

Dear Sir

Richmond June 15<sup>th</sup> 1789

Your several favors by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Barker and Masterson have  
come to hand. I have endeavoured but ~~in vain~~ <sup>without effect</sup> to ne-  
gotiate your Business with Sir Wood the Solicitor who will only  
settle it at the Depreciation when the money was taken out of  
the Treasury this however consistent with the rules and  
forms of Office is surely derogatory to Justice — The matter  
will be open till I see you when we will adopt some  
mode of obtaining redress I think the Assembly would interpose  
in this Case if applied to by way of Petition

I have settled the account of Norton and inclose you the  
Certificates. I shall observe the other Contents of your last L<sup>tr</sup>

The Acts of this Session will not in point of  
Importance answer the expectations of our Constituents.  
No definitive Treaty having yet arrived nor expected with  
any ~~probability~~ <sup>degree of</sup> probability soon to reach us. few  
of those great political Questions resulting therefrom will  
be agitated during our present Sitting.

Our first Act was to open our ports to British Vessels  
the other



the other acts are To suspend Distress for Taxes until the  
10th of Nov. - To disqualify Members of Congress from  
holding seats in either House of Assembly. - To relieve  
Sheriffs where they have been unable to comply with the  
Law in making their collections and payments either from the  
difficulty of the Law itself or <sup>from</sup> a mis- construction of it. - To give  
further time to locate Land & make Surveys on the western Frontiers  
- To take off the disqualifications to which Quakers were sub-  
-jected for non-juring. -

Paper money was talked of at the beginning of the Session  
but it was laugh'd out. <sup>A new emission of</sup> much of our time has been

taken up on a tedious Tobacco Law of 40 or 50 Pages  
and much upon a Bill to regulate the Salaries of the  
civil Officers of Government or in other words to lower  
them. which Bill after passing through our House  
with great difficulty and contention was entirely  
rejected by the Senate. There is before the House

a Bill for establishing Circuit Courts. For which I

believe will not go down <sup>is</sup> a Bill for new modelling  
the County Court. <sup>which will meet with a better fate</sup> The plan is to pay <sup>a certain number</sup> some part of the Justice

to be chosen from those in Commission and oblig'd them to  
do business they will sit quarterly. a Bill to prevent

the debtors of this Commonwealth from being sued out of their



own Counties. and another to prevent Exactions  
for Debt if suing except for such a portion of  
the Debt annually.

The impost required by Congress will be granted but  
not in the express Terms of their Requisition they  
insist upon appointing Officers to collect we say  
that it is an encroachment on our internal Police  
to suffer Congress to have any Officers within our  
independent of us and therefore it shall be collected  
by our Naval Officers and paid by our Treasurer  
to Congress - I fear they will not accept it on  
those Terms no indeed will the other States be bound  
to any compliance whilst our grant is thus qualified  
for two essentials of the Plan are Unanimity and Uni-  
-formity in the States. and also that it should be viewe  
-able for the time that it is granted otherwise it will not  
give that stability to our credit abroad which it is in-  
-tended to do indeed I wish it could have been adopted  
upon the Plan Congress proposed, so low is our credit  
and so necessary is it to revive and support it.

A Bill now before the House to exclude from the rights  
of citizenship among us particular classes of British Sub-  
-jects will not on occasion very warm Altercations  
No attempt has or will be made to make Loan Office  
certificates equal to specie or to ~~pay~~ the money paid in  
for British Debts on any other principle but by the  
scale of depreciation.

I am Sir with Great Esteem Your very  
Obedt Servt

Wm. Mason



Wm  
June 1783

S. J. Massey

on  
Revenue

Colo Leven Powell  
Loudoun County

17.4.0

260  
110  
130  
52  
78