

Newcastle Oct: 20th 1700.

Sir.

The General Assembly of this State having in the course of their last Year finally resolved upon a Revision of the Laws thereof and committed that Work to me, and it not being in that forwardness as to lay the same before the General Assembly at their present Meeting, I think it my duty to state some Circumstances relative to that business as an Apology for any seeming delay on my part; which I take the liberty of addressing to you to be communicated to your Honble House -

This business of Revision and after Publication of the acts of Assembly of the State was taken up in the House of Assembly on the 2. Feb: 1707. on a Report of their Committee specifying certain proposals, on my part, drawn up at the Request of that Committee, and accepted and agreed to by that House of Assembly as appears in their printed Minutes of that Session pa: 143. The Council to whom it was sent for concurrence did not act thereon until the 7. June 1707. when it was negatived -

as in their printed Minutes pa: 215. — On the 31st Jan: 1788
this business of procuring a Revision of those Laws came on
again in the House of Assembly on another Report of a
Committee thereof which referred to the former Proposals
and they were again adopted by the House of Assembly as in
their printed Minutes pa: 20. and concurred in by the Council
as in the same Minutes pa: 34. — but this being so near to the
close of the Session, no Order was taken respecting the copies, as
specified in the proposals a^d. to enable me to commence and
complete that Revision — On the 7th June 1788 The
House of Assembly framed a Resolution for this purpose
as in their printed Minutes pa: 24. concurred in after by the
Council on the 9th of that Month. — Mr. J^r. Booth the
person therein appointed to procure such copies delivered
them to me on the 28th of August last, and I have not
a doubt that he used due diligence in making the collection
and that few persons could have done the like in the same
time but it is attended with this consequence that this
recent delivery of the copies will necessarily delay my
work.

Book of Revision. Your Honble House will see from
the proposals, that I had secured to myself Eight Months
for the Execution of the Work after receiving the necessary Copies
guarding them against unforeseen accidents or attendances
on other publick business of the State. However Sir —
from the Progress I had made by means of my own Volumes
of the particular Laws of the State, I do expect that I shall
complete my Revision of the Copies delivered by Mr. Booth
in less than the stipulated time as mentioned above, and
your Honble House may be assured that I shall not so
willingly delay the Work which I am conscious is
much wanted by the Citizens of the State — and I now
Sir beg your Pardon for the trouble of this Communication

and I am with much Respect
Your most Obedient

Humble Serv^t.

J. W. B. B. B.

The Honble The Speaker
of The Council of the
Delaware State.

Letter from George Read, Esq:
to the Speaker of the Council.
20, October, 1788.

[Faint, mostly illegible cursive handwriting covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]