Dr. Sir,

Annapolis, Christmas day 1783.

You will have published at large, the general Speech of resignation, with the President's reply to it. I will endeavour to give you some sketch of the manner in which this business was conducted, and adjust your imagination, if I can, to sketch the picture, which the newspapers will probably present to you, by the time this letter arrives.

The General came to town last Friday, and announced his arrival, by a letter to Congress, requesting to know in what manner they desired he should resign his authority; whether by private letter or public audience? The latter was preferred, without hesitation. Some etiquette being settled on Saturday, a public dinner was ordered on Monday & the audience to be on Tuesday.

The feast on Monday was the most extraordinary I ever attended. Between 2 & 3 hundred Gentlemen dined together in the hall-room. The number of cheerful voices, with clanger of knives & forks made a din of a very extraordinary nature & a most delightful influence. Every man seemed to be in heaven, or so absorbed in the pleasures of imagination, as to neglect
the more forbid appetites for not a soul got drunk though there was wine a plenty & the usual number of 13 toasts drank, besides one given afterwards by the General, which you ought to be acquainted with: it is as follows. 

"Complaint powers to congress for general purposes."

In the evening of the same day, the Governor gave a ball at the State house. To light the rooms every window was illuminated. Here the company was equally numerous & more brilliant, consisting of ladies & Gent. — Such was my excite and mortised whelp as I am. The General danced in every jet, that all the ladies might have the pleasure of dancing with him or as it has since been handsomely expressed, got a touch of him.

Tuesday morning Congress met, and took their seats in order all covered. At twelve o'clock, the General was introduced by the Secretary and
and seated opposite to the president, until the song
that filled all the avenues, were so disposed of as to
behold the solemnity. The ladies occupied the gallery
as full as it would hold, the genl. crowded below stairs.
Silence ordered by the secretary, the genl. rose & bowed
to congress, who uncovered but did not bow. He then
delivered his speech, and at the close of it, drew
his commission from his bosom & handed it to the
president. — The president replied in a few words.
the general bowed again to congress, they uncovered
& the general retired. — After a little pause, and
the company withdrew. Congress then adjourned. The
general then stepped into the room again, bid every
member farewell, and rode off from the door
intent upon eating his Christmas dinner at
home. —

Many of the spectators, particularly the
fair ones shed tears on this solemn & affecting
occasion, — Sir Robert Eden & Mr. Harford attired
very respectfully. They were also at the public dinner
& the dance, and Master Harford was so gay as to
say that he would show away if the state would
give him any thing to do with.
Before this comes to hand the President V. Dyke
will make you acquainted with the contents of
an express, sent by Congress to the Executives of
all the unrepresented States to the eastward, viz.
New Jersey, New York, & Connecticut. — President V. Dyke
was addressed among the rest, because M. McCombs informed Congress, he could stay no
longer than until next day after tomorrow.
When we shall not have a Congress.

As soon as you arrive, Mr. Ellery prefers to demonstrate, that the story of the
Isle of France is an absurd falsehood; and that
both latitude & longitude have been discovered
in Delaware. — For the honor of the State
then make haste!

I am, Sir, your friend & obliged

James Tilton

Honble G. Bedford.
Dr. Sir,

You will have published at large, the general's speech of resignation, with the president's reply, etc. I will endeavor to give you some sketch of the manner in which this business was conducted, and assist your imagination, if I can, to finish the picture, which the newspapers will probably present to you, by the time this letter arrives.

The General came to town last Friday, and announced his arrival, by a letter to Congress, requesting to know, in what manner they chused he should resign his authority; whether by private letter, or public audience? The latter was preferred without hesitation. Some etiquette being settled on Saturday, a public dinner was ordered on Monday & the audience to be on Tuesday.

The feast on Monday was the most extraordinary I ever attended. Between 2 & 3 hundred Gent^n dined together in the ball-room. The number of cheerful voices, with clangor of knives & forks made a din of a very extraordinary nature & a most delightful influence. Every man seemed to be in heaven, or so absorbed in the pleasures of imagination, as to neglect the mere sordid appetites, for not a soul got drunk, though there was wine aplenty & the usual number of 13 toasts drank, besides one given afterwards by the General, which you ought to be acquainted with: it is as follows, "Competent powers to Congress for general purposes."

In the evening of the same day, the Governor gave a ball at the State house. To light the rooms every window was illuminated. Here the company was equally numerous, & more brilliant, consisting of ladies & Gent^n. Such was my villainous awkwardness, that I could not venture to dance, on this occasion you might therefore annex to it a cleverer idea, than is to be expected from such a mortified whelp as I am. The General danced in every set, so that the ladies might have the pleasure of dancing with him, or as it has since been handsomely expressed, get a touch of him.
Tuesday morning, Congress met, and took their seats in order, all covered. At twelve o'clock, the General was introduced by the Secretary and seated opposite to the president, until the throng that filled all the avenues, were so disposed of as to behold the solemnity. The ladies occupied the gallery, as full as it would hold, the Gent'n crouded below stairs. Silence ordered by the Secretary, the Gen'l rose & bowed to congress, who uncovered but did not bow. He then delivered his speech, and at the close of it, drew his commission from his bosom & handed it to the president. The president replied in a set speech, the General bowed again to Congress, they uncovered & the General retired. After a little pause, until the company withdrew, congress adjourned, the general then steped into the room again, bid every member farewell! and rode off from the door intent upon eating his christmas dinner at home.

Many of the spectators, particularly the fair ones shed tears, on this solemn & affecting occasion. Sir Robert Eden & Mr. Harford attended very respectfully. They were also at the public dinner & the dance, and Master Harford was so gay, as to say that he would show away if the State would give him any thing to do it with.

Before this comes to hand, President V. Dyke will make you acquainted with the contents of an express, sent by the congress to the executives of all the unrepresented states to the eastward, viz, Jersey, N. York, & Connecticut. President V. Dyke was addressed among the rest, because Mr. McComb informed congress, he could stay no longer than until next day after tomorrow—when we shall not have a congress.

As soon as you arrive, Mr. Ellery proposes to demonstrate, that the story of the Isle of France is an arrant falsehood; and that both latitude & longitude have been discovered in Delaware. For the honor of the state then make haste!

I am, dear Sir, your friend and humble Servt.

James Tilton

Honble. G. Bedford.