

Dear Sirs.

Phila. Dec^r 19th 1799.

I have not heard from home since I set out and
feel very anxious, there certainly must be a letter for me on its way -
We have not yet got fairly into business, some Bills will be reported
on Monday & I expect it will soon appear whether my hopes as to temper
& moderation are well founded, as yet there no reason to think differently.
Should party heats rage as usual I cannot say with any degree
of certainty how we shall stand perhaps the Majority may be about
10 or 12 against opposition.

There are two or three instances of Federal members being lost
at the last Elections by dividing their Intinct. a Case which has
never happened with the others. and I do think it a Circumstance
which you ought to attend to in London. We learn here that our
present Assembly is abundantly more violent than the last, if
Lewis offers again he will make a great Mount of Steaming such
a torrent and he set great prices to impress on the minds of the people
the propriety of sending back the same members, if you should
feel the least doubt as to success & in this you should be careful not
to deceive yourself, I think it would be advisable to without any
making use of this reason, that at a time like the present it may be
better to send back the same members - We are I think in a very
critical Situation, it seems to me plain that the Object of Virginia
is to Ann the States ag^t. The general Govern ment & I have little
doubt that this State is ready to join her in that business, it therefore
behoves the friends to Government to be cool & temperate and be
careful how they Split, when we find one among us whose Vanity

will urge him on, he had better be gratified with the danger is less. These
contests always produce irritation & will make the friends of one enemies to the other
which ~~is~~ too apt to be lasting, nor is it by any means clear that if he is heard
run he would not cut in with the other party & strengthen that interest in
the Country. The Dutch in this State are in the opposition and I am told here
that exertions are to be made to bring all in America over to the same
side, they are an obstinate warlike people and very apt to run together, whether
they will be able to effect any thing with those in our Country I cannot tell,
I should rather however think they could not. As you are on the spot
you will be able to decide what will be best to do by ~~it~~ act accordingly keeping
in view what is most likely to promote the general good. I mean to
Correspond with Capt. Shove which may have a tendency to counteract attempts
from this Quarter.

I have not yet been able to learn how the Militia Laws in all the States stand
as to Quakers, In Rhode Island they pay \$2 a year for an Exemption,
Massachusetts they pay as other people, Connecticut, New Hampshire and
Vermont I am told have but very few in them & thus exempted.
I am inclined to think that in all the others they pay as others do but of
this I have not yet got information. Do let me hear from you frequently.

Yrs Affectionally
Sever Towell

Dear Sir, I am writing the above we have News from Europe, & I am afraid it is too
true that the French have been very successful in Switzerland, I expect you will
get the Acc^t in the papers. Providence for some cause unknown to us suffers these
people not to be a scourge to the human Race. It is painful to me to discover
that this Acc^t has brightened up the Countenances of the opposition. I trust
however that Prudence & Moderation on our part may defeat their views. —
You will receive with this a letter from Gen^l Lee which he gave me to carry to you
to you. I know nothing of its contents. I send a letter by this Mail to Dr. Anderson

who lives at Paris. I wish you w^d contrive it to him — it is for him to
send me an order to draw money for him here, which I cannot do with-
out it.

Dec: 17th. The Melancholy Acc^t of the Death of that great good Geo.
Washington reached us to day, Congress immediately adjourned
Tomorrow I expect something will be said about Mr. M^{rs}. His
Loss is the greater perhaps at this critical moment. God knows
what is to become of us, but we must do the best we can.

Later Acc^t arrived yesterday from Europe by which it is conjectured
that the Duke of York & his Army are Prisoners of War, These
are French Acc^t but may be true.

Dec^r 13. 1799

Major Genl Powell

Middleburg

London County

Virginia

