George Washington to Henry Knox, Mount Vernon 25th. Feb. 1787, ,

Accept, my dear General Knox my affectionate thanks for your obliging favors of the 29th, 30th, & 31st. of Jany. and 1st. 8th. & 12th. of the present month. -, They were indeed, exceedingly satisfactory, and relieving to my mind which had been filled with great & anxious uneasiness for the issue of General Lincoln’s operations, and the dignity of Government., On the prospect of the happy termination of this insurrection I sincerely congratulate you; hoping that good may result from the cloud of evils which threatened, not only the hemisphere of Massachusetts but by spreading its baneful influence, the tranquillity of the Union. - Surely Shays must be either a weak man - the dupe of some characters who are yet behind the curtain - or has been deceived by his followers. - Or which may yet be more likely, he did not [2] not conceive that there was energy enough in the Government to bring matters to the crisis to which they have been pushed. It is to be hoped the General Court of that State concurred in the report of the Committee, that a Rebellion did actually exist. - This would be decisive, and the most likely means of putting the finishing stroke to the business, We have nothing new in this quarter except the dissention which prevailed in, and occasioned the adjournment of, the Assembly of Maryland; that an appeal might be made to the people for their sentiments on the conduct of their representatives in the Senate & Delegates respecting a paper emission; which was warmly advocated by the latter and opposed by the former - And which may be productive of great, and perhaps dangerous divisions. - Our affairs, generally, seem really, to be approaching to some awful crisis. - God only knows what the result will be. It shall [3] shall be my part to hope for the best; as to see this Country happy whilst I am gliding down the stream of life in tranquil retirement is so much the wish of my soul, that nothing on this side Elysium can be placed in competition with it, I hope the postponement of your journey to this state does not amount to a relinquishment of it - and that it is unnecessary to assure you of the sincere pleasure I should have at seeing you under this Roof. - Mrs. Washington writes with me in every good wish for M.rs Knox yourself and family. - With sentiment of the warmest friendship , I am. Yrs , Most Affectionately, Go: Washington, PS. , I had wrote this letter & was on the point of sending it with others to the Post Office when your favor of the 15th. Inst. was handed to me. - This spirit & decision of the Court is very pleasing & I hope will be attended with happy consequences.,

GW., [docket], Mount Vernon 25 Feby, 1787 - , His Excellency Genl, Washington -, Original, No 9 –

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