

[To Cesar Rodney?]

Christiana bridge July 20 1778

Sir,

I am just returned from the city, & am to inform you with all my industry I have procured 4 chests of public papers many of the books half used & torn I found them in near a hundred places, barbers, sailors shops &c. should have got many more if our old President had let them alone, but he gathered them to better security he thought, & Mr S. Robinson laid hold of a number that he may make his peace I suppose. They are both at New York. I paid cash to all the persons I got of. Should be glad to know who I am to deliver them to, as they are wanted to be arranged. Shall wait your commands for that purpose. Am afraid if Monsieur plays a good game we may bid adieu to the rest, as they will burn, I suppose before they will give up 600 sail vessels which by first acc<sup>ts</sup> lay at New York. As to news nothing from New York particular on Sunday morning Every person open mouth at the Coffee house, for the event of the Fleet; you may expect it every hour. I would have sent you two papers of Saturday but suppose before this you have them.

We have had a smart skirmish with the Indians up Susquehanna. Killed 13. & took 4 of them were lost - 10 men killed. we have sent force sufficient up now. Congress rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from the commis. from New York saying they

had no right to make an alliance &c, & now will appeal to the people & treat there at large. Congress will not answer such stuff. G.Washington has had an aid de Cong on board the French admiral. So they understand each other. A packet taken by Mons.of New York,& many prizes taken by both sides will be up to the city. Goods are now put to show & falling & Whigs are going to drive the Tories to the D--l. Whats our Sloop about taking prizes

I am your Excellencys most hum<sup>e</sup> Sev<sup>t</sup>

Sam Patterson

My compliments to Miss Sally.

Gen<sup>l</sup> Conway is about his room

AD  
Jr  
5/25 588 9

Xteen Bridge, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> 1778

Dear Sir,

Your favor is rec<sup>d</sup>. of the 31<sup>st</sup>. ult. Observe the contents. I shall deliver the records agreeable to your orders. Young Rich<sup>d</sup>. McWilliam I am told has re-assumed the recorder's office. Those I shall make free with your indulgence to retain a while & see if the judges of the pleas will remove him. His conduct about them when first removed is scandalous. Judge Finney called on me. he tells me there was a general goal delivery I expected such. I wish that you could leave them & come up this way. There is but a few in your county to stand by you. They will now grow insulting. I wish you would send for the officers of the Independent Co. now here, so peremptorily to attend you at Dover a certain day in order to settle the whole acc<sup>t</sup>. The poor unfortunate commissary lost his life about 3 weeks ago by a fall out of his chair-broke his leg & mortified- It would be in my opinion best to order the Capt. to bring his acc<sup>ts</sup>. to the Commissarys or all he has, as also an acc<sup>t</sup>. of left provision on hand, if any- he is to sell them & give the Commissary credit for them.

My reason for pointing this business to your Ex<sup>cy</sup> I am afraid bad acc<sup>ts</sup>. of the £500. I gave the Capt. an order on Stockton for £100 of said cash to pay his men

&c.off. He rec<sup>d</sup> it- I am also sorry to hear that our Assembly did not meet- such conduct in representatives does not bear the test- I have now been nearly about 3 weeks confined to my room & bed- a bilious complaint mending very slow. I intend to decline being member of Assembly at our next Election -as confinement would absolutely Kill me- I can not say whether they would vote me or not but I shall act my part- I will push Mr.M<sup>C</sup>Kean. I think we can carry him & he will not refuse. I plainly see that the old leaven is at work below & I am afraid some of it has got up here. Your moderate people -a proper term in this contest for a villain in disguise.

The officers of the militia here have no notion of mustering this- Can not hear one a stirring- I wrote to our Dep<sup>y</sup> of the County to exert himself in ordering them to observe the law,as my confinement prevented my aiding. It is a good law & if it [is]neglected in the first instance it is totally gone. What the enemies of our state wish. I shall watch them as well as I can to complete it.

Col.Ramsay called here on Saturday last & left the enclose acc<sup>t</sup>. He says the sloop should be sent out with a load of tobacco- If such could be got,I also approve of it. No news but what is in the papers,which I make no dount you have read.

I am, your Ex<sup>cy</sup>'s most obd't & humble

servant