

Feb 18. 1800

Major D. Parke

Madison

London County

Virginia

Dear Sir,

Phil^a Feb 18th 1800.

Thank you for your letter of the 28th 10th and I am glad to find that the family remain well. As yet we can form no certain opinion when ^{we} shall leave this, I feel very anxious for the time to arrive as I really want to see home again. at present we have hopes of getting away early in April.

At this distance from the County I cannot make up an opinion as to the event of your next State Election, but I am very apprehensive that you will find Lewis a more powerful opponent than you reckon upon, nor do I believe that the business of the District Court will be a circumstance against him. It will displease those in the neighbourhood of Centerville but these ^{people} live in Fairfax & will have but little influence on the Election. He is a man of great activity, has much to say of himself and pretty well calculated to make impressions on easy minds, I am also much inclined to think that the Anti party will support him with a view of securing to their side his connections. Thinking in this manner I should be better pleased if Mr. Clapham did not offer, I believe that we are in a critical situation and when we meet with a federal character whose vanity will at every hazard urge him on, he had better be gratified. The enemies to our government work by system, they never ~~stop~~ stop themselves, but gain strength by this circumstance when it happens

with their opponents which is too often the case. I have no doubt that it will require all the good sense of the people and the greatest exertions of the friends of Government to keep us together, such is the inveteracy & violence of the party opposed to it. But it will be improper in you to give a hint of the kind to Mr. Clapham and if he is a Candidate and I should get to the Election I should most certainly vote for him & render him what service I can.

We are employed here much in the usual way, listening to the discussion of little things brought forward by the minority, scarcely a business is taken up but they contrive to edge in something promotive of their general system. A few of the last days have been taken up with an amendment proposed by Mr. Nicholas to the Bill prohibiting Commercial intercourse with France & her dominions. This amendment went to suffer Aliens residing among us to carry on direct trade to that nation, a liberty denied to our Citizens, one of the effects of this Amendment shall no doubt would have been that our Ports would have been filled with French Spys, for altho the laws contemplated Neutral Aliens, yet the thing would have been easy — contrived by these people being Naturalized in Holland, so that while they ~~stay~~ were watching our motions & intrigues among us, we should be allowing them a commercial trade to the exclusion of our own people.

I have had frequent conversations with Mr. Nicholas and I cannot persuade myself but that his intentions are good, he really appears to have too much candour to doubt it, but when I say this of him I must also say that if his views are as good as I believe them to be, he is the most under the influence of Prejudice of any man of my acquaintance, so much does he appear to me to be carried

away by this Passion that he never looks on but one side of a Question.

Genl. Moulton informs me to day that the money he was to pay for on acct. of a Gentleman in Boston & to be advanced by him solely for his benefit. I informed him that you had some money to pay for me in Aug^r. & that you wrote it was pressing on you, he promised me that whether or not the Gentleman sent the money on, it should be paid this week. I told him that in consequence of this promise I should write you to apply at Calcutta for it next week, that I should send the money in a Bill on that place, so that you can write to Cutburt who will send it to you if it has got to hand, you had better apply about the last of the week.

From present appearances every thing is quiet in France, the old lines of the New Constitution have come out, in which the people will have as little to do in matters of Government as they had under their Kings, or but very few of them compared to their Numbers. Whether the thing is to rest so or whether new Constitutions are to take place is very uncertain, perhaps as all the Princes are at the devotion of the ruling Powers they may hold their own. Remember me to all & ever

Yr^s affect^d

Seven Towell