670 and £39.10.10
3670 lbs. Tobo. at 15. pr. Ct. 27.10.6 Total Dollars. a 6/ £67.1.4.

Note, There ought to have been in the above Account, a discrimination in the charge for County and Parish levies. The first is for building and repairing Court Houses, Goals, ca., Criminal processes &ca. The latter is for the support of the Poor, and other Parochial Charges.⁴⁴

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

To FRANCIS DEAKINS AND BENJAMIN W. JONES

Philadelphia, December 8, 1792.

Gentlemen: Since the Letter which we addressed to you, requesting your valuation of a certain tract of Land in Montgomery County, another arrangement has taken place with regard thereto. It is now agreed that the price of seven dollars per acre shall be fixed and the whole tract divided into two equal parts, with respect to quantity, quality and value. In giving effect to this agreement, we must still rely on your good offices to make the necessary division, which when certified to as will enable us to determine by Lot the possession. Your attention to this request, as early as your conveniency will permit, will greatly oblige, Gentlemen, Your etc.⁴⁹

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

To ALEXANDER ROBERTSON⁵⁷

Philadelphia, December 16, 1792.

Sir: Your letter to the President of the United States dated the 4 of November, did not get to his hands 'till a few days ago; and in reply thereto the President commands me to inform you, that it is not at present in his power to give a decided answer to the request which

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you make for him to employ your brother in the management of one of his farms. Even if he was in immediate want of such a person as you describe your brother to be, it would be necessary to have certain points settled previous to his giving him encouragement to come over, such as, complete evidence of his being well qualified to manage the affairs of a farm in this Country, which is different from the management of a farm in England, and especially where the labour is performed by blacks: and a knowledge of the terms upon which your brother would be willing to engage in this business. But as the President has not immediate occasion for the services of such a person he can only observe, that the usual mode of engaging overseers of farms and plantations in Virginia where his Estate lays, is to give them a share of the Crop as a compensation for their services, for instance, if there should be on a plantation *ten* working hands, the crop is divided into eleven shares, one of which belongs to the Overseer: if a greater or less number of hands is employed, the Overseer's share is in proportion thereto. But the President having deviated from the common mode of cultivation practiced in that part of the Country, has been under the necessity of paying his overseers annual wages instead of giving them a share of the Crop; and the wages given to those whom he employs, as well as by other gentlemen in his vicinity who give annual wages instead of a share to

57. Of Morristown, N.J.

the Overseer, vary from 80 to 130 Dollars pr. year, according to the extent of the farm to be superintended, and the skill of the person in managing the business of it, to these wages axe added, a comfortable dwelling House on the farm, and a stipulated quantity of provisions, adequate to the support of the Overseer. In mentioning these terms, it must be observed that the President speaks only of his own Estate, and those in it's neighbourhood where he has had an opportunity of knowing the terms upon which Overseers are engaged on them. What may be given in other parts of the Country he cannot tell; and as the skill which you say your brother possesses in gardening and surveying, would not be likely to be called into exercise in over looking such farms as the President's; they could not be taken into the account in making a compensation for his services as an Overseer;

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but if they were found useful to a person who might employ him, in conjunction with his duties as Overseer or manager, an extra compensation would undoubtedly be made for them. I am etc.⁵⁸

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

By the President's command, Tobias Lear wrote to the Secretary of State, December 20, to "inform the President where he can obtain a copy of the New Impression of the Federal City" [Ellicott's map] and "wishes to know if it would not be advisable, in the Secretary's Opinion, to have a number of the plans of the City sent to our Ministers abroad, in order that the object may become more particularly known [sic] abroad than is at present." This letter is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On December 22 Washington nominated to the Senate the appointment of Gouverneur Morris as United States Minister to France, Thomas Pinckney to Great Britain, and William Short to the Netherlands. This nominating message is entered in the "Letter Book" and a brief of the debate that ensued in the Senate thereon, December 29 and 30, is in Washington's handwriting in the *Washington Papers* under the heading "S—te, on the agency it ought to have in judging of the expediency of sending M—rs abroad."

To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, December 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have been informed within these few days, that Major Harrison⁵⁹ of Loudoun

59. William B. Harrison.

County, who owns a piece of Land adjoining mine in Fairfax, is disposed to sell it; and to convert the money to more useful purposes.

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I am led from the rascally set of Tenants who occupy that land, and by no other consideration whatsoever, to become the' purchaser of it, that I may be relieved by that means from the villainies which the livers thereon are frequently committing on my property; in the practice of which their art and cunning is too great for detection. I have said my only motive to this purchase is to get rid of this pest of society, and in saying so I have declared the honest truth; for the land would not answer for a farm, being without timber, and too poor for cultivation; nor would it be profitable in Tenements, because men who intended a livelihood by honest industry, would give little or no rent for it; and my inducement to buy is to get rid of those of a contrary description.

Major Harrison must be sensible that no one can be better acquainted with the land than I am; it would be unnecessary therefore (if he has any inclination to sell it) to ask a price which it will not bear; but if he is disposed to take a reasonable price, and will act the part of a frank and candid man in fixing it, I would not have you higggle (which I dislike) in making a bargain. I will pay ready money if we can agree; but it must be on two conditions, first, that the title is good, and secondly, that it is not under the incumbrance (any part of it) of a lease; for that would defeat the sole end I should propose by the purchase; namely, to purge the neighborhood of these impure characters.

Under this view of my ideas, and the knowledge you have of my sentiments

respecting the Land, any bargain you shall make in my behalf with Major Harrison, shall be binding on me.

Your Aunt unites with me in best regards for yourself and Mrs. Lewis, and I am &c.60

***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Philadelphia, December 23, 1792.

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Dear Sir: I wish you would, as soon as the enclosed letter gets to your hands, call upon Major Harrison and endeavor to purchase from him the land therein mentioned, and for the reason therein assigned.

If you can get it for a Sum not exceeding forty shillings (virga. curry.) per Acre (wch. is a *great deal more* than it is worth) close the bargain with him at once, provided, as is mentioned in the letter, the title is good, and it is not under the incumbrance of a lease, for in either of these cases I would not be concerned with the land unless I could obtain it on very low terms.

You might, after a short introduction of the subject to Major Harrison, shew him the enclosed letter, by way of bringing matters to a speedy explanation; but if you find his ideas of the value exceed 40/pr. acre know what is the lowest terms he would sell on; the quantity of land he holds, and all the circumstances attending it, and give me notice thereof as early as you can, engaging him to wait a certain time for you to make the communication of them to me, and to receive my answer. Draw from *him* his lowest terms before *you* make any disclosure of what you would give, on my behalf.

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

When you was at Mount Vernon you expressed a wish to be possessed of the stud horse that was there. If he is not sold (for it was so intended when I left home) I make you a present of him. I am etc.⁶¹

61. From a photostat of the original in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

Philadelphia, January 20, 1793.

Library of Congress

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 6th. instant, congratulatory on my re-election to the Chair of Government. A mind must be insensible indeed, not to be gratefully impressed by so distinguished, and honorable a testimony of public approbation and confidence: and, as I suffered my name to be contemplated on this occasion, it is more than probable that I should, for a moment, have experienced chagreen if my re-election had not been by a pretty respectable vote.⁸⁴ But to say I feel pleasure from the prospect of *commencing* another tour of duty, would be a departure from truth; for however it might savour of affectation in the opinion of the world (who by the bye can only guess at my sentiments. as it never has been troubled with them) my particular, and confidential friends well know, that it was after a long and painful conflict in my own breast, that I was withheld (by considerations which are not necessary to mention) from requesting, *in time*, that no vote might be thrown away upon me; it being my fixed determination to return to the walks of private life, at the end of my term.

I am sorry to be informed by your letter, that death has snatched from us my old acquaintance and friend Colo. Bassett. The manner of it, adds to the regret. We shall all follow, some sooner and some later; and, from accounts, my poor Nephew is likely to be amongst the first.

Mrs. Washington joins me in wishing you the return of many new and happy years. With very great esteem etc.⁸⁵

84. Fifteen States voted in the election of 1792. The vote for Washington was unanimous, all 132 electoral votes being cast for him. Adams received 77 votes for Vice President, George Clinton, 50; Thomas Jefferson, 4; and Aaron Burr, 1.

85. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

To NICHOLAS VAN STAPHORST

Library of Congress

Philadelphia, January 30, 1793.

Sir: Expecting to have occasion to pay a small sum in Amsterdam, I embrace the opportunity of a Vessel sailing from hence to that place, to enclose you the first of Exchange, drawn by George Meade Esquire on Henry Gildermeester in your favor, for Two thousand three hundred and ten Guilders, Holland Currency, at 30 days; which I wish you to retain in your hands 'till further advice from me. I shall write to you by the British Packet which sails on the 6 of February, and will then remit the second Exchange: and if the Ship by which this letter goes, should not sail tomorrow, as is expected, I will write to you further on this subject by her. With due consideration, I am etc.⁹⁶

To NICHOLAS VAN STAPHORST

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Sir: I wrote to you yesterday by the Ship Holland and enclosed the first bill of Exchange for Two thousand three hundred and ten Guilders; at the same time I observed, that if the Vessel should not sail this day as was expected, I would write to you further on the subject of the bill. Accordingly, I have now to request that you will be so good as to convey the enclosed Letter to Madame La Fayette by some safe hand, if you know where she is to be found, and hold the amot. of the Bill remitted (2310 guilders) subject to her order.

I have taken the liberty, Sir, to trouble you on this business, as the place of Madme. La Fayette's residence since she quitted France, is entirely conjectural with me; but from

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

On February 4 Washington sent the second bill of exchange, with a brief note, to Van Staphorst, and on March 15 he forwarded the third. These letters are also entered in the "Letter Book."

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the vague accounts we have had in this Country it is probable that if she should not be in Holland, it would be known there where she is to be found. I am etc.⁹⁹

***To MARQUISE DE LAFAYETTE**

Philadelphia, January 31, 1793.

Madam: If I had words that could convey to you an adequate idea of my feelings on the present situation of the Mr. de la Fayette, this letter would appear to you in a different garb. The sole object in writing to you now, is to inform you that I have deposited in the hands of Mr. Nicholas Van Staphorst of Amsterdam, Two thousand three hundred and ten guilders holland currency, equal to two hundred guineas subject to your orders.

This sum is, I am certain, the least I am indebted for services rendered me by Mr. de la Fayette, of which I never yet have received the account. I could add much, but it is best perhaps that I should say little on this subject. Your goodness will supply my deficiency.

The uncertainty of your situation (after all the enquiries I have made) has occasioned a delay in this address and remittance; and even now, the measure adopted is more the effect of a desire to find where you are, than from any knowledge I have obtained of your residence.⁹⁷

At all times, and under all circumstances, you, and yours, will possess the regard of him, who has the honor &c.⁹⁸

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

97. A translation by Tobias Lear of a letter from the Marquise to Washington, dated from Chavaniac, Oct. 8, 1792, is in the *Washington Papers*. It had not, apparently, reached Washington at the time this letter was written.

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98. From the *Monroe Papers* in the Library of Congress. Marked by Washington "Duplicate."

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

January 22, 1793.

Dear Sir: Nothing occurs to me as necessary to be added to the enclosed project. If the Subscription is not confined to the members of the Philosophical Society, I would readily add my mite to the means for encouraging Mr. Mechaud's undertaking; and do authorise you to place me among, and upon a footing with the respectable sums which may be Subscribed. I am etc.⁸⁶

To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Philadelphia, January 23, 1793.

Dear Sir: The Western Indians having proposed to us a conference at Au Glaise⁸⁸ [not far distant from Detroit] in the ensuing spring, I am now about to proceed to nominate three Commissioners to meet and treat with them on the subject of peace.⁸⁹ what may be the issue of the conferences it is difficult to foresee, but it is extremely essential that, whatever it be, it should carry with it the perfect confidence of our citizens that every endeavor will have been used to obtain peace which their interests would permit. for this reason it is necessary, that characters be appointed who are known to our citizens for their talents and integrity, and whose situation in life places them clear of every suspicion of a wish to prolong the war, or say rather whose interest, in common with that of their country, is clearly to produce peace. characters uniting these desiderata do not abound, some of them too are in offices inconsistent with the appointment now in question, others under impediments of health or other

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

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88. The conference was held at Lower Sandusky in April, 1793.

89. Benjamin Lincoln, Beverley Randolph, and Timothy Pickering were finally appointed commissioners.

circumstances so as to circumscribe the choice within a small circle. desirous in the first instance that you should be in this commission, I have mentioned these difficulties to shew you, in the event of your declining, how serious they are, and to induce you to come forward and perform this important service to your country, a service with which it's prosperity and tranquillity are intimately connected.

it will be necessary to set out from this place about the [1st] of [May]. the route will be by the North river and [Niagara], it will be safe, and the measures for your comfortable transportation and subsistence taken as effectually as circumstances will admit. will you then permit me, Sir, to nominate you, as one of the Commissioners, with a certain reliance on your acceptance? your answer to this by the *first* post will oblige, dear Sir, &c.90

***To GEORGE AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, January 27, 1793.

My dear George: I do not write to you often, because I have no business to write upon; because all the News I could communicate is contained in the Papers which I forward every week; because I conceive it unnecessary to repeat the assurances of sincere regard and friendship I have always professed for you, or the disposition I feel to render every Service in my power to you and yours; and lastly because I conceive the more undisturbed you are, the better it is for you.

It has given your friends much pain to find that change of Air has not been productive of that favorable change in your health, which

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90. The draft is in the writing of Thomas Jefferson. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. This same letter was written (January 31) to Charles Thomson, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

was the wishes of them all. But the will of Heaven is not to be controverted or scrutinized by the children of this world. It therefore becomes the Creatures of it to submit with patience and resignation to the will of the Creator whether it be to prolong, or to shorten the number of our days. To bless them with health, or afflict them with pain.

My fervent wishes attend you, in which I am heartily joined by your Aunt, and these are extended with equal sincerity to Fanny and the Children. I am always your Affecte. Uncle.

***To WILLIAM WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, January 30, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 15th. of October to my Nephew Majr. G: Auge. Washington, after some forward, and a retrograde movement found him at Colo. Bassetts in New Kent, Virginia; to which place for change of air, and

a warmer situation for the winter, he had embarked (by water) about the middle of that month, so much reduced, poor fellow! as to be hardly able to stand. From thence your letter was forwarded to me. By the last post from Richmond we had accounts of his being *then* alive, but so low as not to be able, it was supposed, to survive many days.

The above detail will account for the lapse of time between the date of your letter to my Nephew, and this acknowledgment of it from me. To acknowledge it himself he could not.

Whatever sum shall be found due to me on acct. of Royal Gift (after all the charges are paid, and such other deductions made as may be satisfactory for your expence and trouble in this business) I would thank you for remitting me in the manner most convenient

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to yourself, perhaps none will be more so than in Bills from your Branch, on the Bank of the United States in this City.

The season is now so far advanced, that there is no alternative with respect to Royal Gift. He must therefore remain with you another Covering Season; for besides the hazard of removing him in *cold* weather on *frozen* ground, he could scarcely arrive in time, certainly not in order for the Services that would be required of him next Spring at Mount Vernon. He is therefore committed to your care and management during that period.

My best wishes, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, are presented to you and your lady, and I am etc.

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, February 7, 1793.

Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 1st instant, enclosing Mr. Bennett's claim against Mr. Colville's Estate, and requesting to know when you can receive any part of the money.

It is true that Judgment was obtained against the Assignees of John Semple for the Debt due the Estate of the late Colo. Colville; but I have been informed since, that they either have applied, or mean to apply to the High Court of Chancery for an Injunction to stay execution, until it is finally determined whether they are obliged to pay the interest due on that Debt, or not, (which in fact was the only point in dispute). If this be the case (and whether it is or not Mr. Keith knows better than I do) the matter is still in suspence; and until this is decided, I should not think myself justifiable (even if I had the means in my hands) in paying the interest charged in Mr. Bennett's Account, with which this is connected; for altho' the paying or withholding the Interest can be of no personal moment to me, yet my duty as an Exor obliges me to do that justice from the Estate that is rendered to it.

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I have no wish to retain for a moment any money that may come into my hands on Account of Colo. Colville's estate, when it is due and can be paid with propriety and safety; for so tedious and perplexing has been the settlement of these matters to me, that I am extremely anxious to have the business closed as speedily as possible, and no exertions that it has been in my power to make, have been wanting to effect this desirable end.

I am not able at present to go into any investigation of the particulars of Mr. Bennett's Accot. which you have enclosed, as all the papers &ca. relative to the Debts due to and from Colo. Colville's Estate, are in the hands of Mr. Keith of Alexandria, to whom I must beg leave to refer you for information on the subject of your Letter, and to request the favor of you to forward the enclosed Letter to him; the purport of which is to desire, that if an injunction is not in the way, he will lose no time in settling the business with the assignees of Mr. Semple in conformity to the Judgment of the Court. With great esteem &ca.¹¹

[H. L.]

TO JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, February 7, 1793.

Sir: The enclosed Letter from Colo. Hooe with a statement of Mr. Bennett's claim against Colo. Colville's Estate, will shew you how anxious he is to have that matter settled; and you well know how extremely anxious I am to have all the business relative to that Estate closed as soon as it can possibly be done. I must therefore beg, Sir, that no time may be lost in settling the matter with the Assignees of Mr. Semple, in conformity with the Judgment obtained against them, if an injunction has not issued to stay Execution, which I was informed they would endeavour to obtain. Should an Injunction have issued, the event of another suit must be awaited before there can be a settlement of Mr. Bennett's Accot., and at any rate it will be proper to investigate the particulars of Mr. Bennett's Accot. and

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compare them with the documents in your possession relative to Colo. Colville's Estate; for I cannot trust to my

11. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge.

memory enough to enable me to form an opinion of the particulars of it, but do confess that it assumes a shape very different from the idea I retain of the Legacy that was left him in the Will by the Testator.

I have referred Colo. Hooe to you for information as to the state of the business with Mr. Semple's Assignees, and at the same time I must beg you will let me know, as early as possible, the situation of that matter, and inform me of the fees that have been paid or are due to the Lawyers who were engaged in that Suit on the part of the Exors., with the other expences incurred in that business, that the whole may be laid before the Court and a final settlement take place.

I cannot close this Letter without repeating to you the anxiety I feel to have a final settlement of all matters relative to this Estate, and the reliance I have in your attention and industry to leave nothing undone within your power to bring them to a speedy close. With Esteem, I am etc.12

To THOMAS PARKER

Philadelphia, February 7, 1793.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 17 of January desiring to know the terms upon which I would dispose of a tract of Land which I have in Gloucester County; and in reply thereto, I can only inform you that I receiv'd it on the 1st. of October 1789, at a valuation of £800 Virga. Curry. in part payment of a Bond due to me and that I am willing to dispose of it for the same sum, with interest, from the said 1st. day of October 1789.

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

If this price should be agreeable to you, and the time of payment made convenient to me the bargain may soon be closed. It would suit me to receive the money immediately on giving possession of the Land; but if that should not comport with the convenience of the purchaser, the matter may possibly be accommodated by allowing a short time for the payment, letting the debt stand upon good security, and with interest.

Should you on this view of the matter incline to purchase the above mentioned Land, you will be so good as to let me know your determination without delay, and the time in which you would propose to make payment. I am etc.¹²

To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, February 8, 1793.

Dear Bushrod: I am sorry to think I have cause to accuse you of inattention to my requests. When you were at Mount Vernon last, I told you I had been informed that the Assignees of Semple, agst. whom I, as the surviving Executor of the Will of Colo. T. Colville, had obtained Judgment on a Bond, either had thrown, or intended to throw the matter into Chancery; and I desired if this was, or should be the case, that you would unite with Mr. Chas. Lee to bring the matter to issue as soon as possible, and at any rate that you would let me know the true state of the case. This you promised to do immediately upon your arrival in Richmond, since which I have not heard a word from you.

The Affairs of this Estate have been a source of extreme trouble and vexation to me, and

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

I am very anxious indeed to have them brought to a close as soon as possible.

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My Love, in which your Aunt joins me, is offered to Nancy; and I am, always Your etc.13

To REVEREND WILLIAM McWHIR

Philadelphia, February 17, 1793.

Sir: Until I received your Letter of the 5 inst: it had not occurred to me that the absence of my Nephew would cause an infringement on the punctuality which has heretofore been observed in making my annual payment for the support of the poor-School in the Alexandria Academy, and I thank you for reminding me of it. As it has been usual to make this payment to the President or Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Academy, I shall be obliged by your requesting one or the other of these Officers to draw upon Mr. Lear, at sight, for the fifty pounds (specifying in the Draft, the purpose for which it is made), as this mode will be safer and perhaps more convenient, than to transmit the amount in Bank Bills, and especially as I should not know to whom to make the remittance, which is the reason for giving you this trouble.

It is with reluctance, Sir, that I decline a compliance with your wishes; give you letters to certain Gentlemen in Georgia; but I am persuaded that when you recollect that ! have had no opportunities of obtaining a personal knowledge of your talents and qualifications as a Teacher, you will readily see the impropriety there would be in my undertaking to recommend upon those points where I am not qualified to judge, and will therefore impute my declining to comply with your

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

request to it's just cause.

Wishing you success in your undertaking and a continuance of health, I am etc.22

To WILLIAM DEAKINS, JUNIOR

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Philadelphia, February 24, 1793.

Sir: I was much pleased with the information you gave me in your Letter of the 19 Inst: relative to the progress of the work on the Potomac, and the prospect there is of navigation being so nearly completed in the course of the ensueing Summer.

I observe, however, that you say nothing of what is doing or about to be done at the Great Falls; but as it is so obvious that the rendering that place navigable is one of the most important objects in the whole business, I presume that every exertion will be made there, in conjunction with the progress of the work in other parts of the river, that the funds of the Company will admit of, and I was happy to learn when I was last in Virginia, that there was no probability of a delay for the want of Cash.

This being the case, I am persuaded that the numerous and great advantages which present themselves, from a speedy completion of the work, will excite every exertion that can possibly be made towards it. With very great regard, I am etc.³³

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

33. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The original is in the possession of William Smith Mason, of Evanston, Ill. From the typed copy kindly sent by Mr. Mason; the "Letter Book" copy varies in spelling and capitalization only.

***To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON³⁴**

Philadelphia, February 24, 1793.

My dear Fanny: To you, who so well know the affectionate regard I had for our departed friend, it is unnecessary to describe the sorrow with which I was afflicted at the news of his death, although it was an event I had expected many weeks before it happened. To express this sorrow with the force I feel it, would answer no other purpose than to revive,

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in your breast, that poignancy of anguish, which, by this time, I hope is abated. Reason and resignation to the divine will, which is just, and wise in all its dispensations, cannot, in such a mind as yours, fail to produce this effect.

The object of the present letter is to convey to your mind the warmest assurances of my love, friendship, and disposition to serve you; These also I profess to have in an eminent degree, for your Children.

What plan you have contemplated, or whether in so short a time you have contemplated any, is unknown to me; and therefore I add, that the one which strikes me most favorably, by being best calculated to promote the interest of yourself and Children, is to return to your old habitation at Mount Vernon. You can go to no place where you will be more welcome, nor to any where you can live at less expence, or trouble; matters at Mount Vernn. are now so arranged as to be under the care of responsible persons, and so they may continue; which would ease you of that anxiety, which the care of so large a family, otherwise, would naturally involve you in. It is unnecessary to observe to you that Housekeeping, under *any* circumstances, and with the best œeconomy, is expensive; and, where provision for it is to be made, will be found, I fear, beyond your means.

34. Widow of George Augustine Washington.

You might bring my niece, Harriet Washington with you for a Companion; whose conduct, I hear with pleasure, has given much satisfaction to my sister. I shall, under my present view of things, be at Mount Vernon about the first of April for, perhaps, a fortnight; But your Aunt and family will not, I expect, be there before the middle of July. My Affectionate regards attend you and your Children; and I shall always be your sincere friend.³⁵

***To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, March 3, 1793.

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Dear Sir: From the information I continually receive from Mr. Whiting (who superintends my business at Mount Vernon) it is likely that I shall, very soon, suffer considerably for want of lime to carry on a building which is now in hand, and which will require about 40,000 Bricks for the ground work of it.

Mr. Whiting has endeavored, in vain, to engage some of the small Craft in the upper part of the River to undertake to supply me with Shells to lay the above number of Bricks; but whether, from not knowing where to obtain the Shells; because it is a trifling business; or because they find more profitable employment in other pursuits I know not, but the fact is, he has not been able hitherto to engage one. This being the case, I have now written to him, to try if he cannot hire a Vessel *by the day*, and send her to you, who I flatter myself will not only furnish me with the Shells (as I know your Estate abounds with them on the margins of tide water) but also

35. From a photostat of the original in the possession of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

in the *present* instance, aid in loading the Vessel. The latter however I would not have asked but from the pressure under which I am.

Do *you* hire any of your Negro Carpenters by the year? or do you know who is in the habit of doing, or would do it? Having work on hand and in the prospect that I wish to have compleated as soon as it is conveniently possible, I would hire two, four, or Six if they are good common workmen and who are orderly and well disposed people. Your answer to these queries, with the *precise* terms on which they could be obtained, if to be had at all, would very much oblige Your etc.

P.S. Mrs. Washington unites with me in Compliments and best wishes to your Lady and family.⁵¹

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***To BURWELL BASSETT**

Philadelphia, March 4, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 18th. Ult. and its enclosure, came duly to hand. Expected, as the death of my departed relation and friend⁵³ was, I could not but feel sensibly, when the news of it arrived; and I take the prest. occasion to offer you my Condolence on your own late loss of yr. father and my friend for whom, when alive, I had the sincerest regard.

I wish some other competent and more active than, I can be had been placed as an Executor of the Will of my Nephew. All the aid I can give, by advice, in the management of the Estate and whatever may respect it would

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

53. George Augustine Washington.

have been afforded without being named in it: More, cannot be done by me from that circumstance for my situation will preclude me from qualifying as an Executor and from incurring any responsibility in the management of the Estate.

The time for proving the Will, and qualifying as an Executrix, must depend upon your Sister. I expect to be at Mount Vernon about the first Week in April, and will make a point of it, if public duties do not forbid it, to be in the County on the Court day of that month; which, I think, happens on the 15th. day of it; provided she chooses to be up then, either temporarily or permanently, and with much pleasure and satisfaction to myself will give her every aid in my power to arrange the business of the Estate. My returning thither again, will depend upon circumstances; which are not always under my controul and probably will not admit it, before July or August. With these things be pleased to bring

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Fanny acquainted. Offer my love to her and the Children, my respects and good wishes to Mrs. Bassett, and be assured of the esteem and regard with wch. I am &c.54

To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX

Philadelphia, March 6, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 17 Ult^o: and beg you to be assured that nothing was ever farther from my thoughts than taking amiss your not coming to the road to see me the day I passed by your House on my return to this City; as an unequivocal proof of this fact, I have only to assure you that I should not have

54. From the draft in the possession of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

been found there, had you come out to it; for it was not until I was opposite to your House, that I sent the Servant in, without making any halt myself, being in a hurry to meet and do some business with the Commissioners of the Federal District, at George Town, before Mrs. Washington should come up, that we might proceed some miles on our journey (which we accordingly did) that afternoon. Motives of friendship and respect was all I had in view by sending in to know how you did as I was about to leave the Country and had it not in my power, for the reason just mentioned, to call upon you myself for that purpose.

I thank you for your kind condolence on the Death of my Nephew. It is a loss I sincerely regret, but as it is the will of Heaven, whose decrees are always just and wise, I submit to it without a murmur.

Before I conclude, permit me to ask if anything is done, or likely to be done in the case of Savage. I am extremely anxious to see all matters in which I have had any agency, brought to a close, altho' the issue thereof should be unfavorable, before I quit the stage of Life.

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My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington unites, are presented to Mrs. Fairfax, and your family; and, I am etc.⁵⁸

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

***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Philadelphia, March 7, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have received your letters of the 4th. and 9th. of Jany. in answer to mine of the 23d. of Decr.

I would not have you seek, *at least apparently*, Major Harrison, but if you should, or could conveniently fall in with him soon, and without forcing the conversation, talk to him again on the subject of his land adjoining me, and extract anything farther from him on the subject thereof that might be useful to me, I should be glad to know it. The enclosed letter to Mr. Whiting, from Mr. Chichester, the only person except Thompson Mason his Son in law (who also has poor tenanted land adjoining. Harrisons should become so) that can, in my opinion step forward as a competetor, shews his ideas of the value of it: but altho' this may be the intrinsic worth, yet, circumstances considered, I would give more for it, if it is unincumbered with leases than what is there mentioned; or, I would give, by way of exchange, Lands in Kentuckey for it.

I expect to be at Mount Vernon before the 5th. of April, and shall, probably, take Fairfax Court (which I believe is on the 15th. of that month) on my way back to this City. Between these dates, if Mr. Harrison wd. call upon me, at Mount Vernon with his papers, the bargain, if made at all, might soon be concluded. I cannot as I expect to take the meeting of the Commissioners of the Federal District at George Town (about the first of April) well be at home before the 5th. of that month; nor will public business allow me to stay there longer than the 15th. The last being necessary on acct. of the Will of my deceased Nephew Majr. Washington; which, I expect, will be proved at that time. The first on the

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business of the New City. I shall come alone, merely for the purposes above menti[on]ed and to look into some

matters of my own which require attention.

My best wishes attend Mrs. Lewis in which your Aunt joins me, and I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To THOMAS LOWREY AND ABRAHAM HUNT

Philadelphia, March 7, 1793.

Sir: The President wishes to procure a Studhorse, to put to such mares as may not prove with foal by the Jacks, and to try mares with that may be brought to the Jacks; as well as to ascertain, after they have been put, whether they are satisfied or not, for it some times happens that they will refuse the Jack, when they will not a Horse. Conceiving that you may know of, or have on opportunity of meeting with such an one as would answer his purposes, and believing in your readiness to oblige him in this instance, he has directed me to apply to you on the occasion.

He wishes him to be at least 15½ or 16 hands high, well formed, of a handsome carriage, not exceeding Eight years of age. a bay would be preferred. His pedigree will not be considered as an object of much consequence, if it should be the means of greatly enhancing the price of such an horse; but at the same time the President would prefer one of some blood, if he cou'd be obtained upon terms nearly equal to one destitute of that quality, but equal in other respects.

From the above description you will see that the President is not disposed to give an extraordinary price for the Horse he wants; and relying upon your knowledge of and judgment

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in those animals, he thinks it unnecessary to be more particular in the description.

If such an Horse can be obtained for the President he must be here by the 22d. or 23d. of this month, as the President intends going to Mount Vernon about that time, and will have him taken down there at the same time. You will therefore be so good as to let the President know as soon as possible, if you can get such an Horse as is mentioned, with his price and a description of him, and the President will inform you immediately whether he shall be purchased or not. I am etc.⁵⁹

To ROBERT POLLARD

Philadelphia, March 11, 1793.

Sir: The President of the United States requests that you will transmit to him a statement of his Accot. with the James river Company, from it's first institution, in order that he may be fully acquainted with the payments which have been made on his account, as well as with what may be due from him.

The President's long absence from home, and the little attention that his public duties have permitted him to pay to his private Affairs, have prevented him from keeping so regular a statement of his Account with the Company as he could wish, and this is the cause of giving you this trouble. I have the honor etc.⁶⁵

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

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

To ALBERT GALLATIN

Philadelphia, March 11, 1793.

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Sir: On Saturday last the President receiv'd a Letter which was enclosed in one to you from Mr. Thos. Bowen; in which Mr. Bowen requests to be informed by the President, of the person who administered on the Estate of a Mr. George Harrison who formerly lived near Alexandria.

In reply to Mr. Bowen's enquiry, the President has directed me to give you the following information, (which is all he possesses on the subject) in order that it may be communicated to Mr. Bowen. The President can give very little satisfactory information respecting the enquiry. The only person of the name of George Harrison he ever heard of in the part of the Country mentioned by Mr. Bowen, has been dead little short of Fifty years. he left a widow, but no children, and the reversion of the Land on which he lived to a Nephew of his by the name of John West, (after the Death of his wife) from whom the President bought it about twenty years ago. The widow married a person of the name of Posey; but whether she had been appointed an executrix of the will of Harrison, or administered on the Estate, or who else acted in either of these characters, the President is unable to say, it being before his time, and having had no concern in his affairs, or knowledge of them further than buying the Land as above mentioned.

Enclosed is your Letter from Mrs. Bowen, which covered the President's. I have the honor etc.66

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

To ABRAHAM HUNT

Philadelphia, March 13, 1793.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of yesterday, with it's enclosures, in reply to mine of the 7 Instant.

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Of the several Horses which you mention, the Colt belonging to Mr. Baker seems to strike the President as most likely to answer his purposes; but before he can determine respecting him, the President wishes to know whether he was three years old *last* Spring, or is *but three* now. If the former there can be no great prospect of his ever being much higher than he now is, altho' he will undoubtedly spread and become stouter, if the latter, the President thinks he would bid fair to be a large Horse, he likewise wishes to be informed whether he has been broken to the saddle, and performed service, or not. The President will be much obliged to you for information on these points as soon as you can conveniently give it.

With respect to Mr. Hamilton's horse, the President thinks his head might be an objection to him, (altho' in other respects answering very well) as he considers a small well-formed head and neck as constituting essential parts in the beauty of a Horse. But your view of him, you say, was slight, perhaps at a closer one, he might appear to greater advantage; and the President believes your judgment good.

The price of Mr. Phillips' horse is so much beyond what the President thinks of giving, as to put him out of the question.

For your prompt attention to the President's request, and your trouble in this business, he begs you to accept his thanks. I am etc.⁶⁷

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

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES WILKINSON⁷¹

Philadelphia, March 14, 1793.

Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your polite Letter of the 1st. of November by the hands of Captn. Prior,⁷² and shortly after, the two Kegs of Fish therein mentioned came safe to hand. They were truly a novelty here, and if the western waters abound with such fine fish

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as these appear to be, it may be considered as no small addition to the many favors which nature has lavished upon that desirable Country.

This token of regard and attention is entitled to, and must receive the best thanks and acknowledgments of Sir, Your etc.⁷³

71. Of the United States Army.

72. Capt. Abner Prior, of the First Sub-Legion, United States Army

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

On March 14 Lear wrote to the Secretary of War that "the President approves the idea of allowing the sum of 50 dolls, Annually for the support of a School among the Indians at Brother town provided it shd. appear from the representation of the Agent for Indian Affairs in that quarter, that such an establishmt. wd. conduce to the general object of the U. S: the information and civilization of the Indians." Lear's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (March 14) Lear also wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, that the President has no doubt of the intention of Hezekiah and George D. Usher "to defraud the Revenue; but if it shall appear to the Secretary, from his information on the subject, that the said Ushers have suffered by the loss of their goods, and expences attending the suit, enough to answer the intention of the Law, the President leaves it to his judgment, to remit the penalty in such way as, upon consulting the Attorney General of the Ud. States, shall appear best." Lear's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, March 17, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 7 Instant, respecting the issueing Executions against the Trustees of Semple, provided they should not procure an Injunction

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for staying them before the first of April; in reply to which I have only to observe, that I am so extremely anxious to have the Affairs relative to Colo. Colville's Estate settled, and so pressing are the claims against it, that it is my wish and desire to have every proper step be taken that can expedite the closing of the business. Upon receiving payment from the Trustees of Semple (if Execution should not be stayed by an Injunction) you will pay the fees due to the Lawyers, and reserve for yourself such compensation for your agency in the business as was fixed upon by the Gentlemen to whom the matter was referred by the Court, if this was done, if not, then such as you and they may think adequate: after which you will pay the

residue (if it should not amount to more than is due on that claim) to Colo. Hooe, in discharge of Mr. Bennett's account against the Estate, first taking care to have the account strictly examined, and any errors (of which you say there are some respecting Interest) rectified. Below is the sums which have been paid to me, or my order, on account of the Bond; with the dates of such payments, for your information and government in the settlement of this matter. I am etc.

1789 Sterling 27 April By an Order on Mr. Jas. Dunlap, to pay to Colo. Hooe on Accot. of Mr. Bennett's claim £600-Sterling £600.0.0 5 July By Do on Do to pay to Do £100 Sterlg. at 133# 100.0.0 1790 10 Decr. Recd. from Mr. Dunlap, by a Bill drawn on Andw. Clow & Co. in Philada £176.0.0 15— Recd. from Do. on Accot. of Colonel Colville's Estate 424. £1300.0.078

***To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR**

Philadelphia, March 15, 1793.

Sir: I hope you will have the goodness to excuse the delay which has taken place in transmitting Answers to your queries respecting the sheep of this Country agreeably to the promise I made you in a letter which I had

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

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the honor of writing to you the 20th. of October last. The Session of Congress which commenced the 5 of Novr. and did not close until the 3d. of this month, is offered as the principal cause of the delay.

The Paper herewith enclosed is from one of the most intelligent Gentlemen farmers of this State (Pennsylvania) living not more than five miles from the City. His details respecting the Sheep of this State will apply without *much* variation to those of other States in the Union. In the extremes, however, of which they are, I think, more indifferent, and in Virginia and Maryland best of all; both for wool and mutton; and easiest raised on acct. of the temperature of the climate.

On my own farms, near the head of the tide water of Potomac (which River divides the States of Virga. and Maryland) I keep more sheep than is usual in this Country (from Six hundred to a thousand head) and whilst I resided thereon and could attend to the management of them myself their fleeces averaged full 5 lbs.; and the Mutton from 18 to 22 lbs. a quarter. But this was the effect of care, and the choice of good Rams from the English breed wch. we now and then get over notwithstanding your prohibitory Laws, or customs. Mr. Arthur Young with whom I have been in the habit of Corrisponding for 8 or 10 years on Agricultural subjects and matters relative thereto requested a lock of Wool from my sheep which was accordingly sent in an entire fleece of average weight and quality; on which I received the Observations which are contained in the enclosed extract from his letter.⁷⁵

[In looking over the Pamphlet which you] were so obliging as to [send me, entitled “an Analysis of the political State of Scotland”, which is a specimen of the useful information to be expected from your researches, I cannot but express myself highly pleased with the undertaking, and

75. Probably Young's letter of Jan. 25, 1791, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

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give my best wishes for its success: for I am fully persuaded, that when enlightened men will take the trouble to examine so minutely into the state of society as your enquiries seem to go, it must result in greatly ameliorating the condition of the people, promoting the interest of civil society, and the happiness of Mankind at large. These are objects truly worthy the attention of a great mind, and every friend to the human race must readily lend his aid towards their accomplishment.]76

***To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, March 17, 1793.

My dear Fanny: I have duly received your letter, dated Hanover March 5th., and was happy to hear that yourself and the Children were well. It is not by any means a wish of mine that, you should come to Mount Vernon next month on account of my short visit to that place. It was merely on your own account, and that of the Estate, that I suggested the measure, more indeed for consideration than by way of advice; for either of your brothers, or Mr. Jno. Dandridge can speak to the latter with more propriety than I am able to do; as they know in what time, and in what manner the Will of our departed friend ought to be proved and the execution of the trust entered upon.

76. The parts in brackets are in the writing of Tobias Lear.

My last to you, enclosing the copy of a letter which I had previously written to your brother Burwell, would have convey [*sic*] to you fully, my ideas on this subject; and to that communication I now beg leave to refer you.

The offer of a residence at Mount Vernon, was made to you with my whole heart; but it is with you to consider nevertheless whether any other plan will comport better with the views which my Nephew had, or with such as you may have entertained for you own ease, for the education of your Children; or for the interest of the Estate. and your decision thereon will be perfectly agreeable to me; for I can assure you with much truth I have no wish in

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the case beyond that of seeing you settled to your intire satisfaction. The means for doing which either in Alexandria or elsewhere you have no doubt considered and calculated; for with the best œconomy I conceive it must be expensive to purchase furniture and keep a house.

The Carriage which I sent to Mount Vernon for your use, I never intended to reclaim; and therefore now making you a more formal present of it, it may be sent for whenever it suits your convenience, and be considered as your own. And I shall, when I see you, request that Fayette may be given up to me; either at that time, or as soon after as he is old enough to go to shool [*sic*]; This will relieve you of that portion of attention which his education would otherwise call for.

It is to be feared that your Overseer in Fairfax is neither the best of that descriptn., nor the honestest of men. A month, or more ago, Mr. Whiting informed me that this said Overseer had one, if not two horses of his own on the Plantation. (fed no doubt, whatever his declarations

to the contrary might be at your expence). I immediately directed Mr. Whiting to go to him and in my name to order the horse, or Horses, (if more than one) to be sent away instantly; unless he could show a *written* permission for their being kept on the place; and to inform him moreover that if they were to be found on it when I came home I would not only send the horses off, but himself along with them. Since then, some suspicions have also been entertained of his not dealing fairly by the wheat, which, was under his care for market. Such is the villainy of these sort of people when they have it in their power, as they conceive, to cheat with impunity. What has been done in either of these cases I remain unadvised; as poor Whiting, by a letter which I received from Doctr. Craik, dated the 6th. inst. was then confined to his bed by a more violent return of his old disorder (Spitting blood) than ever. Since that date I have heard nothing from thence, which is presumptive evidence that he is not able to write himself; and of this there is the evidence

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also of the Doctrs. letter, pronouncing his case critical and dangerous. The effect of these to be avoided by extreme care only.

From what Mr. Bassett said to Mr. Whiting, respecting the materials for the building which had been begun at your place, I directed him to have them put away securely, and to let your Carpenters work along with mine; keeping an account of the time, that I might allow you the usual hire. There they may remain, unless you have other employment for them; as I have work on hand that requires despatch, and I would, to facilitate the execution thereof hire others if I do not retain these.

Your Aunt joins me in every affectionate regard for you and the

Childn., and in best wishes for the friends among whom you are. At all times, and under all circumstances I shall always remain Yr. sincere frd.79

To ARTHUR YOUNG

Philadelphia, March 20, 1793.

Sir: Having had occasion in some late communications to you, to speak of the District which has been decided on (under a Law of Congress) for the permanent Seat of the Government of the United States; I do myself the pleasure of sending you a plan. of the intended City, which is now laying out in the centre thereof.

It will serve to shew you, and such as may have the curiosity to look at it, that whatever our present condition is, we have vanity enough to look forward to a better. With great esteem etc.84

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

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

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To DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON

Philadelphia, April 25, 1793.

Sir: It was not until the 18 instant that I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 3d. of Novr: enclosing one from Lord Buchan, and accompanied by the 7. 8. 9. 10 and 11. volumes of the *Bee* , and a copy of the pamphlet on Wool.

While I beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the polite attention you have shewn in forwarding the several volumes of the *Bee* , and expressing my sincere wishes for the prosperity of that liberal and useful work, I must repeat my desire of being considered as a subscriber to it, and request to be informed to whom I shall make payment therefor.

I have been hitherto prevented, by my numerous avocations of a public nature, from perusing the Volumes which you first sent me, with that care and regularity which I wished; but such parts of them as I have had an opportunity of looking into, have convinced me that the work has been conducted with that view to a diffusion of useful knowledge upon which it was undertaken, and in such a manner as must meet the approbation of the friends of science, and those who wish to promote the best interests of mankind. I am persuaded that, when the work becomes more generally known in this Country than it is at present, you will find a considerable demand for it from this quarter; for I believe I may say, without vanity, that my Countrymen

are as eager in the pursuit of useful knowledge as their circumstances and necessary avocations will permit; and as these are every day becoming more favourable to such acquirements, it will not be an unfounded calculation to count upon an increasing demand here for such publications as inform the head and improve the heart.

I hope you will find it convenient to prosecute your proposed plan of publishing a periodical work on agriculture, the utility of which pursuit is so abundantly evident, and in which, comparatively speaking, so little progress has been made, at least in this Country. I am

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pleased to learn that you have been so successful in the experiments to improve your wool. I have been always convinced, that nothing more is necessary than an attention to the breed and management of Sheep, to produce the best wool in every Country that is suitable for tending them. I sincerely hope that Sir John Sinclair will meet with the success which his exertions merit, in this as well as in his other laudable undertakings to promote the good of Society. I am &c.22

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

To WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, April 26, 1793.

Dear Sir: At the request of Mr. David Clarke, a Coach-maker of this City, I inform you that he made the carriage which I had with me at Charleston on my southern tour, and which you saw there. I am told that this carriage is pronounced a very handsome one in it's appearance, by persons

of taste and judgment in that way, who have seen it and given an opinion upon it. As to the goodness of the materials and workmanship, I can pronounce with truth that they are equal to any I have ever met with; and the carriage has been put to a pretty severe test for the time I have had it.

Mr. Clarke says the reason of his wishing this information to be given you, is, that he understands you propose having a Carriage made in this City, and he is very desirous of having the job, not only on accot. of the advantage to be immediately derived from it; but he thinks it will prove the means of his getting more work from that quarter. With sincere regard, I am etc.23

To JOHN JOSEPH DE BARTH

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April 30, 1793.

Sir: As there appears no prospect of your making the stipulated payments for the lands which you agreed to purchase from me, lying on the Kanhawa &c., and the object of my disposing of them being thereby defeated, I think it would be best that the bargain should be cancelled (as you expressed to Mr. Lear a readiness to do it if required by me), for it would be an unpleasant

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

On April 27 Washington made the following note on the contract between William Allibone, superintendent of the Cape Henlopen lighthouse and all the beacons, buoys, etc.; the Delaware river and bay; and Matthew Van Dusen, blacksmith of Philadelphia; a mooring chain for one of the floating beacons in Delaware bay: "Approved, so far as it respects the new chain; but is there an entire loss of the old one?" From a photograph in the *Washington Papers*.

thing for me to pursue any rigorous measures to obtain payment of the Bonds. If you think fit to comply with the proposal, Mr. Lear will deliver to you your several bonds &c., upon receiving the writing relative to that bargain, that it may be completely cancelled. I am etc.²⁴

To JOHN JOSEPH DE BARTH

Philadelphia, May 2, 1793.

Sir: As there was a duplicate of the declaration given you by the President, for the purpose of being sent to Europe, the President has thought it proper, by the advice of Mr. Randolph the Attorney General, that the writing which you will find at the bottom of the declaration herewith enclosed, should be signed by you in the manner there specified, with three witnesses; in order to avoid any inconvenience which might possibly arise from the

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existence of the duplicate declaration, which is now out of your hands. If you will be so obliging as to execute this now, the servant will wait and bring it back to me.

As you expressed an apprehension yesterday that the President might have entertained an idea unfavorable to your character, from your not having fulfilled your part of the agreement by making payment of the Bond which was due; he directs me to assure you that he

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

has no impressions on his mind unfavorable to your integrity or honor on that account, as he has every reason to believe, that the unfortunate situation of affairs in France has prevented you from complying with the Contract agreeably to the intention of the parties; and even if he should have entertained a different opinion before, the readiness with which you have cancelled the bargain, would have removed any doubts from his mind. I have the honor etc.²⁵

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, May 7, 1793.

Sir: Your letter of the 25 ulto. came duly to hand. The enclosed to Mr. Keith (which I take the liberty of putting under cover to you, as there is no postage to pay, because as he does not seem to be in the habit of sending

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

regularly to the Postoffice, letters to him sometimes sleep there) is expressive of my consent to his receiving from Mr. Wilson, and paying to you on account of Mr. Bennett, all the money that propriety will admit; for I can assure you, with much truth, that none of

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the parties can be more anxiously desirous of closing this business than I am, whatever is done therefore by Mr. Keith will be agreeable to me. Dr. Sir etc.³¹

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

To JAMES KEITH

Philadelphia, May 8, 1793.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is Colo. Hooe's letter to me on the subject of Mr. Bennett's claim on Colvills estate. I can only again express my wish that you would do in this case what in your own judgment is perfectly legal and just. or in points which appear doubtful that which able counsel shall advise you to as proper. I want most exceedingly to close this business; and am perfectly willing that Mr. Bennett's claim should be fully discharged, upon the convictions and principles above mentioned. but I know not to this hour, whether Messrs. Wilson and Dunlap mean to enjoin on one of the Judgments, or discharge it with interest agreeably to the Decree of the Court; although they promised on the 1 or 2 of April to let me know their decision thereon in ten days or a fortnight from that date. The ground for an injunction, if that is the result, is on the score of interest during the war;

consequently my allowing interest to Mr. Bennett must depend upon the Decree of the High Court of Chancery in this case (if the matter is carried thither), for the Estate of Colvill can only do, as it is done by, and if the Judgment on the Bond is hung there, it will lie with you, as I have declared in a former letter, with your Counsel, to say whether the case will be affected by receiving the principal due on the Bond, or any part thereof, whilst the interest thereof is in litigation. In a word, whether they may not avail themselves of this circumstance as a plea to invalidate the demand of Interest. By all this, I mean no more than to express my wish to act circumspectly. Keeping this then always in view, I cannot too often repeat the earnestness of my desire to make a final settlement of this administration. Whatever money you can receive properly, and pay properly to Colo. Hooe

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on acct. of Mr. Bennett's claim, will be perfectly agreeable to me, as I do not want to touch a copper of it, and know of no other claims to which it can be applied. I am etc.

P.S. I had closed this letter when your favor of the 3d. was handed to me. the sentiments contained in mine with the proposition of Messrs. Hooe and Little, go to your queries respecting a settlement with them as Agents of Lord Tornkerville and Mr. Bennett; and also (the controversy having ceased) to that of Mr. Wilson. The acct. rendered by Colo. Hooe, I transmitted to you some

time since, the regularity and equity of which you are to judge agreeably to the caution already given; having everything before you, being better acquainted with the subject, and more leisure to do it than myself. finally, if the sum which shall be found due from Semple's trustees, on settlement with Mr. Wilson, amounts to more than the balance due to the Agents of Bennett &c. [the application thereof shall be directed as soon as it is made known to me. On the other hand, if it should fall short, I will provide for the deficiency, as far as I have Assets. The trouble which the Attornies have had in this business you are better acquainted with than I am, and whatever you may think just, I am willing to allow. I had not, however, thought *their* trouble uncommon: One Suit being on a simple Bond; the other on an Acct. prepared to their hands. But, as I have already said, I wish them to be adequately paid. Your trouble, I am well satisfied, has been great; and I have every disposition to reward it, as far as those who have had the matter before them formally, or any others, may think me justified in allowing. I am etc.]33

33. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is from a photostat of that portion of the original, in the writing of Washington, in the Harvard College Library.

***To SAMUEL HANSON98**

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1793.

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Sir: A few weeks *only* before I left Philadelphia, your letter of the 22d. February came to my hands. Why it was so long on its passage I am unable to inform you.

I have put my name to the Subscription paper therein enclosed, although as a common centre, I am applied to for aids beyond my means, for in truth I escape few contributions to anything of this sort, or to public buildings, such as Colleges, Churches &ca. &ca. that are undertaken *by Subscription* within a circle of considerable extent around me. Were it not for these I wd. have given a larger sum than is affixed to my name, as the measure is entirely approved⁹⁹ by Sir, &ca.¹

To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1793.

Dear Sir: On my way to this place, at Georgetown on Tuesday the 2 inst: Messrs. Wilson and Dunlap applied to me respecting the Judgments which had been obtained against the assignees of John Semple, in favr. of Colville's Estate.

The one for £748.17. curtt. money and costs, with the deduction of £65.2.2. by consent

98. Hanson always signed himself "Sm Hanson of Saml."

99. To purchase an organ for Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., in honor of Reverend Mr. Davis.

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

they are willing they say to pay *immediately* ; and offered to discharge the balance on the other Judgment for £1576 (Is this the amount of the Bond?) Sterling, leaving the interest *during the war* to the decision of a Court of Chancery. My reply to them was, that I could receive nothing short of the *whole balance* , with interest complete; and that an

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injunction in my opinion would only effect delay, without affording them relief. in ten days they promised to give me a decided answer, whether they would pay the balance with interest, or enjoin; and requested execution might be stayed that time.

As they professed a readiness to pay the balance due on the Judgment for £1576, leaving the interest to be paid or not according to the decision of the Court of Chancery (in case of an injunction), I desired Mr. Dandridge on Saturday last, to ask you if it would be adviseable to receive it, or to let the whole of that judgment remain until a final determination, if the matter must go into Chancery, the latter he understood to be your opinion.

Whatever may be the determination of those against whom judgment is obtained, my earnest request to you is, that no measure may be left unessayed on my behalf, to bring the matter to as speedy a close as possible; and the money (after paying the charges as mentioned in a former letter to you) paid to Colo. Hooe on accot. of the claim of Mr. Bennett &c. I am etc.²

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

To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, April 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: On Thursday next at one o'clock, I mean to pay the last respect to the remains of my deceased Nephew, by having the funeral obsequies performed.

Mrs. Fanny Washington and myself would be very glad to see you, Mrs. Smart and the girls here on that occasion; for this reason, and knowing they have not the means of getting down, a carriage is sent for them: and I believe it would be extremely grateful to Fanny if Mrs. Stuart would come down without more delay than she can well avoid. The funeral will be in the presence of a few friends *only* .

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The day following, that is on Friday, if not unexpectedly prevented, I shall set off on my return for Philadelphia.

Charles takes up a Box with some things for the Girls, in which is some property of Austin's, not hard to designate, tho' hard in it's nature. My love to Mrs. Stuart, and all the family. I am etc.⁵

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

***To REVEREND BRYAN FAIRFAX**

Mount Vernon, April 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: At One o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday next, I mean to pay the last respect to my deceased Nephew, by having the funeral obsequies performed.

If you will do me the favor to officiate on the occasion, it will be grateful to myself, and pleasing to other friends of the deceased. No sermon is intended, and but few friends will be present: for these dinner will be ready at half after two Oclk, at which I should be happy and shall expect to see you.

If Mr. Thos. and Ferdinand Fairfax, or either of them are at Mount Eagle, I should be glad if they would accompany you I am etc.

***To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK**

Mount Vernon, April 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: On Thursday, at 1 oclock afternoon, it is proposed to pay the last office (in funeral obsequies) to my deceased Nephew; at which I should be glad to see you. The funerl. service will be in the presence of a few friends only; and dinner

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for these will be ready at half after two O'clock; at which I shall expect you.

Mrs. Washington mentioned Mr. Porter (as an intimate of her late husbd.) and I should be glad to see him on the occasion. I do not, as it is intended to be a private burial, go beyond this in formal invitations; but if you shd. see Colo. Fitzgerald, Mr. Herbert, and Colo. Gilpin, who I believe, were among the first and most intimates of his acquaintances, and would mention these circumstances to them I should be obliged to you and happy in seeing them. I am etc.

To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, April 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8 has been duly received. You, better than I, can account for the small judgments being for two hundred and odd pounds more than is due. Justice to all parties and a speedy settlement of the whole, is all I aim at, the latter, as I have often repeated, I am extremely desirous to have accomplished.

Was I to see Colo. Hooe, which is not likely now to happen, as I am in the very act of setting off for Philadelphia, I should be at a loss to know what to say to him respecting the charge on accot. of Giles, by the papers alone I could be governed in any conversation held

with him, and these you have. If my memory does not deceive me, however, (but on it I never rely) there is a particular statement of this matter in the Will of Thomas Colvill. If it is *justly due* to the Tankervills, it ought undoubtedly to be paid, if it is not, I, as certainly, ought not to allow it. I rely therefore on you to have the matter thoroughly investigated, either by yourself, or some other eminent in Law, that I may act safely; for I have had too much trouble in this business already, to lay the foundation for more, by allowing a claim if it requires authentication.

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Messrs. Wilson and Dunlap, on Tuesday the 2d. inst: required only ten days to consider whether they would pay the judgment on the Bond with, or without interest. this time is elapsed; and delay only can be their object, if they have not announced to you (to me they have not) their determination thereupon. Of course no time should be lost in issuing the execution. But who is it to be served upon? Cumberland Wilson, they say, who has no interest at all in the business! As you are so much better acquainted with this business than I am, and know my objects and wish, I shall, in one word, as I shall be out of the State in a few hours, leave the accomplishment of them to you, being Sir, etc.12

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

***To THE EARL OF BUCHAN**

Philadelphia, April 22, 1793.

My Lord: You might, from appearances, suspect me of inattention to the honor of your correspondence: and if you should, I can assure you it would give me pain. Or you might conceive that, I had rather make excuses than acknowledge in time, the receipt of your favors as this is the second instance of considerable lapse between the dates of them and my acknowledgments, this also would hurt me, for the truth is, that your favor of the 22d. of last October, under cover of one from Doctr. Anderson of the 3d. of November, accompanying the 7th. 8th. 10th. and 11th. Volumes of the Bee, did not come to my hands until the 18th. of the prest. month.

Having by me the rough draught of the letter I had the honor of addressing to your Lordship in May, I do, agreeably to your request, transmit a copy thereof. It is difficult for me, however, to acct. for the miscarriage or delay of the original, as it was committed to the care of Mr. Robertson at his *own* request, to be forwarded along with the Portrait of me which (for the reasons therein assigned) a preference had been given of him to take, for your Lordship; both of which, I expected you had received long since.19

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The Works of Doctr. Anderson do him much credit, and when they are more extensively known will, I am persuaded, meet a very ready Sale in this Country. I have taken an

19. On April 26 Lear wrote to Archibald Robertson, enquiring about the missing letter and portrait. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

occasion to mention his wish to a respectable member of the Philosophical Society of this City, who has promised to bring his name forward at the next meeting: entertaining no doubt of his being readily admitted; as his pretensions are known to stand on solid ground.

The favorable wishes wch your Lordship has expressed for the prosperity of this young and rising Country, cannot but be gratefully received by all its Citizens, and every lover of it. One mean to the contribution of which, and its happiness, is very judiciously portrayed in the following words of your letter "to be little heard of in the great world of Politics."

These words I can assure your lordship are expressive of my sentiments, on this head; and I believe it is the sincere wish of United America to have nothing to do with the political intrigues, or the squabbles of European Nations; but on the contrary, to exchange commodities and live in peace and amity with all the inhabitants of the Earth. And this I am persuaded they will do, if rightfully it can be done. To administer justice to, and receive it from every power with whom they are connected will, I hope, be always found the most prominent feature in the Administration of this Country; and I flatter myself that nothing short of imperious necessity can occasion a breach with any of them. Under such a system, if we are allowed to pursue it; the agriculture and Mechanical Arts;

the wealth and population of these States will increase with that degree of rapidity as to baffle all calculation and must surpass any idea your Lordship can, hitherto, have entertained on the occasion.

To evince that our views, whether realized or not, are expanded; I take the liberty of sending you the Plan of a new City, situated about the centre of the Union of these

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States, which is designed for the permanent Seat of the Government; and we are at this moment deeply engaged and far advanced in extending the inland navigation of the River (Potomack) on which it stands and the branches thereof through a tract of as rich Country for hundreds of miles as any in the world. Nor is this a solitary instance of attempts of the kind, although it is the only one which is near completion, and in partial use. Several other very important ones are commenced and little doubt is entertained that in to years if left undisturbed we shall open a communication by water with all the Lakes Northward and Westward of us with which we have territorial connexion; and an inland navigation in a very few years more from Rhode Island to Georgia inclusively; partly by Cuts between the Great Bays and sounds and partly between the Islands and Sand banks and the Main; from Albemarle Sound to the River St. Marys. To these may also be added the erection of Bridges over considerable Rivers, and the commencement of Turnpike roads as further indications of improvements in hand.

The family of Fairfax in Virginia

of whom you speak are also related to me by several intermarriages, before it came to this Country, (as I am informed) and since; and what remain of the old stock are near neighbours to my estate of Mount Vernon. The late Lord (Thomas) with whom I was perfectly acquainted, lived at the distance of Sixty miles from me after he had removed from Belvoir (the seat of his kinsman) which adjoins my estate just mentioned, and is going to be inhabited by a young member of the family as soon as the house, wch. some years ago was burnt down can be rebuilt. With great esteem &c.20

***To JOHN FITZGERALD**

Philadelphia, April 28, 1793.

Dear Sir: Two or three days after my arrival in this City, I forwarded a Commission appointing you Collector of the Port of Alexandria; to be in force until the end of the next session of Congress, longer than which I could not issue one in the recess of the Senate

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but there is no instance of that body with-holding its consent to appointments thus made when offered to them for confirmation.

I am now about [to] give you

20. The original letter sent is in the British Museum, *Additional Manuscript* 12099. The text is from the draft in the *Washington Papers*.

a little trouble on my private Account. In Alexandria, stored in the warehouse belonging to Colo. Hooe, I have 141 barls. of Superfine, and 149 barls. of common flour; and at my Mill about an equal quantity of each sort, for Sale; and would thank you for letting me know the most that can be had for it on a credit of 40, 60, or even 90 days, in secure hands.

In the Tobacco Warehouses in Alexandria I have also 25 Hhds. of Tobacco of (as I am told) the first quality, being made of the sweet scented plant, little Fredk. &ca., tho' it stands in the notes as Oronoko neatly handled, and dry, and wish to know what could be had for this? I have held it a guinea pr. Cwt. and am not disposed to take less, below is a list of the No. and weights of it. With great esteem etc.

To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, April 29, 1793.

Dear Sir: The land which was given to me by my mother, or as Heir at law I am entitled to without, I do, as I told you at Mount Vernon, make you a present of. It lies near the Accocreek old Furnance, and about eight miles from Falmouth, on the road leading to it; containing, as I have generally understood, about 400 acres of the most valuable

pine in that part of the Country; but which, as I have been informed, has been much pillaged by trespassers. When you can ascertain the bounds thereof by a survey, for I have no papers to aid you in doing it, I shall be ready to convey to you my right.

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I repeat my wish that you would attend to that small tract of mine of Potomac, about a dozen miles above the town of Bath; and to the lots which I have in that place. and when ever you may be in Winchester, I request you will make particular enquiry into the condition of a Lot which I have in that Town, and an out-lot belonging to it in the common adjoining thereto; and know if some advantage cannot be made of them. The number of either I am unable to give, unless I was at Mount Vernon; but the enclosed letter contains the most recent information of the town lot.

Do you know whether Major Harrison went to Mount Vernon as you expected he would do? Or have you heard anything further of his intentions respecting his land adjoining me. I do not wish you to appear forward in your Overtures to him; but wish, notwithstanding, to know what may be expected in this matter. Remember me to Mrs. Lewis and be assured of the friendship and regard of Your etc.²⁴

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

***To SAMUEL POWEL**

Philadelphia, May 4, 1793.

Dr. Sir: By one of the late Ships from London, I have received from Mr. Arthur Young, two sets of his Annals, Numbered from 98 to 108 inclusively. Although no direction is given concerning them, I take it for granted that one set is intended as usual for the Agricultural Society of this City; and to you, as President thereof, I send them accordingly. With esteem etc.²⁶

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

(Private)

Sunday Noon, May 5, 1793.

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Dear Sir: Before you dispatch the circular letter (of wch. you enclosed me a Copy) to the several Collectors, I would speak to you respecting a particular clause in it.

In the conversation you may have with a certain Gentleman²⁷ to-day, I pray you to intimate to him gently, and delicately, that if the letters, or papers wch. he has to present, are (knowingly to him) of a nature which relates to public matters, and not particularly addressed to me; or if he has any verbal communications to make of a similar kind, I had rather they should come through the proper channel. Add thereto, generally that the peculiar situation of European Affairs at this moment my good wishes for his Nation

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

27. Vicomte de Noailles.

agregately, my regard for those of it in particular with whom I have had the honor of an acquaintance; My anxious desire to keep this Country in Peace; and the delicacy of my situation renders a circumspect conduct indispensably necessary on my part. I do not, however, mean by this that I am to with-hold from him such civilities as are *common to* others. Those *more marked*, notwithstanding our former acquaintance, would excite speculations which had better be avoided. And if the characters (similarly circumstanced with his own) could be introduced by any other than *himself*; especially on tuesday next in the public room when, it is presumed, the Officers of the French Frigate will be presented it would, unquestionably be better. But how can this be brot. about as they are strangers without embarrassment as the F. M.²⁸ is shy on the occasion I do not at this moment see, for it may not escape observation (as every movement is watched) if the head of any department should appear prompt in this business in the existing state of things. I am &c.

28. French Minister.

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***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, May 6, 1793.

Dear Sir: On Saturday last your favor of the 29th. ulto. was handed to me. My visit to Mount Vernon (intended to be short when I set out) was curtailed by the Declaration of War by France against Great Britain and Holland; for I foresaw in the moment information of that event came to me at that place the necessity for announcing the disposition of this Country towards the Belligerent Powers; and the propriety of restraining, as far as a Proclamation would do it, our citizens from taking part in the contest. This Proclamation, I presume, must have reached you soon after the date of your Letter.

It gives me inexpressible pain to receive such frequent, and distressing accounts from the Western frontiers of this Union (occasioned by Indian hostilities); more especially as our hands are tied to defensive measures and little, if any thing more to be expected from the proposed Negotiation of Peace with the hostile Tribes to be assembled at Sandusky (tho' perhaps, it is best for me to be silent on this head) than, in case of failure, to let the good people of these States see that the Executive has left nothing unessayed to accomplish this desirable end; to remove those suspicions which have been unjustly entertained that Peace is not its object; and to evince to them that the difficulties which it has had to encounter (from causes which, at present,

can only be guessed) has been greater than was apprehended. And lastly, if the Sword is to decide, that the arm of government may be enabled to strike home.

I come now to a more difficult part of your letter. As a public character, I can say *nothing* on the subject of it. As a private man, I am unwilling to say much. To give advice I shall not.²⁹ All I can do, then towards complying with your request, is to declare that if the case wch. you have suggested was mine, I should ponder well before I resolved; not only for

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private considerations but on public ground. The latter, because being the first magistrate of a respectable State, much speculation would be excited by such a measure; and the consequences thereof not seen into at the first glance. As it might respect myself only because it would appear a boundless Ocean I was about to embark on from whence no land is to be seen. In other words because the Affairs of—30 would seem to me to be in the highest paroxysm of disorder; not so much from the pressure of foreign enemies (for in the cause of liberty this ought to be fuel to the fire of a patriot soldier, and to increase his ardour) but because those in whose hands the G—t is entrusted are ready to tare each other to pieces, and will, more than probably prove the worst foes the Country has. To all which may be added the probability of the scarcity of Bread,

29. Lee's letter stated his idea of going to France and entering the French Army. A major general's commission was to be given to him. A copious extract from Lee's letter is printed by Sparks as a footnote to this letter from Washington; but Lee's original letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

30. France.

On May 6 Lear wrote to William Hartshorne, that “it is not the intention of the Government of the United States to have any agency in purchasing or transporting produce on account of the French. the only part it can take in that business will be to furnish the means (out of the debt due from the United States to France) to such Agent or Agents as may be duly authorised by the French Government to make purchases,”

On this same day (May 6) Lear also wrote to John Mason a letter of similar purport. Both these letters are entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

from the peculiar circumstances of the contending parties and which, if it should happen would accelerate a crisis of sad confusion and possibly of entire change in the political system.

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The enclosed came under cover to me by one of the late arrivals. If the date of it is as old as the one to me which accompanied it, it can contain nothing New. although no name will appear to this letter I beg it may be committed to the flames as soon as it is read. I need not add, because you must know it that I am always yours.

To WILLIAM HERBERT

Philadelphia, May 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your Letter of the 3d. of this month, with the Bill enclosed. in which I do not perceive my name is inserted. If it had, the enclosed would have been my answer. But before it is exhibited or any use made thereof, I pray that the records of the Trustees of Alexandria, may be thoroughly examined, to see if any act of mine shall appear thereon, for my memory is too treacherous to place dependance on it in cases where accuracy is necessary. I am etc.

P.S. Upon considering my answer (unless I am mistaken in point of fact) I hope my name will not appear in the Bill, returned.

THE SEPARATE ANSWER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS TO THE BILL OF COMPLAINT, EXHIBITED AGAINST HIM AND OTHERS BY GEORGE WM. WEST, COMPLAINANT

This defendant not confessing any matter or thing in the said Bill contained, for answer thereto, as far as he is advised, saith. That he doth not recollect that he was ever named or appointed a Trustee or Director, as in the said bill is charged; and if he was ever so named or appointed, he doth not recollect or believe, that he hath at any time qualified or acted as such. This Defendant therefore cannot answer any of the particulars referred to in the said bill, but disclaims and disavows any concern therein, and prays to be hence dismissed.³⁴

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***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, May 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: Sometime last fall I sent to Mr. Young transcripts of the accounts respecting the Agriculture of this Country, which I had collected from Gentlemen of the best information on this subject, with whom I was acquainted in the middle States, New York and Virginia. The account which you had the goodness to draw up was among the number.

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

I have lately received from Mr. Young a letter in reply to mine which accompanied these Accounts; in which he makes the observations and queries relative to the Virginia Statement, wch. you will find enclosed.

As I wish this matter to be brought before Mr. Young in as clear a light as the nature of it will admit; you will oblige me by giving, when convenient, such answers to the queries and such solution of the difficulties stated by him as your knowledge of the subject may enable you to do, that I may give him the most satisfactory information in my power. I am always, with much truth &c.36

To RICHARD PETERS

May 16, 1793.

Dr. Sir: Mr. Young informs me by a letter which I have lately received from him, that the accounts relative to the state of Agriculture, which I had collected from various quarters and transmitted to him last fall, have set him afloat upon the high Seas of conjecture with respect to the agriculture of this Country. The account which you had the goodness to prepare for me was among the number of those sent to Mr. Young; and, as you have had

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a hand in setting him afloat, it is but fair that you should lend your assistance to get him landed again. I have therefore, my dr. Sir, taken the

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

liberty to send you the inclosed extracts from Mr. Young's letter, and must beg you to have the goodness, when convenient, to give such answers to the queries, and make such observations thereon as your knowledge of the subject may enable you to do. This is a common cause, and I shall therefore make no apology for troubling you with it. The war he says has prevented his taking a trip to this Country that he might form from his own observation an opinion of what is, and what might be done here in the agriculture line. I am etc.³⁷

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, May 17, 1793.

Dear Sir: If you are among the purchasers of Flour, be so good as to let me know what you would give for about 600 barrels, nearly half, superfine, 290 of which are in your own warehouse, the rest at my Mill, but might be delivered as above. all of it, if reported to me truly, is of the best quality, of their respective sorts.

I would allow a credit of Sixty days, or, to enhance the price 90 days for the purchase money; and it is *possible*, matters might be so arranged as never

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

to be drawn out of your hands by me, if the balance due from Wilson to Colville's estate is inadequate to the discharge of what shall be found due therefrom to Mr. Bennett, upon a final settlement, within the period above mentioned.

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I have been offered 33/. pr. barl. for the superfine, and 31/. for the fine; but these are so much below the market price here, that I must wait longer. 46/6 case (this Curry.) was, about four days ago, given for a load of superfine flour to be shipped from this port. I have no doubt of, and would thank you for a prompt and frank answer. and am etc.

PS. If you do not buy yourself, be so good as to let me know what price you think I could obtain for it.³⁹

To THOMAS LOWREY

Philadelphia, May 9, 1793.

Dear Sir: When I mentioned to the President the other day, the horse which you spoke about to me; altho' from the description, he thought well of him; yet as he was supplied, he did not conclude to take him: But upon further consideration, the President conceives it might be better for him to get the horse you spoke of, as he was younger and larger than the one he has, and dispose of his: and has therefore directed me to write to you on the subject.

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

If I understood you rightly you represented the horse to be four years old this spring; a good bay, nearly 17 hands high, well formed and almost full blooded. the price which the man asked for him 200 dollars, but supposed he might be obtained for something less. Should this be a just conception of your description, and his head (upon the form and leanness of which the President counts much) be an handsome one and his figure just; the President will take him at a price not exceeding 200 D., and will be much obliged to you for your agency in getting him; but if the owner of him will agree to send him here for the President to see, first fixing the price at which the President may have him, if he chuses to take him after seeing him, it would perhaps be better, the President to pay the

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reasonable expences of bringing him here if he takes him, and if he should not, to pay also the expence of taking him back again.

Giving you many thanks for your trouble in this business, I am etc.³⁵

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, May 29, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 23d. inst. came to my hands by the post of yesterday.

I agree to take your offer for my flour, and will order Mr. Whiting (my manager) to see and make arrangements with

35. This letter is signed "Tobias Lear" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The following is noted: "Duplicate of the above sent to Colo. Lowrey 3d. June."

On May 10 the following was entered in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President*: "Directed the Atty Genl. to instruct the District Attornies to require from the Collectors of the several Ports, within them, information of all infractions of neutrality that may come within their perview at the different ports, requiring the interposition of Government, particularly as to building and equipping Vessels for War."

you for the delivery in Alexandria of the part which is at my mill. I wish, however, as Hay-time and harvest is, or soon will be heavy upon me, it had suited you equally to have received it at my mill or in the river opposite thereto.

I accept your offer Sir, because I am unable at present to attend to the markets, and not because flour has experienced the temporary fall mentioned in your letter of the above date, for I consider that as no more than the result of a momentary circumstance; it being well known, to *me* at least, that the real demand for this article in the European markets is encreasing. Want of vessels to take it off at the moment you wrote might have occasioned

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a fall; that has been the case here at times, and within a few days it would be up again higher than ever.

I thank you for the information of Shepherds intention to apply to the Court of Loudoun County for the purpose of having some of my land on Difficult-run condemned for his benefit. I had heard of it before, and on my way to this City last October, I wrote a letter to Colo. Powell on the occasion, of which the enclosed is a copy, but having received no acknowledgment thereof I presume it never reached his hands. therefore if you can aid me in doing what is there required of him, it will be rendering a very acceptable service to,
Dear Sir, etc.⁴⁶

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

On May 31 Lear wrote to the Secretary of State: "By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to return to The Secretary of State the draughts and copies of letters which he sent to the President this day. And to inform the Secretary, that the President is so much indisposed that he does not believe he shall be able to meet the Gentlemen at his House tomorrow (the President having had a high fever upon him for 2 or 3 days past, and it still continuing unabated); he therefore requests that the Secretary of State will request the attendance of the Heads of the other Departments and the Attorney General at his Office tomorrow, and lay before them for their consideration and opinion such matters as he would have wished to have brought to their view if they had met at the President's, and let the President know the result of their deliberation thereon." This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To WARNER WASHINGTON⁵⁵

Philadelphia, June 5, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your son having informed me that he had not heard from you for these four or five months past, and was thereby destitute of the usual supply of money to answer

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his expenditures here, I have promised him to convey a letter to you if he would commit it to my charge. This he has done, and I have now the pleasure to enclose it. With my compliments and best wishes to yourself and family, I am etc.⁵⁶

To THOMAS JANNEY

Philadelphia, June 10, 1793.

Sir: Colo. Lowrey informs me that you are possessed of a horse which he had recommended, previous to your owning him, to be purchased by the President; and that you are willing to part with him for one hundred and twenty-five pounds. Altho' this price far exceeds what the President had an idea of giving for him, yet as he is desirous of obtaining a good covering horse to put on his Estate at Mount Vernon, and this has been highly recommended by Colo. Lowrey, he thinks it is probable he may purchase him; but he will not engage to do so until he sees and approves of him himself. And if you will have him brought to Philadelphia immediately

55. The second Warner; born in 1751.

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

after receiving this letter, the President will take him if he should meet his approbation; but in case he should not like him at the price fixed, he will pay the expence of bringing him here, and returning again to Trenton. I am etc.⁶⁷

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

To JOHN FITZGERALD

Philadelphia, June 3, 1793.

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Dear Sir: Your favor of the 25 ulto. came duly to hand. Presuming that my letter to you of the 28 of April had either miscarried, or that you were employed in the investigation of the Shenandoah (of which I recollected some mention had been made). And having occasion to write to Colo. Hooe on other business, I mentioned to him the Flour I had for sale; and have, since, accepted the offer he made me for it,

precisely what you thought might be obtained.

The approaching heats, added to the uncertainty of a sufficiency of American bottoms to carry off the Crop, inclined me more to the acceptance of the Colonel's offer than to await a better market, altho' I am certain the demand for this Article will encrease rather than diminish in the course of the summer.

Altho' Mr. Whiting (as a farmer) can have no adequate knowledge of Tobacco; yet, as he has seen some of mine opened lately, and can point you to the Inspectors who examined it, and who ought to know if it is of a quality to suit the Georgetown market, I have by this days post directed him to call upon you with such information as he can give or obtain; after receiving which, and making the enquiries promised in your last I would thank you for your opinion on what is best to be done with the Tobacco, the sale of which I am not anxious to hasten if it is in good order and in no danger of suffering. But query, Can *inspected* Tobacco on the Virginia side be removed to warehouses on the other?

I thank you for the tender of your services on this and other occasions, and am with sincere esteem etc.50

To WARNER WASHINGTON, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, June 4, 1793.

Sir: I have been too much indisposed since the receipt of your letter of the 31st ulto. to give it an

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

earlier acknowledgment.

Placing, as you do, the want of supplies to some interruption of the communication with your father, I promise, if you will entrust a letter to him under my cover, that it shall reach his hands in ten days from the date.

I prefer doing this to advancing money myself (even if the latter was convenient for me), first, because I have good reasons to believe that the allowance made you, by your father, is as much as he conceives necessary, or as can reasonably be afforded by him, beyond which your expenditures ought not to extend. and secondly, because I think there would be an impropriety in the act of another to furnish the means for a young man to exceed these limits. I am etc.⁵¹

To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, June 10, 1793.

My dear Fanny: Your Aunt has lately received a Letter from you, to which an answer was given about a week ago.

As this answer, so far as it respecting the renting of the Estate in Berkeley, of which you are possessed, was dictated by me, in a hurry, I will now give you my ideas more at large on that subject; altho' they will still appear, from my immersion in other business, to carry

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

with them strong marks of indigestion.

The Will of my deceased Nephew, if I have sufficient recollection of it, directs a second plantation to be settled in Berkeley County. This may, and I think ought to be done in

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conformity therewith; and in so doing it might be well to include some, if not all the hands which are in Fairfax County, as well to comply with the dictates of the Will, as because there are too many at the latter place to be employed to good profit: the Farm being small, poor and worn. As a mere small grain, or grass farm, it might be turned to good account, if an industrious man who would work constantly himself was fixed on it, with a negro fellow and boy *only* ; with an allowance of four plough horses, two ploughs and a yoke of oxen, with other stock proportioned thereto. This force would be adequate to the cultivation of the whole of that Farm, in small Grain and grass; and might raise as much (and ought to do no more) Indian Corn as would suffice for themselves. And if you found it *more* convenient, the old woman there, for whom I presume no hire could be obtained, with such young Children as have no Mothers living and others that cou'd not be well disposed of, might be placed there; and would be at hand to receive your own attentions.

The force I have mentioned would be able to put in as much *small* grain annually, as the size of the Farm would admit, to be kept in proper order; and in case you should do what you have talked of doing for the sake of your Childrens education; that is, to live in Alexandria, would furnish you with poultry, pigs, lambs, &c., which, if always to be bought from the Butchers and others,

would be more expensive than you at present have any conception of.

I have not sufficient knowledge of the Estate in Berkeley to give any other advice respecting it, than merely to say that renting it instead of keeping it in your own hands, has a preference in my mind for many reasons, which might be assigned; and as the Will enjoins a division of the Land, I should suppose the negroes had better be allotted to each parcel, and rented therewith. But of this you, with the advice of your friends on the spot, must be a better judge than I am. Among these George S. Washington, who has already acted the part you are about to do, will be able to give you useful information, as by this time he may have perceived the good, or felt the inconveniences of the measures he pursued. It would, however, seem best to me, that the Lands and Negroes should go

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together, in the manner already mentioned. The latter might hire for more singly, but then the trouble of collecting would also be greater; nor could there be the same attention paid to them as when together, and under the immediate eye of your brother-in-law.

You will readily see the necessity of insisting upon ample security for the performance of whatever agreement you may enter into; for the Land, Negroes and stock thereon will be none, because they are your own already; and as the transaction is important, and will be interesting to yourself and the Children, I advise you to pay a Lawyer of note to

draw the articles, rather than hazard an imperfect instrument, which may be turned to your disadvantage hereafter.

Besides the usual covenants to compel payments when they become due, there ought to be a clause making all sums in arrear to carry interest. This will be some compensation for the want of punctuality; but forfeiture of the Lease, in case of nonperformance of the conditions, should be strongly expressed, as it will be the principle hold you will have on the Tenant. Reservation of Wood-land, limitation with respect to clearing, restraint upon selling or disposing of any timber or Wood except for the purposes of the plantations, and prevention of all sorts of abuse. Keeping the Houses, fences and meadows in order. Care of the Negroes in sickness and in health; clothing them properly, and feeding them as Negroes usually are, are all matters which should be noticed in the Instrument. Nor ought there to be any transfer of the Lease, or re-hire of the Negroes without your consent first had and obtained *in writing* .

The number of years for which you would part with the Estate deserves consideration, and a consultation of circumstances, of which you can judge as well or better than I. My own opinion however, is, that it ought not to go for more than five or seven; for less than three, I presume no good tenant would take it. The Horses, Cattle and other stock, together with the implements of the Farm, you might either sell, or let go with the places at the valuation

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of two, or more judicious and impartial men, to be returned in equal numbers, and in the specific articles of equal value, when the places

are surrendered; paying in the mean while a regular annual interest on the aggregate valuation as above.

The peculiar situation of our public affairs is such, and likely to remain such, that I see no prospect of my being able to leave the Seat of Government but for a mere flying visit home; which I am more than ever called upon to do as, by a letter received on Saturday, it appears that Mr. Whiting is in a confirmed consumption, and so much reduced as to be scarcely able to mount a horse. What I am to do under a circumstance of this kind, I really know not; not being able, in the short time I have had to reflect upon this disagreeable event, to call to mind a single character (if to be obtained) that would answer my purposes.

I shall strive hard to be at Mount Vernon by the first of next month, but to say positively I shall accomplish it is more than I dare do. My stay there cannot exceed, if it should amount to ten days.

I request you to remember me in the most affectionate manner to my Brother, Sister and the rest of the family; my love to the Children; compliments to Mr. Warner Washington and family if you should see them. In all which your Aunt, Nelly &c. join me. With much truth I am, your sincere friend and affte. relation.⁶⁶

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

To MILES MIRWIN

Philadelphia, June 16, 1793.

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Sir: Your Letter of the 13. instant came duly to hand. I thank you for making a tender of your services to me to supply the place of Mr. Lear. At present, I have no intention of adding any one to my family for this purpose. am etc.76

***To WILLIAM FRISBIE FITZHUGH74**

Philadelphia, June 16, 1793.

Dear Sir: The China Bowl with which your good father was so obliging as to present me came safe and I beg you to assure him that I shall esteem it more as a memento of his friendship than for its antiquity or size.

Not before the receipt of your letter dated the 24th. of last month, had I heard of the death of Mrs. Fitzhugh. on this melancholy event I pray you both to accept my sincere condolence. I also sincerely wish that the evening of his life although at prest. clouded [and] deprived of one of its greatest enjoyments, may be perfectly serene and happy: that you will contribute all in your power to make it so I have no doubt.

With great esteem etc.75

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

74. Of Maryland.

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

To JOHN FITZGERALD

Philadelphia, July 19, 1793.

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Dear Sir: The day preceeding my departure from Mount Vernon, the enclosed letter was put into my hands. pressed as I was at the time by other business, I could give it no answer; and the next day when I saw you in Alexandria this matter had escaped me. I give you the trouble, therefore (since you have allowed me the

liberty) to fix something with Mr. Moore on the subject of it. Whatever that may be will be satisfactory, and shall be binding on me, with two provisos, 1st. that the term for which the lease is given, shall not *exceed* five years, and 2dly that whatever repairs Mr. Moore may want, and are really necessary, shall be specifically enumerated, and executed under his own auspices and at his own expence, making a reasonable allowance therefor in fixing the rent. By such enumeration, it may at any time be seen whether the work stipulated has been executed; for in default thereof there can be no claim of deduction.

I have two motives for giving you this trouble, one because I know you are a good judge of what the House and Lot ought to rent for, and the other, because I have no person in my employ at present in whom I can confide to negotiate this business for me. I am etc.²¹

To CLEON MOORE

Philadelphia, July 19, 1793.

Sir: I duly received your letter of the 5 inst: but at a time when I was so much engaged that it was not in my power to write you an answer. And now, having no knowledge of the condition in which my house and Lot in Alexandria are, and

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

being equally ignorant of the rent of such houses in that Town. I have requested the favor of my acquaintance and friend Colo. Fitzgerald to negotiate this business with you. Any agreement then, which you can make with him will be obligatory on, Sir, etc.²⁰

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***To BURGESS BALL**

Philadelphia, July 21, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have, in due course of Post, been favoured with your letter of the 11th. instant.

I thank you for the prompt compliance with my request, as I do Mr. Fitzhugh²⁷ also for the ready belief he yielded that I would do nothing unfriendly, or ungentle in the case you were desired to mention to him.

Before the receipt of your letter, I had dispatched Howell Lewis (who was first to go to Fredericksburg for purposes of his own) to Mount Vernon; but had I known at the time that his brother Lawrence would have undertaken the business, I should have thought him (on account of his age) the most eligible; and would have preferred him accordingly; for, possibly, if he had chosen to continue there, his conduct might have been found such, as to supercede the necessity of employing any other: because, as I could place entire confidence in his integrity,

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

27. Of "Chatham."

and presume I may do so in his Sobriety, Industry, care and œconomy, with strict attention to the conduct of the Overseers, and to the plans marked out for their government, my business might progress as well under his auspices as under that of any other I am likely to get; for a married man would not only be inconvenient for me, but (by keeping a separate house) would add considerably to my expences. Whereas a single man, whether at my first (if from his walk of life he should be entitled to it) or at my second table, would with respect to his board, be not more than a drop in the Bucket.

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But after all, is not Lawrence Lewis on the point of Matrimony? Report says so; and if truly, it would be an effectual bar to a *permanent* establishment in my business as I never again will have two women in my house while I am there myself.

It is highly probable that I may another year want Buck Wheat for my Farms. In this case I shall, undoubtedly, apply to you, supposing much of it will be brought to your Mill. My Sowing of Buck Wheat for Manure, is over for this year, and for seed, the season is too far Spent. Mrs. Washington unites with me in every good wish for yourself and Mrs. Ball, and with great esteem and regard I am etc.

To WILLIAM TILGHMAN

Philadelphia, July 21, 1793.

Dear Sir: The death of my late Manager, Mr. Anthy. Whitting, making it necessary for me to look out for some person to supply his place, I take the advantage of your polite tender of your services which you have heretofore been so obliging as to make me, to beg your assistance in obtaining and conveying to me information of such characters in your part of the Country, as are qualified to fill that station, and who can be obtained for that purpose.

Altho' my affairs at Mount Vernon suffer much at present for want of a manager; yet I have thought it better to bear this temporary evil, than to engage one immediately who might not have all the necessary qualifications for that place. I have directed my enquiries for a manager to different parts of the Country; but I think there is a greater probability that a person may be found in the best farming Counties on the Eastern shore of Maryland to answer my purposes, than in almost any other quarter; for there seems to be more large Estates cultivated altogether in the farming system there than in other parts of the Country; and that reclaiming Swamps, raising Grass, Ditching, Hedging &c., are the greatest pursuits on my Estate.

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It is hardly possible, and indeed it is not necessary here, to point out minutely all the qualifications required in, or duties expected from a man of the character wanted. The leading points in such a person must be a complete knowledge of the farming business in its various branches; an ability to plan and direct generally the business of four or five large farms, adjoining each other, but under separate Overseers; and a sufficient acquaintance with business and accts. to enable him to buy and sell, with discretion and judgment, such things as may be wanted for the use of the Estate, and to be disposed of from it; and to keep an Account of the same. An experience of many years can alone give the first qualification mentioned; and a residence of some years in a part of the Country where the labour is done by negroes, and having had the management of pretty extensive business in that line, can only give the second. For the third, it is not necessary that a man should be a complete Clerk, or particularly conversant in mercantile transactions. Perfect honesty, sobriety and industry are indispensable. In fine, if I could [find] a man as well qualified for my purposes as the late Mr. Whitting (whom I presume you know, as he managed an Estate of Gen. Cadwallader's in your neighborhood for some years) I should esteem myself very fortunate. A single man would suit me much better than one with a family; indeed is almost indispensable, as he would live at the Mansion house; and I should like the age between 35 and 45, as that period seems most likely to unite experience with activity.

The names of the following persons in your quarter have been mentioned to me as well qualified to manage a large Estate, vizt. William Pierce,³² who has done, and still continues to do business for Mr. Ringold, recommended by Mr. Ringold himself.

Owen Crow, said to have been a manager for Mr. Chew for some years, and now rents land and negroes from him.

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James Cannon, said to have been an Overseer, and in some measure a manager for Mr. Chew. But I would here observe, that a man may be a good farmer and an excellent Overseer for a single plantation, who would be wholly unequal to the duties of a manager.

— Brisco, on an Estate of the decd. Mr. Chew of Herring-bay in Cecil County, which, I am informed he means to quit. This person is rather out of your neighborhood; but it is possible you may know or hear something of him; from Mr. Jacob Hollingworth of Elkton I have his character.

I have understood also, that Mr. Lloyd's manager, of the name of Bryant, intends leaving him. If this should be the case, and he can be well recommended by Mr. Lloyd, I confess I should feel a predilection for him, because I know Mr. Lloyd is considered as one of the largest and best farmers in the Country, and so good a manager himself, that he would not employ a man who did not fully understand his business. But it must be remembered, that I speak of this person merely as having heard that he intended leaving Mr. Lloyd, and was well qualified for my purposes; for I would not, upon any consideration, have a measure taken in my

32. Pearce.

behalf that would look like drawing a man from the service of another, to whom he was engaged, with a view of taking him into mine.

I have now, Sir, given you a pretty full detail of my wants and wishes on this subject, and shall feel obliged by any information you may give me relative to it; as well as for the mention of the terms upon which persons of the character before described, are employed upon large Estates on the Eastern shore; and for what they may be induced to go to Virginia. The Estate for which I want a manager lies about nine miles below Alexandria on the river Potomac, and 12 from the Federal City. I am &c.33

To HYLAND CROW

Philadelphia, August 4, 1793.

By a Letter which I have just received from my Nephew, Mr. Lewis,⁵⁰ at Mount Vernon, he informs me that you are applying to have your wages raised. This, I think, was the case last year, and may be the case another year. Nor is this all, for when one succeeds, another comes forward; a stop therefore might as well be put to these kind of cravings at one time as at another. However, as your crop was the most productive of any I made last year; and as I hope the present one will not be bad, if properly taken care of, I agree, by way of encouraging your future exertions, to raise your wages to Forty pounds next

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

50. Howell Lewis.

year; and make you the same allowance of provisions and other things as, by agreement, you were to receive this year.

To make an attempt after this, to encrease your wages, will be fruitless; and I mention it, that whenever you want more, you must seek for it elsewhere. Forty pounds per annum, clear of all expences, whether the winds blow high or blow low, whether the ground is deluged with rain, or laid waste by a parching drought; by either of which, and by many other casualties, crops may be destroyed, though the expences incurred in the making do not lessen, nor the mouths which are to be fed, nor the backs which are to be clothed do not decrease, is equal to the chance of double that sum in a proportion of the Crop; which, was it not for the labour spent in making meadows, and other jobs, some on and others off the farm, I had much rather give; but have been restrained from doing it to avoid grumbling; and because I may apply the hands at such places and in such a manner as to

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me, or my manager, should seem most conducive to my interest, when no other was to be affected by it. With this explanation of my sentiments, I remain etc.⁵¹

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

To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Philadelphia, August 7, 1793.

Dear Sir: The commissioners having given it as their opinion that one hundred and forty pounds Virginia Currency would be a proper compensation to Mr. Keith for the trouble he has had with the Accts. relating to Colo. Colville's estate,⁵⁷ I have given him a draught upon you for that sum, which you will be so good as to pay out of the ballance that may remain in your hands due to me after settling the Acct. of Mr. Bennets.

As this ballance will not be payable to me till the middle of Septr, I suppose it will be convenient for Mr. Keith to wait until that time, unless it should be equally as convenient for you to pay it when the order is presented as at this time. I am etc.⁵⁸

57. On August 6 Lear wrote to Keith, inclosing a draft for £140 Virginia currency. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

***To JOHN FITZGERALD**

Philadelphia, August 11, 1793.

Dear Sir: I received your favor of the 3d. instant a few days ago.

If there be any specific agreement, *in writing*, between Mr. Whiting and the occupant of my Lot in Alexandria, I must abide by it, however erroneous the measure; provided it shall appear that the tenant has, or is in a way and condition to comply with his part of

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the contract. If no such written agreement can be exhibited, I shall not think myself under obligation to suffer the present family to remain longer in possession; for I well remember the conversation you allude to, in your presence; and I recollect also, to have been told by my deceased Nephew, Majr. Washington, that this, or some other occupant of the house, a little before, or after that conversation, had engaged to inclose the Garden with a good Post and Rail or Plank fence, and to repair the Houses completely. If these are not done the most he can expect, is to be permitted to go off quietly.

Under this explanation of my ideas, respecting the business, I shall leave it to you, my dear Sir, to act for me as you would for yourself, and I shall feel myself very much obliged by it.

I am pleased to find by your statement of matters, that the concerns of the Potomac are so prosperous away, its funds so respectable, and that we may shortly look to reimbursements by the Tolls. From the Shanadoah will the great harvest come, interest and policy therefore point most strongly to exertions in that quarter. With sincere esteem etc.

***To FRANCES BASSETT WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, August 18, 1793.

My dear Fanny: I was unable this day week, a day I devote in part, to writing letters of private concernment, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th. instant.

As I shall always be sincerely disposed to give you my opinion upon any, and every point you may desire respecting the management of your Estate, or the Children, it is my wish that you would never be backward in laying them before me. If I cannot instantly comply with your request, I may, nevertheless, do it in time.

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The sentiments contained in my letter of the 10th of June were the best I could form under the view I had of your affairs, and recollection of the Will of the Testator. As it did not get to your hands before you had adopted measures for the disposal of the property in Berkeley, and arrangement of that in Fairfax, I do not see that better can be done than to allot the Negros in Fairfax in the manner proposed in your letter of the 7th. instt. And with respect to the young fellow in Berkeley, who you say refused to be hired with the rest, but who by the bye ought to have had nothing to say in the case, it is of no great moment now, whether he be added to those who are to remain in Fairfax, or to chuse a master in Berkeley. The five you have allotted to the former, besides the old woman and independant of him, will require the same kind of cropping as usual, to give them employment; and the same sort of Overseer

as at present to look after them; whereas, upon the plan I suggested, a man and boy with two plows under the direction of a Farmer (who by agreement should be compelled to work as those under him do) I conceive the profit would have been greater, than with a larger number, managed as heretofore. But it is too late, (at least for the ensuing year) to carry the latter plan into effect. It may be well therefore, if your present Overseer is indisposed to continue under these changes, to be enquiring in time for another; and by adding the fellow above you will have a better chance of getting a tolerable one; the force even with him, being too small to induce a man of character to engage; and too numerous to expect an Overlooker to labour in the manner one would do whose living depended upon it. In short, it is too large, or too small. too small to expect a *good* Overseer; and too large for the plan I had thought of, and which I had conceived would be better for the land, and more profitable to yourself.

A Man and his wife; just from England advertised themselves to work on Shares. He a compleat farmer and she an excellent Dairy woman; but they were engaged before I sent to them. My love to Milly and the Children, and with most Affectionate regard, I remain etc.

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PS. You are welcome []72 any thing else []72 for the repairs proposed.

72. The press copy here is indecipherable.

***To ROBERT LEWIS**

Philadelphia, August 26, 1793.

Dear Robert: Your letter of the 12th Inst: came to hand in due course of Post.

Nothing short of a very high price, would induce me to sell my small tract (of about 300 acres) on Difficult Run in Loudoun County; for which, on Account of the Mill Seat; quantity of Meadow land; contiguity to the Great Falls (where a town is erecting), Georgetown, the Federal City, and Alexandria (from the last of which it is only 18 Miles, I was, sometime before I left home, in treaty with a Dutchman for it at the annual Rent of Sixty pounds.

The lost Mountain tract which you speak of, in Loudoun County, wants explanation. I know not where it lyes, or what tract, at this moment, you allude to.

In my present way of thinking, scarcely double the price you offer for my Frederick Land would induce me to part with it. When the Shanondoah River is made Navigable. the accomplishment of which I entertain no doubt, in a short time. the value of lands contiguous thereto will rise in a ratio above calculation. Your Aunt and the family unites with me in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lewis. I am etc.89

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

***To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS**

Philadelphia, September 1, 1793.

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Dear Sir: This letter will be presented to you By Mr. Lear, whom I beg leave (if he should go to France) to recommend to your civilities. He is a person who possesses my entire friendship ship and confidence; and will not be found unworthy of your acquaintance, as he will have it in his power to give you an acct., which you may rely on, of the true situation of things in this Country.

Mercantile pursuits have induced him to leave my family; by these he is carried to Europe for a short stay, only. I shall not repeat to you the sincere esteem and regard with which I am etc.

To WILLIAM SHORT

Philadelphia, September 1, 1793.

Sir: If this letter should reach you hand's, it will be presented by Mr. Lear, a Gentleman who has lived with me more than Seven years. The last four of which as my Secretary.

He is now withdrawing himself from this office, having engaged in the Mercantile scheme; which for a short Stay, takes him to Europe. His conduct during the period he has resided in my Family, has been uniformly good as to entitle him to my affectionate regard, and is my apology for recommending him to your civilities, in case he should fall in your way during his absence from this Country. From none would you be able to obtain oral information more to be relied on, of the Situation of affairs in this Country.

With esteem and regard I am etc.99

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

To NICHOLAS VAN STAPHORST

Philadelphia, September 1, 1793.

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Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d. of May, giving me information of the steps you had taken respecting the bill of Exchange which I remitted to you in January last. Your attention to this business merits and receives my best thanks.

This letter will be put into your hands by Mr. Tobias Lear, a Gentleman who has been [my Secretary, and] a member of my family for seven years last past. He has been making arrangements for forming an extensive commercial establishment at the Federal City on the River Potomak, and now goes to Europe for the purpose of taking measures thereto carry his plan into effect. [His uniform good conduct having entitled him to my highest esteem and regard must be my apology for taking the liberty of introducing him to your civilities whilst he shall remain in Holland. I have the honor etc.]¹

1. From a photostat of the draft in the writing of Tobias Lear kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind. The parts in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

Philadelphia, September 1, 1793.

Dear Sir: Notwithstanding Mr. Lear is already known to you, I cannot suffer him to depart without this letter of introduction to your civilities, whilst he may remain in London.

He is a person whose conduct has entitled him to my warmest friendship and regard, and one from whom you may obtain the best oral information of the real state of matters in this Country.

Mercantile pursuits withdraws him from my family, and carries him to Europe for the purpose of facilitating the measure he has adopted, for his future walk.

Present, if you please, my respects to Mrs. Pinckney; and be assured of the sincere esteem and regard with which I am etc.

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***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Philadelphia, September 1, 1793.

Sir: Instead of commencing this letter with an apology for suffering your favor of the 17th. of last Jany. to remain so long unacknowledged, I will refer you to the bearer, who is perfectly acquainted with my situation, for the reason why it has done so.

The bearer Sir, is Mr. Lear, a gentleman who has been a member of my family seven years; and, until the present moment, my Secretary, consequently cannot, as I have observed before, be unknowing to the nature, and pressure of the business in which I am continually involved.

As a proof, however, that I have not been altogether inattentive to your commands; I enclose the result of Mr. Peters's answer to some enquiries of yours; and the copy also of a letter from Mr. Jefferson to whom I had propounded, for solution, other queries contained in your letter of the above date. The documents I send, have the signature of those gentlemen annexed to them but for your satisfaction only. Mr. Peters is, as you will perceive by vein in his letter, a man of humour. He is a theorist, and admitted one of the best practical farmers in *this* part of the State of Pennsylvania.

But, as it is not so much what the soil of this Country actually produces, as it is capable of producing by skilful management that I conceive to be the object of your enquiry, and to know whether this produce would meet a ready Market and good prices. What the nature of the climate in general, is. The temperature thereof in the different States. The quality and prices of the lands, with the improvements

thereon, in various parts of the Union. The prospects which are unfolding in each &ca. &ca. I can do no better than refer you to the Oral information of the bearer, who is a person of intelligence, and pretty well acquainted with the State from New Hampshire (inclusive) to Virginia; and one in whom you may, as I do, place entire confidence in all

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he shall relate of his own knowledge; and believe is given from information, as it will be handed with caution.

Mr. Lear has been making arrangements for forming an extensive commercial establishment at the Federal City on the River Potomac; and now goes to Europe for the purpose of taking measures, there, to carry his plan into effect. I persuaded myself that any information you can give him, respecting the Manufactures of Great Britain, will be gratefully received; and as I have particular friendship for him, I shall consider any civilities shewn him by you, as a mark of your politeness to Sir Your etc.²

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

***To THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

(Private)

Philadelphia, September 9, 1793.

Dr. Sir: It was the opinion of the Gentlemen at their meeting, on Saturday last if I mistake not, that Mr. Wolcott²⁶ should be desired to request Mr. Webster to substantiate the language of the Minister of the French Republic as related by him in the enclosed letter.

Colo. Hamilton's situation, for which I feel extreme regret, does not permit his having any agency in the matter at present; I therefore send the letter which he forwarded to me from Mr. Webster to Mr. Wolcott to your care, being persuaded that whatever measure shall be deemed right and proper will be put in train by you.

I think it would not be prudent either for you or the Clerks in your Office, or the Office itself to be too much exposed to the malignant fever, which by well authenticated report, is

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spreading through the City; The means to avoid it²⁷ your own judgment under existing circumstances must dictate.

As the spreading and continuance of the disorder may render it unadvisable for me to return to this City as soon as I at first intended, I wd. thank you, in case you should remain in the vicinity of it to write me a line by every Monday's Post informing me concisely of the then state of matters; with other occurrences which may be essential for me to be made acquainted with.

And I would thank you also for your advice to Mr. Fraunces or Mrs. Emmerson (the House keeper) if, by means of the Disorder my

26. Oliver Wolcott.

27. The word "it" was inserted and afterwards crossed off inadvertently.

Household Affairs in this City should be involved in any delicacy. I sincerely wish, and pray, that you and yours, may escape untouched and, when we meet again, that it may be under circumstances more pleasing than the present. I am etc.²⁸

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1793.

My dear Sir: I have not written to you since we parted, but had just set down to do it when your letter of the 13th. instt. was brought to me from the Post Office in Alexandria.

It gave Mrs. Washington, myself and all who knew him, sincere pleasure to hear that our little favourite⁵⁷ had arrived safe, and was in good health at Portsmouth. We sincerely wish him a long continuance of the latter, that he may always be as charming and promising as he now is, and that he may live to be a comfort and blessing to you and an ornament to his Country; as a testimony of my affection for him, I send him a Ticket in the

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lottery which is now drawing in the Federal City; and if it should be his fortune to draw the Hotel it will add to the

28. To this letter Ford prints the following footnote: "On August 12th, Webster had dined at the same table with Genet, Captain Bompard, and one of Genet's secretaries. In the course of the conversation Paschal (the secretary) asserted that Washington made war upon the French nation. Genet agreed in this, and went on to say that the Executive of the United States (not the President) was under the influence of British gold, and the officers were in the British influence and had formed a plan to subject America to Great Britain. He asserted that he had very good letters to prove this." No letters of Webster or Wolcott on this matter, nor copies of them, are now found in the *Washington Papers*.

57. Lincoln Lear.

pleasure I have in giving it.

We remained in Philadelphia until the 10th. instr. It was my wish to have continued there longer; but as Mrs. Washington was unwilling to leave me surrounded by the malignant fever wch. prevailed, I could not think of hazarding her and the Children any longer by *my* continuance in the City the house in which we lived being, in a manner blocaded, by the disorder and was becoming every day more and more fatal; I therefore came off with them on the above day and arrived at this place the 14th. without encountering the least accident on the Road.

You will learn from Mr. Greenleaf, that he has dipped deeply, in the concerns of the Federal City. I think he has done so on very advantageous terms for himself, and I am pleased with it notwithstanding on public ground; as it may give facility to the operations at that place, at the same time that it is embarking him and his friends in a measure which although it could not well fail under any circumstances that are likely to happen; may be considerably promoted by men of Spirit with large Capitols. He can, so much better than

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I, detail his engagements and the situation of things in and about the city that I shall not attempt to do it at this time.

Mrs. Washington having decided to let Nelly Custis have her watch and chain, is disposed to receive substitutes in lieu thereof at about 25 guineas price; and leaves the choice of them to you. The plainness of the watch &ca. she will not

object to. 120 dollars in Bank notes are inclose[d] for the purchase of them.

If it should be convenient and *perfectly* safe for you to engage for me, on reasonable terms a compleat Black Smith you would oblige me by doing so. But as there are Laws in England prohibiting such engagements under severe penalties and such may exist in other Countries, you will understand me clearly that for no consideration whatever would I have you run the smallest risk of encountering them. You know full well what kind of a Smith would suit my purposes it is unnecessary therefore for me to be particular on this head. He must however have a character on which you can rely, not only as a compleat workman for a Farm, but as an honest, sober and Industrious man. If he comes on Wages they must be moderate, and with, or without wages he must be bound to serve me 3 years; 4 would be better.

Mrs. Washington thanks you for your kind recollection of her request with respect to Lincoln and desires me to assure you of her sincere love for him in which I join and of her friendship and regard for you. In whatever place you may be or in whatever walk of life you may move my best wishes will attend you, for I am, and always shall be Your sincere friend &c.

PS. I have just recd. a letter from the Earl of Buchan in which he says, my letter intended to accompany the Portrait had got safe to his

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hands but that he had heard nothing of the Picture. If you shd., while in New York, see the Painter of it be so good as to mention this circumstance to him and enquire into the cause of the failure.

The District Attorney of New Hampshire has sent his resignation. I am entirely unacquainted with the characters in that line in that State and would thank you to name the person whom you think best qualified to succeed Mr. Sherburne⁵⁸ and most likely to give general satisfaction.

***To OLIVER WOLCOTT, JUNIOR**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1793.

Sir: Your letter of the 20th. instt. came duly to hand. I am much obliged to Colo. Hamilton for sending me a copy of the Memorandum describing the mode of treating the prevailing fever in his case, and to you for transmitting it. It gave me sincere pleasure to hear that he and Mrs. Hamilton have got so happily over the disorder, and I hope Mrs. Wolcot and yourself will escape it. The enclosed for Colo. Hamilton you will be so good as to forward.

An old acquaintance of mine,⁵⁵ a respectable character, and a staunch friend to the Government of the U States has requested of me what you will find in his letter enclosed. I am anxious to comply with it, but do not under existing circumstances well know how to draw the money with regularity from the Treasury *on my own Acct* . and therefore take this method of expressing my wish and leaving it to your judgment to carry it into

58. Samuel Sherburne.

55. Charles Carter.

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execution. My compliments to Mrs. Wolcot. With esteem and regard I am etc.56

***To CHARLES CARTER**

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 15th. instt, having unluckily passed on to Philadelphia before it got to my hands is the cause of its remaining so long unacknowledged.

I have by the Post of to day written to the Comptroller of the Treasury for most of the other offrs. are absent to obtain, on my acct, one hundred dollars for the use of your Sons in Phila. and hope it will be accomplished; but such is the stagnation of business there and so entirely chang'd is everything there by the retreat of the Inhabitants and the extention and malignancy of the fever with which it is visited that it is almost impossible from the little intercourse people have with one another to promise anything on a certainty of having it complied with. Mr. Wolcot (the Comptroller) will I am sure do all he can to fulfil your desires and it will give me pleasure if in this instance or in any other I can contribute to your happiness.

My best wishes (in which

56. The letter sent, in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge, is in the Connecticut Historical Society.

Mrs. Washington joins me) attend Mrs. Carter and your family and with very great esteem etc.53

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, October 3, 1793.

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Dr. Sir: Sometime before I left Philadelphia I received a letter from you respecting your Son John, and immediately made known (by letter) to Mr. Morris your wishes concerning him; but having received no answer to it, I conclude, and think it may be taken for granted, he has not much to expect from that quarter. Indeed Mr. Morris and others in that line, have so many applications to them of this kind and have so many friends and relations for whom they wish to provide that those who are strangers to them have little to expect. My advice therefore is, as soon as your Son shall arrive in Philadelphia, for him to call upon Mr. Morris and know at once whether he will give him a birth in his Indiaman, or not, for as he has never answered my letter I cannot, again, apply to him on this subject.

Since my arrival at this place your letter of the 15th of September has been presented to me but in reply I can only say that from the moment I embarked in my present walk of life, I resolved, most firmly, never to be under any

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

promise of an office; or to express any sentiment which could be construed into the most distant intimation of one, until the hour of nomination should arrive; and then, under a full view of the merits and pretensions of the different Candidates to name the person who seemed best qualified for the office; without suffering myself to be influenced in the smallest degree by my friendship, Relationship, or local attachments of any sort or kind whatsoever.

I do not doubt but that Mr. Brooke⁶³ is a Gentleman of merit, but as your letter is the first intimation I have had that the naval office at Hobshole is likely to become vacant, I have made no enquiry as yet into the pretensions to, or fitness of any one to supply his place, whenever this event shall happen Mr. Brooke request will be considered with others; and wherever the preponderancy is, there my duty to the public requires me to fix. With my love to Mrs. Spotswood and the family, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, I remain etc.⁶⁴

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63. Francis Brooke.

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

***To GOVERNOR HENRY LEE**

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 16, 1793.

Dear Sir: Since my arrival at this place I have been favored with your letters of the 17th. Ult. and 7th. instt. For your kind attentions to me I pray you to receive my sincere acknowledgments.

I have always (from the accts. given of it) entertained a high opinion of Colo. Taliaferros threshing machine but knew at the sametime I had no stream that could supply water for one on any of my Farms. This was confirmed when Mr. Payne came hither and exam'd them. The model brought over by the English Farmers may also be a good one, but the utility of it among careless Negros and ignorant Overseers will depend *absolutely* upon the simplicity of the Constructn; for if there is any thing complex in the machinery it will be no longer in use than a mushroom is in existance. I have seen so much of the beginning and ending of these new inventions, that I have almost resolved to go on in the old way of treading until I get settled again at home, and can attend myself to the management of one. As a proof in point of the almost impossibility of putting the Overseers of this Country out of the track they have been accustomed to walk in, I have one of the most convenient Barns in this, or perhaps any other Country, where 30 hands may with great ease be employed in threshing; half of the Wheat of the Farm was actually stowed in this Barn in the straw by my order for threshing; notwithstanding, when I came home about

the Middle of September, I found a treading yard not 30 feet from the Barn door, the Wheat again brought out of the Barn and horses treading it out in an open exposure liable

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to the vicissitudes of weather. I am now erecting a building for the express purpose of treading. I have sanguine expectations of its utility; and if I am not deceived in them it may afford you some satisfaction when you come into this part of the Country to call and look at it.

I have a grateful sense of your kind offer of Mr. Workman; previous however to the communication I had engaged a Manager from the Eastern shore of Maryland but the impression on my mind for the favor intended me is not lessened on that acct.

I have not, as you will perceive, touched the subject of Politics in this letter. The reasons are, your letter of the 17th. has expressed precisely my ideas of the conduct, and views of those, who are aiming at nothing short of the subversion of the Government of these States, even at the expence of plunging this Country in the horrors of a disastrous War; and because I wish to await a little longer to see what may be the sense of legally constituted bodies at the meetings⁹⁹ which are about to take place.

The public service requiring it, I shall set off in about ten days for Philadelphia or vicinity. Though unknown to your lady, I beg my respectful compliments may be presented to her. I wish you an agreeable and

99. Of the Democratic societies.

harmonious Session, and am with much truth Your Affecte. Hble. Servt.

To FRANCIS WILLIS

Mount Vernon, October 25, 1793.

Sir: Your letter of the 4th. of August had to go to Philadelphia and come back, before I received it.

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The mistakes which have happened respecting the Negroes of the late Mrs. Samuel Washington are somewhat singular; and it is not a little surprizing after the first mistake had happened, and so much pains had been taken to account for, and set it right, that *now*, after a lapse of five or Six years the whole matter should assume quite a different face. it should be Discovered at this late hour that, that lady *herself* had no right to the Negroes, which by the bye, I believe possession *alone* would give her.

If I had ever intended to avail myself of the Law for my *own* benefit (which made me heir to those Negroes) I would not have relinquished my claim without a thorough investigation of the subject of defective title. For presuming that all Law is founded on equity and being under a conviction that if Mrs. Washington had survived her husband she would have released nothing to which she would have been entitled by law, I saw no injustice or impropriety upon the ground of reciprocity of receiving for my Brothers Children that which in the other case would have been taken from them. But not having finally resolved in my own Mind (as you may readily infer from my long silence) whether to take from Mrs. Washingtons family for the benefit of my Brothers only daughter (who, from the involved State of his affairs, had left her by his Will a very small pittance; and the obtainment of that, even doubtful) the whole or only part of what the law entitled me to, I let the matter rest till your second letter had revived the subject.

I now, in order to close the business finally, have come to the following conclusions. Pay me one hundred pounds which I shall give to my Niece for her immediate support, and I will quit claim to *all* the Negroes which belonged to Mrs. Saml: Washington, and will release them accordingly. I am &c.9

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

To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

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Mount Vernon, October 26, 1793.

Sir: Since my arrival at this place from Philadelphia, the attachment of which the enclosed is a copy has been served upon me. I wish to be informed by you how I am to proceed in this business, and what steps, if any, are necessary to be taken by me in consequence thereof.

Notwithstanding the directions you have given to the contrary, there rarely comes a Collector who does not present (mingled with my own) Clerks notes on account of your Brother's Estate, and these, in my absence, are paid by my Manager. I hope your orders will be so pointed in future as to prevent any more coming against me, or my being subject to the payment of monies for which I receive no benefit.

I brought the bond of your deceased Father, and the mortgage of your brother with me from Philadelphia for the pose of surrendering them to you when the conveyance of the Land to me is made complete; and I beg to know from you whether my signature to that instrument (as it is so drawn) is, in the opinion of professional men, necessary. I shall not appear too pressing I hope to get this business finally closed when, besides the desire natural to me to leave nothing open that can be settled, it has become necessary, that I may take some measures with respect to the Land. I am etc.¹⁰

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

***To THE EARL OF BUCHAN**

German Town in the State of Pennsylvania, November 8, 1793.

My Lord: Mr. Lear, The Gentleman who will have the honr. of putting this letter into your hands, I can venture, and therefore shall take the liberty, to introduce as worthy of your Lordships civilities. He has lived Seven or eight yrs. in my family as my private Secretary, and possesses a large share of my esteem and friendship. Commercial

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pursuits have taken him to Europe and a desire to visit some of the Manufacturing towns in Scotland carries him first to that Country. A wish while there to pay his respects to your Lordship, with whom he knows I have been in correspondence, must be my apology for recommending him to your notice especially as it will afford me a fresh occasion to assure you of the high esteem and respect with which I have the honor etc.19

19. Practically this same letter was written to Sir John Sinclair on November 8, and is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

"On Tuesday the 12th. Nov: 1 set out for Lebanon in the State of Pennsylvania, to view the canal &c. executing under the direction of Mr. Weston; return'd by way of Lancaster &c. and arrived at Germantown, from whence I set out, on Saturday 16th. November."—*Journal of the Proceedings of the President, in the Washington Papers*.

***To TOBIAS LEAR**

German Town, November 8, 1793.

My dear Sir: I arrived at this place at the time appointed, to wit: the 1st. inst but did not receive your letter of the 3d. until yesterday for want of a regul. Comn. with the P. Office and this too at a time when as you have well supposed I was immerced in the consideration of Papers from the different Departments after a seperation from the heads of them almost two Ms.

I have, however, run over your observations on the Potomac Navigation &ca &ca. and in a hasty manner, as I went along at the first reading made the notes and remarks which are returned with one of the copies.¹⁸ The Statement made by you in all other respects accord with my ideas of facts as far as a recolltn of them will enable me to pronounce; nor can I controvert by evidence even those which it would seem that I had queried by my remarks and especially if I could have had recourse to my papers. Had I more leizure I might have been more correct in some things but as the 10th. is the day appointed for your Sailing and

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that happening to be on a Sunday a chosen day by Sailors for commencing their Nautical movements I did not incline to miss the Post of this day to return your observations and to furnish the letters you have asked for.

It gives me sincere pleasure to hear that Lincoln continues well as I am sure it will do the family at Mount Vernon who must remain there until it is known what Congress will

18. A manuscript copy, by Lear, of his "Observations on the River Potomack—the Country about it—and the City of Washington," is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 3, 1793. Ford prints an extract from this letter, but dates it November 3.

do; for 'till then I move like a snail with everything on my back.

I do not *yet* know whether I shall get a substitute for William: nothing short of excellent qualities and a man of good appearance, would induce me to do it. and under my present view of the matter too, who would employ himself otherwise than William did; that is as a Butler as well as a Valette for my wants of the latter are so trifling that any man (as Willm. was) would soon be ruined by idleness who had only them to attend to. Having given these ideas, if your time will permit I should be glad if you would touch the man upon the strings I have mentioned, probe his character deeper, say what his age, appearance and Country is, what are his expectations and how he should be communicated with, if, upon a thorough investigation of matters you should be of opinion he would answer my purposes well for Kennedy is too little acquainted with the arrangement of a Table, and too stupid for a Butler, to be continued if I could get a better.

I once more, and I suppose for the last time before you sail, bid you adieu; my best wishes wherever you go will accompany you, for with much truth I am etc.

***To MARY ATLEE**

November 14, 1793.

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The President wishes Mrs. Atlee to be assured that, his disposition to prevent tears of distress from flowing, is far beyond his means to accomplish; and that he should be extremely happy if the latter were adequate to the numerous calls that are made upon the former. Mrs. Atlees case being entirely unknown to the President, Her application of course, is not well understood by him.²⁰

***To RICHARD CHICHESTER**

German Town, November 23, 1793.

Dear Sir: On the 21st. instt. I was favored with your letter of the 10th.

I am very sorry that so trivial a matter as that related in it, should have given you one moments pain. There must have been some misconception on the part of Colo. Burgess Ball if he understood that I had been informed it was you, who had killed my English Buck; for no such information that I can recollect ever was given to me. I had heard before the rect. of your letter but how, is more like a dream than

20. Washington has indorsed this draft "Mrs. or Miss Mary Atlee."

reality, that that particular Deer was killed on Ravensworth. Nor did I ever suppose that you would have been so unneighbourly as to kill any of my Deer knowing them to be such; but as they had broke out the Paddock in wch. they had been confined and were going at large, and besides consisted as well of Country as English Deer. I wished to protect them as much as I was able and upon that principle, and that alone, declined giving the permission you asked to hunt some of my Woods adjoining to yours, knowing that they did not confine themselves within my exterior fences, and moreover that, when Hounds are in pursuit, no person could distinguish them from the wild Deer of the Forest. I thank you for yr. kind wishes, and am sorry to hear you are in such bad health yourself and sincerely

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wish you may be restored to that which is good. My Compliments to your Lady and Mrs. McCarty and I am etc.

***To BURGESS BALL**

German Town, November 24, 1793.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 16th. Instant, from Leesburgh.

In answer to which, respecting the purchase of Buck Wheat, I send you a Bank note for two hundred dollars; being more disposed to give two and Six pence pt. Bushel in Loudoun than depend upon the

purchase here, and the uncertainty of getting it round in time. What the Waggonage of it to my house from thence (as fast as it is bought, for that I make a condition, in order that *no disappointment* may happen) will be, I know not; but with a view to place the matter upon an *absolute certainty* I had rather give three and Six pence for it, delivered at Mount Vernon, than encounter delay, or trust to contingencies; because, as it forms part of my System of Husbandry for the next year, a derangement of it would be a serious thing; for which reason, a small difference in the price can be no object when placed against the disconcertion of my plans: especially too, as I am persuaded you will purchase, and transport the B. Wht. for me on the best terms you can.

Four hundred and fifty bushels, or call it 500, is the quantity I shall want; and more money shall be sent to you as soon as I know your prospects, and the expenditures of what is now forwarded. For the reasons I have already assigned, I must encounter *no disappointment*; if therefore your prospects (as you proceed in this business) are not so flattering as those detailed in your letter, inform me of it in time, that I may supply myself from hence before the frost sets in.

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The malady with which Philadelphia has been sorely afflicted, has, it is said, entirely ceased; and all the Citizens are returning to their old habitations again. I took a house in this town when I first arrived here, and shall retain it until Congress get themselves fixed; altho I spend part of my time in the City.

Give my love to Mrs. Ball and Milly, and be assured of the sincere esteem etc.

[H. S. P.]

***To WILLIAM THORNTON**

Philadelphia, December 3, 1793.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 29th. Ulto. and thank you for your obliging offer to supply the office lately occupied by Mr. Lear. I am persuaded it would have been ably filled with your abilities, but previous to the departure of that Gentleman my arrangements were made in favor of Mr. Dandridge, who is now in the exercise of the Office of private Secretary to Sir Your etc.⁴³

***To RICHARD SNOWDEN**

Philadelphia, December 4, 1793.

Sir: I have received, and thank you for the first vol: of the American Revolution. I shall read it, I am persuaded, when my leizure will allow me with not less pleasure because it is "Written in the style of ancient history." I thank you also for the favorable sentiments and good wishes you have expressed for me, and am etc.⁴⁴

43. From the original in the *William Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

44. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York City.

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***To LUND WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, December 9, 1793.

Dr. Lund: Doctr. Tate⁴⁶ being among those who had fled from the City during raging of the Yellow fever I was unable to lay the statement of your case before him till his return when he sent the enclosed opinion with a request that I would read, and forward it to you.

As soon as I had done so, I sent Mr. Dandridge to his lodgings in order to desire him to proceed immediately to Alexandria in the Stage of this day without waiting to hear from you,

46. Dr. James Tate. He had been surgeon of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment, Continental Army.

but behold he had left town again not to return before Wednesday.

I thought it best, for the reasons he assigns to loose no time; and because I think his charge (even if his expences are added which I presume will be the case) is a very reasonable one for he cannot be absent much short of 15 days from his practice in these parts.

I shall repeat this request as soon as he returns, giving you notice of it in the meanwhile. My Complimts. to Mrs. Washington, and with every wish for your speedy and perfect recovery I am etc.⁴⁷

***To THOMAS PINCKNEY**

Philadelphia, December 12, 1793.

Dear Sir: You would oblige me by giving the letter and Roll⁵¹ herewith sent for Mr. Young a safe, and as speedy a conveyance as you can, without saddling him with Postage.

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Though I believe the enclosed letter from Mr. Keith Wray is little more than the child of imagination, I would, notwithstanding, thank you for directing one of your domestics to enquire into the truth of the information which it contains.

This letter will be handed to you by Mr.

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

51. Washington's plan of the Mount Vernon farms.

Willm. Morris, third Son of Mr. Robt. Morris, to whom for domestic occurrences of a private nature, I shall refer you, those of another kind you will, of course receive from the Secretary of State.

I pray you to offer my best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins to Mrs. Pinckney and accept assurances of the sincere esteem and regd. with which I am etc.⁵²

***To ARTHUR YOUNG**

Philadelphia, December 12, 1793.

Sir: I wrote to you three months ago, or more, by my late secretary and friend, Mr. Lear; but as his departure from this Country for Great Britain, was delayed longer than he or I expected, it is at least probable that that letter will not have reached your hands at a much earlier period than the one I am now writing.

At the time it was written, the thoughts which I am now about to disclose to you were not even in embryo; and whether, in the opinion of others, there be impropriety, or not, in communicating the object which has given birth to them, is not for me to decide. My own

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mind reproaches me with none, but if yours should view the subject differently, burn this letter and the draught which accompanies it, and the whole

52. The letter sent is in the possession of Louis Sherfesee, of Greenville, S.C. A photostat of it is in the Library of Congress.

matter will be consigned to oblivion.

All my landed property East of the Apalachian Mountains is under Rent, except the Estate called Mount Vernon. This, hitherto, I have kept in my own hands; but from my present situation; from my advanced time of my life; from a wish to live free from care, and as much at my ease as possible during the remainder of it; and from other causes which are not necessary to detail, I have, latterly, entertained serious thoughts of letting this estate also, reserving the Mansion house farm for my own residence, occupation, and amusement in agriculture; provided I can obtain what in my own judgment, and in the opinions of others whom I have consulted the low Rent which I shall mention hereafter; and provided also I can settle it with *good* farmers.

The quantity of ploughable land (including meadow); the relative situation of the farms one to another; and the division of these farms into seperate inclosures; with the quantity and situation of the Woodland appertaining to the tract, will be better delineated by the sketch herewith sent⁴⁹ (which is made from actual surveys, subject nevertheless to revision and correction) than by a volume of words.

No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this. It lyes in a high, dry and healthy Country 300 miles by water from the Sea, and, as you will see by the plan, on one of the finest Rivers in the world. its margin is washed by more than ten miles of tide water; from the bed of which, and the enumerable coves, inlets and small marshes with wch. it abounds, an inexhaustible fund of rich mud may be drawn as a manure; either to be used

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seperately, or in a compost, according to the judgment of the farmer. It is situated in a latitude between the extremes of heat and cold, and is the same

49. Washington seems to have had several copies of this sketch map of his farms, and the Huntington Library has the only one known to have survived. The map reproduced by Sparks (*Writings of Washington*, vol. 12, p. 316) is an engraving from the original and not a facsimile. Sparks substituted, in his engraving, a map tide for the table of areas of the farms which Washington placed in the upper right-hand corner of his map. Sparks prints this table at the end of his text of this letter to Young. The Huntington map has been facsimiled in Lawrence Martin's *George Washington Atlas*, published by the United States Bicentennial Commission, 1932.

distance by land and water, with good roads and the best navigation (to and) from the Federal City, Alexandria, and George town; distant from the first twelve, from the second nine, and from the last sixteen miles. The federal City in the year 1800 will become the seat of the general Government of the United States. It is encreasing fast in buildings, and rising into consequence; and will, I have no doubt, from the advantages given to it by nature, and its proximity to a rich interior country, and the western territory, become the emporium of the United States. The Soil of the tract I am speaking [of], is a good loam, more inclined however to Clay than Sand. From use, and I might add abuse, it is become more and more consolidated, and of course heavier to work. The *greater* part is a greyish day; some part is a dark mould; a very little is inclined to sand; and scarcely any to stone. A husbandman's wish would not lay the farms more level than they are, and yet some of the fields (but in no great degree) are washed into gullies, from which all of them have not, as yet, been recovered.

This River, which encompasses the land the distance abovementioned, is well supplied with various kinds of fish at all Seasons of the year; and in the Spring with the greatest profusion of Shad, Herring, Bass, Carp, Perch, Sturgeon &ca. Several valuable fisheries appertain to the estate; the whole shore in short is one entire fishery.

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There are, as you will perceive by the plan, four farms besides that at

the Mansion house: these four contain 3260 acres of cultivable land; to which some hundreds more, adjoining, as may be seen, might be added, if a greater quantity should be required; but as they were never designed for, so neither can it be said they are calculated to suit tenants of either the first, or of the lower class; because those who have the strength and resources proportioned to farms of from 500 to 1200 acres (which these contain) would hardly be contented to live in such houses as are thereon; and if they were to be divided and subdivided, so as to accommodate tenants of small means, say from 50 to one or 200 acres, there would be none; except on the lots which might happen to include the present dwelling-houses of my Overlookers (called Bailiffs with you), Barns, and Negro Cabins. Nor would I chuse to have the woodland (already too much pillaged of its timber) ransacked, for the purpose of building many more. The soil, howevr, is excellent for Bricks, or for Mud walls; and to the buildings of such houses there wd. be no limitation, nor to that of thatch for the cover of them.

The towns already mentioned (to those who might incline to encounter the expence) are able to furnish scantling, plank, and shingles to any amount, and on reasonable terms; and they afford a ready market also for the produce of the land.

On what is called Union farm (containing 928 acres of arable and Meadow) there is a newly erected Brick Barn equal perhaps to any in America, and for conveniences of all sorts, particularly for sheltering and feeding horses, cattle, &c., scarcely to be exceeded anywhere. A new house is now building in a central position, not

far from the Barn, for the Overlooker; which will have two Rooms 16 by 18 feet below and one or two above nearly of the same size. Convenient thereto is sufficient accommodation for fifty odd Negroes (old and young) but these buildings might not be thought good enough for the workmen or day labourers of your Country.

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Besides these, a little without the limits of the farm (as marked in the Plan) are one or two other houses very pleasantly situated; and which, in case this farm should be divided into two (as it formerly was) would answer well for the Eastern division. The buildings thus enumerated are all that stand on the premises.

Dogue run farm (650 acres) has a small but new building for the Overlooker; one room only below, and the same above, 16 by 20 each; decent and comfortable for its size. It has also covering for forty odd negroes, similar to what is mentioned on Union farm. It has a new circular barn now finishing on a new construction; well calculated, it is conceived, for getting grain out of the straw more expeditiously than in the usual mode of threshing. There are good sheds also erecting, sufficient to cover 30 work horses and Oxen.

Muddy hole farm (476 acres) has a house for the Overlooker, in size and appearance nearly like that at Dogue run; but older The same kind of covering for about thirty negroes, and a tolerably good barn, with stables for the work horses.

River farm which is the largest of the four, and seperated from the others

by little hunting Creek, (contains 1207 acres of ploughable land), has an Overlookers Ho. of one large and two small rooms below, and one or two above; sufficient covering for 50 or 60 Negroes like those before mentioned. A large barn and stables (gone much to decay, but these will be replaced next year with new ones).

I have deemed it necessary to give this detail of the buildings that a precise idea might be had of the conveniences and inconveniences of them; and I believe the recital is just in all its parts. The Inclosures are precisely, and accurately delineated in the plan; and the fences now are, or soon will be, in respectable order.

I would let these four farms to four substantial farmers, of wealth and strength sufficient to cultivate them; and who would insure to me the regular payment of the Rents; and I would give them leases for seven or ten years, at the rate of a Spanish milled dollar, or other

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money current at the time, in this country, equivalent thereto, for every acre of ploughable and mowable ground within the Inclosures of the respective farms, as marked in the plan; and would allow the tenants during that period to take fuel; and use timber from the Woodland to repair the buildings and to keep the fences in order; until live fences could be substituted in place of dead ones; but in this case, no sub-tenants would be allowed.

Or if these farms are adjudged too large, and the Rents of course too heavy for such farmers as might incline to emigrate, I should have no insuperable objection against dividing each into as many small ones as a society of them, formed for the purpose, could

agree upon among themselves; even if it shd. be by the fields as they are now arranged (which the plan would enable them to do), provided such buildings as they would be content with, should be erected at their own expence, in the manner already mentioned. In which case as in the former, fuel, and timber for repairs, would be allowed; but as an inducement to parcel out my grounds into such small tenements, and to compensate me at the same time for the greater consumption of fuel and timber, and for the trouble and expence of collecting small Rents, I should expect a quarter of a dollar pr. acre in addition to what I have already mentioned. But in order to make these small farms more valuable to the occupants, and by way of reimbursing them for the expence of their establishment thereon, I would grant them leases for 15 or 18 years; although I have weighty objections to the measure, founded on my own experience of the disadvantage it is to the Lessor, in a Country where lands are rising every year in value. As an instance in proof, about 20 years ago I gave leases for three lives, in land I held above the blue Mountains, near the Shanondoah River, Seventy miles from Alexandria or any shipping port, at a Rent of one shilling pr. Acre (no part being then cleared) and now land of similar quality in the vicinity, with very trifling improvements thereon, is renting currently at five and more shillings pr. acre, and even as high as 8/.

My motives for letting this estate having been avowed, I will add, that the whole, (except the Mansion house farm) or none, will

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be parted with, and that upon unequivocal terms; because my object is to fix my income (be it what it may) upon a solid basis in the hands of *good* farmers; because I am not inclined to make a medley of it; and above all, because I could not relinquish my present course without a moral certainty of the substitute which is contemplated: for to break up these farms, remove my Negroes, and dispose of the property on them upon terms short of this would be ruinous.

Having said thus much, I am disposed to add further, that it would be in my power, and certainly it would be my inclination (upon the principle above) to accommodate the wealthy, or the weak handed farmer (and upon reasonable terms) with draught-horses, and working mules and Oxen; with cattle, Sheep and Hogs; and with such implements of husbandry if they should not incline to bring them themselves, as are in use on the farms. On the four farms there are 54 draught-horses, 12 working Mules, and a sufficiency of Oxen, broke to the yoke; the precise number I am unable this moment to ascertain, as they are comprehended in the aggregate of the black cattle. Of the latter there are 317. Of sheep 634. Of hogs many, but as these run pretty much at large in the Woodland (which is all under fence) the number is uncertain. Many of the Negroes, male and female, might be hired by the year as labourers, if this should be preferred to the importation of that class of people; but it deserves consideration how far the mixing of whites and blacks together is advisable; especially where the former, are entirely unacquainted with the latter.

If there be those who are disposed to take these farms in their undivided State,

on the terms which have been mentioned; it is an object of sufficient magnitude for them, or one of them in behalf of the rest, to come over and investigate the premises thoroughly, that there may be nothing to reproh themselves or me with if (though unintentionally) there should be defects in any part of the information herein given; or if a society of farmers are disposed to adventure, it is still more incumbent on them to send over an Agent for the purposes abovementioned: for with me the measure must be so fixed as to preclude any cavil or discussion thereafter. And it may not be malapropos to observe in this place,

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that our Overlookers are generally engaged, and all the arrangements for the ensuing crops are made before the first of September in every year; it will readily be perceived then, that if this period is suffered to pass away, it is not to be regained until the next year. Possession might be given to the New comers at the Season just mentioned to enable them to put in their grain for the next Crop; but the final relinquishment could not take place until the Crops are gathered; which, of Indian Corn (maiz) seldom happens 'till towards Christmas as it must endure hard frosts before it can be safely housed.

I have endeavoured as far as my recollection of facts would enable me, or the documents in my possession allow, to give such information of the actual state of the farms as to enable persons at a distance to form as distinct ideas as the nature of the thing is susceptible short of ones own view, and having communicated the motives which have inclined me to a change in my system, I will announce to you the origin of them.

First: Few Ships, of late, have arrived from any part of G: Britain or Ireland without a number of emigrants, and some of them, by report, very respectable and full handed farmers. A number of others they say, are desirous of following; but are unable to obtain passages; but their coming in that manner, even if I was apprised of their arrival in time, would not answer my views for the reason already assigned; and which, as it is the ultimatum at present, I will take the liberty of repeating, namely: that I must carry my plan into *complete* execution or not attempt it; and under such auspices too as to leave no doubt of the exact fulfilment; and,

2dly: because from the number of letters which I have received myself (and as it would seem from respectable people) enquiring into matters of this sort, with intimations of their wishes and even intentions of migrating to this Country, I can have no doubt of succeeding. But I have made no reply to these enquiries, or if any, in very general terms, because I did not want to engage in corrispondences of this sort with persons of whom I had no knowledge, nor indeed leisure for them if I had been so disposed.

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I shall now conclude as I begun, with a desire, that if you see any impropriety in making these sentiments known to that class of people who might wish to avail themselves of the occasion, that it may not be mentioned. By a law, or by some regulation of your government, Artisans I am well aware, are laid under restraints; and for this reason I have studiously avoided any overtures to Mechanics although my occasions

called for them. But never having heard that difficulties were thrown in in the way of Husbandmen by the Government, is one reason for my bringing this matter to your view; a 2d is, that having, yourself expressed sentiments which showed that you had cast an eye towards this Country, and was not inattentive to the welfare of it, I was led to make my intentions known to you, that if you, or your friends were disposed to avail yourselves of the knowledge, you might take prompt measures for the execution. and 3dly. I was sure if you had lost sight of the object yourself, I could, nevertheless rely upon such information, as you might see fit to give me, and upon such characters too as you might be disposed to recommend.

Lengthy as this epistle is, I will crave your patience while I add, that it is written in too much haste, and under too great a pressure of public business at the commencement of an important session of Congress to be correct or properly digested. But the season of the year, and the apprehension of Ice are hurrying away the last vessel bound from this Port to London. I am driven therefore to the alternative of making the matter known in this hasty manner, and giving a rude sketch of the farms, which is the subject of it, or to encounter delay, the first I preferred. It can hardly be necessary to add, that I have no desire that any formal promulgation of these sentiments should be made.

To accomplish my wishes, in the manner herein expressed, would be agreeable to me; and in a way that cannot be exceptionable wd be more so. With much esteem etc.50

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

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***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Philadelphia, December 25, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 18th. instt. enclosing a statement of sales of lots in Coxburgh, belonging to us, has been duly received; and I thank you for the particular manner in which they are rendered. I did not mean to give you so much trouble; to know summarily what had been sold and what remained on hand, was all I had in view.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of a Bank note (New York) for Sixteen hundred and fifty nine 50/100 dollars being the Balle. pr. acct. stated on the sales above mentioned.

Mrs. Washington joins me in offering you, Mrs. Clinton and family the compliments of the Season and the happy return of many, many of them. With great and sincere friendship I am etc.

***To CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE READ⁶⁵**

Philadelphia, December 26, 1793.

Dear Sir: Two of the unhappy female fugitives from St. Domingo have (as you will see by the enclosed letters) laid their distresses before me; which, if true in the degree they have stated, merits much commiseration. But I have received so many applications of a similar nature and some of them from Imposters, that I find

65. Read was then chief justice of Delaware.

it necessary to guard what little relief I am able to afford, against imposition. For this reason, and because I am not well acquainted with any other Gentleman in Newcastle (from whence the letters came) I have taken the liberty of putting my answer to them, under cover to you, open, that if upon enquiry the authors are found to merit relief it may

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be sealed and handed to them, if on the other hand it should prove a fictitious tale it may be returned to me.

I will make no apology for giving you this trouble because, to be employed in acts of humanity cannot, I am sure, be disagreeable to such a mind as yours. With very great etseem etc.⁶⁶

***To MADAMES LAURENT DE SAXIJ AND LAURENT DE VERNEUIL**

Philadelphia, December 26, 1793.

Madames: I have been favored with your letters of the 6th. and 10th. of the present month, but not in due time.

I wish my resources were equal to the relief of the distresses which you, and many others under like circumstances have described. But the truth is, my private purse is inadequate, and there is no public money at my disposal.

Such as the first was competent

⁶⁶. From a photostat of the original presented by the Hon. Richard S. Rodney, of Wilmington, Del.

to, I placed early in the hands of a Committee in this City, to be disposed of for the benefit of the unfortunate Sufferers from St. Domingo whose necessities were greatest and means least.

I preferred this mode of contributing my mite, 1st. because it was not in my power to enquire into the degree of individual wants; 2dly. because I did not possess the means of administering to them in the extent which might be required. and 3dly. to guard against impositions, several of which had been attempted with success.

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In almost every City and large Town in the United States, Committees similar to the one I have already mentioned, are established. To the one nearest you, I should conceive it might be well to make your case known. In the meanwhile to supply your momentary wants I send you Twenty five dollars in Bank notes.

With very poignant feelings for the distress you describe yourselves to be in I am etc.

***To REVEREND WILLIAM WHITE**

(Private)

Philadelphia, December 31, 1793.

Dear Sir: It has been my intention ever since my return to the City, to contribute my mite towards the relief of the *most* needy Inhabitants of it. The pressure of public business hitherto, has suspended, but not altered my resolution. I am at a loss, however, for whose benefit to apply the little I can give, and into whose hands to place it; whether for the use of the fatherless

children and widows (made so by the late calamity) who may find it difficult, whilst Provisions, Wood and other necessaries are so dear, to support themselves; or to other and better purpose (if any) I know not and therefore have taken the liberty of asking your advice.

I persuade myself justice will be done my motives for giving you this trouble. To obtain information, and to render the little I can afford without ostentation or mention of my name are the sole objects of these enquiries. With great and sincere esteem &c.

***To REVEREND WILLIAM WHITE**

Philadelphia, January 1, 1794.

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Dr. Sir: I have been favoured with two notes from you of this date; the last, in time to prevent the mistake which the first would have led me into.

The mode which you have suggested for imparting the small pittance my resources will enable me to contribute towards the comfort of the needy in this City appears to be a very eligible one, and as you have been so obliging as to offer to place it in proper hands, for this purpose, I take the liberty of enclosing 250 dollars.

I have no desire that my name should be mentioned; if so small a sum can effect any good purpose my object will be answered, and all my

wishes respecting it gratified.

I offer you the compliments of the season, and the happy return of many of them, and the sincere respects and regard of Yr. etc.

***To REVEREND WILLIAM WHITE**

Thursday Morning, January 2, 1794.

The President presents his respectful regards to Doctor White. The benefit to be derived, and not the merit of bestowing it, is the only motive which has governed in the case, wch. has been the subject of this correspondence. of course, to know from whence it flowed ought not to be an object of enquiry, and as to conjectures they are very immaterial; however, as Doctr. White has a delicacy on the subject the P— did not intend nor would by any means wound it, he therefore leaves it to him (knowing the motives) to accompany the contribution with such explanations as he shall think proper.

***To JAMES MADISON**

Friday, January 10, 1794.

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Dear Sir: Herewith you will receive sundry Pamphlets &c. under the patronage of Sir John Sinclair. I send you letters to me also, that the design may be better understood. From all these, you will be able to decide, whether a plan of enquiry similar to the one set on foot in G. Brim., would be likely to meet legislative or other encouragement, and of what kind, in this Country.

These, or any other ideas which may result from the perusal of the papers, I would thank you for, as the letters remain unacknowledged, and the writer of them will expect this, if nothing more.⁷⁵

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

To JOHN COWPER

Philadelphia, January 27, 1794.

Sir: Just before I left Mount Vernon in October last, I wrote to you respecting the discharge of a bond of yours assigned to me by Mr. John Lewis, for £146.13.4. payable with interest the 18 day of May 93; but as I have not heard from you on the subject I presume the letter never reached your hands.

My want of money urges me, Sir, to beg that you will cause the bond to be discharged with all convenient dispatch. I am etc.⁸³

To JOHN COWPER

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1793.

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Sir: I have in my possession a bond of yours assigned to me by Mr. Jno. Lewis, for £146. 13. 4d., payable with interest the 18 day of May last. I should be glad if you would cause it to be discharged as soon as convenient, as I am in want of the money.

Tomorrow I shall leave this for the vicinity of Philada. The money may be sent by any of the Delegates of this State; or in and other manner more convenient to yourself. I am etc.10

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

On January 28 Washington wrote to Charles Simms, of Alexandria, sending money to pay his account. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

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

***To CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY**

(Confidential)

Philadelphia, January 22, 1794.

My dear Sir: Although I am not encouraged by the joint letter which I had the honor to receive from you, and our friend Mr. E. Rutledge (under date of the 12th of June 1791); yet, in a measure to which I am strongly prompted both by judgment and inclination, I am unable to restrain myself from making a second application to you, similar to the former one.

I have cause to believe that, the private concerns of the Gentleman who is now at the head of the department of War, will occasion his resignation of that Office, unless imperious circumstances (which heaven avert) should force us into a War with any of the

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Belligerent Powers, and, under such circumstances, he should hold it dishonorable to retreat from his Post.

Towards, or at, the close of the present Session of Congress (which is hardly to be expected before April, if then) this event if it takes place is likely to happen. Will you, upon this hypothesis, allow me to indulge a hope that you would fill his place? It is not for the mere detail duties of the Office I am in pursuit of a character. These might be well executed by a less important one than yours but as the Officer who is at the head of that department is a branch of the Executive, and called to its Councils upon interesting questions of National importance he ought to be a man, not only of competent skill in the science of War, but possessing a general knowledge of political

subjects, of known attachment to the Government we have chosen, and of proved integrity. To whom then can I turn my eyes with more propriety than on you? I mean not to compliment, but to express the real sentiments of my heart.⁸⁰

The intention of writing this letter, and the purport of it, is unknown to any one but myself; the result may be equally so; since it is placed upon a hypothetical base, and declared to be confidential. No more therefore than you chuse need be disclosed until the event which has given rise to the application shall have taken place, although it is essential I should know in the meanwhile on what ground I rest; without which inconveniences might result from the vacancy of the Office. With much truth and sincerity I am &c.

***To RICHARD PETERS**

January 28, 1794.

Dear Sir: I thank you for keeping in mind my request concerning Oats. For Seed I wanted them. The purchase depends upon three things, yea four: 1st. the quality; 2d. the time they could be delivered in this City; and 3d. the certainty of a passage round to Potomac. 4th. not having yet heard from my Manager, how much he requires, I cannot be precise myself.

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All therefore I would further request of you *at present* , is to ascertain where I could be supplied if under these uncertainties I should, hereafter, ask your assistance in procuring them. Yours etc.

80. Pinckney declined the offer from “circumstances not in my power to controul.” His letter, dated Feb. 24, 1794, is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN HAMILTON MOORE

Philadelphia, January 28, 1794.

Sir: I have received, and pray you to accept my best thanks for, “The New practical Navigation”, which you had the goodness to send me, and also for my share of the honor of your address. I am etc.⁸³

***To JAMES KEITH**

Philadelphia, January 29, 1794.

Dear Sir: The enclosed came to my hands a few days ago; the means are also enclosed to discharge Colo. Simms' account, and to receive his acquittal. I would thank you to get from him, and forward to me, Mr. Lees charge also; that my Administration of the Estate of Colo. Colvill may be finally closed, and the balance deposited somewhere for the benefit of the residuary legatees.

That I may be better able to decide upon the latter point, I would thank you for an extract of that part of Colo. Thorns. Colvills Will (or the Will itself, as I presume it is no longer of any use to you) which makes this devise; and for *all* the claims, proofs, &ca. which have been handed to his Executors in consequence thereof; and which were deposited (to the best of my recollection) with you along with the other papers. I am etc.

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PS. Are there not some parts of Colo. Simms charge which ought to be paid, or at least repaid by the defendants?

[N.Y.P.L.]

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

On January 28 Washington wrote to Charles Simms, of Alexandria, sending money to pay his account. This letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

To AUGUSTE DE GRASSE

Philadelphia, January 29, 1794.

Sir: The President of the United States has been made acquainted, by a letter from you, with the situation in which you and, your family are at Charleston. Such representations are daily made to him from various parts of the United States, by your Countrymen, in the same unfortunate predicament with yourself. No man feels more for your distresses than the President, nor is any one more willing to contribute to their alleviation, than he is. In fact, he has done this as far or perhaps further, than the resources of which he is possessed would strictly justify, having no public fund which he is authorised to apply to these objects, his private purse is inadequate to satisfy the deplorable cases which are brought before him by letters and otherwise, for relief. The subject

has been before the Legislature of the U.S. now in Session here, and it is expected they will appropriate a sum for the immediate relief, in some degree, of the necessities of the unfortunate fugitives from St. Domingo.⁸⁴ Should an Act be passed to this effect, it is hoped that your case, among others, will be embraced thereby. The President directs me to assure you, Sir, that it is not from a want of inclination to serve you, or of sympathy for your accumulated distresses, that he gives you this answer, but from his real inability to afford you relief. I am etc.⁸⁵

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***To BURGESS BALL**

Philadelphia, February 3, 1794.

Dear Sir: In due course of the Posts I have received your letters of the 17th. of December and 21st. of the last month; and congratulate you on the birth of a Son, and the passage of your family through the Small Pox.

As you had acknowledged the receipt of the needful for purchasing the Buck Wheat, and had assured me that no disappointment should follow, I have not given you the trouble of a letter until now, since I wrote from German Town; and now, principally to beg that the Buck Wheat may be got down in time for early sowing; the present frost being favorable for transportation.

I have procured for you, and it shall

84. Such an act was passed by Congress, February 10, and approved by the President February 12.

85. Signed "Bw: Dandridge, S. P. U States," in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

be sent with my own by the first vessel to Alexandria, three bushels of Clover seed which appears to be clean, and warranted fresh. It will cost delivered at Alexandria about eight dollars a bushel. It shall be directed to the care of Colo. Gilpin to whom my own things will be consigned; as the Captn. is not at liberty to land any part of his Cargo before he arrives at the Port to which he is bound. No opportunity has offered since the first frost (in december) set in, or both yours and mine would have gone e'er this. To say now when they will go is more than I am able, as the Delaware is closed, and navigation at an end until there comes a thaw.

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With this letter is enclosed a box containing bracelets &ca. for Mrs. Ball, wch. I hope will get safe to hand, as I have directed them to the particular care of the Postmaster in Alexandria. Mrs. Washington and the family, join me in every good wish for you, Mrs. Ball and Miss Milly, ff with you, and with Affectionate regard I am etc.

PS. As soon as you have ascertained the amount of cost and charges of the Buck Wheat delivered at M. Vern. let me know it, and I will remit what may be due on the Acct. The freight of the Clover Seed from hence to Alexandria, as well as the first cost of it will be paid here.⁸⁷

87. From the original in the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.

***To WILLIAM WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, February 9, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 6th. Ult. by way of New York, has been lately received; That you should be without any of my letters in answer to your former favors, is matter of extreme surprize to me, as the receipt of them had been regularly acknowledged.

The Bill on Mr. Bell of this City for six hundred and seventy eight dollars and 64/100 came safe to my hands, and was punctually paid. Of this I wrote you, altho' the letter has never it seems been received.

Previous thereto, I had informed you (about this time twelve month, if I recollect rightly) that as it was improper to travel the Jack⁸⁹ in the winter Season, and moreover, as he could not be got to Mount Vernon in *time* nor in *order* for covering the ensuing Spring, I requested you to keep him in So. Carolina and do for me in the case as if you were acting for yourself, until he could be removed more advantageously: and now, in answer to your last letter of the 6th. of Jany., requesting to know if those who have sent Mares a second time to Royal Gift with no better success than they met with the first time shou'd pay for

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those wch. do not bring foal ? I shall, under *my present view* of the subject answer No provided you are satisfied they have not cast them because in that case the failure is not in the Jack. But in this, as in everything else which relates to the Jack, do as (I have before requested) the same

89. Royal Gift.

for me as you would for yourself and I shall be perfectly satisfied.

His covering, while he stood at Mount Vernon was very sure; for no mare that went to him, scarcely ever missed; nor was he ever lame before he left that place; but from accounts which I have received from some Gentlemen in Virginia he was most abominably treated on the journey by the man to whom he was entrusted; for instead of moving him slowly and steadily along as he ought, he was prancing (with the Jack) from one public meeting, or place to another in a gate which could not but prove injurious to an Animal who had hardly ever been out of a walk before, and afterwards, I presume, (in order to recover lost time) pushed him beyond what he was able to bear all the remainder of the journey. However, there is no remedy now for what has happened, but if he should get over his present disorder, and recover his flesh again, he may yet be a useful and valuable animal as he will not (if he lives) be past his prime these fifteen or twenty years yet such is the⁹⁰ longevity of this species of animal. I was glad to hear from Mr. Izard that he had got one very fine mule from two mares which he had sent to Royal Gift; from thence I entertained a hope that he might be growing better; be this however as it may, I would thank you for giving me advice from time to time of his condition, that I may be enabled thereby to take measures accordingly. In the meanwhile, I entreat you to derive all the advantages you can from him to your own mares, without

90. Washington inadvertently wrote "their."

entertaining an idea of making compensation for it.

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Offer if you please my best respects to Mrs. Washington, and be assured of the sincere esteem and regard with which I am etc.

To JOSHUA GALE

Philadelphia, February 13, 1794.

Sir: I received your Letter of the 8th of December, a few days ago only.

My lowest price for the Land I hold on the North River, in Gloucester County, in Virginia, is one thousand pounds, estimating dollars at six shillings. about this sum the land actually stands me in at this moment, and I shall advance the price in proportion, at least to the interest of the above sum, at anytime hereafter.

If credit is required, it may be obtained for two, three, or four years, paying Interest on the purchase money. I am etc.⁹¹

***To BUSHROD WASHINGTON**

Philadelphia, February 23, 1794.

Dear Bushrod: Your letter of the 13th. instt. with the enclosures, came duly to hand.

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

I thank you for draughting the answer which I have put my signature to; and with the Bill, now return it to you.

If I mistake not, my renunciation of the executorship of Colo. Fairfax's Will already stands on record in the Genl. Court, on some former occasion; be this however as it may, I have always refused and never intended, directly nor indirectly to have any agency in the Administration of the affairs of that Estate.

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It gives me much pleasure to hear, through a variety of Channels, that you are becoming eminent, and respectable in the Law. In this, and every transaction of your life, let honor and probity be your polar star. Your Aunt and all here join me in best regards for you and Nancy and be assured of the Affecte. regard and friendship of

To CHARLES SIMMS

Philadelphia, February 24, 1794.

Dear Sir: Near a month ago, I wrote you to this effect "that the letter therein enclosed to Mr. Keith furnished the means of discharging your claim upon me as Executor of Col. Colvill's will, requesting you to deliver, or send it by a safe hand to him." The letter for Mr. Keith contain'd a request of some papers to be forwarded to me, which I then was, and still am in want of.

Since writing these letters I have

heard from neither of you. My Letter to Mr. Keith contained bank notes, and half a guinea to the *exact* amount of your account. No accident has happened to any of the mails since that period; delay therefore cannot be ascrib'd to *that* cause, and without it I am at a loss to account for his silence, and would thank you for information. I am etc.⁴

***To REVEREND JAMES MUIR**

Philadelphia, February 24, 1794.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 12 inst., and will direct my manager Mr. Pearce to pay my annual donation for the education of Orphan Children, or the children of indigent parents, who are unable to be at the expence themselves.

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I had pleasure in appropriating this money to such uses, as I always shall in that of paying it. I confess, however, I should derive satisfaction from knowing what children have heretofore received the benefit of it, and who now are in the enjoyment thereof.

Never, since the commencement of this institution, have I received the least information (except in a single instance, on this head); although application for it to individuals has been frequently made. As you, Sir, appear to be in the exercise of this trust, let me pray you to have the goodness to gratify this wish of mine.⁷ With respect, I am etc.⁸

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

7. Muir, in answer (March 3), stated that "J[ohn] Wiley went from this School, whose improvement has been such that Dr. D. Stewart I am told has employed him as a Tutor to his Children. Thomas Sanford, Son of a widow in Town has finished his education here with much applause. At present the School consists of 1 John Smith, of indigent parents, who is attentive, and makes progress. 2 Thomas Lowe, an Orphan, who improves. 3 Samuel Benton, his mother a widow, an indigent, his diligence is commendable 4. John Carey an orphan. 5 Henry Mars, an Orphan. These two have attended III during the winter, being badly Clothed. 6 James Grimes, of indigent Parents, he is regular in his attendance and studious. 7 Thomas Pindal, his father dead, has fallen from easy to needy circumstances. 8 John [and] 9 Mary Farmer a widow's Children. Both have made great progress in reading, writing and Ciphering, and are very deserving. 10 Mary Stewart daughter of an Indigent widow, her progress is considerable. 11 William [and] 14 John Moore children of a widow beginning Spelling only and their letters. 13 William [and] 14 Benjamin Moxley, their mother a widow, a few miles from Town, the children attend well, and begin to learn." Muir's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

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

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“E. Randolph has the honor of informing the President, that the message of to-day. appears to have given general satisfaction. Mr. M—d—n in particular thinks it will have a good effect. He asked me, whether an extract could not have been given from Mr. Morris's letter; upon my answering, that there were some things interwoven with the main subject, which ought not to be promulgated, he admitted, that the discretion of the President was always to be the guide.”— *Randolph to Washington*, Feb. 24, 1794. Randolph's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To ANGELL & SULLIVAN⁹ AND SAMUEL HANSON¹⁰

Philadelphia, February 26, 1794.

By direction of the President of the Ud. States, I transmit you an advertisement of his Jack's and Stud-horse; with a request from him, that you will be so good as to insert it in your paper during four weeks, omitting it one week and inserting it another alternately.

The cost attending the above will be paid, as soon as made known by you. I am etc.¹¹

To JOHN COWPER

Philadelphia, March 9, 1794.

Sir: After waiting several months from the time your bond, dated the 18 of May 1791, for £146.13.4. became due, to see if (without reminding you thereof) you would make payment, I hardly expected, when application was made, to learn that I was yet to wait many months more for the money. As this, however, is the case, and you ask, “whether I chuse the payment to be made in Philadelphia, should you be as late as the last of June next in making it,” my answer, and wish is, that this may be the case, unless you have other advice from me in the meanwhile.

I never heard, before the receipt

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9. James Angell and Paul James Sullivan. They were publishers of *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*.

10. Publisher of *The Columbian Chronicle*, Georgetown, D.C.

11. This letter is signed "Bw. Dandridge" in the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of your letter, of the claim of Jethro Ballard Esq: to any part of the land¹⁴ which was bought of Mr. Marmaduke Norfleet; nor can I easily conceive that such a claim is founded in equity. For I recollect *well* that all the *disputable* part of it, which was known to him, was given up. My opinion therefore is, that before any more of it is relinquished, he, or his heirs ought to be consulted; as they are certainly liable for any loss that may be sustained.

It appears a little extraordinary, that a claim of this sort should not have been known by Mr. Norfleet; nor by Colo. Lewis and myself, whilst we had possession of the plantation, was shewn, and always viewed the contested spot as part of the premises, if Mr. Ballard was the proprietor thereof in virtue of an elder patent, especially as I am very confident the lines and corners comprehending it, were ascertained to us by Mr. Norfleet at the moment he announced a dispute in another part, which, as I have before mentioned, was given up with his consent, rather than embark in a contest.

It is, however, the business of Mr. Jno. Lewis (from whom you purchased the land or rather with whom you made the agreement) to examine into this matter; for I have not time, nor will my situation allow me to do it, and further because the land was disposed of contrary to my judgment, and given into, merely to accommodate the demands on his father's Estate. I am etc.¹⁵

14. In Dismal Swamp.

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

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***To WILLIAM HERBERT**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1794.

Dear Sir: The only unsettled matter in my Administration of the estate of Colo. Thos. Colvill, is a bond of one Sidney George, of Maryland. A Mr. Chalmers (now of London) who was directed to institute a suit in chancery in this case, and who has been written to on the subject, thinks, as he was in the habit of corresponding with Colo. Carlyle about that time (1774) there may be found some letter of his, or account, relative to the payment of £100 to Mr. Jno. West in part of this Bond.

You would oblige me very much by examining, and giving me information on this head as soon as it is convenient to you, as I am now about to decide something with Mr. George respecting this bond. With great esteem and regd. I am etc.

***To WILLIAM TILGHMAN**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 1st. instr. with it's enclosures, I have duly received.

I shall, by this days Post, write to the representative of Colo. Carlyle (agreeably to the suggestion in Mr. Chalmers's letter)

to know if he (Mr. Herbert) can throw any light upon the payment of £100 which Mr. Chalmers conceives he must have made on acct. of Mr. Sidney George's Bond. When I receive the answer it shall be forwarded to you. 'Till then the draught on Mr. Chalmers may be suspended.

I have no other object in this business than to bring every thing which relates to it to a speedy and equitable close so far as it respects the parties interested, and to a justifiable one as it concerns myself. On these principals I should hope Mr. George would not

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require (having an attested copy of it) the original bond in the possession of Mr. Chalmers; especially as the receipt for the money might recite a statement of the fact, for his indemnification.

It is of moment, however, to me, to have it ascertained whether the sum of £100 reed. by Mr. Chalmers, and the bond due from Mr. George for the payment of £90 ought not to be discharged with interest. The Administration accts. which have been settled will shew that interest has been paid by the estate of Colo. Colvill (Miss Andersons is an instance of it) and judgments in behalf of the estate have been obtained, in Virginia, with interest. To act safely is all I aim at, for I neither gain or lose by the transaction. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To JOHN FRANCIS MERCER**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1794.

Sir: I have lately received from Mr. Gwinn Clerk of the Genl. Court at Annapolis a Deed which has been enrolled in that Office from yourself and Lady, Doctr. Stuart and Lady and Miss Sprigg, to me.

As this is not the deed which you and Mrs. Mercer executed in Philadelphia, and nearly a year posterior in date, I am at a loss to acct. for these changes; and should be glad to be informed of the reasons which have induced them. Whether the present differs materially, or in any thing from the former, I am unable to decide; not having the means of comparing them. In date they do essentially.

No record of the Survey is annexed to the deed, which (a reference being made to it) induces me to believe is imperfect, without; especially as the *division* of the Manor may be more of a private, than public act. On this subject, however, I shall write to Mr. Gwinn.

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Your draught in favor of Dr. Smart was paid at sight. I am etc.

***To JOHN GWINN**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1794.

Sir: In due course of Post I was favoured with your letter of the 25th. Jany., with the deed which it enclosed from Colo. Mercer and others, to me. This deed refers to a Survey of the Manor of Woodstock (in the year 1782) and to a division thereof made by Hezekiah Veatch, assistant surveyor of Montgomery County, on the 2d. day of January 1793.

The latter (in the body of the deed) is said to be recorded. It is essentially necessary indeed that it should be so. But neither the original, nor a copy thereof was forwarded to me. This induces me to give you the trouble of informing me, whether the above Survey of Mr. Veatch is admitted to record; and, in that case, that you would be so good as to furnish me with, either the original, or an attested copy thereof from your Office. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

***To ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1794.

Dear Sir: To the best of my recollection, when you paid me for my flour of last year, you asked the refusal of it this year.

By the report from my Mill, I perceive about 3,000 bushels of Wheat has been manufactured; but how much flour it has made, and of what sort, I am yet to learn. If you incline to purchase what there is, let me know the best price you will give; or to make the matter short, and to save time, you may have the Superfine (if any is made) and fine flour at what they sell for in this market with a deduction of the usual freight pr. barrl. from

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Alexandria to this place. The cash price in this City Superfine 50/. common 47/6. Two or three months credit I should not object to. Your answer, as soon as it is convenient to you, will oblige Dear Sir etc.

PS. I have more than what is mentd. above to grind.

[N.Y. P. L.]

***To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD**

Philadelphia, March 15, 1794.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 9th. instt. is at hand. Nothwithstanding I have the best disposition to oblige you, and to promote the interest of your son John, yet it is impossible he can be contemplated by me as commander of one of the Frigates (should the Bill now pending in Congress pass into a Law) because a number of the old Officers who served with great reputation through the whole of last war, thereby acquiring much experience, are tendering their services; and grounding their pretensions upon merit and the losses they have sustained.

The most that can be done for your Son, would be to make him a second

or third Lieutt.; and even here I would not, at this time, be under any engagement until the matter is more unfolded than it is at present.

Mr. Brooke, your Son in law, being one, among a great many others, who recommended in very strong terms Mr. Lawrence Muse as Successor to Hudson Muse, it was thought best to appoint him to the Collectorship of Rappahannock.

My love in which Mrs. Washington unites is offered to Mrs. Spotswood and the family. I am etc.

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[H.S.P.]

To ROBERT LEWIS

Philadelphia, March 16, 1794.

Dear Sir: You have not informed me yet, in what condition, or under what circumstances you found my Lots in the Towns of Winchester and Bath, and my land above the latter; or whether you have visited all, or any of them since I saw you last.

I wish also to be informed how your collection stands, that I may direct the application of the money; and request you will furnish me with a correct list of all my tenants entrusted to you, the amount of their rents and arrearages of them, if any, that I may have a more precise knowledge of this business, than I am possessed of at present.

I request you to have copies taken

of the enclosed Advertisement and set up at a few of the most public places in the part of the Country where you live. Among these, let Leesburgh and Fauquier Court House be two of them.

Mr. Prescoat (unless he has paid lately, which I believe is not the case) owes for the last year, and for a considerable length of pasturage. Whether he had more than one mare to the Jack or not, I am unable to say, I presume he can tell, receive the money and place it among your other collections, drawing a commission thereon. Your Aunt and the family (who are all well) join me in best wishes for you and Mrs. Lewis, and I am etc.17

To GEORGE GILPIN

Philadelphia, March 17, 1794.

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Sir: The President has directed me to transmit to you the enclosed bill of lading, and to beg the favor of you to receive from Captain Denike, when he arrives at Alexandria, the articles mentioned in the bill. Two of the barrels, Nos. 1 and 5 belong to Colo. B. Ball, who is informed that they will be consigned to your care. These you will be so good as to retain, 'till a safe conveyance for them can be had to Colo. Ball. All the others are to go to Mount Vernon, and Mr. Pearce, the manager there, is directed where to call for them.

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

The Captain has indeed promised, if possible to put them on shore at Mt. Vernon; but it is very uncertain whether he will or not. I am etc.18

***To BURGESS BALL**

Philadelphia, March 23, 1794.

Dear Sir: By a letter I have just received from my Manager Mr. Pearce, dated the 18th instt. I find he had received no more at that time, than 131 bushls. of the Buck Wheat you were to procure for me. I hope there will be no disappointment of the remainder. It would fall hard upon me, as I have not the quantity of seed Oats necessary to carry my plan into effect this year, a failure of both would leave my grounds unoccupied.

My love, in which Mrs. Washington and the family unite is tendered to Mrs. Ball and yours. I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

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