















JOSEPH CLAY

Joseph Clay

LETTERS  
OF  
JOSEPH CLAY  
MERCHANT  
OF SAVANNAH 1776-1793

AND

A LIST OF SHIPS AND VESSELS ENTERED AT THE PORT OF  
SAVANNAH

FOR MAY 1765, 1766 AND 1767

ILLUSTRATED

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## Preface

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After the death of the Right Reverend William Bacon Stevens, Bishop of Pennsylvania, the manuscripts lent to him by the Georgia Historical Society, to assist him in writing his history of Georgia,\* were returned to the Society. Among these manuscripts are two letter books of Joseph Clay—some of which letters are published in the following pages. Those left out were mostly repetitions, written to different correspondents, and some were so blurred and worn by age, as to be illegible. These letters are printed just as they were written, without any attempt at correction, A list of ships and vessels entered at the port of Savannah from January 5th, 1765, to July 5th, 1767, was also among the manuscripts returned to the Society. This MS. consists of eighty-four pages, from which the entries and clearings for the same month in each year, were chosen to give an idea of Savannah's commerce. The Sketch of Joseph Clay was written by Col. Charles Colcock Jones, Jr., the Georgia historian, and well known authority on Indian antiquities,† in his "Biographical Sketches of the Delegates of Georgia to the Continental Congress." ‡

Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell's "Sketch of the Northern Frontiers of Georgia" was made by him after his capture of Savannah to facilitate the taking of Augusta. His main object was to establish a frontier between Georgia and the States already in possession of the Americans, in the

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\* A History of Georgia, from its first discovery by Europeans to the adoption of the present Constitution in MDCCXCVIII, in two volumes, New York, 1848. By William Bacon Stevens.

† Antiquities of the Southern Indians. Particularly of the Georgia Tribes. By C. C. Jones, Jr. New York, 1873.

‡ Biographical Sketches of the Delegates from Georgia to the Continental Congress. By C. C. Jones, Jr. New York, 1891.

hopes that the Georgia Republicans would return to their allegiance to the Crown, and thus secure as firm a foot-hold on American soil for the English in the South, as Canada was in the North.

W. J. DeRENNE,  
OTIS ASHMORE,  
W. W. GORDON,  
THOMAS J. CHARLTON, M. D.,  
Committee on Printing and Publishing.



## Joseph Clay

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Ralph Clay—the father of the subject of this sketch—married Elizabeth, a sister of the honorable James Habersham, intimate friend of the reverend George Whitefield, and, during the absence of Sir James Wright in 1771-72, the royal Governor of Georgia. Joseph Clay, the only son of this marriage, was born at Beverley, Yorkshire, England, on the 16th of October, 1741. At the suggestion of his distinguished uncle, supplemented by the persuasions of the Reverend Mr. Whitefield, Young Clay came to Georgia in 1760. A few years afterwards, responding to the wish of Governor Habersham, who furnished the means requisite for the adventure, his son James Habersham junior and his nephew Joseph Clay associated themselves in a general commission business in Savannah. The partnership thus formed lasted about five years. With the exception of the period covered by the war of the Revolution Mr. Clay remained actively engaged in commercial pursuits. He and Colonel Joseph Habersham were at one time associated under the firm name of Joseph Clay & Company. He was also a partner in the house of Seth John Cuthbert & Company; at another time he was the senior member of the firm of Clay, Telfair & Company, and again was interested as a co-partner in the house of William Fox & Company of Newport, Rhode Island. His home was always in Savannah, where, on the 2d of January, 1763, he married Ann Legardère. Soon after establishing himself in business in Savannah, Mr. Clay became interested, in connection with his relatives, the Habershams, in the cultivation of rice, which was then the principal market crop produced upon the marish lands of Southern Georgia. Both as a merchant and as a planter he prospered. In conducting his business affairs he was prompt, energetic, and competent.

By the meeting of patriotic citizens assembled at the Liberty Pole at Tondee's Tavern in Savannah on the 27th of July, 1774, he was chosen a member of the committee then raised and charged with the preparation of resolutions expressive of the rebel sentiments of the community, and of the determination of Georgia, at an early day, to associate herself with her sister American colonies in opposition to the enforcement of the unjustifiable and arbitrary acts of the British Parliament.

On the 10th of the following August he appeared with this committee and united in submitting a report which, unanimously adopted, proclaimed in brave language the rights claimed by the protesting provinces, condemned in emphatic terms the policy inaugurated by England, and promised coöperation on the part of Georgia in all constitutional measures devised to obtain a redress of existing grievances and to maintain the inestimable blessings granted by God and guaranteed by a constitution founded upon reason and justice. He was also of the committee then appointed to solicit and forward supplies for the relief of the suffering poor of Boston. In the rape of six hundred pounds of powder from the king's magazine in Savannah during the night of the 11th of May, 1775, and in its subsequent distribution among parties intent upon rebellion, Mr. Clay personally participated. By the assembly convened on the 22d of June in the same year he was complimented with a place in the Council of Safety. To the famous Provincial Congress which met in Savannah twelve days afterwards, he was a delegate accredited from the town and district of Savannah. By that Congress he was placed upon a committee to frame an address to his Excellency Governor Wright. He was also designated as a member of the important "Committee of Intelligence," and commissioned as one of another committee to present the "Article of Association," then adopted, to the inhabitants of the town and district of Savannah for signature.

Deeming it essential to the success of the liberty cause

that no officer of the militia should be retained in commission who refused or neglected to sign this "Article of Association," and yet exhibiting a show of respect for Sir James Wright, the royal governor, George Walton, William Le Conte, Francis Harris, William Young, George Houstoun, William Ewen, John Glen, Samuel Elbert, Basil Cowper, and Joseph Clay, acting in behalf of the Council of Safety, on the 8th of August, 1775, addressed a communication to his Excellency the governor, asking permission that the several militia companies of the province should be permitted to elect their own officers. It was suggested that some of them were distasteful to those whom they were appointed to command. Deeming it an extraordinary application, dangerous in its tendency and calculated to wrest the control of the military from the crown officers, Sir James sought the advice of his Council. An answer was returned: "that for many very substantial reasons the governor would not comply with the request." Nothing daunted, the members of the Council of Safety, who really cared but little for the mind of the governor on the subject, took the matter in their own hands, and proceeded to purge the militia of any loyal element which lurked in the ranks of its commissioned officers. The revolutionists were in earnest. With rapid strides they marched forward, overcoming in succession every obstacle which retarded their progress towards the consummation of the complete overthrow of kingly dominion in Georgia. In this rebel procession Joseph Clay was an active and efficient lieutenant.

When, early in March, 1776, Barclay and Grant threatened Savannah, the Council of Safety resolved to defend that town and the rice-laden vessels lying at its wharves, to the last extremity. Mr. Clay was then named as chairman of a committee to inventory and value the shipping in port, and all houses in Savannah and its hamlets belonging to the friends of America who were prepared to participate in the common defense. In that inventory and appraisalment were to be included the homes and property

of widows and orphans. So firm was the resolution of the patriots, that they were determined to commit everything to the flames rather than have their town and shipping pass into the hands of British soldiers.

The inventory and appraisement were made with a view to future indemnification at the hands of the general government. Fortunately the contemplated sacrifice was not demanded at the hands of these gallant defenders.

On the 6th of August, 1777, Mr. Clay was recognized by the Continental Congress as Deputy Paymaster-General in Georgia, with the rank of colonel. This position was subsequently enlarged so as to embrace the Southern Department. When General Greene assumed command of this department, Colonel Clay was brought into personal association with him, and secured his confidence and esteem. Large sums of money were disbursed by him in the execution of his office, and there remains no suggestion of default or misappropriation. During the years 1778, 1779, and 1780 Georgia named him as one of her delegates to the Continental Congress.

By the first general assembly which convened in Savannah after its evacuation by General Alured Clarke and the king's forces in July, 1782, Colonel Clay was elected Treasurer of the State of Georgia, and his salary was fixed at £300 per annum.

In 1785 he was named as one of the trustees for establishing the college or seminary of learning which subsequently developed into the present University of Georgia; and during the following year he became one of the justices of Chatham County. In May, 1791, he was a member of the committee which welcomed President Washington on the occasion of his visit to Savannah. He died in that city on the 15th of November, 1804.\*

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\* Appleton's *Cyclopædia of American Biography* fixes the date of Colonel Clay's death as the 16th of January, 1805. The true date, as taken from the family records, is that which we have given above.

His son Joseph was a prominent lawyer, and for several years occupied the bench as United States Judge of the District of Georgia. Resigning this position he entered the sacred ministry, and was regarded as one of the most eloquent pulpit orators of his day. In later generations the descendants of Colonel Clay have been noted in the church, at the Bar, in the domain of politics, and in social life.

## The Joseph Clay Letters

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Savannah, the 21st Nov'r, 1776.

Messrs. Wragg & Smith, Geo'e Town S Carolina.

Gentlemen:

I wrote you sometime ago in Answer to yours of the 20th ulto since with a Gentleman of my acquaintance (Mr. Wereat) mentioned to me that if Capt. Ash's Brig was to be freighted or disposed of, tho' he had rather the latter, that he should be glad to be concerned, & that he would make such Payments as would probably induce the Owners to dispose of or Charter her. I believe that he wants her for the Public, say for the C. Congress. I acquainted him that I believed some of the owners would soon be here & that he might have an Opportunity of treating with them As our Port is now open he is Anxious to Embrace the Opportunity, & would be glad to know if he has any probability of having the Brig. I promis'd him to drop you a line on the subject which is the reason of my troubling you with this, & am, Gentlemen

Your most Obe't Serv't

J. C.

P. S. If you propose making Mr. Wereat any offers in regard to the Brig, you may direct to John Wereat, Esq., Savannah.

Dec'r 4th the foregoing was intended to have gone by Post but missed it, since which it has been agitated in Convention to employ your Brig in the service of this State, but no determination has as yet been come into.

Messrs. Bright & Pechin & Capt. Hazard \*

Copy to Capt. Buck.  
Savannah Dec'r 7 1776.

Gentlemen :

the foregoing is Copy of my last in which I promis'd to send you a Copy of our Orders to Stiles, & Invoice, &c., but have not been able our Convention having been sitting constantly ever since, of w'ch I am a Member, which has Employ'd every moment of my time; our Coast remains as far as we know pretty clear of any of the British Cruisers, there is two or three tenders to the S'ward, but they are kept principally at Augustine and St. Mary's River for the Defence and Protection of E. Florida, we are Carrying on a Battery on Tybee for the Defence of our River, I was in hopes the Ship we sold Dorsius woud have been loaded before Capt. Hazard had sailed, and that we might have drawn in your favour for our half of Ship & Cargo & remitted you the first Bill by him, However I must send you by post or by sea from Charles Town shou'd no direct Conveyance offer from here, I have not the least prospect of getting a Vessel here of any kind to send to you. I have some Leather & Indico, by me & Rice, in hopes of something coming from you & woud have more if I could be at any Certainty, but while times are so precarious I do not Choose to keep a large Property by me in Savannah, without some reason to expect having an Opportunity of Shipping it soon, if you can get it done we woud be glad to have our Insurance made on Capt. Stiles out & Home, he sailed from this about 14 Days ago with the first of a fresh Westerly Wind & a certainty of our Coast being clear, as two of the Carolina Privateers where Scouring it at the time, the Value of the Cargo we are jointly concerned in is £335.6.6 & the vessel about £480, tho' cannot be exact as the Accounts are not made up, We cannot Say to what place we woud have him Insured, as

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\* Philadelphia.

we left it to him to go where he thought there would be least Risque, therefore if he learnt by any means that one place was more infested w'th Cruisers than another he was to avoid it, this we thought best for our mutual Interest, as he is a Man we can rely on & who has been long acquainted with Business; we Recommended such Articles to him to lay out his Cargo in, as we thought wou'd best suit Our Markett, but did not fix them as we could not tell where he would sell, we discourag'd his going to the Cape as we found many of their Vessels were constantly going & coming from the Continent, of course their Comodities would be high among's them & ours, very low, We cannot fix any Prem'o if the Voyage is a Successfull one 'twill pay a high one, & if not we shou'd be glad to be Insured even at a high premo', so that we leave this to you, tis generally said the Continental Congress allow the Continent to Trade w'th the Bahamas & Bermudas, I am not Clear in it, & shoud be glad to be inform'd as they are very conveniently Situated for us. I most anxiously wish we could get a good Vessel afoot again, we cou'd soon re Establish our Trade, the Cargo's hitherto brought in I find are of no consequence they being so small that they are immediately Consum'd, the great & Principal matter is they have sold for such great Profits that they have been enabled to purchase large Quantities of very Valuable & Profitable Articles, such as Leather, &c., w'ch I would prevent by constantly Buying them up were I tolerably certain of having a Vessel to Ship them off in, but till that is the Case I cannot Venture, you may depend some one or other among you will fix here soon if we do not Resume the Business again, 'tis not in my power here, we have not the least Chance, their is neither Vessels, Sails nor Cordage or Materials of any kind, nor indeed cou'd I tell where to get a Master for a Vessel if I had one (Bunner Commands one of our Galleys) we are now fitting out a Brig abt 300 Blits in order to do w'ch four or five of us are oblig'd to join together, that we may be able to collect as many



materials among us as will send her to sea, neither Being able to do it of himself, a Pc Canvas cou'd not be Bo't among us for any price; the Brig Stiles is in I woud observe is a very fast Sailor, but as she is Square rigg'd & of course rather lofty, she runs great risque of being Discovered & chac'd than a smaller Vessel for which reason we Empower'd him in Case he cou'd sell the Brig to advantage, & purchase a fast Sailing Sloop or Schooner to do it, this must be attended to in making the Insurance & is the reason I mention it, I would only repeat if you can get a Vessel that Sails fast any price will not be too much for her, provided the present contest Continues. She must if she runs a few Trips make a great deal of Money, I will do every thing on my part, but getting a Vessel I have no chance of doing, we are extremely anxious to hear from N. York we expect the British Army or rather part of it will be Sotherly when the Season for Action is over with you, and are preparing Accordingly. I have only to assure you that I am with great regard,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obed't Serv't,

Joseph Clay.

P. S. We order'd Stiles on his return to run in to the first Port he made from Chas. Town Southerly to Sapelo, from any of which he can come to Savannah inland.

The Hon. Henry Laurens, Esq., Charles Town.

D'r Sir Since you left Savannah I inquired in our Secretary's office for the Titles to Mr. Hawkins Land on Rocky Comfort, and was inform'd they were not there nor had they been Recorded on w'ch I took the first Opportunity of inquiring of Mr. Netherclift relative to them who inform'd me they were in his Possession, that they Had not been Recorded for want of their being prov'd that the

Witnesses were Residents in your State that he had kept the Titles in his Hands Expecting that some of them might have came here & enabled him to have had them prov'd & Recorded he said further that he expected to come to your Town very shortly & would take the Deeds with him to Mr. Hawkins in Order to their being prov'd he likewise told me that he had made inquiry relative to the Setlers on the Land & could not learn that there were any on it or if there were twas only some transient back Country people of no consequence I Endeavour'd to make what inquiry I could relative to the Enemy's Vessel to the Southward but have not been able to obtain so satisfactory an Account as I could wish, there is a Gentleman just from Aug't, a Col. Lawson who I believe comes with the General who has been to the So'ward as far as Sunburry I presume you will be able to obtain a very full Account General Howes coming amongst us at this juncture I am in hopes will produce very salutary consequences to this state & the cause in general as I am in hopes he in some measure has alarm'd many amongst us who seem'd sunk into a State of Security or wholly Engaged in disputes.

Messrs. Bright & Pechin & Capt. Buck.

Savannah the 17th Dec'r, 1776.

Gentlemen :

I suppose the Schooner put in there, the Schooner Capt. Buck is intirely on the Public Account to serve as a Packett, tho' I believe she is to take Freight whenever the Congress dont fill her up themselves, she is to go constantly between your Port & this. Our Convention being still setting prevents my sending you the Papers I promis'd you. If the Congress do not fill her themselves you may obtain Freight, but not otherways, she is dispatch'd under the direction of a secret Committee We have heard of a large Fleet having sailed from New York & since that of their

having put into Hampton Road Virginia, but that 'twas thought they were bound still further So'therly but no appearance of them as yet this way I can only add that I am with great regard,

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah Dec'r 18th 1776.

Bright & Pechin

Gentlemen:

I dropt you a Line of yesterdays Date ☞ Capt. Buck in w'ch I mentioned his Vessel was intirely on the Public Account & so in fact she is, & at the expence of the United States: but I find she will very probably be Used for private Advantage, the Vessel is manag'd by a secret Committee appointed by the C: Congress, they consign her to whom they please, if the Public have any thing to send from this Port or yours I presume it will have the preference, but if not the Secret Committee or the Person to whom they Consign her may let her out to whom they please, this has been the Case this Trip, our State did not choose to Ship any thing on its own Account, of course Mr. Wreat, to whom she was directed by the Committee had the filling her up, or letting her out, he has done the former, & from Observations of my own I presume he must expect to do so in future as I find he is Endeavoring to purchase Sole Leather, Indico &c. he has got some Comissions from your City or fix'd a Correspondence there when he was with you this last fall: I only mention this for your information I have a notion he is connected w'th some of the Secret Committee in your City, however to me its seems very strange that a Vessel which is intended as a Packet or Advice Boat to go with Dispatch shou'd be loaded as deep as a Common Merchantman, if we coud by any means procure a fast sailing

Vessel that woud carry from 150 to 180 Blls Rice at most well fitted & Armd w'th 4 or 6 Carriage Guns to keep off Boats &c., & to row on an Occasion I think we might do something to advantage but without a Vessel we can do nothing & one is not to be had here.

I can only repeat that I am w'th regard

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

J. C.

Savannah Georgia 30th Dec., 1776.

Capt. John Rains

Sir: Inclosed is Invoice of five Casks Indico, Ship'd by me on board the Schooner Sophia———whereof you are Master & Consign'd to you Amounting to the sum of two hundred & seventy-two Pounds 13/5 w'ch you will please dispose of at your port of delivery to the best Advantage & return me particular Sales thereof the Net Proceeds; I would have laid out in such Articles as wou'd be likely to produce the greatest profits & take the least Room unless you shoud Buy a larger Vessel on Account of the whole Concern in w'ch Case a few Bulkly Articles that woud produce the greatest profit might be brought such as Rum, Sugar, Salt &c. the latter only as Ballast & if to be procured without too much Risque & trouble; among the Articles of Dry Goods some of the following wou'd be likely to command a quick Sale & produce a large profit; low priced white Linnens of all kinds, such as wou'd have Cost in England from 14 to 21 ₤ yd: good Osnabrigs, a large Quantity, Strip'd Cotton Hollands of a middling Quality, Cotton & Linnen Checks Garlix & Dowlas; Callicoes & printed Linnens, Handkerchiefs of all sorts, Russia Drabs White & Colour'd, Raven & Sail Duck, Cotton & Thread Hose, Threads of all sorts, Pins & Needles, any coarse Woollen Cloth fit for Negro Cloathing & that dont come

too high, the kind usually Imported for that purpose, into this Province us'd to Cost from 13d to 16d ₤ yd in England —Plantation & Family Medicine such as Jesuits Bark, Ipecacuana, Common Salts, White Vitriol, Rubarb, Tartar Emetic, Cream Tartar, Magnesia, Spanish Flies & Melolet for Plasters &c. I just mention these things as a Memorandum, but not to confine you to them in particular, as perhaps it may so happen that you may make a Port where none of them are to be had in w'ch Case you will be oblig'd to substitute some other in the Room of them: I would only make one Remark further in regard to returns & w'ch is a very general one that is all Articles of whatever kind that Persons of all Ranks in general constantly want & Daily Consume or wear (& of which there are many) must of course be in constant Demand & will always command a Market, therefore such things must & will always be suitable & proper to purchase: I would be obliged to you to purchase for me if it comes in your way 1, 2 or 3 Pieces White Sheeting equal in Quality to such as usually cost in England from 13d 14 to 20 ₤ yd; I would only notice as my opinion that should you be able to purchase a fast sailing Sloop or Schooner of at least 150 Blls Rice Burthen, that I do not think Any Articles you can bring here will produce so large a profit as good Rum & Sugar, particular the former I have only to add that I am w'th Wishes for your Success

Sir Your most Obed't Serv't,

Joseph Clay.

Savannah, Jan'y 28th 1777

Capt Samuel Stiles

Sir—

₤ a Letter I received from Cha's Town Dated the 24 Ins't I am informed that a Frigate was Cruising off their Barr, & that they had reason to expect another would be there shortly which has induced me to drop you a line at

a Venture, shoud it meet you it may be of use to You. I am also well assumed\* that the Otter Sloop is generally between St. Johns & Augustine, sometimes she goes to St. Marys besides which there is generally two or three Tenders, say small Schooners & Sloops Arm'd about St. Marys, tho' I believe they dont cruise much, being principally intended for the protection of E. Florida, a small Schooner Schooner under French Colours run into Sapelo ab't a Month ago (Commanded by one Kelly) & Robbed poor Montaugut & his Mother, again otherways we have heard of nothing on the Coast since you left this we have had several Arrivals since you left this Nevertheless Dry goods good Rum, Sugar & Salt still bear good prices shoud you get in Safe you may probably do tolerably well the Man of War being off will rather be of service to your Sales. I am Sir your most Obed't Serv't,

Jos'h Clay.

P. S. Nichols Boat say the one that he Built in his yard the Back of the Town is fitting out & will be off as a Pilot Boat in a few days. I presume you know her she is deck'd & appears rather like a small Bermudian Boat she will have shoulder of Mutton Sails Mr. Telfair received your Letter from Turks Island, your Brother is not yet arrived.

Savannah the 24th Feb'y 1777.

Mr. John Burnley †

D'r Sir—

Our Convention broke up only last Monday Night during the sitting of which my time was almost constantly taken up & for some days since we have been & now are in a little confusion a Number of Soldiers & Indians having

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\* Assured.

† Of Virginia. See letter to James Clay, dated Charles Town, Nov. 2, 1779.

made an Attack on our most Southern Post, Fort McIntosh situated on the North side of Satilla River, w'ch they have taken, their Numbers was above 400 half of which were Indians the others Regulars from St. Augustine they brought 5 pieces of Artillery with them the Fort was Commanded by a brave and prudent Officer one Capt. Winn Who had 70 Men under his command but the Fort was not calculated to resist so formidable an Attack it being only a Stockade—whether this was only their Advanced Party & a larger are following them to make a General Attack on the province, or whether they mean to Attempt to secure that part of the Country to themselves in Order to get the Cattle that is in it, is not yet known, every thing is in Motion & all are in high Spirits, & I think I never saw greater Unanimity in this province since the present Contest began than just now, and I have not the least doubt if we are properly Supported of every thing succeeding to our Wishes.

Savannah March 1st 1777.

Mr. Dan'l Bourdeaux  
Sir

The Admiralty Suit is not yet brought to an issue owing to their not being able to get a Jury for some days past the Inhabitants having been all on Duty occasioned by an incursion on our Southern Frontier from Florida, but as they have Retreated & Troops are howrly expected I presume the Militia (or part of them) will be discharged & Business be resumed again in two or three Days and am

Sir your most Obed't Serv't,

Joseph Clay.

P S I do not know what Articles the Prices w'th you woud afford your sending them here indeed the Prices here are so fluctuatory that there is no Judging from them your Salt 10 Days ago woud have Produced 10/  $\frac{7}{8}$  Bushel.

Savannah the 19th March 1777.

Mess Bright & Pechin

Gentlemen:

However if no Vessel should come in for 4 or 5 Weeks I expect I shall be intirely clear of every thing I hold the Flour a 45/ Ship Bread a 40/ & Biscuit a 12/ w'ch I hope to obtain for the Whole of this Cargo the Onions I am afraid will not produce  $\frac{1}{4}$  the Cost of them we have so many here as to reduce the Price lately to d6  $\frac{3}{4}$  Bunch our Currency the Cheese may Produce 2/ tho' I am rather afraid of it as it is much injured from having been so long on board. I hope the Sloop will be ready for Sea in two or three Days by her I shall send you some Sole Leather, Rice, Indico & Deer Skins, also ab't 5 or 600 lb Coffee which stands me in ab't  $\frac{1}{4}$  our Currency  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb, pray be particular in future in mentioning the Prices of Articles w'th you particularly W. India Produce as from the Idea I have of your Markett it appears to be vastly higher than ours & that I might often purchase here & Ship you so as to save ourselves if not make a profit.

I am not certain the Sloop will be permitted to Sail as soon as she is ready there being an Embargo on Shipping at present tho' 'tis Expected t'will be shortly taken off. Hazard you have doubtless heard before this was taken off Charles Town by the Perseus Frigate & I am afraid Thomson has shared the same fate I am w'th regard

Gent

Your most Obed't Serv't

Mr. Taarling

J. C.



Savannah the 26th March 1777.

Mr. John Burnley

Sir—

The Embargo still remains on our Shipping the Council meets to day when I hope they will take this matter into consideration. We have a Report here that a Fleet is off your port w'ch I hope is not true. One third of the Brig Amity was sold yesterday for £715 & bo't in by Mr. Weareat the other Owners not having authorized either Mr. Houstoun or myself to go so far by a considerable sum on their behalf I am sir

Your most Obed't Serv't,

Joseph Clay.

Messieurs Bright & Pechin & Capt. McDaniel copy per

Savannah the 8th April 1777.

Mr. Rice

Gentlemen:

herewith you will receive Copy of my last to serve in failure of the Original as I therein mentioned the Sloop has been detained till now on Account of an Embargo w'ch was not taken off before this Day I now inclose you Invoice & Bill Lading of sundry Articles Ship'd on board the Sloop Dove Capt. Daniel McDaniel on your and my joint Account Amount'g to Six hund'd & thirty one Pounds Nineteen shill'ng & 9d One half of w'ch being £315 - 19 - 10½. I have Debited your Account shou'd this Vessel get in safe I am in hopes we shall make a profitable Adventure, the 3 Hhds W. India Rum are high though of a good Quality & must Answer at the Prices you Quote the other 2 Hhds are of a better Quality than your distild Rum is & I think must do well, the Coffee if the Price keeps up with you must bring a Considerable profit, the Sugar I presume will pay Freight in future be very particular in regard to the

State of your Market's as the course of Trade is now so altered & fluctuating that nothing but constant advice can enable one to form any Judgement. I could have sent you ab't 20 ps Russia Duck at £7 - 19s a £7 - 15s  $\text{p}$  ps but was afraid twas too high tho' I understand tis in Demand with you. Inclosed is Invoice of 2 Casks Indico & a parcel of Deer Skins Ship'd by Joseph Clay & Co. on your & their joint Account amounting to £167 - 8 - 7 One half of which is to your Debit in Account with them; many of the Skins are much hurt w'th the worm the good ones will bring between 2s & 3s  $\text{p}$  lb for w'ch reason have Averaged the whole a 20/.

Since my last to you I have received your favour of the 20th February  $\text{p}$  the Georgia Packett Capt. Buck who arrived here the 4th Inst. w'th a Cargo consisting of 64 Blls. Fine Flour 11 half Blls. do 30 blls. Ship Bread & 30 Blls Porter the Gentlemen to whom she was Consigned Mr. John Wreat being gone into the Country had desired me to open his Letters in his Absence, & do the necessary Business for him w'ch gave me an opportunity of knowing her Cargo so exactly by the same means I observe by Letters from Mr. Thos. Morris that he is sending away one or two small Vessels to this Port w'th Barr Iron Flour Ship Bread &c all of w'ch is on Account of the United States in Order to further Payments round to different Ports, Buck goes from this to the W. Indies with a Cargo for that purpose. The following Articles I think may be Ship'd here to advantage if to be had, the first & principal ones must be as usual, a proportion of the following: Superfine Flour in whole, Sffine in half Blls.

Comon do in do	}	not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ or at most one third of the whole Quantity Ship'd to be of this kind about 20 Blls.
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Ship Bread if not risen much in price do  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz Blls. Pilot Bread in half Blls. 6 or 8 Blls. good Porter no other will stand the hot weather.

Barr Iron about a Ton or 1½ Tons I am afraid its too high to yield much profit.

About 50 lb Chocolate if not risen too high you may ship as far as a 100 lb.

Mould Candles sell here by Retail at 2-3

Dipt do do by do 20d to 2s

Soap by do do by do 10d to 2s

Send about 100 Kegs water Biscuit.

Horse Collars, Chair Harness, & Italian Collars are in great Demand & if not too high w'th you I suppose may bring our Currency for yours but not more if you have not Ship'd me any Chair Hanes before this comes to hand send at least 2 Setts do w'th Italian Collars.

Cotten & Wool & Cards will bring particularly the latter a good price Say 10/ a 13/ ₤ pair, indeed they are so necessary an Article that they will bring almost any price.

Sickles, Hoes, Axes & Whips saw files are in great Demand.

½ doz. Blls Cyder might answer if good 2 or 3 Blls. Train Oil woud bring a good price, a small Quantity of Steel might answer. I have enumerated these Articles just for your Information knowing the state of every thing in regard to Trade is so altered as to render it necessary. We have a tolerable Trade to the French West Indies w'ch furnishes us w'th the produce of their Islands tho' at high prices for as their Vessels are in general small the Quantities at one time is so small as rarely to leave any Quantity of any thing on hand, we have likewise some trade to the Dutch Islands from whence we have got chiefly Dry Goods, but them in no Quantities as yet, this is all the Trade we have as yet except what is Coastways & that is Principally to & from your port and Charles Town from w'ch you may judge whether you have any thing with you that will suit here I suppose 2 or 300 lb Cheese if none shoud arrive here woud bring 2/6 ₤ lb in yours of the 20th feb'r you mention there being 10 Kegs Biscuit on board the Dove more than

charged in the Invoice. I have received only—61—in the whole Capt'n McDaniel thinks the other 5 must have been taken out by the Fellow they belonged to I could have ship'd you Indigo of the Best Quality Say of the Copper kind a 10/ our Currency  $\text{₹}$   $\text{₹}$ , but your Account of that Article discouraged me Capt'n McDaniel as far as I can judge of him seems to be a carefull Sober Man & I am in hopes will get safe Back. I had forgot to notice that I received the Sloop Account under cover of your 20th Feb'r amount £67 - 5 - 10 your Curr one half of which is to your credit. Inclosed you have the Sloops Amount. Disbursements here Amount £10 - 4 - 10 one half of which being £35 - 2 - 5 our Curr'y is to your Debit, the Indico & Deer Skins on Account of J. C. & Co. I have included in our Bill Lading Freight of which must leave to you the Guns that belong'd to the Brig I lent to one of our Colonels who was going by water to the S'ward sometime ago & I am afraid I shall find some difficulty in getting them back, if they had been here I woud have had them Mounted in the Sloop as twoud be a great Security against a Boat boarding her shoud she get safe to you & you can purchase two or three Swivels or small Guns they may be very serviceable to her.

10th April the Sloop being detained till to day by bad weather has given me an opportunity of Borrowing two small Carriage Guns for the Sloop in the lieu of those I lent them w'ch Capt. McDaniel has got on board with Shott & Powder for them shoud he get in safe I think if he had two or three Oars fitted twoud not be improper. I was in hopes to have sent you Sales No. 15 by this Conveyance as I had it ready except Examining and Casting up, but time woud not permit. Inclosed is a Copy of Invoice  $\text{₹}$  Stiles & Rains the latter is not closed on Acco't of the Disbursements some Articles of w'ch have been paid by the other Owners w'ch they have not furnish'd me with & there is some small matter to add to Disbursements we have not heard of. Stiles's Sailing from the Capes but are rather uneasy about him as from the last Accounts we

had from him he ought to have been here before this we have never heard any thing of Rains since he Sail'd w'ch makes us at a loss what to conjecture about him, he was to go directly for Bermuda & there purchase a fast Sailing Vessel. I have only to assure you that I am w'th regard,

Gentlemen,

Your most Ob't Serv't

Jos'h Clay.

Savannah May 3d 1777.

Messrs. Bright & Pechin & Mr. Rice

Gentlemen.

Herewith you will receive Copys of my last to you & Capt. McDaniel w'ho I hope is safe with you before this, as he Sail'd from here above a fortnight past, Marketts are much the same as & my last. I am sorry to inform you that my Conjectures in regard to Stiles were w'th too much reason, he arriv'd three Days ago in a Boat from Jamaica with w'ch he coasted from there along shore—he had purchased a very fine Sloop that mounted four 2 pounders & 4 Swivels, & had a Valuable Cargo on board on our Accounts, & a very Considerable one on Freight Ship'd by or rather & order Dorsius either on Acco't of the United States or Willing & Morris, he was Chaced about Nine Hours after he was out by two Frigates & was lucky enough to get from them, & two Days after was Chaced again by two Sloops Warr who by dint of being a long way to windward came up with him & took him, there was another Vessel in Company with him when he was taken w'ch got away, there was 8 or 9 of them came out together some of whom were taken by the Frigates who chased them the first Day, his Vessel cost him at the Cape 300 half Johannes & sold at Jamaica for £130, 'tis a great Pity no method could be fell upon to Purchase prize Vessels in the British Islands, much

money might be made & America absolutely served by it. Rains I have never heard any thing of since he left this, I am afraid he foundered at Sea he sailed the same Day that Thomson Sail'd for Philadelphia, I will now give you an Acco't of a more profitable concern, I mentioned to you in some of my last we were fitting out another Vessel in w'ch we proposed to Interest you a part, w'ch we accordingly did & had her loaded & ready for sea when our Embargo was laid, she was Commanded by one Hugh Inglis a very sensible, sober & discreet Man, who had Sail'd in the Ship we sold Dorsius ever since she was Built w'ch was near 7 years, during which time we had an Opportunity of trying him thoroughly, unfortunately his sentiments did not concur with the present contest he was I believe in principle a Tory, 'tho a very prudent Man & one that never interfered (at least Publickly) in Politicks, however, they were people ungenerous enough to say he wou'd go to Augustine w'th his Rice (as some others have really done before him) w'ch place 'twas well known was in great want of that Article for Provisions, in consequence of w'ch the Owners who were Mr. Telfair, Mr. Jas. Habersham his brother Joe, the Capt., & myself  $\frac{1}{4}$  each, reflecting on our situation of our Province from its affinity to Augustine—that some of their Cruisers might possibly take him as he went out & carry him there in w'ch Case we might not only be lossers but subject to the sensure & Calumny of the Malicious & ignorant, who woud say he was taken on purpose especially as we have really tolerable Proof of one Vessel from here being taken by Connivance of one of the Owners; these Considerations & there being an Opportunity of getting Rid of the Vessels & Cargo to advantage determined us to sell her here more especially as we could not with any Propriety turn the Capt. out of the command, as he was part Owner & had conducted himself intirely to our satisfaction as Master, she Cost us with the Cargo including our Commissions on the latter about £1430 & including Portlidge Bill & every thing—& she produced

Net of every Charge £2755 so that she Yields to every owner ab't 330 clear Profit Say on their  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Concern I had agreeable to what I wrote you formerly interested you 1-3 say one third of my Concern, of course you will be gainer of about £110 by this intended voyage, w'ch may perhaps be full as well & possibly better than if she had proceeded to sea as was designed as soon as the Accot's are closed will send you the particulars. Rains Cargo will not Cost say for our  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Vessel & Cargo more Than £270 of w'ch your 1-3 will be £90. Bunner is just now out of Employ, if I can get hold of a proper Vessel for him & another for Stiles & they will go, I shall try again, perhaps we may have better luck add to w'ch I am hopes we shall effect an Insurance Company to Insure our own Vessels—Our Coast I believe is pretty Clear I wish I could hear yours was also, I am in Jeopardy for you this Spring, its generally believed Howe will push hard for your City, I am not so apprehensive of our Markett being glutted as when I wrote you last above 600 Blls. of the Flour that came in last was common, add to w'ch Mr. Weareat & I am on a very Friendly Footing & we sell each at the same Price, by w'ch means I am in hopes we shall carry the sale through at the Prices we began at, indeed finding the Cheese going off fast I have obtained  $\frac{2}{3}$  for about 300 lb of it—I believe I did not mention to you that we received only 1 Bll Onions ☿ McDaniel there was no more on board that could be found, I am just now offerd a Quantity of Melasses a 4/ ☿ Gall. I am apprehensive this Article must keep up with you & will grow scarce here, but want of knowing your Situation & the precariousness of the times altogether almost deter me—but I believe I shall Purchase, if Porter can be had that will keep, twill bring a good Profit—what came ☿ Buck Bro't above £8 Bll our Money. I am

Gentlemen,

Your most Obed't Serv't,

J. Clay.

Savannah the 15th May 1777.

Mr. Josiah Smith  
D'r Sir,

I received your favour & Dr. Zubly together with a Number of Schemes of the Lottery now Drawing on Account of the United States, no Person would exert themselves more to promote any measure that might tend to assist the general cause of America & its Defence than myself, but the footing the Inhabitants of this State were put on in regard to the purchase of the Ticketts as proposed in yours was such that consistant with the particular Interest of this State I could on no Consideration have assisted in the disposal of them, nor indeed were it even worth the attempt from the very great Scarcity of either your currency or Continental Money for which reason I deferr'd answering your letter till the Assembly met when I proposed to have laid the matter before them as I knew there was many among us who would gladly have become Adventurers in the principal of Assisting the General Cause, & who would have been deprived of the opportunity for want of the currency of your or the United States which appeared to me a very great hardship more especially at this time when we are labouring under the disadvantage of a depreciating Currency brought on us by large Emissions of paper Currency Emittted principally on Acc't of the United States to pay the several Troops in this State on that Establishment, tis true we probably might in some degree have been Relieved from this difficulty by having Continental Currency Circulating among us, had we have been a little more Carefull in sending our Acc'ts to the C: Congress in which we have hitherto been Remiss, but I believe in future that will not be the Case & I make no doubt in the course of a few months to see the Currency of this State (from the very large Expenditure that will & must be among us on Account of the United States) on as respectable a footing as any on the Continent. I hope you



will Excuse this digression it naturally arose out of the Subject. Agreeable to your desire ¶ Mr. Habersham I have delivered the Schemes to Mr. Weresat who I am glad to find is enabled to dispose of the Ticketts of this State for the Currency of it, this Removes every difficulty, he is so hearty & sincere in the present cause that you may be assured of his promoting the Sale of the Ticketts as much as any man in this State can possibly do, if I can by any means further or Expedite the Business I shall as Opportunity offer most chearfully do it—We have nothing particular among us at present and have only to assure you that I am with regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 19th May 1777.

Henry Laurens Esq'r.

D'r Sir

Your favour of the 10th Ins't ¶ Mr. Baillie I duly received together with your Power of Attorney which he Mr. Baillie has proved & in Answer thereto have only to assure you that I will most chearfully do every thing in my Power to promote your Interest & shall be very happy if I shall be able to render you any essential Services therein I can easily conceive the injury you must Sustain in your private concerns from so Sudden a Departure as well as from so close an application as you have been oblig'd to give to public concerns since the present unhappy contest began I have in part felt the same inconvenience tho' not in near so great degree as you have, however the Public good w'th every true Disinterested Patriot will pervade every other Consideration. I have got our Comissary General Mr. James Rae to confirm the Bargain Entered

into by Col'l Elbert for 10,000 Bushels Rough Rice, & I hope if no unforeseen Accident happens to get him in a few days to take the Remainder during the Administration of our late President Mr. Gwinnett an Expedition was undertaken ag't E. Florida in my opinion w'th more Zeal than Prudence, as I cannot think our Situation such as to enable us to do more than Defend ourselves, & hardly that, much less to undertake to Act offensively, Our Troops are already gone & our Safety almost depends on their being properly supported. Our Assembly w'ch are now Sitting have under Consideration an Application to your State for Assistance w'ch I much mistaken if we dont stand in great need of, as a failure on our parts must necessarily bring this Province into a very dangerous Predicament & w'ch I am much afraid will be the Case unless we are Timely assisted as the Force we have is by no means in my opinion, equal to the undertaking. You have doubtless heard of Gen'r'l McIntosh & Gwinnetts' dispute w'ch has ended w'th the loss of the life of the latter a mortification took place w'ch brought him to his end this morning if the Public Business afford me sufficient time I shall take the liberty of troubling you w'th two or three letters for Philadelphia. I am w'th regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

J. C.

P S 21st April we have just heard by Express that Part of our light Horse under the Command of Col'l Baker consisting of about 100 or 110 Men being Attacked & Defeated between St. Mary & St. Johns by a Party from E. Florida consisting of about 100 Regulars & 40 Indians some of our light Horse misbehaved as tis said: tho' I have not as yet heard the Particulars this Strengthens my former opinion.

Savannah, June 14th 1777.

Mr. John Burnley

I this day received your favour of the 9th Instant,  $\text{£}$  Express & have agreeable to your request inclosed your Account Curr't Ballance you thereby  $\text{£}522..1..7\frac{1}{4}$  our Curr't Moneys there is nothing therein omitted to your Debit that I can recollect but the Pilotage of the Sloop which I could not obtain the Pilot being at Tybee.

Since I wrote you last my time has been so much taken up with the Assembly that I could not Embrace any Opportunity to forward you your Accounts Nevertheless I have not being Idle in regard to purchasing Land for you, tho' have come to no determination decisive therein, nor concluded on any Bargain, among others one Burney near Augusta who said he had been applied to by you, offered me Land which tho' not such as I woud intirely from choice have purchased, yet from your anxiety to have your Money invested in Land, I will take the most Early Opportunity of Embracing his offer as the best that has, as yet, according to my knowledge been offered me, tis for Two Tracts one in So. Carolina on the Road to 96 about 15 miles from Augusta, of 400 Acres Granted in 1771 to one N. Hampton on Horns Creek bounded by Purcell, Stringer, Roberts, &c the other of 350 acres in Georgia Granted in 1773 on Kegg Creek about 15 miles from Augusta the Price is 12/  $\text{£}$  acre this will take nearly the Ballance due you the Remainder I will Endeavour to invest as soon as possible in some small Tract; the Sloop produces rather less than I expected, however I am content, you may depend on hearing from me & if the fate of War does not prevent I shall be doing something in a Commercial with you or your Friends in Europe, as well as with your Brother in Virginia, however this depends on providence the Die is Cast generally, this Summer will determine for the Continent, if We keep the Enemy at Bay for this Summer tis enough; their utmost effort is making this Campaign with them, 'tis this

Year or never, the Continental Congress are sensible of it, if you have seen their Resolves & Regulations in the begining of April you will be convinced of it, by that tis evident to me that at this day they have all their Army, consisting of 110 Battalions including those in the States of So Carolina & Georgia quite full with Soldiers or Militia, except the two States aforementioned which are not included in those Resolves; after all tis not as we will, the Battle is not always to the Strong, but as he who willeth all things directs, he has as yet been remarkably on our side, may it be so in the future—Col. Elbert is not yet come to Town therefore I could not make Application about the Keg of Gun powder I have only to assure you that I am with great regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 2nd July 1777.

Messrs Bright & Pechin  
Gentlemen:

We have been daily expecting to hear you were attacked that is from common report, tho for my part unless Howe is Strongly reinforced or Carlton penetrates on the back of you I do not think 'twill be attempted, as General Washington's Army by this I apprehend is very Strong & much better regulated than formerly, We have an Account by Prisoners from Augustine within this six Days that a Transport which went there from New York under convoy of the Dartmouth was taking on board 200 men to carry them to New York the talk there was that they were to be sent Home from New York they having been 11 years in America, but the true cause in my opinion is that Howe is weak & they were to reinforce him, Our Assembly

resolved at their last sitting that our Delegates at Phil'a should appoint an Agent in your City for this State to transact all Money matters on Account of the State & to keep regular Accounts of every matter of Account between the United States & this State w<sup>ch</sup> Agent is to give Security to the Continental Congress in Trust for this state, such security to be approved of by the Continental Congress this possibly may be worth your applying for, if so I do not believe there can be any obstacle in the way of your getting it I know none it wou'd suit better nor do I know of any Competition unless it may be the infamous Joe Wood, who is coming a Delegate to represent this State but I hope his Character will be well enough known with this Congress to prevent his or any of his family being trusted with any thing, it may seem surprising such a person should be chosen in a Country where he has more than once been recorded in the Courts of Justice for a dishonest Man but it intirely arises from a Defect in our New Constitution, which is so very Democratical & has thrown power into such Hands as must ruin the Country if not timely prevented by some alteration in it, this has arose in a great measure from so large a Number of the principal People being either Tories or through fear of the Consequences have withdrew themselves & wou'd not till very late take an Active part in the present contest by which means they lost that influence they otherways wou'd have had & Rule & Government has got into the Hands of those whose ability or situation in Life does not intitle them to it—I do not apprehend the C. Congress will know of our intentions in regard to an Agent before Wood gets with you, as I presume he will carry the Resolve with him he was the Father of the proposition & was suspected by some of us of having an intention to get the place for himself or his son, & dreading the consequences of such Men getting into a place where money wou'd be intrusted to them they got it carried in Assembly that proper security should be given by the person who was appointed & that the Security

should be approved by the C. Congress, hoping this wou'd be a sufficient Barr to their getting it as they imagined they wou'd not be able to obtain the Security—I have purchased in the Lottery of the United States the following ten Ticketts: N98,141, 98,142, 98,143, 98,144, 98,145; 98,146; 98,147, 98,148, 98,149 & 98,150 which must beg the favour of you to attend to & renew them for me in the next class as I mean to carry them through the several Classes. I am hopefull they may produce as much as will defray the expence but if not I must beg of you to do it for me & let me know the sum you are oblig'd to advance for that purpose. I should be glad to be inform'd from you that Mr. Dorsius's Bills was paid, since my last to you we have heard of Rains's being safe in Bermuda but that they was so closely watch'd by the Men of War that there was no getting out, the first opportunity I suppose that he can Embrace & he will push for this place so that we may have some hopes of the Adventure by him turning out well, yet every thing is exceedingly scarce & dear great Voyages might be made if we could prosecute them; I am hopefull towards Winter we may be able to send backwards & forwards again and am w'th regard

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay

Savannah Aug't 10th 1777.

Edward Telfair, Esq

Dear Sir:

I hope before this you are well settled to business labouring w'th Anxious Care for Millions yet unborn & I woud also be glad to learn you had been able to effect any thing for this unhappy ruind State, but I must own when I reflect on the various applications this State has made

to Congress, the large sums she has from time to time rec'd from it, without rendering any proper Account of the Expenditure, add to w'ch our general Conduct as a State I must say that I doubt your success; if I have any Idea of Mankind or from living so long among men, who if not devoid of Common sense, yet Acting, I mean as a Community, always Contrary to it, I say if—I have not from this Circumstance quite forgot what is plain reason & the nature of things in general, I think a Delegate in Congress representing the State of Georgia is far from an agreeable situation, & to a feeling mind who has the good of his Country at Heart a most uncomfortable one, & when I reflect on the late Expedition & the Circumstances relative to it being laid before Congress w'ch I dare say it will be both by the Gen'l & Gov'r, I think it one of the happiest Circumstances of my life I did not go with you, & should matters appear there as I think they will, I do most sincerely Pity you, Expence & Discord may be our Motto—Our Money is depreciated to a great degree since you left us Negros without any particular Qualifications sell very Common from 5 to £600 & upwards, all kinds of Dry goods are excessive high Butter sells a 10/ & Candles 12 a 15/ 4 lb & so on. We have rec'd the Account of the Engagement between our Army & the Enemy & tho' in its consequences it does not appear to me We reap any particular Advantages, yet it will give our people Spirits, & Establishes to a Certainty our Military Character—from the public papers I think I gather Clinton had reached N. York, w'ch Amazes me, his force must be great, or ours very small, or surely he could not have effected such a March, I hope Estaing w'th his fleet is gone there & if so I think if we push on the Land Side Clinton may yet be—Burgoynd—our Necessitys will sell the Tory Estates as soon as the Assembly meets, & if our next Gov'nr turns General (w'ch as most of his Predecessors have done, there will be little reason to doubt he will do so also) in w'ch Case I think by the time he has reigned his Year out there will be a Necessity to sell every

Estate in the State, for God Almighty seems to have doomd us for destruction, & that it shall be our own doing, & we shall never rest till we have Completed it, for I dare say there never was a State existed that had so little Honesty or Patriotism among its members as the State of Georgia—this may seem to be passing a hard Judgement nor woud I wish the World in general to have the same opinion of us, I dare say you concur with me in it, shoud any thing particular occur before an opportunity of forwarding this offers this shall advise you—and am with great regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

J. Clay.

Savannah, Sept'r 29th 1777.

Mess. Bright & Pechin

Gentlemen:

The foregoing is Copy of my last to serve in failure of the Original, since which I have received your favours of the 13th May & 30th June, the former covering several Sales which have not had time as yet to Examine but Dare Say shall find them right—I notice you had purchased another Sloop & the cause that prevented your getting out I heartily wish 'twas otherways cou'd we keep a small Vessel or two running we might make a great deal of Money if they went safe. We are under great Anxiety for your Safety—the last Acco'ts we had, if true, were very Alarming, that was that Burgoyne was at or near Albany, every thing seems to me to depend on a very Strenuous exertion this Summer & fall, which if attended with Success will I Imagine put an end in a great measure to many of our present Distresses & troubles—an Expedition is much talk'd of by the Tories against this or So. Carolina, or both—if they are Successfull with you I presume they will hardly



think it worth while, & if not, I do not think they will be able to attempt it, as they must know we may with great propriety in that Case, expect large Reinforcements from the N'ward—by this time I imagine tis more than Probable something Capital must have happened—God grant us Success. I am very glad you have got the Dove's Cargo up, I am sensible it must have been attended w'th great trouble & expence, but I am not without hopes the Sales will afford it. Dry Goods are very high just now, as is Rum & Sugar & all kinds of W. India Produce, tho' as Winter comes in I expect we shall have many Vessels dropping in and of course then Goods may be expected to be cheaper—Our Coast has had several Men of War on it this Summer notwithstanding which I believe as many (if not more) Vessels have got safe in than have been taken & as Winter comes on we Expect the Chance will be by far more in our favour & besides which we Expect there will be fewer Men of War Cruising on our Coast—this will be handed you by one of our Delegates, Mr. Edward Langworthy, he is not a Character so Conspicuous as to have supposed him intitled to so Exalted a Station among us however I am in hopes he will prove himself as becomes an honest Man—he was formerly a School Master & is a Man of Considerable Abilities—he had my son Joe under his Care a considerable time—if it shou'd come in your way to be Civil to him I shall esteem it a favour—his Colleague is Joe Wood who is sufficiently known to you. I hope we shall soon have an open Sea Communication between us & am with great regard.

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

P. S. I have just now heard w'th great pleasure of General Stark's success against General Burgoyne

Savannah Sept'r 29th 1777.

Hon'ble Henry Laurens, Esq'r

D'r Sir:

The Scouts from Augustine have for some Months past been continually making incursions into our State for Cattle & I believe they have carried some away lately from the No'side of Great Ogechee, this to our very great shame they have done with very little interruption, for though we have had generally for some Months past from 10 to 1200 Men on the Continental Establishment besides what we have on the Pay of the State not the smallest Check has ever been giving to these People for sometime past except within this few Days past tho' tis will known the Number of the People who have committed these depredations have never exceeded 150 including Indians & that there never was half that Number out at any one time—this is very much complained of by the Inhabitants & with great reason that they cannot be protected from such an inferior force—from what cause all this can proceed cannot with certainty be ascertain'd but to Mismanagement of some kind it must be owing, want of good Officers & strict Discipline I believe is one of the Principal causes for our Men are certainly as good & are Endowed with as much natural Courage as any other, of course the like services may with Propriety be expected from them. The last week a party of the Continental Troops came up with the Florida Scout about 50 in Number on the North side of the Altamaha, Engaged & drove them, Killed one or two Men & took a Number of Cattle from them some Horses Saddles &c & I believe a party is still in pursuit & I wou'd fain hope may come up with them before they get out of the State.

There is two or three Prisoners taken, from whom we learn that their chief Subsistence in Augustine for sometime past has been from the Cattle their Scouts have drove from this State—We received yesterday a Confirmation of the Action near Bennington under the Command of

General Stark w'ch promises fair & gives great Spirits to all true Friends—the Tories here talk much of being relieved (as they call it) very shortly by their Friends in Augustine w'th what foundation can only be conjectured. We are but badly prepared for a formidable Attack. Our Divisions & our mode of Government both Distress us & prevent our going on with that Expedition in putting ourselves in a proper State of Defence. We ought to do—However I have no doubt we shall do well in the long run.

Mr. Jervais wrote me you desired your Money in this State to be invested in Land. Mr. James Bailey has informed me of a Tract on Cat Head Creek belonging to one Fulton which he says is a good one & that the Owner is inclined to dispose of it—I have desired him to inquire further about it & to know their price & inform me—Mr. LeConte (who I believe is a pretty good Judge of Land) likewise Recommend it to me. I have only to assure you that I am with respect

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

J. C.

Savannah the 15th October 1777.

Brigadier General Howe

Sir :

I wrote you on the 8th Ins't in Answer to yours of the 1st which you will receive by this Conveyance no Opportunity offering sooner, since which I have received your favour of the 5th Ins't by Major Demere—I am too well acquainted with the manner the Continental Troops have been managd & paid to be surpris'd at your having heard continual Complaints & Murmurings on that Subject, however notwithstanding there may be several who have cause to complain of their not being paid, or if paid yet not paid

regularly, I believe there are others who have received larger sums & Allowances than they could have received had their Accounts been regularly Examin'd & certify'd agreeable to the Regulations of the Continental Congress— I will do every thing in my power while I hold my Office to reduce things into Order & Regularity with all the Expedition in my Power, and to Establish such a plan of Business as may be in general follow'd by those who succeed me, but I cannot have any retrospect, I can only look forward. I cannot think of attempting to make out a Regular State of Accounts from the time the Army was Established down to the Day I assume my Office, tis an undertaking I cannot venture on, nor is it hardly possible for any one to accomplish it, if any one in this State can do it, I believe I can, being from a constant Engagement in the public Service of the State in a civil way, as well acquainted with the Accounts of the State if not better than other person in it, but the Mode of paying the Army has been so various, sometimes by the Treasurer of the State to the Officers individually, without any regard to whom or which of them, but just as he had more or less influence with some of our Demagogues to obtain an Order for Payment, & latterly principally to the Regimental Pay Masters, many of whom I believe have not been the most Regular in their Business or the best acquainted with it, so that an attempt to bring up & settle the Past Accounts wou'd be a most arduous Task, & cou'd never be completed in such a manner as to render even a tolerable Degree of Satisfaction or to answer a Valuable purpose, And if it is required or expected of the Deputy Pay Master General of this State, to bring up all the past Accounts, I absolutely decline having anything to do with it. I do not believe I could hire a Clerk in this State only to copy the Accounts out fair relative to the Army from the time they were Established to this Period for the sum allowed the D. P. M. G.  $\text{£}9$  Annum as  $\text{£}9$  the list you enclosed me (50 D:  $\text{£}9$  month & 6 Ra:) much more to state them properly and

make the necessary inquiries into them, in accepting the Office to begin the Business with the Appointment I sacrifice my own private Interest to a great degree, far beyond what the Salary can compensate, indeed it is no object with me, my leading Motive is to serve my Country, but my Family have likewise some claim to my attentions—I do not mean by not having any retrospect, that if I shou'd find out by any means in the course of my Office that any Fraud or Mal-Practises have been heretofore practised by any one in Office that I will not take notice of it. No, Sir, nothing of that kind shall escape me, be the Culprit who he may—every thing of that kind that come to my knowledge you may depend on being informed of immediately.

I do not apprehend that the Continental Congress expect that the D. P. M. General of this State is to Settle or bring up the past Accounts, because I see by a Resolve of theirs passed I think in August last (or about the time they made the several late legislations for the Army in this State) that they have Voted a Sum for the Use of this State and at the same time appointed Commissioners to Examine & Audit our public Accounts so far as relates to the Continental Expences defrayed by us, and to Credit our State with the Amt. of such sums as shall appear on Examination to be due it, and to pay or order to be Paid the Amount thereof into our Treasury whatever it may be and at the same time they Voted 300,000 Dollars to be paid me as D. P. M. General in this State for the Payment of the Army, & in Case the Sum Voted for the purpose of Discharging the Debt due this State from the United States shall be found insufficient for the Purpose, that then the said Commissioners are Empowered to draw on me for such further sum as may be necessary, and if on the other Hand the sum Allowed shall be more than sufficient to Discharge the debt due us from the United States they are to pay the Overplus into my Hands for the Use of the United States, So that I apprehend these Commissioners are appointed for the express purpose of Liquidating &

Auditing all the Continental Expences that has been Expended and defrayed in this State from the begining of the present Contest to the time they took the Regulation of the Army into their own Hands & appointed their own Officers.

I apprehend the Money ordered by C. Congress is now on its way here, as yet I have not received any, nor any Instructions on that Head, I presume when necessary I can have what Money I please of the State or I may draw on the President of the C. Congress (when I have no Money in my Hands) for the Amount of the Commander in Chief's Warrant or Warrants tho' I am not clear whether the Resolve that Empowers the Pay Master or D. P. M. G. to draw on the President does not confine it to the purposes of paying off the Militia.

I have been this Day consulting with Col'l Elbert on the business of my Office & the most eligible way of carrying into Execution so as to answer the purposes intended by it, & find myself much at a loss in many particulars. I have thrown together what appears to me the general several of the Resolves you inclos'd me so far as is necessary to put the Business agoing, which I have herewith inclosed you for your Opinion & I have made two or three Memorandums of Matters I am at a loss about which wou'd be much oblig'd to you for your advice therein.

I believe the Regimental Abstracts hitherto used in this State have not been very regular or agreeable to the Form usually made use of in the Army, I shou'd be very glad if I cou'd obtain a Copy of a proper one that I might put the different regimental Pay Masters in a right way at once as well as of the Rolls that are to be made out Monthly of all the Officers in the State not Compris'd in the Regimental Abstracts.

I hope you'll excuse this freedom & the trouble I give you, which I know I have no right to do, but the earnest desire I have to draw this State out of its present Distracted Situation, & to bring it in some degree of Credit

& reputation with its Sister States, I hope will plead my Apology. We are in general Novices as to the knowledge of Government, both Civil & Military, & have little means of obtaining information among ourselves & I look on it in the Business I have undertaken (as well as all other) the Principal Care shou'd be to begin well, lay a proper and regular System down to go by, and then the trouble will be half over, both to myself, and any other person who shou'd succeed me.

I am with great respect

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

16th Oct., P. S.—On reconsidering the matter of the Deputies at the different Posts, I do not see why the Regimental Pay Masters may not do that business, it wou'd be a Saving to the States & make but very little Odds to them as they must give their Attendance where their Regiments are, at any rate they might do the business for a very small addition to their present Salary I could give them if necessary a Deputation which I wou'd believe would be proper as they ought to give me Security for the faithful performance of the Trust. Perhaps there may be an Impropriety in this which I do not See wou'd therefor submit intirely to you and am as above,

J. C.

Savannah the 16th October 1777.

Hon'le Henry Laurens Esq., at Philad'a

D'r Sir:

Since my last to you I have received your several favours of the 20th Aug't & 2d Ulto, the latter by Dr. Houston who arrived here last Saturday Evening, who gives us a very pleasing and Interesting Account of our Affairs Northerly—he mentions a very considerable Detachment of Howe's Army I think 2000 being killed or taken, this is of course considering the Situation of theirs & our Army of great consequence as I apprehend Howe's Army cannot be reinforced at present of Course we are so many stronger & he so many weaker the Moments with us are now Painful for the Circumstances allow us to have great Expectations & raises our hopes to the highest Pitch yet two such Armies so near each other hourly expected to Engage. the Events of which is of so great Importance to us, that its impossible for us to be indifferent in such a Situation. Mr. Baillie, has brought a Quantity of rough rice in Barrels since I wrote you last, I think 44 Blls. which falls far short of the Quantity he expected to bring occasioned by his being disappointed in a Boat, the Expence and trouble of bringing the rice around in the Rough & the little Value it is of when brought here I think will hardly quit Costs I have proposed to Mr. Bailie the beating of it out, for his opinion he thinks he cou'd soon do it with a Strength of Hands, I have wrote to Mr. Gervais on the Subject this Morning to know how far he thought it practicable or for your Interest—Provided I cou'd procure a small detachment to be Station'd on the Island while the People were Employed in beating it out without that it wou'd be the height of Folly & presumption to attempt it, I believe I cou'd procure 25 Men to be Stationed there while the Negroes are beating out the Rice which I should imagine woud be sufficient to protect them against any ravaging Party & they woud always be informed of any consider-



able force time enough to quit the Island for which Purpose they must have always with them a sufficient Boat or Boats to carry them all off at once. I have heard from the Fultons that they want to dispose of their Tract Land which Mr. Baillie says is a very good Tract & that it wou'd suit you very well, they ask in a general way 40s  $\text{£}$  acre and pay't in So. Carolina Currency as they want to move into your State should the Continental Curr'y Voted for this State soon Arrive the difference of Money would be of no great matter for when it once comes to be in circulation the difference of money between the two State will not be much for some time I expect to see one of them soon in the interim, I have desired Mr. Bailie to ask whether they woud take one half of the Purchase Money in this Curr'y. I have mentioned this matter also to Mr. Gervais. Your information in regard to the Vacating the lands of the Absentees was very true, this infamous law for I can give it no other appellation nor ever did not even in the House that pass'd it; indeed it cou'd not be said to be pass'd by but impos'd on the House the Bill was brought in with that Clause relative to the Vacating the Lands of all Absentees who did not come into the State within Six Months from the Passing: I opposed it in every View Generally as being improperly timed. I thought it was no time Grant away Lands (for the express purpose of the Bill was for Granting Lands by opening the Land Office) and in particular as to the Vacating the Lands of the Absentees observed on the numberless Acts of Injustice they wou'd commit in passing: Widows, Orphans, Minors, Friends absent themselves on various occasions some of them perhaps & not a few risqueing their Lives in the field in our Defence while we are giving their property away many joined me in opinion & the Clause was totally rejected, the Bill went through the House without it was ordered to be Engrossed which was done accordingly, & the fore-mentioned Clause inserted in it & through hurry & Confusion at the breaking up was by some manner or other

imposed upon the Speaker who Signed it—this may seem surprising to you who are not acquainted with a Georgia Assembly such as they now are. Forms in which Public Bodies are almost the very essence they do not suit us we know nothing about them, we chiefly meet to carve out some way of Fleecing the State, accomplish it in the best manner we can & then break up, go home & live on the Spoils of our Country This a Melancholy Picture did I not know your Attachment to our State. I wou'd not lay it before you, I by no means intend to expose my Country—God forbid—I have & shall use all the means in my power to Save her & raise her reputation & which I assure you I have great hopes of even this wicked Act is an Omen when the House met again the Validity of it was called in Question & denied as an Act of the House, no one was hardy enough to own it tho twas well known numbers of our Inhabitants had alloted to themselves the Lands of Absentees & were ready to seize on them at the Expiration of the time. However so much as related to the Lands of Absentees was repealed without opposition & the matter done intirely away—I am obliged to you for your good Opinion of me & for recommending me to the Post of D. Paymaster General for this State, this Appointment has laid me under great difficulties in my own mind on many Accounts & it was with difficulty I cou'd come to any Determination—it has been my constant opinion to have nothing to do with any Offices where Salaries were affixed since our present contest began. I have been offered them in almost every capacity within our own State, but as Constantly refused them; my chief objection arose from a Spirit of Avarice I saw Early take place among us which I was sure if not timely prevented woud bring on our ruin—I have seen nothing as yet to make me alter my opinion—I have given up almost my whole time to the Public (greatly to the injury of my Family) for this two Years past & wou'd never receive any thing for it, tho Acting in several Capacities which intituled me to it, but 'twas

from the first a fixt Rule with me, that, that Principle that induced as to engage in the present Contest should have prompted every one who cou'd afford it, to render their services freely & that none but the needy should have received pay, unless it were the Military or Men who Engaged in Offices which took up their whole time & thereby prevented them from doing any thing for themselves—& on the other hand the great Damage this State has suffered from Offices of every kind of getting into improper hands & Low People unqualified for them had great Weight with me. This has been too much the Case among us, & which has arose from nothing more than the Men of Abilities & Capacity and Fortune in general holding Principles incompatible & inimical to the American cause shou'd I have refused to Act immediately it might have fell into some such Hands as a Joe Wood perhaps or one of his Sons or Creatures whom I look upon to be as much real Enemies in effect to this State, from their levelling Principles & Conduct as the King of Great Britain, or any of his Adherants another unsurmountable obstacle, Our Constitution says any Person holding a place of Profit under this State or any Military Commission under any of the United States, shall be deemed incapable of being a Member of Assembly, on the whole I concluded to take the appointment for the present, & have Declared if its thought incompatible with my Seat in Assembly, I shall if I am elected at the next General Election (which I have the greatest reason to suppose I shall) give it up immediately which I will do & have wrote General Howe to that Purpose—if I find I can render any particular service, by holding it longer than till the Sitting of the Assembly & it shou'd be thought to incapacitate me for my Seat (which may be the Case, as Joe Wood tho a Deputy to his son a lad about 15 or 16 years of Age who was Pay Master to the 1st Continental Battalion was permitted to keep his during the two last sittings) I will do it—However in two or three weeks I shall be able To determine better—I find

our Friend, General McIntosh is called to the Northward which I am very glad of both for his own & the State's Sake, 'twas impossible for him to have, or give any satisfaction here, prejudice was so strong against him, Col. Elbert who now has the Command in his Room is universally respected and I believe his character as a soldier is indisputable he has paid great attention to Military matters for many Years past, & is a great Disciplinarian which is much wanted in our State—I heartily wish he cou'd be promoted so as to have the Chief Command in our State which I believe none but a Brigadier can with propriety do—he is better acquainted with our State than any Person that cou'd be sent into it—he is Active, Vigilant & Brave & takes great delight in his Profession which with me is every thing, 'twas owing to Gwinnett principally that he had not the 1st Regiment when it was raised. Gen'l McIntosh's getting it was owing to a Compromise between the Parties in Convention.

I am in hopes if the campaign terminates as we expect to the Northw'd favorable, that Congress will be able to strengthen this State, & if Possible, reduce our Neighbors the Floridians till that Province is Conquered we can have no Security our & your back Country People that are Disaffected are continually backwards & Forwards giving them every information our Domestics are running to them & Numberless other Grievances we are subjected to from our Vicinity to them—We have the greatest reason to expect we shall be attacked by them, if not with a View to reduce us, yet in such a manner as to give an Opportunity to their Scouts & Indians to carry off our Stocks, w'ch is & must be their chief support—cou'd they have been prevented Robbing us of our Cattle, I have been credibly informed they wou'd have been drove to the greatest straights long ago. Col. Elbert is now collecting the Troops in Order to Establish some Strong Posts, particularly S'therly with a view to overawe the Floridians, & be ready to repulse any Attack but tis with concern I inform

you that I heard him & Col. Habersham within this two Days say that the three Regments of Infantry wou'd not produce 600 effective Men owing principally to Desertions, Sickness has carried a Number of the Third Reg't off, the first & second together have not lost exceeding 8 or 9 Men this Fall—the Reg't of Horse has been so managed & such irregularities in Officering, that it has never been of much service & little can be expected from it at present—We have two Troops of Horse & two Battallions of Minute Men which were raised under the pretence of Defending our Western Frontiers, but in my opinion the principal View was to make Offices & Places not that we do not want a Force to defend that part of the Country, we are in great want of it, but I have very little expectations from Troops (particularly in the back Country) who choose their own Officers, which was the Case with these except the Field Officers who were chosen by the Assembly—I hope if these Troops are kept they will be put under the Continental Generals—'twas with the greatest difficulty we cou'd prevent our Assembly Resolving during the last Sitting to break out with the Creeks which if had taken place we must have been broke up as a State at once & yours greatly Distressed—this was principally push'd by the famous Col. Wells, the principal motive I believe plunder & Offices—I hope the Congress will Embrace some favourable Opportunity to Chide us for our Folly, 'twou'd have great Weight & be of Service—the Situation of our Country lays so much on my mind that I don't know where to stop. I have already got to an immoderate length which hope you'll excuse—I shall only remark that I think the late Regulations Votes of Money for our Assistance will tend greatly to our advantage particularly if we can have Sense enough to improve them, & that we are under great Obligations to you for your Support therein, and am with great regard.

D'r Sir. Your most Obed't Serv't, J. C.

Gen'l McIntosh sets off for Phil'a in two or three Days by whom shall trouble you again.

Savannah the 21st October 1777

Henry Laurens, Esq.

D. Sir:

I wrote you in great haste a long scrawl the 15th Inst, Crude and indigested Col. Habersham was just going off for Charles Town from whence I suggested a safe Opportunity for Phil'a might soon offer, as 'twas uncertain then whether General McIntosh might go so soon; as he did not appear then to be very positive when he shou'd set off; I am now to return you thanks for offering in so obliging a manner to be my Security as D. P. M. General for this State—I apprehend no further Security than yours will be required—I am sure it is not necessary; but least the Congress shou'd have laid down to themselves Rules or Regulations, by which one or more Securities are required on such Occasions I have wrote to my Friends Bright & Pechin to inquire of you relative to it & if a farther Security is required I have desired them to procure it for me—I believe I mentioned in my last that I had proposed to accept of this appointment at least 'till the meeting of the next Assembly w'ch will be in January next, & that then if I shou'd be again elected, to resign it, unless they wou'd allow me to keep my Seat & the office too, because I apprehend I could render more Service to the State as a Member of Assembly than by holding the Appointment—I am intirely of your Opinion that the Importance of this State has not been Considered with that attention it deserves, nor have the Congress I believe been made Sensible of the great Advantage it may be to the United States in their Hands, & of how much Disadvantage it wou'd be to the common cause shou'd the Enemy be able to possess themselves of it—& at same time of how little ability we are of ourselves to Defend it without their Assistance—I am afraid some of our Delegates have not been well enough acquaint'd with it themselves, & were they (or any one else) to form their opinion or ideas of it from the Resolutions & Conduct of our late Congress & Assembly they

wou'd be grossly misled—there has been two States of the Prov'e made out and reported to our Congress—they were agreed to & the Executive Body Ordered to transmit them to the C. Congress for their information—but I am afraid they never reached them, if they did, I dare say Mutilated, because I do not think they were Agreeable to the Ideas & Declarations of some of the Men in Power at that time—in them the many natural Advantages of this Country were Enumerated—the Number Enemies it is exposed to both Savage & Civilized, being a Barrier State, the Strength we have within ourselves, which is far very far short of sufficient to Protect & Defend us—how great the Sacrifice we had made in joining the Confederacy having Comparatively Speaking no hope of Defending ourselves against the fury of our Enemies, but must in all probability be subdued by them whenever attacked unless Supported by our Sister States which under Providence we hoped wou'd be able to bear us through, & in this Confidence, put every thing to Hazard—no other State in the Confederacy run so great a risque, all of them have some internal Resources for their Defence & their Sister States on each Side of them (New Hampshire excepted) ready to Support them. We on the other hand Surrounded almost on all Sides by Enemies & no internal resources of our own—before the present Contest began We never had in the best of Times 3500 Effective Men in this State—this may be hard to believe, but wou'd the Compass of a Letter admit of it I cou'd give the most incontestable proofs of it—nor did we ever in one Year raise by Taxes a sum exceeding £3500. I know this may appear as Strange but my Knowledge of these things is from the best Authority—I always thought it my Duty as a Member of Assembly to make my self acquainted with every thing relative to the State of the Prov'e, to attain which I used to search the Different Offices & take every other means I cou'd to obtain information—the last Year Taxes were Collected, 13200 Negro's were paid for, this I presume was short of the Number

actually in the Prov'e as there is always some Delinquents & Negro's coming in after the time of Year Taxes are Collected\*—much has been said & propagated about the Disaffected in this State—that their are many Disaffected in it is past any Doubt—but I believe no greater proportion than in any other State, & I believe fewer from Principle than in most—Fear from the very exposed situation of this State has operated very powerfully on many well Affected Citizens, who if a proper force had been Early Sent into this State wou'd have declared themselves & Acted very differently—this undoubtedly was wrong in them, but it must be considered rather as a human frailty than a Crime. I imagine at this Day what with the Numbers who have quitted the State, Entered into the Army &c, we cou'd not on an Emergency Collect together 1500 or at the uttermost 2000 Militia let the Cause or Occasion be ever so Urgent. Yet Sir I believe it is within your knowledge that our Assemblies & Gov'r & Council have at times Voted & Acted as if we had 100,000 Men in it—as but the other Day our most strenuous Efforts were oblig'd to be exerted to prevent this State Entering into a War with the Creek Indians tho' at that very time these People as a Nation were giving us the most convincing Proofs of their Pacific disposition towards us—by driving Stuart's Deputies out of their Towns & burn'd their Houses. Wells was the Instigator or may have heard we Voted 15 Battallion's of Minute Men at one time—these & like Circumstances I am afraid must have impressed Congress with strange Ideas of us shou'd they be in any degree formed from our Public Conduct & must be very different from what for our Interest they ought to be—Our Demagogues have usually carried their Extraordinary

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\* From these Circumstances a great benefit notwithstanding will accrue to this State—Our Rate of Expence will be in proportion to the Number of Inhabitants, w'ch will be favourable to us & in the next place being a Young Country our Resources will be increasing & of course we shall be enabled to pay our Quota to the general Expence with much ease to ourselves, & sooner perhaps than any other State in the Confederacy.



Schemes by deluding the ignorant Members (of which we have too many) by telling them twou'd be a Continental Expence & of course be no great Burthen to them or their Constituents as we shou'd only pay an /88 part of the expence which wou'd be nothing, &c. I observe the Congress have Voted £100,000 for the purpose of reimbursing as Continental Expenditure, the sum we have emitted since the present Contest began is upward of £200,000.

I thank God I see a Dawn of Hope arising amidst all our Distresses, the Fever abates, the Delirium decreases, & Men seem to be coming to their Senses. And if we are Prudent & some good Men among us have a little Patience & just Embrace Opportunitys as they offer & not force them things will soon come to Rights again. And if Congress was to take up any matter (& of w'ch I think there are many) & give us a little Chiding by way of Advice it wou'd Produce great good. Our Constitution which some good Men thought a very Valuable one is likewise working out its End, at least of the most exceptionable part—the late Grand Jury for this County presented as Grievances their being no Check on the Assembly—the unequal Representation, &c, tho' notwithstanding this Mr. Wood will say all the World like it & speak well of it that the People of this Country are very fond of it—And to set aside every objection that may be made to it that none but Tories find any fault with it & of course it must be all Perfection—my reason for troubling you with the Concerns of our State is my reliance & that of many others for the Interest & love of it in the Grand Council of the United States is on you, as we know you have on many Occasions demonstrated your Attachment & warmest wishes for its Happiness, Messrs. Walton & Brownson we have reason to Expect are on their way home and the two who are now on their way, to succeed them I am afraid wont to do us much honour. Wood has Sense but he wants real Patriotism & liberal Sentiments, if he does good it will be for his own Interest, or because it is not

incompatible with it, as to Langworthy tho a man of Sense in some Views—yet in regard to Government his Ideas are not very extensive—he may be an honest Man in honest Company—but he has no Steadiness or firmness in his composition—he will Court Popularity at the Expence even of his Understanding; the last Man with him is his Man such Characters never beget the Confidence of thinking Men—in my last to you I mentioned Col'l Elbert but least it should miscarry I wou'd take the liberty to repeat my Wishes in regard to him (& that of many others) that he might be Promoted so as to be continued in the Chief Command of the Troops within this State, which I imagine nothing less than a General Officer with Propriety can have—he is much respected by the Inhabitants in General particularly the better part & I dare say woud give great Satisfaction, his Abilities as a Soldier I beleive are unquestionable, it was always his Delight & the Profession he has made his Study for several years past—and his knowledge of this Country puts it in his Power to serve us more effectually than a Stranger cou'd do, he is Active, Vigilant & Brave & will I am sure make it his whole Study, & I have not the least Doubt will be an honour to his Country and do Credit to the American Arms—I believe our Delegates will concur in his Promotion but I doubt whether they will be forward in Promoting it, for tho it has been the constant practice of General McIntosh's Enemies (of which they are in the Number) to raise Elbert's merit in Order to depress the Gen'rs, & as it were to play off one against the other, yet I never beleived they had any real regard for him, nor do I beleive does Elbert—his Sentiments are too liberal for them & they know he will do his Duty as a Soldier & that with highest regard to the rights of the Citizen) yet they know he will not be impos'd on, nor Sacrifice the Service to their Caprice, by suffering any improper interferences of an ignorant Executive Body—for 'tho the Enemies of Gen'l McIntosh complain of his not being subordinate to the Civil Power, yet his

greatest fault was in my opinion his giving up too much to them—I am rather Surpris'd I did not receive my General Instructions with my Appointment relative to the mode of conducting myself I cou'd have Wished to have had something of the kind for my Guidance as I want to lay a regular Plan for carrying on the Business in future. I observe the Pay of the Galleys is not mentioned in the Pay list for the Southern department—nor of the Artillery, the former is much wanted, I am one of the Navy Board & we are under great difficulties for want of it to Guide ourselves by—Our Delegates have it in charge to procure them and send them with all Dispatch, I wish they may neither neglect nor delay the matter—When I mention'd the rough Rice on Broughton Island I included part of what was sold to the Public they having not taken away more than 1200 Bushels of it, General McIntosh told me a few Days ago he wou'd Order the remainder to be carried to the Main—the Commissary (Mr. Rae) has rather trifled in that matter, he Promised me a Considerable time ago he wou'd send a Man to receive it on the Island. I told him he might leave it there as long as he pleased after he received it. I believe his neglect has been more for want of proper People about him to do his Business than from any intention however Col. Elbert is bound likewise to comply w'th the Agreement & shou'd it not be taken away agreable to Gen'l McIntosh's Promise I shall Urge him on the Subject—We are in the greatest Anxiety to hear the fate of our Arms—We have heard of General Howe's being within a short Distance of the Schuylkil—God grant us Success & preserve our General in the hour of Danger, and am w'th respect

Yours, J. C.

Savannah, 21st October, 1777.

Messrs. Bright & Pechin.

Gentlemen :

☞ Doct'r Houstoun I received your favour of the 9th Ultò. inclosing me a Letter from Capt. Wood—Mr. Pooler is Dead & neither of his Partners are in Savannah as soon as I have it in my power I will Endeavour to do the needfull for him—I believe an Agent for our State will not now be wanting as the C. Congress have taken the management of the Army into their own Hands (where the greatest Expenditures lay) by Appointing their own Officers—I do not know positively that this will be the Case 'tis only my private opinion.

I heartily Wish we cou'd resume our Trade again as usual & that your Port was only as open as ours—I hope by this General Washington has gained a Victory, it wou'd be a great Step towards relieving you of the whole Continent—'tis with the utmost Anxiety we wait for intelligence from your State—the last Accounts were not so favourable as the former ones—the Voyage ☞ the Dove will prove a very profitable one if I had the time I wou'd have sent you the Sales of her Cargo here ☞ this Conveyance tho' you know the Prices every thing sold at—'tis not in my Power to get a Vessel here but at a most Exorbitant price—I dare say such a one as the Dove cou'd not be purchased under a Thousand Pounds our Currency which wou'd be more than the profits of the Voyage wou'd afford—as soon as your Ports are open your Markets will immediately alter—& at present while you are Surrounded on all Sides by your Enemies the risque will be too great—the Prices of many Articles here are much altered & some not to be had, Deer Skins, Sole Leather & Beaver are Scarce ever to be met with—Indico that's good is from 15/ to 20/ (this Article I think will fall) Rice 10/, Dry Goods & West India Produce fluctuate—I shall expect if our Army has but tolerable Success, soon to see a Vessel from

you & shall prepare Accordingly. We have but few Men of War on our Coast just now, however they must always be very cautious as a Day may make great odds—We have two Pilot Boats for our Bar.

I received a few Days ago from Congress an Appointment to be D. Pay Master General for this State—an Office quite unexpected & one I am by no means desirous of nor do I suppose I shall hold it long—'twas owing principally to Col'l Laurens (one of the Car. Delegates) I believe that I was appointed—he is one of my Securities by an Offer of his own—I do not know whether more than one is required by Congress—in this instance it's not necessary—because he is quite sufficient for any sum that may be required as a Security—however least it shou'd I have wrote him that I shou'd desire you to inquire whether more than one Security is required, & if it is that you wou'd procure it for me—which must beg the favour of you to do—the Condition I presume is for the faithfull performance of the Trust—Pray let me hear from you by all Opportunities—I shall always drop you a line as they Offer and am w'th great regard.

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

P. S.—When the Men of War are on our Coast they are much frequenter off Charles Town than ours.

Savannah Decem'b 5th 1777.

His Excellency Major General Howe

Sir:

I received your several favours of the 8th & 17th, Ulto the former in Answer to mine to you relative to many matters to be carried into execution by the Deputy Pay Master General with your opinion thereon which I am

very much obliged to you for; the latter advising me with your having advanced to Capt. Bradley of the Continental light Horse, One Thousand Dollars to enable him to march and bring into this State some men he had enlisted for that Regiment in the State of North Carolina.

You may depend on my giving you the Earliest notice of the Arrival of any Money in this State for the Use of the Army. I am with great respect,

Sir your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah Decemb. 6th 1777.

Mr. John Lewis Gervais \*

D'r Sir:

☞ Col'l Habersham I received your favour of the 28th Ult. I observe what you say in regard to the Rough Rice at Broughton Island the Price with you 20/ ☞ Bush'l is an encouraging one, & I shall try hard to get some Craft to bring a load to you, tho' they are exceeding scarce & Freight very high yet if we even give one half for the other it will be much Better than selling it here since my last to you Mr. Bailie has brought 44 Barrels more from the Island to sunburry, where he sold it at 17/16 ☞ Bll. Amount of w'ch £38-10/ our Money he has paid to me he is now gone for a nother load w'ch he has Engaged at the same place w'ch is much better than bringing it 'round here.

I observe your opinion in regard to the land on Catt Head the restruccion on the lands of Absentees is intirely done away the former Law, which was certainly a very unjust one, have been repealed by another law passed the last Sitting of the Assembly—In regard to the Wench you mention to be disposed of in case she will bring £200 hun-

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\* Charleston, S. C.

dred Pounds Sterling, if you mean by that sum £200 our Currency I make no doubt it may be got for her, but if you mean that sum in real Sterling Money, or even in your Currency, I do not believe it cou'd be obtained if you mean £200 our Money I think it's less than she wou'd in all probability produce in your State allowing for the very great loss there will (in all probability) be in Remitting Money from our state to yours at present the loss wou'd be enormous, I am in hopes when the Troops in our State are paid in Continental Currency that things will mend something in that respect.

Our Successes to the Northward have been indeed great the hand of Providence has been very remarkably for us may we be truly thankfull for his Protection & Care Howe's situation is certainly desperate, should he fail of opening a Communication with his Brother by water I should not be surprised to hear he was obliged to Surrender himself & Army into our hands an Event which we might naturally conclude woud pave the way for peace on honourable terms w'ch God Grant. I am w'th respects,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah the 16th Dec 1777.

Mess. Bright & Pechin

Gentlemen:

Since my last to you I have received none of your favours the present is to advise you with the Arrival of Capt. Rains with a fine fast sailing Schooner, Burthen about 200 Bills. Rice he brought in a Quantity of Salt w'ch will Average about 16/ our Money  $\text{⌘}$  Bushel & some Rum w'ch we have sold for 30/  $\text{⌘}$  Gall. & a very few dry goods he will be loaded again in two or three days for Bermuda with

a Cargo of Rice where if he gets safe, 'twill yield a tolerable profit & the returns if he gets in again a very great one I am in hopes the Proceeds of the Cargo he brought in will repay us the Outfit & send him to sea again clear of any advance, tho' cannot be certain as his being so long out has made his Disbursements run high the Men of Warr that lay constantly of Bermuda kept him in port, they at last quit for want of Provisions & repairs & he push'd out. We have several Cruisers on our Coast tho mostly off Charles Town notwithstanding which we have more Vessels get safe in than falls into their hands & as the winter sets in (w'ch has been remarkably mild with us hitherto) the Chance will be much more in our favour shou'd they even remain on our Coasts w'ch I think tis probable they may not I hope before this Howe is a Prisoner or obliged to quit your state tho I woud fain hope the former We are inform'd by the last Acc'ts that his Army did not exceed 8000 Men tis Amazing to me in such a populous Country as yours, he was ever permitted to march 10 Miles backwards or forwards he could not have done more, if so much, in our very weak state the Disaffected must be very numerous among you the conduct of the Quakers appears to me infamous some of them in my opinion from what I have heard of them deserve hanging if Howe is reduced I cant help thinking the worst will be over with us I hope you will soon have it in your power to resume Trade again as usual & that you will be able to get one or the other of the sloops if not both out very soon these are times with luck to make Money I have only to assure you that I am with regard

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.



Savannah Dec 15th 1777.

Abraham Markoe Esq'r.

Sir

Sometime ago a Negro of our State who had been at Charles Town call'd on me & told me that your Boatswain was in Jail there & that he had desired him to call on me to Ask me to try and to get him out I was much surprised at this & doubted the information 'till Capt. Bunner went to Charles Town who I desired to inquire into the Circumstances w'ch he did & found twas really so he had shipped on board some Vessel bound to Cha's Town as a Freeman & on the Voyage was directed\* by the Capt'n in a Robbery who in consequence of w'ch on his Arrival at Charles Town put him into prison where he has remained ever since—I determined to advise you therewith for sometime past but the Situation of the times w'th you & the difficulty in procuring a safe conveyance prevented I woud have taken him out but did not know how far it might be agreeable to you & nother reason operated with me against my taking him out the fear that he might run from me w'ch he might very easily do by getting on board some Vessel or by pushing back to Charles Town and shipping there as a Free Man in the manner he did before however as the winter may affect him in Jaol I think of sending for for him here by the first safe Conveyance & run the risque till I hear from you—I hope General Howe is before this Reduced & that you are in a state of tranquility. This will be Sent to you by Dr. Read.

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\* Sic.

Savannah Dec'r 22d 1777.

Messrs. Bourdeaux & Atkinson

Gentlemen:

Since my last to you I have received your several favours ¶ Capt. Bunner & of the 24th Ulto I shou'd have wrote you before this but have been waiting till I could settle with Mr. Houstoun in Order to have it in my power to transmit you my Acco't Curr't at same time which I have not yet been able to do owing to his Old Claim of being paid in your Curr'y w'ch he still insists on.

I have wrote to Mr. Markoe relative to his Negro & was in hopes to have heard from him on the subject directing what was to be done with him as the Season is now rather severe, & may be expect'd to be much more so very shortly he may suffer from laying in Confinement add to w'ch he must be a Continual Expence for w'ch reasons I wou'd venture to take him out & wou'd be oblig'd to you shou'd any safe Conveyance offer to this place inland to send him to me—I am not apprehensive he will attempt to get away before he arrives here as he has repeatedly sent to me to take him out of Jail & seems desirous of getting here—Mr. Gervais is sending a Boat to me belonging to Col. Laurens w'ch if not come away before this gets to hand wou'd be a good Opportunity his Jaol Fees whatever they may amount to I will remit you ¶ first Opportunity after I know the Amount.

In regard to Mr. Browns Account, tho I have not the least doubt of the propriety of it—I do not know what to do with it—Our State can with no propriety be call'd on about it, they having received no part of the proceeds of the 1-3 of the Amity it was Condemned in our Courts but that was all, it was libelled by the Continental Agent, and Confiscated for the Benefit of the United States & paid into the hands of their Agent accordingly who will not pay any part of the Proceeds out of his hands without the Orders of the Continental Congress to whom only in my opinion the Application shou'd be made.

In regard to the Deserters taken up by Capt. Allen I once mentioned it in our House of Assembly who neither absolutely refused payment nor yet agreed to Order the payment it was thought rather hard that any of the Officers of the diff't States shoud demand payment for any service of that kind as it was supposed to be a piece of service that their duty as an Officer in some degree made it incumbent on them to perform whenever Opportunity offerr'd I am wishing you the Compliments of the Approaching Season w'th respect.

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

J. Clay.

Savannah 29th Dec'r 1777.

Mr. Philip Minis

Sir:

I have Considered about the Wine & will take Nine Pipes at the price you mentioned, that is One Hundred Pounds our Currency  $\text{£}$  Pipe if paid in this Curr'y, or Five Hundred Pounds Carolina Currency  $\text{£}$  pipe if paid in that Curr'y or Continental Money.

I shall prefer paying for them in Car'a or Continental Money if in my power on Acc't of the diff'e of Price but least I shoud not, woud Choose to have the Option of paying in either as I may find Convenient, or in Case I coud make out to pay for a part of them in Car'a or Continental Money woud expect the same diff'e in price to be made in proportion to the sum paid if this proposal is agreeable to you I will desire Capt. Rains to receive the Wine & see if filled up & am

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah March 5th 1778.

Mr. John Lewis Gervais, Esq

D'r Sir:

☞ Monsieur Le Vacher I rec'd your esteem'd favour of the 20th Ulto unluckily since he has been here I have been confined by a Sore Throat & fever, tho' I thank God am now pretty well recovered w'ch has deprived me of the pleasure of being so well acquainted with that Gentleman as I wish'd the wench Betty I sent for from Wrights Savannah for Col'l Elbert with whom she now is, but she makes really a very poor figure indeed reduced I presume by Sickness Mr. Springer wrote me when he sent her that she had been long sick & he was afraid she woud lose one of her Eyes however there is no danger of that now she being much better than when she first came over but is still so poorly & weakly that she can render little or no service and withal appears Elderly, her appearance is extremely against her & no one will purchase her & give any thing of a price for her unless they are particularly acquainted w'th her Qualities I have acquainted Col'l Elbert w'th your determination in regard to the price of her w'th which he seemed much dissatisfied & I believe will decline taking her if so I must send her back again as I am sure her present appearance will not command a price at public Sale she had hardly any Cloaths when she come over Mr. Elbert has given her some woollen Cloaths & she has been attended by a Doct'r ever since she has been here both of w'ch were absolutely necessary & indeed she seems to have reap'd much benefit since she has been here if they return her I presume they will expect to be reimbursed these Expences as she has not been able to render them any services in lieu of them.

I am very glad to learn the Boat got round safe I do not think there is or will be any danger in proceeding to Broughton Island again they must always be cautious to prevent being surprised or entrapped Your Assembly in

my opinion have Acted very wisely respecting the recommendation of Congress relative to confiscations we have gone into the matter very largely & that in a way that I fear will neither do us Credit nor render us much advantage as a State. I am w'th great respect.

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Savannah 12th March 1778.

Ralph Izzard Jun'r Esq'r

Sir:

I was in hopes I shou'd have had the pleasure of seeing you before you returned to Carolina the several Accounts against me & Joseph Clay & Co. due to the Est of Mr. Stead I am very desirous of having settled as soon as possible, as it by no means suits us to be paying Interest on Money we have no use for, & which it is a very great hardship even to be left in our hands more especially at a time we can make no Use of it nor do we think it resonably or just that we shoud pay Interest for a Debit we can neither remit or pay to any one, which is the Case now, & has been for sometime past. We know it is also hard on Mr. Steads representatives that they cannot have their Money remitted to them agreeable to contract & are very willing to do every thing in our Power that can be reasonably expected of us to make them ample satisfaction.

Our House of Assembly were about passing a Law to oblige all Persons, who have any Moneys in their hands, belonging to the British Merchants or subjects of the King of Great Britian, to pay the same into the Treasury of this State, how far this is just or right I will not say, but nothing

but the Country members being tired of Staying in Town prevented the Law passing, tis thought the Assembly will be called again very shortly when I make no doubt it will be the very first Business they will go upon, I shoud wish if possible before this happens to settle the Debt we are due to Mr. Steads Estate with you if you have a power to receive the same, I presented your Memorial to the House but as the Law it alluded to did not come into Debate it was not taken under Consideration, it is very uncertain what may be the determination on it when it is considered You are very sensible tis not in our power to comply with our original contract the paying the Debt in G. Britian, & its more than probable may not be in our power for many Years, if during our lives, for God only knows how long the present War may last, every thing in very precarious, we have now very large sums due us in this Country & are possessed of property enough to discharge our contracts with great ease to ourselves but how soon may be the case be reversed, an Attack on this weak Country woud, tho perhaps not complete the intire Reduction of it, be the means of depriving us and many who are indebted to us of the means of paying any thing to those we or they are indebted to. This is far from being an improbable supposition, but what if the War continues any time may with the greatest reason be expected, what we woud wish is that if you have a power to receive the Debts myself & J. C. & Co. are due to Mr. Steads Estate that you woud take the same into your Consideration & point some way that we may have it in our Power to discharge it perhaps we may be able to pay you a part in So. Carolina by means of Continental Money, or you may choose to invest part of it in Lands in this State & which I think may be done to advantage, so as to prevent any loss, I shall very probably set off for the Northw'd in four or five Weeks time, before which I shoud wish to come to some agreement or settlement with you on this Head, and have only to assure you that any

plan that you can point out by which we can make you satisfaction, we will if in our Power comply with, I should be very glad to hear from you on the subject as soon as possible, and am, with respect

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Mr. Josiah Smith, Jun'r.

D'r Sir:

I received your esteemd favour of the 24th Ulto which I should have answered before this but the very confused State of Public Affairs here prevents that attention to other matters that otherways woud & ought to be given the Act you mention is one of those things that has given great uneasiness which in its very nature was fraught with injustice, & its Circumstances as to many of the objects it reached which can be only known generally here was Still worse this County have given great opposition to the operation of it, so far as a general disapprobation of it goes & have petitioned the Assembly, who are to meet the 27th Inst. to reconsider it & recommended Sequestration instead of confiscation & I believe most part of the State will concur in that opinion unless it may be the St. Johns people whose Zeal so often lead them into Violent Actions that nothing but that & their want of a more general knowledge of Men & things can plead their excuse. The Commissioners or some of them who were appointed to Act in this County began as is generally said to Act as if the Estates had been confiscated for their sole benefit instead of the States which first gave the Alarm here & laid the foundation for the Opposition it has met with w'ch was & is so general that some of the Commissioners have resigned & the others not have not for sometime past taken on them to Act so

that the Law is in effect Suspended for the present Nevertheless as its uncertain what the Assembly may determine in regard to it I woud advise your sending a Power of Attorney here as soon as convenient w'th a Stated Acct. in Order that your Claim may be immediately made in Case the Act shoud be enforced I have several Claims to make for myself which I have not yet given in nor do not intend till I know the determination of the Assembly I will make yours at the same time w'th my own & do every other matter relative to it for your Interest therein & will advise you what further Steps may be necessary as they occur.

We have suffered very much from Fire within this four or five Weeks & what makes it very Alarming we have the greatest reason to 'Suspect they have been done on purpose the last which happened on Friday last broke out in two places at the same instant happily one of them was extinguished immediately the other Burnt 9 or 10 Houses before it was Stopped Our Galleys say three of them attacked three of the enemys Vessels last Saturday which were in one of our inlets to the So'ward & took them without the loss of a Man the Enemys Vessels were well manned & made a Shew of Resistance but as the Galleys came near to them & finding I suppose their Shott too heavy for them they of a Sudden took to their Boats & quit their Vessels without firing a Gun or setting fire to them the Galatea was in Sight at the same time working up to their Assistance the Vessels are two Brigs the Hinchinbrook the Rebecca & a Sloop of 8 Guns the Galatea was at the Anchor in Jekly Sound when the Express came away an Attack was meditated on her shoud a favourable opportunity offer We are very apprehensive of an Attack from the So'ward w'ch woud not have given us any uneasiness but for the very great additional Strength they have been for some time past & are daily receiving from the great Defection in your Back Country who are daily going over to them By a Capt. of a Vessel who was taken &



carried into Augustine w'ch he left in a Small Vessel only three days ago we are informd that the last Party that left your County of between 3 & 400 were arrived at Fort Tonym on St. Marys that they give out there that they expect 700 more immediately after them however this I hope your Government as they are forewarned will prevent We have heard of many small parties crossing from your Country for some Months past of 5 & 6 at a time & I believe one Party of above 20 this Capt, from Augustine also mentions that Bacchop was to Sail the Day after him to Cruise on our Coast in a fine large Bermudian Sloop (formerly belonging to one Stammers) she Mounts 14 Guns and has between 60 & 70 Hands among w'ch are 3 or 4 good Pilots w'ch join'd to Bacchops own knowledge of the Coast may make her very formidable to our Trade I am w'th great regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't  
Jos'h Clay.

Savannah May 19th 1778

Sir:

¶ Mr. Wood I received an Order dated York Town 18th March last drawn by the President of Congress on the Commissioners of the United States Loan Office in this State for 202.423 Dollars payable to me or Order a Copy of which you have inclosed in consequence of which I have apply'd to the Commissioners (Messrs. Obryen & Wade) for pay't who have promised to discharge the Ball'e due on the Order so soon as they are in Cash w'ch in all probability will not be for some Weeks to come as it depends intirely on an Emission of paper bills credit Ordered by the Assembly at their last meeting to be immediately struck off the Printing of w'ch I know is not

as yet even begun the Commiss'rs of the Loan office talk of deducting all the sums they have paid for Army Uses since they were appointed Commissioners, which will amount by a List of sums they shewed me to upward of 120,000 Dollars, including the sums they have paid me which does not exceed 50,000 Dollars, the other part of the sum consist principally of Draughts paid by them in favour of different Officers, it also includes the £5000 p'd to Col'l Elbert or his Order just before the Troops Marched from this Town I do not think I can consistently allow any Discount from the Order except for such sums as I have received myself.

The Assembly Voted £60,000 for the Use of the Army & they directed Messrs. Stone & Davies to pay the Loan office Certificates lodged in their Hands by the late Governor to the Commissioners, (Obryen & Wade) appointed to Countersign them w'ch I understand they refuse to do, if so we shall be deprived of them till they are forced out of their Hands by Law. Mr. Wood brought with him 250,000 Dollars in Continental Curr'y which appears by a resolve of Congress to be part of the sum of 500,000 Dollars granted by them to this State for the Sole purpose of calling in the Curr'y of the State that has been Emitted for the purport of the Continental Troops, as ~~is~~ the Enclosed copy of said Resolve which I received from the President Mr. Wyly Since w'ch Capt. Lucas of the 4th Reg't has arrived here & brought with him the Remaining sum of 250,000 Dollars, which Col. Elbert directed him to pay to me for the Use of the Army & to which he has no objection, but as it appears very clearly to me to be the Remainder of the sum granted by Congress to this State, I cannot think I have any right to receive it without some further Authority.

Our Assembly Ordered  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all, the sums Borrowed by the State and for which Certificates was given by the Treasurers to be immediately paid off out of the sum brought by Mr. Wood, after doing of which I understand

the State will have remaining in its Treasury upwards of £20,000 in Continental Curr'y to answer any exigencies of Government, exclusive of the 250,000 Dollars brought in by Capt. Lucas, so that I think the State might lend that sum to the Army for a time without any injury to itself, or at least a part of it, till they can be reimbursed by Congress which there can be no doubt woud be immediately done. The Money has not, that I have been inform'd of, been Demanded of Capt. Lucas by the State the President I have talk'd with on the Subject, he I believe woud be well satisfy'd that the Army had it but as the matter stands he does not think he can do anything in it—perhaps if you were to write to the Governor he might agree to lend it I presume he is on his March So'therly before this as I understand he was to quit his camp on Ogeechee the begining of this week.

Capt. Lucas remains here & will retain the Money in his Hands till he hears from you unless it should be demanded of him by the State in which case he woud be at a loss how to Act & perhaps not know how to refuse delivering it up—it was delivered to him from the Treasury without any particular directions or Orders, he says, twas expected he woud have overtaken Mr. Wood before he reached Georgia, in which Case he should have delivered it to him without hesitation as he understands it woud have been sent by him (Mr. Woods) coud the Treasury have furnished him with it before he left Congress.

We have nothing new here that can be depended on, tis said a Vessel arrived at Charles Town from France brings an Account of a general Embargo having been Laid in that Kingdom which gives rise to various conjectures.

I am with great respect

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Major General Howe

Sir

20th. Capt Lucas since writing the foregoing has delivered the Money to the President & taken his Rec't for the same in a special manner which he will shew you he found there was like to be some uneasiness on Acct of his keeping the Money in his hands which induced him to this Step I have understood that the Governor is expected here before he proceeds So'therly & that he will probably be in Town within three or four days at farthest.

Savannah May 30 1778

Major General Howe

Sir

I rec'd your favour of the 25th Inst. and have agreable thereto apply'd to Mr. Obryen for the Ball'e of the Draft drawn on him by Congress as one of the Commissioners for the United States Loan Office, & at same time acquainted him that I expected to receive it in Continental Currency as no other Money woud be equal to the sum drawn for in answer to which he acquainted me that he coud pay in no other Money but the paper Bills of Credit issued by this State that he was directed to issue and lend the Continental Loan Office Certificates for the Curr'y of the State, which he had done, at least so many of them as had been put into his Hands & that no other Money cou'd have been obtained for them he further acquainted me that he woud endeavour to furnish me with from five to ten thousands Pounds on Monday next I have mentioned to Mr. Wreat the contracting for a Post Rider to go between Savannah & the Army the Man you mention, Richardson, is gone Express to Congress for the State, we neither of us know of any other Man to be procured who is willing and able to undertake the Business perhaps

Person might be procured out of the Army fit for that purpose on much easier Terms than any we could hire, & possibly more to be depended on for his punctuality I shall write you again in two or three days, or so soon as I receive any Money out of the Treasury advising you therewith and am with great respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Servt

Joseph Clay.

Savannah May 30th 1778.

Honbl'e Henry Laurens Esq'r

Sir

I should have wrote you before this informing you with the State of your concerns, here so far as they had come to my Knowledge, had I not expected to have been with you before this when I should have had the pleasure of acquainting you with them in person & which nothing has prevented but the very distressed condition of our State the continual depredations from E. Florida of almost every kind both by Land & Water the Machinations of our Enemies amongst ourselves supported & Encouraged from that country, w'ch has too evidently shewed itself amongst us lately, particularly in the back parts of your State held so dismal a prospect to View as rendered the Idea of leaving a Wife & Eight Children (the Eldest of whom between 13 & 14 years of age) intolerable, & I may say to the highest degree imprudent at this juncture as they would in case of any Invasion or Public Calamity during my absence have been intirely helpless—We are now with Assistance of your State carrying on an Expedition against that Country which if Successfull will remove many of our distresses, give Security to our State & promote the general Cause Necessity has Reduced & drove us to this Step, we could

not debate on the subject, matters were Ripening so fast that either we must reduce them or they woud subdue us, the Daily increase of Men they were obtaining from the defection of the back Country people woud have made them so formidable in a Short time that they woud have over run us, & rendered our Situation so very uncomfortable that we must have either quitted the State or Submitted to them Whereas if Succeed every thing will go on well with us in a short time Our Trade will increase w'ch has been greatly annoyed from Augustine Our Lands will be better cultivated, & we shall have more time to attend to & regulate our internal Police & fall on some means to pay off & Fund our Debts the depredation of the Floridians to the So'ward for some time past preceeding our Troops marching that way made it extremely dangerous the attempting to fetch any Rice from Broughton Island a party of them were once or twice on the Island though I do not learn that they did any considerable damage there, since I wrote you last, we have had 1066 Bushels brought to Sunburry & sold there a 2/ 79 Bushel & Mr. Gervais I make no doubt, informd you that he had purchased a Boat for the purpose of bringing Rice from the Island & that he had received some from there w'ch produced a better price than it woud have done here as well as gave a considerable advantage from the difference of Money the Army now Marching to the So'ward have also had some of the Rice, what Quantity we do not know. Mr. Baillie sets off this Day for Broughton Island by Water in Order to bring some more away I get an Account of what has been taken away for the Use of the Army there has always been a White person at the plantation till within some time past, the last person that lived there was killed by some of the Floridians between Broughton Island & Yekly where he had been or was going on some Acc't or other I have been Acting or rather Endeavouring to Act as D. P. M. G. to the Army in this State for between 2 & three Months past, but the want of Money has rendered it impracticable for

me to afford any affectual service in that Department. I have at this time Drafts on me drawn by Gen'l Howe for several thousand pounds & not a shilling in hand to answer any part of them I have advanced a considerable sum myself & the Agent, Mr. Wereat, has done every thing in his power, & has supplyd the Gen'l with all the Cash either of his own or the United States that he could lay his hands on, & I believe the Gen'l has also borrowed of Individuals this is a very distressing Situation & must be attended to or the Consequences may be very fatal I believe I might have borrowed Money at 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ct. Interest or I could have obtained Cash for Bills on Congress had I any Authority to draw or Borrow, But I have none that I know of, indeed I never received any Instructions or line on any matter within my Department except one Dated the——March last from the Auditor Gen'l Mr. Gibson inclosing me the Draft for 202,423 Doll's on the Commissioners of the loan Office I have mentioned these matters to Mr. Telfair, one of our Delegates who I hope will lay them before Congress in Order that some remedy may be apply'd to prevent the Army being at any time hereafter reduced to the same Situation the State has Voted a sum for the Use of the Army say £60,000 if the same shall be necessary part of w'ch is now Striking off & Signing & in 4 or 5 Days I expect to receive a part of it, this will afford a supply for sometime but some provision must be made for the future tis with the utmost reluctance that the State advances a shilling to the Army not so much for want of the will as the means they have very little dependence on raising any sum adequate to its wants But by Borrowing at Eight  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ct. Interest or limitting Paper Bills of Credit When the Money the Congress sent here Mr. Wood arrived we were paying Interest for near £140,000 our Curr'y Borrowed principally for Army Uses And we have Emittted so much in paper Bills of Credit, that the Value of it is reduced to nothing & every Article of produce (Rice excepted) and Merchandise is risen to an extravagant

height in price Indico 20/ ̄ lb Corn 12 a 15/ ̄ Bushel Beef  
2/ ̄ lb Butter 6/ & 7/ ̄ & Rum 60/ ̄ Gall. Osnabr'gs  
12/ a 15/ ̄ yd. & so on the Prices of Goods have been  
raised from Complicated causes, two principally the one  
the large Emission of Paper Bills Credit, the other a Spirit  
of Extortion nursed & kept up by Jews & others worse than  
Jews who are contin'ly buying up every Species of Goods  
they can lay their hands on & selling them out again at  
advanced Prices these kinds of dealers in my opinion are  
greater Enemies to the United States & do them more injury  
than the Fleets & Armies of G. Britian. It is with equal  
reluctance the Army receive their pay in the Curr'y of this  
State & they complain of it overmuch & w'th some reason as  
their whole pay for a year if paid to them in this Curr'y will  
not maintain them at this juncture three Months whereas  
if it was paid them in the Curr'y of the United States the  
Case woud be very differrent as they coud purchase every  
Article they stand in need of for near half the price they  
can do w'th our Curr'y. The Continental Troops in this  
State have never received one farthing in any other Money  
than the paper Bills of Credit Emittid by this State from  
the first Hour they came into it to this minute w'ch has  
been equally prejudicial to the State. I hope you will  
excuse my trespassing on your time with these very dis-  
agreeable Subjects but they Engage my attention so much  
that when I touch on them I hardly know when to leave off.  
I can hardly expect the favour of a line from you as very  
moment of your time I know is & must be devoted to  
matters of the highest moment & consequence to the United  
States.

I am w'h respects and regard

D'r Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.



Savannah June 2d, 1778.

Messrs. Bright & Pechin  
Gentlemen:

I was in hopes before this to have had the pleasure of hearing from you I have wrote you several Letters w'ch I presume have not come to hand. Mr. Telfair who comes as one of the Delegates to represent this State carry's this with him w'ch I hope will come safe to hand—I think the time is not far off when we shall have peace restored to our Land & the Tyrant obliged to acknowledge his Folly. If War between G. B. & France takes place w'ch there seems to be but little doubt of they must withdraw Troops from this Continent, & many of their Frigates & Cruisers from our Coasts which will give a great opening to our Trade & be of great service to us in every other respect. Rains has made a Second Voyage to Bermuda & will proceed in two or three days on a third the last Voyage will be a profitable one, the one before not so much so, how the present one may turn out we can't Judge. I was in expectation of coming your way this Summer, but am afraid I shall not be able to get away in time so as to get back before the Winter sets in and if so I shall decline it altogether I am very sorry to learn by a Letter that your J. B. was a Prisoner in Philadelphia I hope he is before this got his liberty. I cannot help thinking if the disaffected among you were not very numerous that Howe could not have kept possession of the City so long as he has internal Enemies are the worst we have & do us most mischief & are least intitled to any indulgence we have suffered from them much we are now carrying on an Expedition against East Florida w'th an intent to annoy them as much as we can & if in our power to reduce them—I have only to add that I am with great regard

Gentlemen,

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

P. S.—Mr. Telfair is one of Rains's Owners.

Savannah June 2d 1778.

Major General Howe

Sir:

Since I wrote you last I have rec'd from the Treasury five thousand pounds w'ch I have paid to Mr. Rae agreeable to your Order & taken his Receipt for the same. I expect to receive a further sum to Day w'ch shall apply in discharge of your Orders as they come to hand. Mr. Rae acquaints me he has made a Considerable purchase of Capt. McCullough, for the Use of the Army that if he cant get the payment for them made in Bills on Congress he, McCullough, will allow a very large discount on the Amount of the purchase, I think he says 25 or 30  $\frac{1}{4}$  Ct. this is worthy of Consideration, & will occasion so great a saving to the United States as to fully justify such a Step, the Amount of the Articles purchased by Mr. Rae he Says is near £7000. I have told him that I shall have no objection to take upon me to draw for the Amount, which I will very readily do & State the reasons to Congress for so doing provided you give an Order for the sum & approve of my drawing the Bills, in that Case I believe it will be necessary that you shoud write to Congress at same time advising them therewith by way of Letter Advice to the Bills a Circumstance of this kind might in my opinion be of service, it woud serve to conceive\* Congress how much the Army Suffer'd by being paid in the Curr'y of this State & how great a saving to the United States there woud have been, if the several Articles & Stores necessary for the Army in this State coud have been purchased with Continental Curr'y.

Mr. Rae is applying to me for a further sum of Money, he says he is in great want of it, & that the procuring provision for the Army depends much on his getting it. I am at a loss how to Act, on the one hand I have no Authority

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\* Sic.

to pay any Money without your Order, & on the other I wou'd be sorry to see the service injured from too punctilious an attention to form, especially at this Critical juncture. Mr. Cowper who is gone for the North'wd desir'd me to remind you of a sum of Money lent by him for the Use of the Army, w'ch he woud be glad to receive as soon as convenient.

I am with respect

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 4th June 1778.

Major G. Howe

Sir:

I have this day received out of the Treasury Seven Thousand Pounds & Mr. Rae urging the necessity of being supply'd with a further sum before he went to Camp I have pd. him Five thousand two hundred & fifty Pounds out of it, this I hope will meet with your Approbation, & that you will furnish him with your warrant on me to that Amount. Capt. McCullough I am inform'd from Mr. Rae has alterd his mind in regard to the payment of the goods bought of him, his demand now is the Curr'y of the State, rather than allow any discount on Bills, this alteration in his opinion I am induc'd to believe as been effected from the late favourable Advices from Europe, he Says he had rather lend our State the Money at 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ct. Interest than pay a Prem. on Bills I believe I coud furnish the Money in a Day or two if requisite but I told Mr. Rae that I coud not pay him a farther sum before he had your Order which I presume he will apply to you for.

I have paid away the Chief part of the remainder of the £7000 to several persons who had your Orders for the

I have pd. them all but shoud very glad as the Continental Congress require it, that in future they may be Counter-Signed agreeable to said regulations I have also pd. Mr. Waudin £22-3-6 this Day ꝯ your Order, which I am at a loss how to Enter, it not being specify'd in said Order for what service or in department the said sum was to be apply'd or be charg'd to;—which by the Regulations of Congress they shoud be in Order to enable the Auditor General to make proper Entrys from them.

I am w'th regard

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah May 30th 1778.

Sir:

I rec'd your favour of the 19th March last mentioning a Warrant on the Commissioners of the Loan Office for two hundred & two thousand four hundred & twenty three Dollars w'ch I rec'd ꝯ Mr. Joseph Wood & have acquainted Major Gen'l Howe therewith. I have presented it to the Commissioners who promise to pay me the Ball'e due thereon so soon as they are in Cash for the same, the Money I have already received will be deem'd as part of the said Draft, as the sums paid me by the Treasurers was out of Moneys raised from the sale of the loan Office Certificates. Our Legislature having appoint'd the Treasurers Commissioners to Countersign the said Certificates & apply the proceeds to the Use of the Army.

Inclosed you have my Accounts from the time I rec'd any Money for the Use of the Army to the 30 April last viz:  
from the 1st of March last to the 31st of said Month  
Amount of sums paid by me for the use of the Army during that time as ꝯ said Account .....11761..13..11½  
from the 1st April to the 30th of said Month amount of

Same. I observe some of your Orders drawn lately not Countersigned, w'ch I presume has been owing to Accident Ditto P'd by me for D'O during that time as per ditto. . . . .  
.....2717..15-8

And there remains a Ball'e due me by the United States of £1929..8..10½ being so much advanced by me out of my Private Cash. You'll observe I have not p'd a farthing but by Orders of Gen'l Howe who is Commander in Chief within this Department, but in Case of his absence from the State which often happens as I shoud (his principal residence has heretofore having been in So. Carolina) I shou'd be at a loss to know whether the next Officer in Comm'd within the State woud have the same right & Authority to draw on me, & Whether his Orders & War rants woud be sufficient Vouchers for my paying any Moneys—the Resolves of Congress Say no Person Shall have Authority to draw but the Commander in Chief within the Department what is considered a Department in this Instance I am not a judge of, I know the Congress have in some Case Divided the United States Generally into Departments that is Nothern, Southern & Middle, but whether in Army matters it is Considered in the same manner I wish to be inform'd, I have not made out any Acc'ts for this Month, what has been paid being so exceeding trifling for want of Money to pay with that it was not worth While, the Army has been reduced to the greatest Distress in this State for want of Money, the Gen'l has had great difficulty to keep things in any tolerable degree together for want of it, I was at a loss to know in what manner to make out my Accounts no form being pointed out by the Resolves, or whether they were to be Certify'd by the Gen'l or sworn to had the Gen'l been here I shoud have got him to have Certifyd them Whether requisite or not, but he is a very considerable distance from this So'therly with the Army—I have just made out a plain Acc't Curr't Stating the several Payments as they were made & have Endeavoured to explain the services

they were paid for so far as they came to my knowledge, the Resolves of Congress direct that Abstracts be made up Monthly of all such Officers who are not comprised in the Regimental Abstracts, which at present is impossible to be done in this State, there being no Certify'd Pay list to form it from within it, that I know of I have a Pay list for the So'thern Department for the Infantry, as it stood in June last but its said there are many Alterations since that Period, nor does it contain the Pay of several Officers who I presume shoud be included in the abstract, Quarter Master, Muster Master & Commissary Gen'ls & their Assistants nor does it go higher than a Brigadier General. We have no pay list for the Artillery or Cavalry, It is absolutely necessary that a Complete list shoud be sent as speedily possible, till this is done & the Army properly & regularly supply'd with Money, Army matters cannot be put on a proper footing, I do not know whether these matters lay within your Department or not, if they do not, I hope you will excuse my troubling you with them, I have never received a line from any one relative to my office since my appointment, but from you, nor do I know where properly to apply for Information, I woud wish to obtain it that I might have it in my power to render as effectual services as possible, which was my only motive for undertaking it.

I am,

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't,

J. Clay.

Savannah June 8th 1778.

Major General Howe

Sir:

I rec'd Yesterday your favour of the 2d Inst. and have only to assure you that you may depend on the Exertion of every means in my power to obtain as soon as possible

a sufficient sum of Money to discharge the Arrears of Pay now due to the Army, I have day this rec'd £5242..10s out of the Treasury which with what remain'd in my hands of former sums makes upwards of £7000 now in my possession for the Use of the Army, I will also immediately look out for a proper person to Act as Pay Master at the Camp so long as you shall judge necessary. In Order to expedite the paying of the Army the Regimental Abstracts shoud be made out immediately by the several Regimental Pay Masters, by which we shall learn what sum will be necessary to discharge the Arrears now due & woud submit it to you whether they shoud not be directed to make them all up to one fix'd Period, or at least every Company & Officers in the same Regiment, w'ch has not I believe hitherto generally been the Case, in those I have received I notice the Rolls for the Companys in the same Regiment are not made up to the same time, nor have all the Field & Staff Officers Pay been made up to the same period, the making them all up in the same Regiment or Battalion to one time in my opinion woud tend to prevent Errors or Impositions, the Rolls & Abstracts shoud likewise be more particular than they have hitherto been, the end & intention of them is to promote regularity, & as far as may be prevent Frauds, to do which the Rolls shoud specify under seperate Columns every Mans Name, their Station or Office, when inlisted or the Dates of their Commissions, for what time they were inlisted for, their pay  $\text{p}$  Month, from what time the pay is due, to what time its charg'd, & then the total sum each Private or Officers Pay Amounts to, these are in my opinion essential requisite's in every Pay Roll, few or none of which that I have seen have had them. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the nature of them to know whether they shoud not contain other matters perhaps their shoud be a Column for remarks specifying whether the Men are all present, or whether any of them have Deserted & when, &c. I know the present juncture when the Troops are on the March is

not favourable for establishing Regulations nor will the various necessary matters that must take up all your time & attention, afford you leisure to Consider them just now, nor can it be expected, nor should I have mentioned them had they not when the Paying of the Army was the Subject naturally have arisen out of it. I would notice one other matter that is whether the Regimental Pay Master should not Account frequently for Moneys they receive on Abstracts or otherways, not one of them have accounted with me as yet. Perhaps it may have owing to the very confused & distracted Situation of Affairs for sometime past & the Army having been on the move. I have rec'd from Mr. Wm. Matthews Muster Master Muster Rolls for the several Battalions Artillery Companies & Regiment of Light Horse made up to January & February last.

I am w'th respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't,

Joseph Clay.

Savannah, June 20th, 1778.

Major Gen. Howe

Sir:

I this day rec'd your Letter of the 11th Inst.—Capt McCoullough has been gone for So. Carolina some days past. I understand the Chief Justice, Mr. Glen, is his Attorney with whom I will take care and Settle the purchase Mr. Rae made of him, I would have done it this day had the Chief Justice have been in Town, I have been very much disappointed by Mr. Bards not coming to you w'th money as I expected, but hope in three or four days to have some other Person on the way with it to you, I have near Ten Thousand Pounds now by me, & have not the least doubt but I shall be able to procure by some Means



or other a sufficient sum to discharge the Arrears due the Army, & to Answer every other purpose you may have occasion to draw for in future. Dr. Houstoun apply'd to me this day relative to a Number of Sick at Sunburry belong'g to the Army, who he inform'd me were in want of many Necessarys that could not be procur'd without Cash, & that the Commissary of hospitals had not any, considering the Situation of these Poor Unhappy People & how hard it would be on them to want any thing that necessary & can be procured—I have desired him to purchase what may be wanting, & promis'd to supply the Commissary with whatever sum may be necessary to pay for them, I hope this will meet with your Approbation, & that so soon as the sum expended in this Business is ascertained, I shall receive your Warrant as a Voucher for disbursing the same, and am with respect,

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't,

J. Clay.

Savannah, June 26th 1778.

D'r Sir:

I received yours of the 24th Inst. & am exceedingly sorry to Learn the Situation of our poor Soldiers, tis intirely out of my line to supply money in the Manner proposed, Nevertheless it must not on this occasion be wanted, Humanity & every other obligation forbid it, I have wrote Capt. Maris ¶ this opportunity relative to the Business, the Commissary of Hospitals would be the properest person to conduct the Matter, & into whose hands I shou'd for regularity sake rather have chosen to have paid any Money for the use of the Sick, however on this occasion I shall not hesitate to pay it in that way that will the most speedily & effectually relieve these poor people from their Distressed situation.

I presume you have heard that Bochop & Osborn are

Both taken & Carried into Charles Town, it may be depended on as a fact, tis reported & I believe on tolerable Good Grounds that Jas. Moore is Killed & his Brother taken, we have no other News here, that any dependance can be placed on, Shoud you find anything further Necessary to promote the recovery & welfare of the people under Your Care that I can be of any assistance in, you may depend I will very chearfully render it, and am w'th regard,

D'r Sir,

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Dr. James Houstoun

Savannah June 26th 1778.

Sir:

I received Yours of Yesterday's Date, relative to the poor Sick Soldiers at Your place, it is by no Means within my line to Supply Money in the Manner proposed, nor can I have any voucher for any Sum paid by me but by the General's written order, the present Case is Certainly a very extraordinary one, & such a one as calls loudly for immediate relief, nor shall I hesitate a Moment to afford every Assistance in my power so far as Supplying the Sick may render Necessary the General appointed Mr. Box Commissary of Hospitals who in my opinion, shoud by himself or some person under his appointment, supply & provide every thing Necessary for the Hospitals & to whom all Sums requisite for that purpose shou'd be paid & the Expenditure accounted for by him, I shall Mention the Matter to him, in the interim, that these poor people May not Suffer You may depend. I will reimburse & furnish every sum that may be necessary to provide them with what they stand in Need of. The Commissary shou'd supply every thing that may be wanting & you draw on me

in his favour, he had best Kept a Separate Ac't of what he Supplies the Hospital & Your orders shou'd mention Specially the Sums drawn for as for the use of the Hospital—as to all arrears of every Kind. I make no doubt they will all be very Speedily Settled, the want of Money has prevented hitherto, but that I hope will not happen in future. I am w'th respect,

D'r Sir, Your most Obed't Servant,

Joseph Clay.

Cap' Thos. Morris.

Savannah, June 26th, 1778.

Sir:

I received Yours of Yesterday's Date and am truly sorry for the occasion, the great want of Money for the use of the Army has brought great Difficulty on it, & Embarrass'd all the officers Acting for it in their Several Departments & rendered their Duty extremely irksome & disagreeable to them, I have found it extremely so myself, however this has been & is an evil which I have the greatest hopes, will be Soon remedied, & that it will never happen again to so great a degree.

I have wrote Cap' Morris that I will immediately pay any Draught he may draw in Your favor for the purpose of Supplying the Sick Soldiers with such things as they may Stand in Need of until proper orders are given by the General for that purpose, the Commissary of Hospitals wou'd in my opinion be the proper person to have provided for these People however they must, nor cannot want, what is necessary for them can be procured through any impropriety in the Means for obtaining them, t'would be inhuman & disgraceful to us as a State, as Hospitals Expenditures are particular ones, I woud advise Your Keeping a Separate Ac't of the Sums You disburse in that

line as the Congress particularly recommend that all Expenditures of Money be particularly and Separately accounted for that the different charges may be properly arranged in the General Accounts.

I am w<sup>th</sup> regard  
D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Joseph Clay.

Savannah the 26th June, 1778.

Mr. Will<sup>m</sup> Gibbons, Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Sir:

Inclosed is a letter for Gen<sup>l</sup> Howe informing him with the business you have undertake to execute & the sum you have with you to enable you to effect it, with which I woud wish you were at Camp as speedily as possible, as the Army have considerable Arrears of Pay due them which for want of Money we have been prevented from paying as it became due. You have likewise inclosed a pay List for the Army in the So<sup>thern</sup> Department also such Resolves of Congress relative to the manner of Paying it and the Duty of Pay Masters as have come to my hands, which must be your guide in the execution of this Business. You<sup>ll</sup> observe no Order or Warrant for Money can be paid but such as are drawn by the Commander in Chief, which Orders or Warrants so drawn must be Counter-signed by his Secretary, and they shoud specify generally the Service the same is to be apply<sup>d</sup> to, these are requisite, required & directed by Congress, the want of Money has prevented the Army being regularly paid off since I have been in Office nor am I acquainted to what time they were paid up by the several Pay Masters apointed by this State, in this we must endeavour to get the best information we can, & I will advise you with every thing that comes to my Knowledge relative thereto, I have paid the several

Regimental Pay Masters as under being for Pay as  $\text{£}$  Abstracts, Viz.:

Mr. Benjamin Odingsale Pay Master to the Third Battallion for pay due said Regiment to the 20th March last (Capt Rawleigh Downmans Comp'y excepted whose pay is only charg'd to the 1st of said Month) . . . . .	3498..4..7½
Mr. Geo'e Randolph Pay Master to the light Dragoons for pay due Capt. Benjamin Walkers Troops to the 24th Feb'y last . . . . .	1144..8..1½
Paid ditto for pay due the Third Troop to 20th March last . . . . .	119..14..7
do for Lieut. Jno. Billos* pay to the 12th March last . . . . .	49.. 6..8
do for his Own Pay as Pay Master to 22d March last . . . . .	60.....
	<hr/>
	£1373.. 9:1½

Paid Lieut. Col. Marburry $\text{£}$ Order of Gen'l Howe for pay due the 4th Troop Dragoons to the 14th November last . . . . .	676..0..0
To do the due 6th to the 10 Oct'r last . . . . .	75..0..0
	<hr/>
	751..0..0

The above are all the sums I ever paid as pay to the Army & which I acquaint you with for your Information, I shoud have furnished you with the Muster Rolls but those I have received are so Old a Date that I do not apprehend they could be of much service in Checking the Pay Rolls, the latest Date of any of them, are to March last, I presume they have been Muster'd since that Period or that they will be very soon & that I shall be furnished with a Copy of the Muster Rolls.

In regard to the pay of the Army I apprehend it cannot be drawn for till every Capt. or Commanding Officer of a Company in a Regiment has made up the Rolls of

\* Sic. Should be Bilbo's.

their several Companies, which for the Sake of regularity should all be made up to one time, that is in the same Regiment, as the Abstracts are directed to be made up Monthly—the Regimental Paymasters make up the abstracts from the said Rolls, & include therein all the Staff & Field Officers belonging to their respective Regiments, the Abstracts thus made out are to be first Certify'd by the Col'l or Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and afterwards by the Brigadier or Commandant of the Brigade: When the abstracts are thus compleated they come into the Deputy Paymaster Gen'l's Department, who I conceive is re Examine them again as to whether the pay is fill'd up agreeable to the Establishment of Congress, whether they are agreeable to the Muster Rolls, & that there are no more Officers commissioned or Non commissioned than are allowed to a Regiment, & also whether the sum is right cast & if they are, a Receipt is to be given for them to the Regimental Paymaster, who by that means obtains a Warrant for Amount of the Abstracts, which if we are in Cash is to be immediately paid taking a Receipt for the same, obliging them therein to promise to be accountable for the sum so paid to the Deputy paymaster Gen'l of the State or his successors in Office agreeable to the Resolves of Congress, if the Abstracts on Rolls are found deficient in any of the foregoing Particulars I would not give a Receipt for them untill they were rectify'd, or the Commander in Chief was made acquainted w'th any objections they were liable to, after which it he directed they shou'd be rec'd notwithstanding any improprieties or irregularities in the making them out or otherways, I should think it a sufficient Justification for receiving & giving a Receipt for them immediately.

As it will be necessary that you transmitt me the several Orders & Accounts of Money paid by you by every safe Conveyance, you had best take Duplicates of all receipts to serve in failure of the Originals. I have usually taken Receipts on the back of the Warrants, or Orders, those

that are not taken on them shou'd specially refer to them, & their dates, & in all Entries for Cash paid be particular to specify the service its to be applied to reciting the same as nearly as you can from the Warrants & Orders.

I have only to request you will keep me regularly advised with what sums you pay out, & as nearly as you can what farther sums you are likely to stand in need off, that I may have time to provide the same & remit it to you,

and am w'th regard

D'r Sir, your most 'Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah, 26th June 1778.

Major Gen'l Howe

Sir:

This Will be handed you by Wm. Gibbons, Sen'r, who has undertaken to act as Deputy pay Master to the Army, & I flatter myself will execute the Office to the satisfaction of all concerned as far as lays in his power, he brings w'th him twelve thousand pounds Current Money of this State, & I shall endeavour to remit him from time to time what further sums he may stand in need off to enable him to answer w'th Punctually the Draughts you may draw on him.

I have furnished him with such of the Resolves of Congress as have come to my Hands relative to the Pay Master's Department, & given him every other Instruction in my Power, I wish we may be able to get the Regimental Pay Masters to make out regular Rolls and Abstracts for the Pay due their Respective Regiments they have been extremely irregular hitherto, & as I hope we shall not in future want Money to pay the Army it becomes due, if the Abstracts for each Regiment were made up to certain Periods it woud be better.

In my last I acquainted you that Dr. Houstoun had

apply'd to me relative to furnishing Money to provide necessarys for a number of Sick Soldiers at Sunburry; which I had comply'd with, since w'ch I have rec'd Letters from Capt. Morris, Commissary Coddington & Dr. Houstoun, who is attending the Sick at Sunburry, setting forth the Distressed Situation they were in for want of Money to provide for those People; the Commissary and Capt. Morris say they have extended their Credit as far as it will go, that they cannot purchase any thing more without Cash & desire of me to assist them till they can procure proper Warrants from you for that purpose, as I could not bear the Idea of people in their Situation wanting any Assistance that could be afforded them, being convinced it would give you pain to know they wanted for one moment merely for form Sake, I have wrote them to draw on me for any sum they may have occasion for, to enable them to provide for the Sick Soldiers there till you give further Orders, Capt. Morris is to draw in favour of Mr. Coddington for what sums may be necessary, & I have wrote him to keep a separate Account of the Expenditures for the sick, as I presume the charge should by some means or other be brought into the Commissary of Hospitals Acco'ts, Dr. Houston writes me of the 24th Inst. that 12 had died before he reached Sunburry, that there was then 117 there who were in a very poor way that they were 120 at Sapelo who were all in a fair way of recovery.

As there will be considerable difficulty in getting Money carried Safe from this Camp, especially as I cannot procure it in very large sums so as to send sufficient sums at once to answer the purposes of the Army any length of time being oblig'd to collect in 2 or 3 thousand Pounds at a time, it will be of advantage to draw for as many sums payable here as the nature of the services they are intended for will admit, I am w'th respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.



Fra. Coddington Esq.  
D. Commissary Purchaser.

Savannah, July 3d 1778.

F. Coddington, Esq.  
D'r Sir:

I have paid Dr. Houstoun One Thousand Pounds & have taken his Receipt for the same promising to pay it to you for the Use of the Sick & Invalid at Sunburry. I have given him the Order you inclosed, w'th a Receipt on the back of it for you to Sign, w'ch will enable him to take up his own Receipt from me. When you transmit any Orders in future that are Negotiable please to draw an Order on the back of it making it payable to the Person you choose shall receive it. I wou'd only notice that what sums I advance in this way must be apply'd to the immediate Relief of the Sick & Invalids within your Department. Nothing but the Necessity of the Case can be any Justification to me for paying it. Arrears due you must stand 'till the General gives Orders for the Payment. I am

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't,

J. C.

Savannah July 26th 1778.

Mr. John Lewis Gervais, Esq'r.  
D'r Sir:

I this day rec'd the inclosed Letter from Mr. Maxwell relative to a Negro of Col'l Laurens's that is runaway, I am rather afraid both from the tenor of the Letter, & from what Mr. Ballit\* informd me that the fellow has hopes of being sold to some Person or other thereabouts—I have not wrote to Mr. Maxwell on the Subject, Our Southern Expedition being ended I presume Mr. Maxwell is at home, & I woud hope he Will take some steps to secure him, as Mr. Baillie has talk'd w'th him on the Subject, however I

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\* Baillie.

intend to write him requesting he will Endeavour to apprehend & have him Confin'd at Sunburry till we can send for him.

At the particular request of Col'l Laurens I accepted an Appointment as D. P. M. G. to the Army in this State, w'ch tho' not very troublesome at present, yet affords me great anxiety for want of C. Money to pay them with, they having been hitherto paid in the Curr'y of this State w'ch they have always rec'd w'th reluctance, owing to its being much under Value of the C. Curr'y, but its now so much depreciated from the very large Emissions, want of a sufficient Trade & Extortion, that they almost declare they will not receive it any more, nor is it to be wondered at when Osnab'gs sells from 3 to 3½ Doll's  $\text{¶}$  Yd, Rum 16 Doll's  $\text{¶}$  Gall., &c &c, & add to w'ch our State has no Public Store to supply the Soldiery w'th at an under rate, of Course they cannot possibly subsist on their Pay, this matter has been represented to Congress & I make no doubt they will send Money to Pay the Troops very shortly, but in the interim we know no what to do my reason for mentioning this matter I woud be glad of your Opinion whether you think I coud obtain in your State 10 or £20,000 Sterling or rather 70 or 80,000 Doll's in Cont'l or Car'a Curr'y for my Bills on Congress, even at a moderate Discount, Provided they could not be obtained at Par. General Howe I know woud do any thing in his power towards promot'g the business if it shoud be necessary I woud be very much oblig'd to you for a line relative to this matter  $\text{¶}$  first Opportunity. I presume Mr. Baillie has inform'd you before this that all the Buildings on New Hope Plantation was destroy'd, you woud have heard from me before this but I have been almost constantly in the Country for sometime past, I hope Mrs. Gervais is perfectly restored to her Health, and am with great respect,

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't  
Joseph Clay.

Savannah Aug't 5th 1778.

Major General Howe

Sir:

I expected to have had it in my power before this to have sent you Rect's for the sums you advanced to the Copes, but when I came to pay them your Draft in their favour on me, they refused to allow any Discount from the Draft till the Receipt they say they gave you for the Money they received was deliver'd up, alledging that while that remained out they could not have a proper discharge, they also said they must have an Account & Receipt for the Amount of the Articles they rec'd of you, & w'ch they del'd to the Commissary of Issues ~~in~~ your desire, to be a Voucher for them on a settlement of their Accounts, I ask'd them why they did not make these objections to you while you were here, they said they did not occur to them at that time, & that they were ready to pay or Discount the Money whenever their Receipts were delivered up, & an Account & Rec't for the Articles delivered the Issuing Commissary.

On my return home the Evening I was with you I found the inclosed Receipts among my papers, w'ch I did not recollect that you gave me or said any thing about them, therefore, presume they got there by Accident have therefore taken this oportunity to return them to you.

I mentioned to you my doubts whether Col'l Elbert coud with propriety agreable to the regulations of Congress draw on me for Money, I have reconsidered the matter & find my self strengthened in that opinion, in some Instances the Resolves are positively against it, in regard to the Pay of the Army the Resolves Say the Abstracts shall be certify'd by the Comm'g Officer of the several Regiments & afterwards by the Brigadier, therefore for the same person to Certify & draw for the Payment likewise woud be an absurdity, I believe Col'l Elbert concurs with me in opinion, what sums he has drawn on me for I have or shall pay, but I shoud think it proper that you shoud send me a General Warrant to advance him what Moneys he

may occasion for before I can be properly authorized or have a sufficient Voucher to enable me to Settle with Congress for any sums I may pay to his Order.

We have nothing new or remarkable, the Discontents of the Army for want of pay run very high or rather for want of being paid in Continental Money, indeed such is the Depreciation of our Curr'y that it is the highest injustice to think of offering them it but what can be done till Congress affords us some Relief, I know not, if Money can be taken upon Bills in Caro'a to such an Amount as woud afford any Relief I woud Chearfully do it, & woud come to Cha's Town to negotiate the Business, I have wrote to a friend of mine (Mr. Gervais) ☿ this Conveyance who I know is very conversant in matters of Business desiring his opinion on the matter & to inquire how far its practicable & have taken the Liberty to mention to him that if any thing lay with you as to the Strengthening of my Drafts, that I was sure you woud very chearfully do it. Col'l Elbert has directed all the Abstracts for the several Regiments to be made up to a certain Period, by w'ch we shall come to a Knowledge what sum is due the Troops for Pay, & be thereby able to judge what sum will answer the purpose provided we can obtain it. I am w'th great respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay,

Savannah 25th August 1778.

The Hon'ble John Houstoun, Esq'r.

Sir:

I have called at your House two or three times in Order to have received your Answer relative to drawing on the Treasury in my favour for Money to support the Continental Troops in this State, but unfortunately you

happen'd to be out of Town Many of the Troops from their having been so long out on Command have considerable Arrears of Pay due them, for which & several other Services, I am Daily called on for Money, which lays me under the necessity of troubling you again & to request your Honour will be pleased to give me an Order on the Treasurers for the sum Voted by the Assembly for the purpose of Paying & Supporting the Continental Troops in this State, or any other sum you may think proper and for w'ch I will give them Receipts from time to time as I shall receive the same, and am with great respect,

J. Clay.

Savannah Sept'r 1 1778.

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Sir:

during the time the Men off War lay at cockspurr a Negro Fellow belon'g to me Named Chance, by trade a Cooper, Run away & went on board one of them, if I am not wrong inform'd the Vessel Commanded by Capt. Stanhope, who afterwards landed him in Augustine where he now is in the hands of Mr. Penman I have been told several of the Negro's that were carried away by the Men of War at the same time have been sent back to their Owners w'ch has induced me to ask the favour of you to Endeavour to get this Fellow sent to me ~~at~~ the Return of the Flag Truce if he is deliverd to the Rev'd Mr. Holmes, who has been kind enough to undertake to be the Bearer of this, or to Mr. Kent or Capt. Pray they will take care of him for me there are two other Negro's who were carried away at the same time if they could be sent back I shoud be very glad I do not know who has them in possession the one is Named Sterling he is the property of an Orphan in

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\* To Mr. \_\_\_\_\_Brown.

Scotland & was left to him by one Hugh Burn for whose Estate I am an Executor, the other is Named Adam & belongs to the Estate of the Rev'd Mr. Zouberbuhler Deceased, for Est'e I am also an Executor My best respects to Mrs. Brown and believe me to be with regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't  
Joseph Clay.

Savannah Sept. 1, 1778.

Will'm Devaux\* Esq'r.

D'r Sir:

I am informd there has been a Negro in Beaufort Jaol or work house of a Considerable time past Named Carolina who belongs to the Est'e of Mr. Hugh Burn Deceased for whom I am an Executor I will be extremely oblige to you if so to take himout & send him  $\text{ff}$  any Safe Conveyance & whatever the Fees may Amount to I will remit you immediately either in Car'a or Continental Money I woud be obligd to you if you woud inform me what you think he woud fetch if he sold in your State at Public Sale for Cash, as I have some notion of disposing of him I am w'th regard,

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't  
Joseph Clay.

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\* Deveaux.

Savannah Sept 2d 1778.

Messrs. Bright & Pechin  
Gentlemen:

☞ favour of Commodore Bowen\* I take the opportunity of dropping you a line hoping as the Tyrants Troops have been oblig'd to leave your City that you are both return'd to your Habitations there to remain undisturbed any more by the Horrors of War as I think their Business seems to be almost over on this Continent whatever it may be at Sea. We are far from being in a State of Security being continually harrassed by a Banditti Supported & paid from the Provinces of East Florida who are continually mak'g depredations on us by steeling our Horses & Negro's &c, however I hope we may by some means or other be able to get them rooted out the ensuing Winter nothing but our Situation in that respect prevented my seeing you this Summer.

I am in hopes we may soon be able to resume our Business I shoud be glad to learn whether our Sloops Escaped the Enemy—Every thing is extremly dear with us Rum 60/ ☞ Gall., Muscovado Sugar £30 : £40, & Os nab'es 15 a 20/ ☞ Yd. & Woolen Cloth of the coarsest kind 50/ a 80/ ☞ Yd. & so on I think if it shoud be convenient you might send a Vessel here & the sooner the better as I am sure there will be Adventurers soon from among us who will be pushing for the No'th'd Business with all their might. Rains I presume you heard was taken on his passage Outwards for Bermuda all his Acc'ts are not closed as soon as they are will furnish you with them we shall clear something by him. If I had a Vessel in my power I woud send her to you immediately tho from the Extrava-gant price of every thing, & provisions (& of course Rice) being prohibited I shou'd be at a loss what to Ship Sole leather 5/ ☞ lb, Indico near 20/ Beaver & Furrs not be had we hav'g little or no Indian Trade for want of goods

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\* Commodore Oliver Bowen.

Deer Skins 5/ 4 lb & so on every thing in proportion Barr  
Iron is in very great Demand Our Blacksmiths now  
charge 5/ 4 lb for their work the first Cargo that comes  
in if not too large & too dear will do well I am of opinion  
these very high prices will not keep up many things pre-  
sent themselves to make me think so the prospect of the  
War not last'g long, & the French joining us & protecting  
our Trade will operate powerfully for us. I shall be  
extremely anxious to hear from you to learn how you have  
been Situa'd for sometime past I sincerely felt for you  
as I am apprehensive the Enemy being so long in your  
Country must have occasioned great Distressed.

I am w'th great regard,

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah Georgia Sept'r 9 1778.

His Excellency Henry Laurens, Esq'r, President of the  
Honb'le the Continental Congress.

Sir:

Agreable to the Resolves of Congress I have made up  
my Acct's as Deputy Master Gen'l in this State to the end  
of every Month but no safe Conveyance offering they have  
remain'd in my Hands this three Months past. I now  
inclose them as under from the 1st of May to the 30th  
June Ball'e due me at that Period £4371..9..1½ being so  
much advanced by me for the Use of the Army more than  
I had rec'd from the 1st of July to the 31st Ball'e then  
remaining in my hands belonging to the United States  
£5467..18..1½, & from the 1st to the 31st Ulto Ball'e then  
due me 3247..19..8 being so much pd by me for the Use of  
the Army more than I had rec'd—the reason of there being  
no Acc't for May I had no Money during that Period.  
You have also inclosed for information a Copy of Acc't



Curr't between me & the Commissioners of the loan office (Messrs. Obryen & Wade) from which you'll find there is a Ball'e due me on your Draft dated the 18th Mar. last 41883 Dollars w'ch they say they cannot pay hav'g already paid me the full Amount of the Certificates lodged in their Hands.

I shou'd be glad to know by what means I can have my Acc't Ex'd and passed as it is a very great risque to me their remain'g unsettled. I have only a single Voucher for every sum I pay, w'ch by many Accidents may be lost or destroyed add to w'ch I am but little acquainted with the duty of my Office nor have I the means of information for want of w'ch I may be daily committing Errors & paying away Money improperly, w'ch if my Acc'ts could be frequently Audited might be prevented. By the Resolves of Congress I observe no Money can be drawn for out of the Military Chest but by the Commander in Chief in the Department. I am at a loss to determine what is intended by a Department, if a Department includes several States I presume Gen'l Howe is the Commander in Chief in this department, & if so, he only can draw at present he is in So. Caro'a & Col'l Elbert as Senior Col'l & Commanding Officer of the Continental Troops within this State is daily drawing on me for Money for Army Uses, which when in Cash I have always pd. indeed, the Army could not have subsisted without Money therefore necessity compell'd me in some degree to do it whether regular or irregular or the Troops must have wanted Provisions and every other necessary.

Capt. Hancock of the 2d Geo'a Battalion is the Bearer of this who I understand goes to Congress at the request of the Officers and Soldiers in this State and with leave of the Commanding Officer to Solicit their being pd in Cont'l Curr'y, indeed their Situation in this State is truly distressing, their pay though very adequate under almost any Circumstances except ours to support them properly in their several Stations is now from the very high price

of every thing among us far very far short from Answering the purpose of affording them even Common necessaries, & I am told some of the Subalterns have already quitted the service for no other reason than the not being able to support themselves in it, they complain very much of not rec'g their pay in the Curr'y of the United States this they think wou'd greatly alleviate if not remove all their Complaints. We have at present little or no Foreign Trade to give a proper Credit & Circulation to the Curr'y of this State, the Emissions of w'ch have been very large, of course the greatest part of our Trade is inland (chiefly with So. Carolina) w'ch occasions the Continental Curr'y to be much sought after, & Goods can be purchased with it at much cheaper Rates than with our own Curr'y w'ch induces them to believe they woud be enabled to support themselves on their pay if they cou'd be pd with it how far this woud be the Case I am not able to judge, but I am of Opinion unless their is a public Store Established for the Officers & Soldiers where they may be supplied with necessary Articles at low prices even the paying of them in Continental Curr'y will by no means effectually serve them. I woud hope & wish that something might soon be devised to raise the Credit of the Curr'y of this State w'ch woud be the most effectual way of serving them & us tho as I before observed unless the Troops can be supplied with necessaries at cheap Rates they will hardly be able to subsist in this State during the War on any pay that can be afforded them.

I woud beg leave to mention my own Situation in regard to Money which at present is & has been heretofore very distressing Since the Commissioners of the loan Office paid me the Moneys they had in their hands I have been supplied at different times by the State—the State wish if possible to avoid emitting any more Money & in preference to w'ch Borrow what they want at a very high Interest (8 ̄ Ct. ̄ Annum) & very often they cannot procure the sums wanted, w'ch is the Case just now, the

sums wanted from the excessive price of every thing being very considerable. I have received from the State, including the sums Credited me in my Acc'ts upwards of 120,000 Dollars over & above the sum pd me by the Commissioners of the loan Office, notwithstanding w'ch their are now Orders out unpaid of 100,000 Dollars & for w'ch I am Daily & hourly call'd on for payment, & have not a Shilling in hand to discharge them—with I believe I could procure Money on Interest or for Bills Exchange for the latter I am sure I could,—but never having rec'd any Instructions on that head nothing but extreme necessity would induce me to do the one or the other—I would hope that some method will be fell on to put me in a very different situation for unless I can by some means or other be supply'd w'th Cash to pay of the Demands of the Army as they come in, it will lay me under so many difficulties that it will be impossible for me to do the Duty expected of me—add to w'ch it will bring great Distress on the Troops in general by mak'g the Inhabitants very backward in the supplying them with such things as they stand in need of.

I am w'th great respect,

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah Sept'r 9th 1778.

His Excellency Henry Laurens Esq'r

Sir:

By this Conveyance I have sent you all my Acct's to the 31st Ultio. I know not whether I have been right in so doing, but never hav'g received a line from any Board or Office giving me any Directions how to conduct myself I am totally at a loss to whom I should apply or with whom I shou'd correspond on the Business of my Office. I have repeatedly seen matters that appeared to me improper but for want of knowing how far I was author-

ized to interfere have not been able to notice them—unless I can be properly supplied with Money & Instructed how to conduct myself it will be impossible for me to Execute the office.

We are again very much infested with Tonyns Banditti Stealing our Horses & Negros & doing us all the Mischief they can as Thieves two or three of them have been killed this last Week by our Scouts your Overseer who carry'd your Negro's to Florida is in Jaol here & will be hanged if sufficient Evidence can be procured—all these Thieves claim the Priviledge of being prisoners of War as Soldiers in the service of the King of Great Britain & some of them have Commissions—however our Inhabitants seem determined that very few of them shall have in their power to claim the Priviledge by Killing them if Possible wherever they meet them. They are mostly in small Companies of 5 or 6 Each. We have been lately much alarmed by the Creek Indians who murdered a Number of People in the Ceded land's but all seems to be quiet again this Country can never enjoy any tranquillity nor its inhabitants have any Security for their Property till the Florida's are Reduced Tonyn with his Thieves & Stuart & his adherents with the Indians will always be annoying us. I have only to add that I am with great regard & respect,

D'r Sir:

Your most Obed't Serv't,

J. Clay.

Savannah 16th Sept'r 1778.

Major Gen'l Howe

Sir:

☞ Cap't Pourcin & Mr. Murray I rec'd your favours of the 21st & 27th Ulto & the following sums Viz:

☞ Mr. Murray 1485 Georgia Dollars Say . . .	371..	5..0
☞ Capt. Pourcin 2000 do do do . . .	500..	0..0
under cover of yours the 27th Ulto		
31 3-10 ditto Say . . .	7..16..	6

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\* 871.. 1..6

mak'g together in the whole Eight hundred & seventy nine pounds one Shill'g & sixpence Current Money of the State of Georgia & for w'ch sum you have now inclosed a Receipt as for so much rec'd of you for the Use of the Continental Troops in this State. I have not yet apply'd to the Copes again relative to their discounting your Money having none to pay them they have Orders on me from Col'l Elbert for a considerable sum but I have not a farthing to pay them with. I have received from the Commissioners of the United States loan office all the Moneys they had in their hands whole Amount Forty thousand one hundred & Thirty Five pounds this Currency Since w'ch I have rec'd between 20 & £30,000 out of the State Treasury but I obtain it so slow & in such small Sums that it answers very little purpose & give me infinite trouble in obtaining it If Congress do not afford us some relief very shortly I know not what will be the Consequence the Moneys I have rec'd of you I am forced to apply in payment of abstracts for pay due the 2d Battalion & Artillery I am in hopes to receive some out of the Treasury in two or three days when I shall again apply to the Copes—Commodore Bowen has not apply'd to me for any money to pay the Gallies if he should I will Endeavour him.

I mentioned to you my doubts in a former Letter as

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\* Sic.

to the propriety of Col'l Elbert drawing on me for Moneys without your Orders to me for that purpose the Necessity of his having that power is very apparent but the Express words of the Continental Resolves are against it for w'ch reason I think I ought to have your Order as a Voucher for my so doing. I am with great respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Sept'r 25, 1778.

John Lewis Gervais Esq'r

D'r Sir:

I wrote you some time ago that I had received some Money of Col'l Elbert in part payment for the Wench sold him belonging to Col'l Laurens & that I expected shortly to receive the Ballance in a Bill on your Town & Capt. Bunner who is the Bearer of this. I have sent you the sum I received of him as under, Viz:

in Continental Currency	412	Dollars..	32/6	Each.	669..	10..	0
in Carolina	do	188	do	do	305..	10..	0
in do	do		do		154..	0..	0
					<hr/>		1129..
							0..0

making in the whole Eleven hundred & twenty nine Pounds your Currency which you'll please receive on Account of Col'l Laurens the Ballance I have not yet received so soon as I do will remit it to you.

I wrote you some time ago relative to the practibility of obtaining money in your State for the Troops on Bills—I presume from Circumstances it is not practicable however if its otherwise I should rather decline the matter as the Troops appear more reconciled than they were & willing to bear their present Distresses till Congress can do some-

thing to relieve them. We have nothing New among us the Floridians & Indians by their Robberies & Murders keep us in a continual State of Alarm—a fine Ship from Florida bound to Jamaica with Lumber & Naval Stores was brought in here by the Crew. I am with regard,

D'r Sir:

Your most Obed't Serv't,..

Joseph Clay.

September 7th 1778.

D'r Sir

No Conveyance for Philadelphia offering since writing the foregoing that I could Embrace, has detained it in my hands, We have been greatly alarmed with the dread of an Indian War a Number of People have been killed on the Ceded Lands, in the whole about 20, & People were flying from their Settlements fearing the defection was becoming general among the Indians. No Mischief has been done for this two or 3 Weeks past & from the best accounts we can get what was done was only by a party from the Upper Towns, headed as is supposed by some White Persons, & the People are returning to their Habitations again but We can expect no Security or Safety, for our Inhabitants till the Florida's are reduced or a Peace takes place; the Murders being so generally committed on the Ceded Land induces me to believe that the Treaty relative to the Indian Debts not being comply'd with has been in a great measure the occasion of them.

We are again infested by the Floridian Banditta taking our Horses & Negro's away we have had a Negro or 2 taken off within two or three miles of the Town & Horses from all parts of the State, the situation of our State is really extreme by distressing exposed to our Enemies. In case Loan Office Certificates are allowed by Congress &

they shou'd not go off brisk here, we must call all our money in declare it no tender in Law after such and such dates & make it redeemable by the Certificates however shoud peace take place w'ch it more than probable may shortly be the Case we shall go upon intire New plans.

D'r Sir

Your &c

J. Clay.

Savannah Aug't 29th 1778.

John Lewis Gervais Esq'r

D'r Sir:

Your favour of the 1st Inst. came to hand only this week, in regard to the rough Rice at Broughton Island I have repeatedly endeavoured to get it disposed of to the Army, but never cou'd bring them to any fix'd Bargain, 10,000 Bushels were agreed for by Mr. Rae @ 1/ 7/ 8 Bush'l a very considerable time ago, & he was to have it measured & put by for him, that it might lay at his Risque; I often spoke to him about it & he as often promised it shoud be done, but that was all, Mr. Taarling has married & been likewise very sick since he returned from Carolina, which has prevented my applying to him on the subject, from what I coud learn from Mr. Baillie tis more than probable they took away near 2000 Bushels while the Troops were on the So'thern Expedition, no exact account can be obtained, because a Considerable part of it was taken away without measuring—rough Rice sells here from 4/ to 6/ 7/ 8 Bushel, I suppose about 5/ is the general Price, What it may be worth at the So'therd I am not a Judge, but will inquire if General Howe can contrive the Payment in So. Carolina I think a considerable abatement might be made rather than receive it here, I shou'd think 17/6 your Curr'y for what was taken from Broughton Island very moderate if paid in Carolina—Col'l Elbert at first appeared dissatis-



fied in regard to the Price of the Wench, but he has agreed to take her at it, & about a fortnight ago paid me about £1100 your Currency, & has promised me the ballance in a few days, which will send to you at first opportunity, Inclosed is a bill of Exchange dated Bermuda the 29th Oct'r for sixty Eight pounds Bermuda Curr'y on. Mr Rich'd Cole of your Town in favour of Capt. John Rains payable at Ten days sight which will be obliged to you to endeavour to obtain payment for, the Bill is liable to a very Material objection its not being endorsed by Capt. Rains, nor have I it my power to remedy it, Capt. Rains being at this time a Prisoner in the hands of the Enemy, having been taken in a Vessel belong'g to Col'l Habersham, Mr. Jas. Habersham, Mr. Telfair & myself whose property this bill is, it being taken by Capt. Rains for a ballance due on a small Vessel he sold in Bermuda belong'g to them, & has now been long due, & this is the only Bill out of several that has come to hand, if he required any Indemnification we will freely give it, but for so small a sum I shoud presume Mr. Cole will hardly think it necessary, Inclosed is also a Letter of Advice belon'g to the Bill, I have endorsed the bill as for Capt. Rains payable to you, I hope you will excuse the trouble & believe me to be w' th great regard,

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Ashley river the 10th Mar 1779.

Geo'e Abott Hall Esq'r

D'Sir

I am informed by a Letter I have rec'd from Camp that the Military Chest both from this & our State runs very low, & as I woud on my part wish to send a supply there as quick as possible, & I presume Mr. Gervais will be likewise of the same opinion, for which purpose I have

wrote him ꝯ this Conveyance requesting the favour of him in Case he has not already sent a Supply on his own Account, that he woud ꝯ the same Conveyance he sends for him self forward fifteen Quires say One hundred & Sixty five thousand Dollars for me w'ch sum shoud he apply for I must beg the favour of you to pay him. In Case he cannot forward it Mrs. Clay (who comes to Town to see her Daughter &c will, if she can conveniently, bring that sum or perhaps as far as Twenty Quires up here with her, as its more than probable I shall not be in Town before I proceed to Camp, you will therefore be kind enough to furnish her with what she may choose to bring up. Mr. Habersham & myself are busily employed in procuring provisions & settling our Negros, the former of w'ch we find great difficulty in doing, every thing being very scarce about here, we are obliged to Cart grain for our Horses 12 Mules or give a very extravagant price for it. We have heard in a general way of Ashs Defeat, so far as we have been informd it appears to me to have been a very shamefull Affair, & I hope will be strictly inquired into, we shall be obliged to you for any news, & am with great regard, D'Sir,

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Savannah December 15th 1778.

John Gibson Esq'r Auditor General at Philadelphia  
Sir:

I rec'd your favour of the 20th July last respecting several matters relative to my Office w'ch I shall duly attend to, I have ꝯ this Conveyance inclosed Congress my Accounts for the Months of September, October & November which hope may be approved of; in these Accounts it will appear that a very large part of the sums charged in them were paid by the Order of Col'l Elbert, this I did under a

General Order of Gen'l Howes, directing me to pay to Col'l Elbert or to his order any sum or sums he might draw on me either for the pay of the Troops or the Military Department, the Business of the Army could not have been carried on if this mode had not been adopted, as no one would have supplied them with any thing if they had been under the necessity of travelling from Savannah to Charles Town in Order to obtain from General Howe (who most commonly resides there) a Draft on me for the Payment of their Money.

I have endeavoured in the making out my Accounts to be as explicit as in my Power, specifying the purposes every sum was paid for, where any sum is charg'd to an Officer in the service that is not expressed to be for any particular purpose, it is for the Use of his Department & for the Expenditure of w'ch they are to be accountable, as I thought it needless to express in every charge made against any Quarter Master, Commissary or Pay Master &c, that it was for the use of their Department, as by charging it to them as such it naturally follows it was for their Use in that station & for w'ch they must be Accountable—since the 31st of July last all the Extra Rations allowed the Officers has ceased, & they have drawn for their Subsistance Money in lieu thereof agreeable to the late Establishment. You'll observe a sum of 10,000 Dollars charged as paid to Stephen Drayton, Esq'r, Deputy Quarter Master General in State of So. Carolina for his use in that Department, how far it may be proper that the Moneys appropriated to the use of one State, should be apply'd to that of another I am not a Judge but I presume I have no right to refuse the Commander in Chiefs Warrant let them be drawn for what ever purpose they may. You'll also notice that several Orders have been paid partially part at one time, & part at another; this has never happened but when I have not had a sufficient sum in my hands to discharge the whole of the several Drafts drawn on me, & have from that cause been reduced to the neces-

sity of making partial payments Mr. Taarling has resigned his appointment as D. Q. M. General & Mr. Rich'd Wylly (a very Worthy Gentlemen of Intergrity & Ability) is now Acting in that Department, I mention this to explain what is meant by sums charg'd as paid to Mr. Taarling to enable him to settle his Accounts—the sum of 100,000 Dollars Credited the State of Georgia was a loan from this State, granted on a special Application of the Officers by Petition to the Assembly, setting Forth as a very great grievance the Troops being paid in the Currency of this State from the very great depreciation of it, & I was obligd to give a Receipt for the same as D. P. M. G., Promising to return the like sum again whenever the Military Chest arrived here, which I shall do as soon as I am called on for that purpose, this loan was granted for the special purpose of paying the Troops & no other nor has it been appy'd to any other, & is the first Money any of the Continental Troops in this state ever received after they came into it in any currency but the Currency of the state; I coud wish that I was furnished with proper Instructions to direct me in every part of my Duty fully, the Resolves of Congress that have been passed from time to time at least such of them as have come to my hands, are so detached, & in a few Instances more than partial, & only respecting particular parts of the service, that they rather serve to Embarrass than direct, this is what every Officer Acting in any department in this state Daily Complain for the want of. By the Resolves Abstracts are to be made up every Month by the Regimental Pay Master & to be regularly Certifyd & then lodged with me until Orders are given for Payment, from this I presume I have noth'g to do with the particular pay Rolls, tho from what is required in some other Resolves it woud appear as if they were to be Examined & Checkd by me. One of the Regimental Pay masters appointed by the state & who has lately resigned, & no other, apply'd to me to receive his Vouchers & give him a Discharge for the Moneys he

had received from me, which I refused, as in the first place it did not appear to me that I was properly Authorized so to do, & in the next the Vouchers were not all of them such as according to my Judgement were proper ones, I observed in some of the Pay Rolls the Pay of Deserters were charg'd up to the Day they Deserted & paid to the Commanding Officer of the Comp'y the belong'd to, & the pay of the Men that died in the service also charg'd up to the time they died & paid to the Major of the Regiment & I have also noticed on some Occassions where I have had an Opportunity of seeing the Pay Rolls that many of them were very deficient in point of Form, some of them most egregiously so, & made out in such a manner as must give great Opportunity to ill disposed persons to take an Advantage of the Public, nor have we any Established Form for the Abstracts, which I presume as well as for the Pay Rolls there ought to be, for my part I am quite a Stranger to the Dutys of my Office further than my reason & such of the Continental Resolves as have come to my hands have inform'd me, tis quite a New Business to me & which I entered on it with a view to be usefull only, & it gives me pain to see any thing I am concerned in be carried on in an improper manner. I rec'd some Months ago from the Deputy Muster Master Mr. William Matthews a Number of Muster Rolls of the Continental Troops in this state, some of them as late down as last March, but none later, nor have I rec'd any since. By one of the Resolves of Congress I observe I am directed to consult the Commander in Chief in this department on appointing Deputies at such Posts as he may think necessary, to supply with Money such officers as may be stationed there as he (the Commander in Chief) shall direct, but I am no where inform'd what pay these Deputies are allowed, I have not had occasion as yet to appoint any but I presume there will soon be a necessity for me to appoint some, when that happens it will put me to great difficulty, the Reg't P. Masters were formerly allowed

Captains Pay, But I am afraid that allowance will induce but very few in this Country under its present Circumstances in whose integrity & ability I could confide to accept of such an appointment, & give me security for their good behaviour & faithfull discharge of the Trust reposed in them, which if I am to be accountable for their Conduct they must do, & that I can hardly expect any one to do where his Pay for a Year will not enable him to live decently three Months in that Year, for such is our unhappy situation at present—If I am not accountable for their Conduct the Case will be different, as to me I will endeavour to do the best I can, for my part I would recommend if its not in compatible with the service that any Officer in the line be appointed to this Business, with additionate pay, in the same manner as Regimental Pay Masters—this mode I should suppose might Answer as a temporary Expedient to serve untill the Value of our Money renders it more adequate to the service expected—which I would flatter myself is not far distant. By some Resolves passed the 13th October last I observe I am directed to furnish the Deputy Quarter Master, the Deputy Commissary & the Deputy Clothier Generals, with Money for the Use of their respective Departments, And they are also directed to deliver their respective Accounts of Expenditures to the D. P. M. General, & that their Receipts shall specify the same to have been paid in Continental Currency, this to me is quite a New matter I mean so far as relates to their Account, I never understood that I was to have any thing to do with any Accounts but my own, nor have I as yet ever received an Acc't from any Officer or Department in the state, if I am to have any thing to do with them I must be particularly Instructed how far, & in what manner I am to govern myself relative to them, I would observe that that not one of the Regimental Pay Masters have, that I know of, ever settled their Accounts since I have had any thing to do with the Army, nor has any ever offered me any Vouchers (the Instance mentioned in the foregoing

only excepted) for the Expenditures of the sums rec'd by them, nor do I believe that any Pay Masters appointed by the state ever made a proper settlement of their Accounts, I woud be glad to know in what manner I am to have my own Accounts settled & who is give me proper Discharges for them, if they find them right, I have already paid away a very large sum of Money for every farthing of w'ch I am accountable, & for the payments of w'ch I have nothing to Shew but a Number of Warrants & Orders w'ch may be lost or destroyed by Various Accidents, w'ch is a situation I by no means choose to be in, if some mode is not Pointed out by w'ch I can obtain a settlement at short periods, there is no motive or any thing that can induce me to continue to Act under my Appointment. I can by no means think of running the risque of leaving my Family with long & large Public Accounts unsettled. I had forgot to mention that the last £40,000 rec'd by me from the state of Georgia was paid me by Meisseurs OBryen & Wade, Treasures of this state, as Commissioners of the United States loan Office, to w'ch office they were appointed by the Assembly of this state, & by whose direction they paid the same to me, how far this may be regular I know not, but as I received that sum of them as such Its proper that I shoud notice it that they may be Credited therewith accordingly You'll also notice the Credit of 49,883 Dollars rec'd of the same Gentlemen, being for a Ball'e due me on the President of Congress Warrant on the Commissioners of the loan Office in my favour Dated York Town the 18th March last.

I observed in the foregoing that the pay of the Deserters have been drawn for up to the time they Deserted by the Captain of the Companys they respectively belong'd to. I woud also notice that I understand the Officers who have received the same, alledge as a reason for their so doing that they had advanced the sum out of their Pocketts to

these Men in part of their pay, & that at a time when the  
pay Masters had not Money to Pay them with. I am

Sir, Your, &c.

J. C.

Savannah 15th Dec'r 1778.

Joseph Nourse Esq'r Pay Master to the board of Warr  
& Ordnance

Sir:

I wrote you the 21st Ulto from Charles Town ꝯ the  
Return of the Escorts to the Money, advising you with  
my having received the same & found it right; Amount  
as ꝯ Invoice 500.00 Dollars, w'ch sum I have carried to the  
Credit of the United States as ꝯ my Account to the 30th  
Ulto transmitted ꝯ this Conveyance will more particu-  
larly appear at the request of the Escorts I paid them  
200 Dollars Each making in the whole 1000 Dollars, as ꝯ  
the inclosed Receipt to serve in failure of the one sent you  
by them this sum I have Debited the States.

I sometime ago rec'd a Letter from Mr. Moses Young  
for you, inclosing a Receipt of Adjutant Taylors of the  
4th Geo'a Battalion for 200 Dollars, directing me to deduct  
the same out of his pay, this Gentle'n has not that I can  
learn ever been in this State. I shoud be glad to know  
whether I shall send you his Receipt back again—during  
my Stay in Chas Town Accounts came there that the  
Enemy from Florida had invaded our State & penetrated  
far into it, which induced me to lodge by far the largest  
part of the sum rec'd from you in their Treasury, not think-  
ing it prudent to carry more with me than was necessary  
for the then present exigincies—this will necessarily  
occasion some further Expence in getting it here, which  
woud not have been the Case had matters been otherways,



as I should have taken it with me by water inland free of any charge, I am with respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't  
Joseph Clay.

Sav'h 19th December 1778.

The Hon'ble Henry Laurens, Esq'r President of Congress  
Sir:

I had the honour of Receiving your esteemd favour of the 16th October last, inclosing several Acts of Congress Dated the 13th of that Month relative to my paying the Deputy Commissary, the Deputy Quarter Master and the Deputy Clothier General, such sum or sums of Money as they severally want in their respective Departments, & also directing me to pay the Officers & men belonging to the Continental Gallies in this state, & to transmit an Account of the same to the Board of Treasury at the end of every Month to all of w'ch I shall pay the strictest attention. I presume the direction relative to the transmitting of my Accounts to the Board of Treasury is intended as a general one, which method I shall in future pursue, until I am Ordered to the contrary; for the present I have taken the liberty to inclose you them for the Months of September, October & November last, Ballance remaining in my hands the 30th Ulto as  $\text{£}$  Acco't Curr't Ballance on that Day One hundred & Twenty seven thousand eight hundred & twenty eight Pounds  $\frac{3}{6}\frac{1}{4}$ , w'ch sum is to the Credit of the United States in New Account.

I have wrote to the Treasury Board through Mr. Gibson Auditor Gen'l every thing that occur'd to me or that appear'd necessary to be explained, relative to them, I am with great respect,

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't  
Jos. Clay.

Savan'h Dec'r 28th 1778.

Joseph Carleton Esq'r Pay Master to the Board of War  
& Ordnance

Sir:

☞ Mr. Telfair I rec'd Your much esteemd favour of the 14 November last, & this day rec'd ☞ the hands of Messrs. Young Hill & Weatherly 500,000 Dollars for the use of my Department, some of the Bills on the outside Quires are little defaced by rubbing, but I am hopefull not so much so, but that they will pass in payment.

I have given the Escorts a Receipt for the Money, which they will produce to you on their Arrival. I have also pd. them by the Order of General Howe who commands in this State as yet, the following sums viz: Mr. George Hill 240 Dollars, Mr. Jos. Weatherly 240 Dollars, Mr. Fra's Young 240 Dollars mak'g in the whole the sum of 720 Dollars—herewith you'll receive a Letter directed to Mr. Nourse which I had wrote him before I had the pleasure of being informd you were Acting in that Department, as it relates intirely to Public concerns I have not Seal'd it.

I am with respect

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Savannah Dec'r 23d 1778.

Messrs Blakes & Sawyers

Gen:

My last to you was of the 18th Inst. ☞ the return of your express. I was then In hopes that I shoud have been able to have inform'd you before this that you had obtain'd a Decree for the salvage of your Schooner & Cargo, as the Trial was to come on as last Tuesday, but for want of a Sufficient Number of Jurors appearing at court to make a

Jury, the trial was postponed till tomorrow, & yesterday the Attorneys on behalf of the Captors proposed adjourning the Trial till next Friday Seven night, Urging for a Reason that one of their Council (Mr. Walton) was under the necessity of going to your state on Public Business, & woud not return before that time—on Considering of the matter & Consulting w'th Mr. Stephens our Attorney General who I employed to appear on your behalf, I have agreed to their proposition, as it appeared to me it might rather prove to your advantage, by giving you time to Collect the Best evidence the nature of the case will admit. I find the Captors intend to push hard to obtain a Decree in their favour for the whole of the Cargo & Vessel, since your Claim was Entered they have employed another Lawyer (Mr. Walton) in addition to the one who Libelled the Vessel, they mean to claim the whole under a pretence that the Vessel was abandoned at sea, & of course became a derelict, they also urge that the Vessel was the property of the Enemy, that she was absolutely infra prosidea, these Circumstances I have only gathered from hints dropt by them in Conversation: therefore it is absolutely necessary to use every precaution to prevent their having any advantage of us—if there is such a thing possible as make her a Derelict which in a Case like this I think their is not, the present prize Master Evidence will be favourable to it, being, as I am informd much against Capt. Dillinghams Conduct, & indeed from what I can learn relative to it he certainly abandoned a large property of yours, for fear he shoud loose his own, as its said here that his Boat was loaded with goods belonging to himself when he came into our Port from his Vessel, so that however unfortunate you have been, he in all probability has made a good Voyage for himself. I have desired Mr. Stephens to write you on the subject which he has accordingly done. The proving the property of the Vessel in you is absolutely necessary in the first place, & the Indentity is another thing necessary—had the Trial have came on last Tuesday I believe

I shoud have fix'd the latter tollerable well by the Evidence of one Capt. Smith, who came with Artillery Stores belong'g to Col'l Roberts, as he said he knew the Vessel to be the same that Capt. Dillenghams sailed in from your state in your employ, but he is now on his way to your Town, if you have any Clerk or other Person who has done Business for you while Captain Dillengham sailed in the Vessel, by their coming up here they coud prove both, or if that can't be done you had best have the highest Evidence you can procure taken before your Chief Justice & sent up so as to be here before the day of Trial, the Vessel & Cargo will sell for a very considerable sum, I dare say upwards of £10,000 our Money if the Vessel is tolerably well found & the Cargo has not been plundered. Capt. Spencer ask'd me if I knew any thing of a Hhd or two of loaf Sugar & some Brandy being on board the Schooner as he had been informd there had been such Articles on Board, & if so, they were missing, I do not learn any thing of the Register. Capt. Spencer says he never saw it, shoud you obtain the Salvage which I think will be the Case had you not better buy in to near the amount of your proportion in Order to bring about a Speedy Settlement of the Concern, or if you do not choose that it certainly will be best that you keep the sales least any advantage shoud be taken, I will bid for you or get some other person to do it if I shoud by any Accident be prevented attending the sales myself. I am w'th respects & Esteem,

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't  
J. Clay.

Euhaws 21st January 1778.

Major Rice at Purisbourgh

Sir:

In consequence of General Lincolns recommendation of you to act for me as Deputy Pay Master General of the State of Georgia during my absence, I have taken the liberty of sending you  $\text{£}$  the hands of Mr. Rich'd Wyllly Ten Quires of Continental Money, containing Eleven thousand Dollars each, making together in the whole One hundred & Ten thousand Dollars or  $\text{£}27,500$  Georgia Currency for which Sum I will be obliged to you to send two Rec'ts of the same tenor & Date to serve as one.

In Order to give you every necessary information in my power I have extracted from my Books an Account of the last payment made to any of the Regimental Pay Masters or others w'ch is as follows Viz:

1st Battallion—Paid Jno. Wood Pay Master the 12th Nov'r last  $\text{£}395..2..2$  or 1580 26-60 Dollars being for Pay & Subsistance Money due s'd Regiment to the 30th Oct'r last  $\text{£}$  Abstract.

2d Battallion—Paid Cap't Littleberry Moseby P Master the 27th Oct'r last  $\text{£} 1816..3..7\frac{1}{2}$  being for pay & subsistance Money due said Batt'n to the 30th Sept'r last  $\text{£}$  Abstract pd Ditto the 5th Ulto in part of pay due said Battallion he to be accountable  $\text{£}$  Order of General Howe  $\text{£}1000$  say 4000 Dollars.

3d Battallion—Paid Capt. Isaac. Hicks Pay Master 3d November last  $\text{£}534..7..8$  Say 2137 32-60 Dollars being for pay & Subsistance Money due said Battallion to the 31st Oct'r last  $\text{£}$  Abstract.

4th Battallion—Paid Capt. Geo'e Melven Pay Master the 31st October last  $\text{£}629..11..8$  being for pay & Subsistance Money due said Battallion to the 30th Sept'r last  $\text{£}$  Abstracts.

N. B.—The 1st Abstract for the 4th Bat-

tallion made up since I acted as D. P. M. G. was from the 15th April last to the 31st July following & amounted to £2421..8..7 a part of w'ch only say £659..5..5 has been paid to Capt. Melven the remaining sum of £1762..3..4 Say 7048 2-3 Dollars was detained in my hands by order of Col'l Elbert the sum having been paid to a Major Woodruff (a Militia Officer) who acted as Pay Master to that Battallion prior to Capt. Melven whose Rec'ts for that sum were lodged in my hands by Col'l Elbert, & are now in my Possession, Dated the 6th & 7th April last & for which he the s'd Woodruff I believe has never produced any Vouchers.

Paid Capt. Templeton of the 4th Battallion ⌘ Order of General Howe 3 Months pay Say from the 15th Jan'y, 1778 to the 15th April, 1778 £30, Major Woodruff Pay Master at that time first certifying the same was due.

Light Dragoons—Paid Lieut Sam'l West Pay Master the 17th August last £3246..2.. being for pay due s'd Regiment to the 31st July last ⌘ Abstract.

Paid Capt. Scott ⌘ Order of Gen'l Howe 4th Dec'r last 948 Dollars being for pay due him from the 4th May 1777 to the 1st Nov'r, 1778, & for Subsistance Money from the 1st Aug't last to the same time.

Artillery—Paid Capt. Geo'e Young Pay Masters the 3d Novr, 1778 being for pay & Subsistance Money due the 3 Companies to the 31st Oct'r last ⌘ Absract £368..15s say 1475 Dollars.

Paid Capt. Dufau ⌘ Col'l Elberts Order his pay as Capt. of Artillery from the 3d April

1778 to the 3d July following 130 Dollars.  
Paid Philip Box, Esq'r Commissary of Hospitals his pay & Subsistance Money to the 31st Ulto ꝯ Order of Gen'l Howe.

Ditto Capt. Sens, Engineer the 21st of December ꝯ Order of Gen'l Howe 3 Months Pay ending the 31st Inst.

Ditto Samuel Stirk Judge Advocate his pay to the 21st Ulto ꝯ Order of General Howe, Ditto James Rae, Esq'r Deputy Commissary General of Purchases his pay from the 1st August last to the 31st Oct'r following £115 say 460 Dollars ꝯ Order of Col'l Elbert Ditto Commodore Bowen ꝯ Order of Gen'l Howe his pay to the 30th Nov'r last.

N. B.—The Gallies have never rec'd any Pay through my hands having been hitherto paid by the State of Georgia except the foregoing paid Commodore Bowen.

Paid Col'l Elbert the 12th Nov'r, 1778, in part of pay due him 225 Dollars Capt. Dufau & Templetons Pay since the time specify'd in the foregoing to have been paid to them has been included in their respective Regimental Abstracts.

Col'l Elbert has rec'd no other pay since I have been Office that I know off except the sum of 225 Dollars above mentioned.

The foregoing contains every information that I am able to furnish you with the paying of the Troops has in my opinion been conducted hitherto in a very irregular manner but I make no doubt it will be very soon put upon a very different footing & am with respect,

Sir, Your most Obed't Serv't,

J. Clay.

Euhaws 22d January 1779

Richard Wylly, Esq'r.

D'r Sir:

Before I left Purisbourgh Gen'l Lincoln proposed that Major Rice shoud act for me as D. P. M. G. during my absence & desired me to put into the Majors hands 100,000 Dollars for that purpose. I have sent  $\text{£}$  my Son Joe 10 Quires containing 110,000 Dollars w'ch woud esteem a favour if you woud pay the same to Major Rice & take his Receipt as from me for the same—I have wrote him on the subject & request he woud send me two Receipts of the same tenor & date to serve as one.

I shoud have sent the money 2 Days ago but the roads being so excessive bad deterred in hopes 2 or 3 Dry Days wou'd have made them better. I hope you'll excuse this trouble & am w'th regard,

D'r Sir,

Your most Obed't Serv't.

J. Clay.

Ashley River 10th March 1779.

John Lewis Gervaies Esq'r

DSir:

By a Letter I rec'd from Mr. Rice two days ago I find that the Military Chest at Camp runs very low, that he had paid away the whole of the sum he had received from me & near the Amo't of what he had rec'd from you of which I presume you are inform'd. I woud esteem it a favour if you have not already sent Mr. Rice a suppy from your Chest, that you woud  $\text{£}$  the same opportunity you may embrace for that purpose, send him for me fifteen Quire say One hundred & Sixty five thousand Dollars, for w'ch he may transmit Duplicate Rec'ts to me or to you in my Name as Opportunitys may offer. I expect to be ready to proceed for Camp in a few days but least I may be delayed



longer than I expect I woud be glad to send the Money there as soon as possible, ¶ Mrs. Clay (who comes to Town to see her Daughter & purchase a few Articles) I have wrote Mr. Hall relative to furnishing you with the Money provided you can forward it, and if not I have desired Mrs. Clay to bring it with her, as its more than probable I shall not be in Town before I proceed to Camp—I will be much oblig'd to you for the Resolves of Congress if you have done with them, & for any intelligence of consequence. We have heard in a general way of Ashs defeat if it happened in the way its reported here it is a very shamefull affair, & I hope will be Strictly inquired into, a few Brave Men appear to have been sacrificed to the ignorance or neglect (perhaps both) of some persons or other, the consequences of w'ch may prove fatal to a whole Country, I am with great regard,

D'r Sir, Yours &c.,

Jos. Clay.

Ashley River the 15th Mar 1779.

Nathaniel Rice, Esq'r at Purisbourgh

D' Sir

I rec'd your several favours of the 28th Jan'y & 2d Ins't the former covering Duplicate Receipts of the same tenor & Date for 110,000 Dollars w'ch sum I have Debited you, & for w'ch you will be Credited at settlement by the Receipts for Expenditures—I am not surprised you have met with Difficulties in paying the Geo'a Regiments, I suggested to you formerly the irregularity with which the pay of that Brigade had heretofore been conducted, & the impediments that woud probably come in your way, w'ch induced me to be so particular in giving you a list of the last payments made, & to furnish the General with the Abstracts in Order thereby to afford every Assistance in the Business in my power—since I left Camp my time

has been principally taken up in travelling in search of a Place to fix my Family & Negros, I am now employed in settling them in this place & I hope in 8 or 10 Days to be able to proceed from this to Camp & to bring you a Sufficient supply of Money to Answer every Demand. I wrote to Mr. Gervais requesting the favour of him to receive a Sum for me in Cha's Town & to forward it to you at the same time that he sent you a supply in Answer to w'ch he writes me that Yours informing him of your being in want of Money had not yet come to hand, therefore he could not send a farther sum at present, otherways he would very chearfully have Comply'd w'th my request—I will endeavour to bring or send you a supply as quick as possible in the interim any advances you may make from the Carolina Chest, you may be assured I will enable you to repay w'th punctuality, my best respects to the General & am w'th respect,

Sir,

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

P. S.—inclosed is Copies of the several Resolves of Congress that have come to my hands relative to the pay of the Army, & which you would have had before this, but I had lent the Originals to Mr. Gervais at the time you wrote me for them.

Euhaw 22d January 1779.

Major General Lincoln

Sir:

I have sent by the bearer Ten Quires of Cont'l Money containing eleven thousand Dollars each which I have desired to be delivered to Major Rice taking his Receipt for the same these Amounts to 110,000 Dollars w'ch is 10 thousand more than you mentioned, but this I appre-

hend can make no difference I have wrote Major Rice & inform'd him particularly so far as in my power the state of the Troops as to their pay. I have inclosed you for your perusal & information the last Abstracts for pay due each of the Regiments & Companies of Continental Troops that were stationed in the State of Georgia, Viz:

Abstracts for Pay due 1st Battalion to the 31st Oct'r last

395.. 2.2

ditto for do due 2d ditto to 30th Sept'r ... 846..14..7½

ditto for do due 3d ditto 31st October ... 534.. 7.8

ditto for do due 4th do 30 Sep'r .... 629..11..8

ditto for do due ditto 31 July ..... 2421.. 8.9

do for do due Artillery to 31st Oct'r ..... 368..15..

do for do due Light Horse 31st July..... 3346.. 2..

The foregoing are the last Abstracts that have been presented by any of the Regimental Pay Masters. I was much at a loss to know in what form to take the Receipts for sums paid on Abstracts You'll observe I took a special one by way of obligation for the Sum paid on the Abstract for the Regiment of Horse, this I did for special Reasons— Of which will inform you when I return If you shou'd have done w'th the Abstract before the return of my Son (who is bearer of this) I woud be obliged to you to return them by him, but if not they may rem'n w'th you till I return to Camp

I am With great Respect

Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay..

Ashley River So Carolina,

Messrs. Bright & Pechin

Gentlemen:

March 23d 1779.

I wrote you sometime ago informing you with the Situation of our State, & of the progress of Enemy in it.

They are still in possession of all the Sea Coast more than half of the best part of the state, & for any Force we have at present they may remain there as long as they please and should they get reinforced before any Troops arrive to our Assistance from your part of the world, I make no doubt they will attempt to penetrate into this, & its more than probable, succeed in it; & should that unfortunately happen, its consequences to the United States must be very alarming. If we had rec'd the least support in Georgia, the Enemy would never have got the footing in it they have nor would they have kept possession of it till this time, the people of this State do not seem to possess that Spirit of Enterprise & Patriotism I expected, & of which they boasted, had they been Active the Enemy would have been drove out of our Country or at least confined to the Town of Savannah before this, which would soon have reduced them to such a situation as to have oblig'd them to have quitted it or Perish—their force of Regular Troops is not considerable between 3 & 4000 Men at the uttermost & of our Tories (the New York Levies) & what have joined them from Florida the back parts of this state & of the Georgians, between 2 & 3000 more, this is the very extent of their force. If General Lincoln can once have as many regular Troops under his Comm'd as they have, I have not the least doubt he would soon give a very good Account of them—should they flush'd with success determine to make a Summers Campaign with us, & we are tolerably supported, so as to have it in our power to shut them up in the Town, & Harrass them & keep them to hard Duty. I dare say 'twill be the last they will make so far So'therly, the Climate in the Months of July, August & September will in all probability put an end to it with them, with a Witness.

I have set my Negros to planting in this state about 15 miles from Cha's Town on Ashley River, where I am with my Family, this I thought the best for the present, for the Enemy will hardly leave Georgia or be drove out

of it, time enough to do any thing there this year. I left 12 or 13 of my best slaves in Georgia, some of w'ch I never expect to see again, if I do any of them, besides w'ch I left a Considerable property in goods household furniture, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep &c not having time to get them off, however I am in hopes it will be in my power (sooner or later) to make it up when I get back, out of the property of some of their loyal friends—I find through hurry I left all my lottery Ticketts behind me, & as some Villian or other may attempt by fraud to make a bad use of them I must beg the favour of you to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent it—Mr. Wreat & myself Act for the Managers in our state, so that nothing can happen this way, there is 70 of them in the whole that I was concernd in, all of the first class, some of which I find drew twenty Dollar prizes, w'ch with some others I have renewed in the second Class, the Numbers are No. 98,141 a 98,150 and 99,442 a 99,501,—I mentioned to you in my last that I shoud have no objection to your sending a Vessel to Charles Town, while the Enemy are in our Country. I am still of the same opinion & believe it woud do very well, Flour sells @ £80 to £85 this Money, equal to 50 a 52 Dollars, Barr Iron in great demand & very high, as is every other Article, Cruisers have been very thick on the Coast but the general Embargo has & will be the means of their quitting it. Vessels Drop in frequently particularly small ones; I shoud be glad to hear frequently from you & when a probability of a Speedy Conveyance to get a News Paper or two—you may direct under cover to any friend in Chas. Town, & I shall receive them immediately. If I knew you were Shipping any thing here, I believe I could Insure, I am w'th great regard,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Ashley River So. Carolina the 23d March 79.  
Joseph Carleton, Esq'r, Pay Master to the Board of War  
& Ordnance

Sir:

I wrote you the 18th Dec'r last acknowledging the Rec't of Your favour of the 14th Nov'r, also of the sum of 500,000 Dollars for the use of the Army since w'ch time every thing has been in such State of Confusion & distress from the Invasions & Progress of the Enemy that it has not been in my power to forward my Accounts as usual the principal part of my time since we were drove out of the State having been employed in procuring a place to fix my family & removing them to it. I expect to have them all made up by the end of this Month, inclusive so as to be ready to transmit them  $\text{w}^{\text{th}}$  Safe Conveyance. The demand of the Military Chest have been so considerable from the situation of Affairs, the very advanced price of every Article that unless I very shortly receive a supply I shall very soon be out of Cash I am now sending to head Quarters  $\text{w}^{\text{th}}$  Order of the General 200,000 Dollars & I have some Demand to Discharge which when satisfy'd will not leave me in Cash exceeding 80 or 90,000 Dollars which will very soon be expended. I must therefore request you will lay this matter before the Board for their Information and am Sir Your most Obed't Serv't,

Jos. Clay.

Ashley River So. Carolina the 3d April 1779.  
Joseph Carleton Esq'r  
Sir:

I wrote you some days ago advising you that I should very soon be out of Cash, & requesting you would lay the same before the proper Board for their Information unfortunately the Case is worse than I then expected & w'ch at

that time I was unacquainted with for on Examination I find that I had little or no Money but of the Emissions of the 11th April 1778 & this Day paid away the whole of the Money in my hands now in Circulation; this happen'd by an unavoidable Accident: owing to the Situation of Affairs here the Money that was sent to me from the Board of War before the last, was all of the Emission of the 11th of April 1778 this came as far as Cha's Town, So. Car'a where I then happen'd to be just at the time that Prevost w'th the Floridians &c made an irruption into the southerd parts of our State for w'ch reasons I thought it best to lodge the greatest part of it in Cha's Town Gen'l Howe also recommended me to do so, a short time after arrived in Georgia 500,000 Dollars of the Emission of the 26th Sept, 1778, which of course I paid away first in discharge of Drafts as they came to hand, w'ch occasioned the Money that came before & w'ch is now out of Circulation to be last on hand, that I have near 400,000 Dollars by me of the 11th April last (and no other) I presume I must lodge the whole of this with the Commissioners of the loan office as directed by the Resolves of Congress of the 2d Jan'y last publish'd in the Gazettes of the several States. I must request you will lay this before the proper Board for their Information. You will receive all my Accounts in a few days & am w'th respect, Sir,

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

So Carolina 1st May 1779

John Gibson Esq'r Auditor General

Sir:

Inclosed is Account of sums paid by me as D. P. M. G. for the State of Georgia from the 1st Dec'r to the 30th Ultio Ball'e then Remaining in my hands the property of the United States, as  $\text{£}$  Acc't Curr't, One hundred & Eight Thousand Six hundred & Seventy two Pounds, eleven

Shill'gs  $8\frac{1}{4}$  Geo'a Curr'y equal to 434,690 1-3 Dollars the situation of our state from the Progress of the Enemy in it having oblig'd me with my Family to quit & take shelter in this, (untill we can recover & get back into our own again) has put it out of my power to transmitt my Accounts so regularly or soon as I woud otherways have done.

I must beg you will inform the Treasury Board that I am quite out of Circulating Cash, the whole of the Bills now in my possession (a very small sum excepted) being of the Emission of the 11th April, 1778, this arose from my lodging in Charles Town the greatest part of the sum sent to me in Oct'r last, Prevost from Florida being at the time of its arrival here penetrating into Georgia, which induced me for the sake of Security to leave it there, the consequence of w'ch was that the sum sent last & w'ch came direct to Georgia, was paid away first, & by that means the Money that came before & w'ch was all Emitted under the Resolves of Congress passed the 11th April, 1778 remained to the last. I have already lodged 206,000 Dollars w'th the Commissioners of loan office for this State, & shall lodge the Remainder in a Day or two. We are very much at a loss for want of a pay list for the whole of the Military & Civil Staff Officers, there has never been a Compleat one sent me, I do not even know what is allowed to any Deputy I may appoint under me. I shoud be very glad some mode was pointed out by W'ch I may have my Acc'ts settled at Short periods—I must request the favour of you to lay my Accounts & these several matters before the Treasury Board, & am w'th respect,

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.



Ashley River May 4th 1779.

Philotheos Chiffelle Esq'r

D'r Sir:

On our arrival at Camp the last time we found such of the Georgians as were there had met the day we reached there & had adjourn'd till the 10th Inst., then to meet near Augusta in consequence of w'ch we again return'd much sooner than we expected. We propose setting off tomorrow & tis very possible it will be a considerable time before we come back as we are inform'd General Lincoln is in Georgia. I had no Opportunity of Purchasing while I was out or since—Rice I understand might be purchas'd low about Pocatigo but I was apprehensive the Risk in getting it round from there was great. Mr. Telfair is come down but he understood there was a probability of Indico rising & of course declines selling, tho I find on inquiry the greatest part of his is still up the Country. I am much oblig'd to you for Lodging my Money & must again trouble you to Lodge the Remainder, for which purpose I have herewith Inclosed you Mr. Owens Receipt for 218,143 Dollars but I must further trouble you to make a payment out of it to Mr. Dorsius who has two old Warrants on me the one for 3177 2-3 & the other for 9553 1-5 Dollars making 12730 52-80 Dollars. I was in Town the other day on purpose to have taken them up but Mr. Dorsius's Clerks were not to be found & he could not get at the Orders however he has sent me a Copy of the Accounts & Warrants & I have included them as paid in some Accounts I have transmitted to Congress in consequence of his agreeing to take this Money for them though called out of Circulation as the Warrants were of so Old Date & had not been produced till very late, I had many doubts about the paying of them however as my Accounts were open not having ballanced them since I came from Georgia till now I have included them as paid near the time if their date, therefore I woud not have the Receipt Dated as at this time nor is there a necessity for any Date a Receipt for so much in full of the several Warr's is all that

is necessary least it might not occur to you at time of Paying I have wrote a Rec't on one of the copies Mr. Dorsius sent me in Order to remind you when you take them on the Originals after these two sums are paid there will remain 205,412 Dollars & 8-60 to be lodged in the hands of the Commissioners of the Loan Office unless there shoud have been any Errors in the counting of it which may very possibly have happend. We are Daily look out for you & Mrs. Young as its near the time you talk'd of being this way if any thing Interesting shoud happen during your absence I shoud be very glad of a line I presume the late incursion of the Enemy will greatly alarm poor Mrs. Dillon I have not heard any particulars but from what I can learn the Enemy meant to surprise that Post or draw Gen'l Lincoln's attention from Georgia, perhaps both but am hopefull their intentions will be defeated.

I am w'th regard

D'r Sir Your most Ob't Serv't

J. Clay.

Ashley River May 4th, 1779.

John Lewis Gervais Esq'r.

D'r Sir

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you I rec'd your several favours of the 29th March & 9th Ulto the former did not come to hand till I returned from Camp, so that I had no Opportunity of applying to the Gen'l for a Warrant for the Ama't of General Howes Receipt those you gave me before, I apply'd to the General for, who very readily directed that Warrants shoud be made out for them, & on my Asking him for them two or three days after he told me he had Ordered them to be sent you ~~by~~ an Express (that came down if I am not Mistaken to you relative to Money) I go for the So'ward tomorrow & shall see the General & will apply to him for a Warrant for the sum

you paid General Howe ☞ his Receipt & will send it to you or bring it down w'th me. I shall be glad to learn the others came safe to hand & were made out as you woud wish I discounted that all my Money was of Emissions called out of Circulation the day I sett off for Camp & not before, its very lucky you rec'd so timely a supply the General recommended me to lodge it with the Commissioners of the loan Office in consequence of which I was in Charles Town two days for that purpose but the Commissioners were so throng'd with people bringing in sums of the like Money that I coud not accomplish it, on w'ch I apply'd to Mr. Owen to let me lodge the Remainder of my Money in your Chest till I coud get it lodg'd with the Commissioners, which he was good enough to do & Mr. Chiffelle was so kind as to promise he woud take an Opportunity to lodge it with the Commissioners for me.

I am very glad you supply'd Col'l Marbury with the Amount of the Generals Warrant on me, I am sure the General will furnish a warrant for it as soon as its mentioned to him if its not already sent you if you will let me know I will apply to him for you I have sent you 2 or 3 letters for the N'ward w'ch I will be much oblig'd to you to forward ☞ the safe Conveyances that may offer if any thing Interesting shoud occur I will be oblig'd to you for a line Camp further than the Operations of it is very destitute of Intelligence I am w'th great regard

Ashley River 1st June 1779.

Major Rice

Dear Sir:

Since I saw you last I received a letter from the War Office (Copy of which you have annexed) relative to a Sum paid Capt. Hancock directing me to deduct the same out of his Pay—as I have no money at present the General will of course draw on Mr. Gervais through you for what-

ever may be due him, you'll therefore make the proper deduction as directed by Mr. Carletons letter I have been & am very unwell still, or shou'd have been at Camp before this. I am

Sir

Mr. Gervais

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

for the above mentioned Letter see the Original Dated the 15th Dec'r, 1778.

So. Carolina June 9th 1779.

No. 1

Joseph Carleton Esq'r, Pay Master to the Board of War  
& Ordnance

Sir:

I rec'd your favour of the 10th Ulto & observe you had applied to the Board of Treasury relative to the supplying me with a further sum of Money for the purpose of paying the Troops & defraying the Expences of the Military Department, & their Answer thereto, & am much oblig'd to you for the trouble you have taken therein, the necessity & propriety of my application they must before this be well convinced of, as my Letters wrote since the Date of the one you acknowledge the Receipt of, must have come to hand before this, by w'ch they will find that I am intirely out of circulating Cash & have been so for sometime past—the Georgia Troops & Military department are now supplied out of the Carolina Chest, which will undoubtedly create confusion, particularly in the paying of the Troops, & this will daily increase, more especially in future, as Numbers of the Inhabitants are now Embodied in the state, and more are daily going in, & Troops will probably March there immediately in Order

to attempt the driving the Enemy quite out of the State while they are weak (their remain force being now in this) of course large sums will be wanted for various purposes.

I rec'd your favour of the 15th Dec'r last only about 8 days, ago however it came in time to Answer the purpose intended, Capt. Hancock had just settled his Account, & Received a Ballance that was due him from Major Rice, who Acted as Deputy both to me & Mr. Gervais, & to whom I transmitted a Copy of your Letters & in consequence of w'ch Mr. Rice immediately apply'd to Capt. Hancock who he informs me very readily repaid the 500 Dollars w'ch are to the Credit of the United States in Account with Mr. Gervais—I hope ere this my Accounts to the 30th April are come to hand, I inclosed them to a friend of mine in Charles Town to forward, but do not know when or by what conveyance he sent them, the situation of Affairs from the Enemy being in our Country, has prevented my being as regular in transmitting my Accounts as I could wish, I am with respect

Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

So. Carolina June 9th 1779.

No. 2.

John Gibson Auditor General

Sir:

I rec'd your favour of the 10th Ulto relative to Money rec'd by me from the State of Georgia on loan, directing me to purchase with Continental Money as much Georgia Currency as will repay the like sum to the State of Georgia, I imagine the Board of Treasury at the time of Making this order must not have had a retrospect to the whole of my Accounts transmitted from time to time, the Receipt of w'ch have been acknowledged, or they would have found that I had nothing like a sufficient sum of circulating Cash in my hands to enable me to comply with their directions,

I have not my Books or papers now with me (having sent them up the country for safety, least they should fall into the Enemy's hands as the chance of War is uncertain) so that I cannot write with precision on the subject, but if I recollect right I rec'd from the State of Georgia in Continental Currency on loan £25,000 Say 100,000 Dollars & w'ch I expect will in a very short time be demanded of me in like Money, as I gave a Receipt at the time of Receiving it promising to repay it in like Money when in Cash, there was very Considerable sums advanced by the State for the Use of the Army before I was appointed Pay Master, & I believe you will find by my Accounts that I have received considerably more than 400,000 Dollars in the Curr'y of the State, so that it will be impossible for me to comply with their directions till I receive a sufficient supply of Money, there is no doubt I shall be able to purchase the Georgia Currency much under the Value of Continental Currency, but notwithstanding, to repay the 100,000 Dollars to supply the Daily wants of the Army, & to purchase up the Georgia Currency will require a large sum—at present I am quite out, I have lodged with the Commissioners of the loan Office between 420 and 430,000 Dollars of the Emission of the 11th April, but when they will be in Cash to reimburse me seems uncertain, as soon as I am enabled I shall endeavour to carry their directions into Execution and am with respect

Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Head Quarters the 22d Sept'r 1779.

No. 3

Gentlemen:

I received yours of the 15th Instant advising me with your having arrived a Cha's Town w'th 500,000 Dollars & that you had lodged the same with Mr. Gervais—the

wants of the Army make it necessary that the whole or a part of it should be brought here immediately—You'll therefore proceed immediately with the whole or such a part of it as Mr. Gervais may think proper, whatever you may leave in his hands will be the same as if delivered to me, & I will give you a Receipt Accordingly, there is no risque in coming here that I know of at present; however prudence will dictate to you to come a long with Caution & to make inquiries on the road—I am Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Messrs. Coleman & Jones,  
Escorts.

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 22d Sept'r 1779.

Head Quarters 2½ Miles from

No. 4

John Lewis Gervais Esq'r

D'r Sir:

I rec'd a Letter from Mr. Palfrey advising me he had sent 500,000 Dollars for the Use of my Department, and by a Letter from the Escorts I received Yesterday I find it is Arrived in Your Town & lodged in your hands for me by the directions of Gen'l Moultrie who was of opinion twas not adviseable to send it here immediately, the Demands for the Army are so numerous & pressing, & the sum so small in proportion to the wants, that I must request the favour of you to direct the Escorts to proceed with it here directly, to w'ch purpose I have wrote them, if they woud proceed w'th half the sum & leave the other with you, twoud be more convenient, & perhaps more prudent, but how this can be managed I am at a loss—Everything is preparing for an Attack on the Town, the rainy Weather has delayed us very much, they only begun this Day to land the Cannon & Mortars, the Weather appears now to be cleared up & I hope the Operations will go on

with Despatch the Town is invested Count D'Staing Troops are posted from Brewtons Hill to the Ogeeche Road, & Gen'l Lincoln Posted from the Ogeeche Road to McGillivrays, the Enemy have sent us word they are determined to defend the Town to the last Extremity, had Maitland have been prevented from getting into the Town (& w'ch was practicable) they woud have Capitulated without firing a Gun, there was a few Shot fired last Evening from Our Galleys at the Enemys Vessels near Salters Island, w'ch was returned by them, two of the French Vessels also hove in Sight at the same time, the Consequences of which was that the Shipping that were there made the best of their way up the River, & in the course of the Night the whole of them, except two got to Town & these I suppose will probably do the same the next Tide, the Enemy have now no force on the River from Under the Cover of their Guns in Town, Except three Galleys w'ch still remain Opposite to Mr. Brewtons Plantation near to what is call'd the 5 Fathom Hole, they have Burnt the General Arnold Privateer & the Lord Geo'e Germaine, I imagine they were aground & they did it to prevent their falling into our hands I am w'th regard

D'r Sir Your most 'Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

State of Georgia

Camp before Savannah the 27th Sept'r 1779.

Wm. Palfrey Esq'r. No. 5

Sir:

I rec'd your several favours of the 17th June & 10th Ulto the latter of the 23d Ins't & the former not till this day—under cover of yours of the 10th Ulto I rec'd your Instructions relative to my Department, as also an Account of sums advanced to Officers for different purposes to both of which you may depend I shall pay the Strictest atten-



tion, among these advances is 146 60-90 Doll's paid to Lieut's Campbell & Clendennin of the 3d N. Carolina Regiment no part of w'ch Regiment are at present either in this State or So. Carolina—I have ever made it a constant practice to have my Account Made up Monthly & transmitted as often as Conveyances offerd except in the last Instance, when twas not in my power the Invasion of our Country by the Enemy oblig'd me to quit my Possession in this State & take Refuge with my family in So. Carolina (Where they still remain) w'ch with the general Confusion naturally arising under such Circumstances prevented my being as regular as usual all my Accounts are now in Mr. Gibsons Hands or with the Treasury Board a reference to which & my several Letters transmitted with them will inform you fully with the State of my department.

The Escorts with the last 500,000 Dollars write me from Cha's Town of that they had by Gen'l Moultries Order lodged the same in the hands of Mr. Gervais for me, he (Gen'l Moultrie) being of opinion twas not prudent to risque the Money to Head Quarters at this juncture, the fate of the present Expedition being in suspence however the wants of the Army are so pressing & no Cash in hand that by General Lincolns request & advise I have wrote them to proceed here immediately w'th a part of the sum, & to Guard aga't any Accidents as far as may be, to leave the remainder w'th Mr. Gervais of whom I have requested the favour to retain the same in his hands till further Orders in yours of the 10th Ulto you mention you had inclosed several resolves of Congress relative to my Department w'ch I apprehend you must afterwards have forgot, as there were no other papers but the above mentioned inclos'd, under cover of yours 17th June I have those of the 29th May—for want of my being in Cash for some time past Gen'l Lincoln has been obliged to draw on Mr. Gervais for the sums necessary for the service of our State of Course I have had no Accounts to transmit during that

Period the sum you have now sent will be inadequate to our wants for any length of time, the very great depreciation of Money makes large sums necessary for the services of the Army, if you have not Money now on the way for the Use of this Department over & above the sum now sent I shall be out of Cash long before any will come to hand w'ch will occasion great Distress, tis not in my power to advise what sum may be necessary, for our future wants & much less to Specify for what purposes however, I shall advise w'th the Gen'l & take the Earliest Opportunity of Informing you as near as I can with the sum necessary for the use of my Department I shoud be very glad to be furnished w'th a Compleat Pay list for the Army. I have never yet been supplied with a proper one, nor have I ever been able to know what is the Salary allowed the D. P. M. G. I saw a Resolve of Congress lately by which they Resolve that the D. P. M. G. Salary be Augmented to 80 Dol's  $\text{per}$  Month if this is meant for the So'thern Department Congress must be very badly informd of the Value of Money here, or look on the Office of so little consequence that they do not care who executes it—it is not equal to the Wages given here for the labour of a common Negro Porter two Years Salary will hardly purchase a Good Horse a tolerable one now brings from 2 to 3000 Dollars each for my own part I shoud much rather render them my Services for nothing that accept a Salary so very inadequate I might add disreputable to the Service—You have doubtless been inform'd before this with the Arrival of Count D Staing on our Coast w'th his Fleet & a Number of land Troops, he has landed I believe about 4000 Men w'ch with I suppose about 2000 or upwards Americans we are now encamped before the Town of Savannah and are so forward w'th our Approaches as to have reason to expect we shall be able to carry the place in a very few Days, the Enemy have in the Town according to the best Accounts we can obtain between 17 & 1800 Regular Troops & about 1000 or 1200 New raised corps Torys

Seamen & Militia included, they have made two Sallies in order to impede & destroy our Works but were repulsed with little loss each time the French have Blocked up the Port, in w'ch is 2-20 Gun Ships the Rose & Foy\* the Vigilant Mounting 20-18 or 24 Pounders some smaller Arm'd Vessels—3 Galleys & near 80 Sail of Vessels of all sorts, a Capture of all which if we succeed in (& of which I have no doubt) will to use the Enemys own language conclude the Campaign with Brilliant Success, our Militia are daily increasing General Lincoln is very well and tho' undergoing great fatigue in fine Spirits he desires his Compliments to you—I hope my next will Congratulate you on the Successful conclusion of this Business, and am w'th respect

Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Camp before Savannah

the 28th Septemb'r 1779

John Lewis Gervais Esq'r.

D'r Sir:

Your favour of the 14th Ins't came to hand only yesterday owing to its going round by way of Augusta I observe you have been under great difficulties in regard to Money, & the prospect you had of Borrowing a further sum of the Commissioners loan Offices I have wrote Mrs. Clay  $\text{¶}$  this Conveyance & requested her to send you  $\text{¶}$  the first safe Opportunity the Commissioners Certificates for the sums paid by me into their Hands, I do not recollect the exact sum they are for there are three of them Amounting in the whole to upwards of 400,000 Dollars. If they can be of any service you are welcome to them I presume your delivering them up the Certificates

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\* Fowey.

with your Receipt on them will be sufficient, if not whatever further may be needfull I will at any time do, one of them was intended to have been paid to Mr. Dorsius in full of two Drafts of Gen'l Howes in his favour, I have carried it twice to Town for that purpose but could not effect it; the last time he was out of Town, & the other he could not come at the Drafts, however as I shall have Cash in hand I shall make a reserve of as much as will take it up—Mr. Palfreys Letter takes no Notice in any of his Letters of the matter you mentiond to me—a Letter from a Friend at Philadelphia informs me by mention of Col'l Laurens some alterations in the D. P. M. G. Department had taken place, but no more, I wrote you some Days ago relative to the last Money arrived at your Town for me, & which was Stopped in your hands requesting the favour of you to forward a part to me & keep the remainder in your possession—Very little of importance has occurred since I wrote you last—the Enemy made an Attempt that Day on the French lines & a very vigorous contest ensued the French drove the English into their lines w'th considerable loss, but the French in their Return to their own lines sufferd near as much from Grape Shott fired from the Enemies Redoubts, they the British made a second Attempt last Night but were repulsed with little loss on our side, what was theirs we are not acquainted—Our Approaches go on very fast, a few days I hope will Compleat the Business, but amidst all our hoped for Success, this Country exhibits a scene of the greatest Distress from the repacity & I may say Barbarity of her Professed friends & Citizens, but in reallity greatest Enemies those Who inhabit our Sea Coasts Friend or Foes I may say without any Exception have been plundered of every kind of Property in some instances even the Cloaths on their backs this has been perpetrated principally by People who came around in Boats & small Vessels from your State—Surely they will not be Sufferd to libel any Property brought away in that manner, the French Seamen & Soldiers, led by the Example

of our own People have, I believe in some places contributed their Share, tho its contrary to the Express Orders of their Commander, as also of General Lincoln, the interior parts of our Country have been equally Distressed, property of every kind has been taken from its Inhabitants, their Negros, Horses & Cattle drove & carried away principally into your State, a Conduct so disgracefull to humanity, & Civil Society, I make no doubt will meet w'th the utmost Discouragement from your Government, & that it will also afford every Assistance to the Unhappy Sufferers to enable them to Recover their Property, & bring to punishment & public Shame the Actors of such Barbarity, among the many Plunderers, one Snipes is mentioned, who tis said Commands a Party from your State, this Man, to his Eternal Shame, if what is reported of him is true I am told Possesses an Affluent Fortune—In every View this is Robbery if taken from the Friends of this State the Height of Cruelty, and if from the Enemies, they rob the State because the Property of such can only be forfeited to the State not to any individual—I hope my next will Congratulate you on the Reduction of Savannah, And am w'th best respects to Mrs. Gervais,

D'r Sir,  
Yours &c

Joseph Clay.

Camp before Savannah Oct'r 1st 1779.

John Lewis Gervais Esq'r.

D'r Sir:

Since I wrote you last I have rec'd a Letter from Mr. Carleton P. M. to the board of War & Ordnance acquainting me that he had sent me 500,000 Dollars for the Use of the State of Geo'a & at same time inclosed me a Resolve of Congress by which it appears the Money is intended for the State of Georgia under certain restructures of w'ch Gen'l Lincoln & myself are to be in some measure the

Judges And as under our present Circumstances it would be improper to have the Money here the General desired I would Endeavour to get it lodged in the Caro's Treasury for a short time or at least untill the Reduction of Savannah shall be Completed w'ch lays me under the necessity of again troubling you to request that you would be kind enough to get the Governours leave to lodge the same in the Treasury of your State untill I can send for it into this w'th Safety w'ch I hope will not be long before that will be the Case We have nothing New since my last I expect our Batterys will be ready to open in 48 hours at farthest Our Gallies are Endeavouring to get round the Island before the Town the Enemy attempt to impede our Works by Shott & Shells but without effect insomuch that we now work on them both Day & Night I hope you will excuse the great trouble I give you & believe me to be w'th regard

D'r Sir, Yours &c

Joseph Clay.

P. S.—Mr. Drayton I presume can Inform where the Escorts are — — — —

Camp before Savannah Oct'r 4th 1779.

No. 6

Joseph Carleton Esq'r.

Sir:

Your favour of the 1st Ulto came safe to hand inclosing a Resolution of Congress of the 30th Aug't last relative to the sum of 500,000 Dollars Voted by Congress for the use of the State of Georgia, w'ch sum is come safe to hand & has been received by my Friend Mr. Gervais in Cha's Town, who I have by the advise of General Lincoln desired to retain the same there till the Reduction of Savannah is

Completed, w'ch I hope will be effected in a very few Days, and am w'th respect

Sir

Yours &c

Joseph Clay.

P. S. the Escorts have rec'd 3040 Dollars to bear their Expences back again as ~~th~~ Receipts transmitted you, w'ch you'll please notice Mr. Gervais will also transmitt you a Rec't for 500,000 Dollars.

Camp before Savannah

5th Oct'r 1779.

Wm. Palfrey Esq'r.

Sir:

Since I wrote you last I rec'd your favour of the 24th Aug't covering Resolves of Congress relative to the Additional Subsistance Money to the Officers & Soldiers, w'ch have been notify'd to the Reg't Pay Master I have given the Escorts receipts for the 500,000 Dollars w'ch I presume they will produce to you, they apply'd to me for a sum to defray their Expences back again but I referd them to Col'l Drayton Q M. Gen'l in So. Caro'a to whom Gen'l Lincoln wrote on the Subject in Consequence of his (Col'l Drayton) writing him relative to a Horse one of the Escorts rode w'ch was Claimed in Cha's Town—We shall very soon be out of Money, the Gen'l has already drawn on me for near 400,000 Dollars, not one farthing of which is for Pay to the Army, so that unless you have Money on the way we shall very soon be in a Distressed Situation.

Our Batteries were opened Yesterday w'th what effect we are not able to Judge,—their firing on us has been very inconsiderable, a few Days I am hopefull will put us in Possession of Town—the Count D'Staing we are informd took a Frigate & Two Transports (I believe w'th Stores)

the Day before Yesterday—I have not learnt the Vessels  
Name I am w'th respect,

Sir, Yours &c

Joseph Clay.

P. S. I forgot to notice that Coleman has received  
from Mr. Gervais (who paid it for me) two hundred  
Dollars.

Camp before Savannah

October 5th, 1779.

Jno. Lewis Gervais, Esq'r.

D'r Sir:

Since my last I have rec'd your favour of the 27th  
Ulto ☿ Messrs. Coleman & Brown of whom I have  
rec'd 500,000 Dollars, & a Copy of Escorts receipts who  
brought the Money from Mr. Carleton for Three Thousand  
& forty Dollars making together 500,000 Dollars I observe  
in the Copy of the Receipt you sent me it says only 340  
Dollars this I presume is a Mistake the word hund'd being  
inserted instead of thousand—Your sending the whole sum  
instead of the half has proved fortunate Mr. Livingstone  
has as you noticed a Draft on me for 200,000 Dollars w'ch  
he presented for Payment as soon as the Money arrived  
here, so that I have but little more on hand than I at first  
Expected, as I have already wrote you relative to the other  
shall not add—I hope Mrs. Clay has been able to furnish  
you w'th the Certificates of the Commissioners of the loan  
Office as I acquainted her were to find them, inclosed is a  
Receipts for the 500,000 Dollars sent by Mr. Carleton with  
which you may take up yours if the Escorts has not left  
your Town—The Gen'l has this minute acquainted me he  
has Drawn a Draft on me for a Considerable sum in favour  
of Mr. Drayton w'ch he wish'd to have paid him in Cha's  
Town w'ch I promised him I woud beg the favour of you



to do for me, I will be oblig'd to you to pay it to him out of the Money sent by Mr. Carleton—Our Batteries were open'd yesterday Morning with what effect we are not able to Judge the Enemys fire has been very Weak so much so, that it cannot be imputed to any thing but a want of Powder or Shott—the Express waits while I write this therefore can only add that I am w'th great regard,

D'r Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Ashley River 17th October 1778.\*

D'r Sir:

On my reaching Purisbourgh I found (as I before suspected) that Isaac Lagardere had proceeded on w'th my Negros &c and the Public Money w'ch laid me under the Necessity of following him immediately I reached here late last Evening & have been this day making out sundry papers necessary for your guidance in Executing the Office of Deputy Pay Master at least so far as will be sufficient till I see you again, or you can write as you may find occasion or be in want of further information—the following are what you will receive herewith—Viz—

a list of the Pay of the Army agreeable to the latest Establishment so far as they have come to my hands.

The last Resolves of Congress Allowing a further sum for Subsistance to Officers & Soldiers passed 18th & 19th August last.

a list of advances to sundry Officers & Men w'ch must be Discounted out of their Pay as Opportunitys offer.

a Paper containing a few Instructions for your Direction in Executing the Office w'ch I must desire you will attend to as nearly as in your Power You'l observe as Person but the Commander in Chief of the Department (Gen'l Lincoln) has any Authority to draw on you nor

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\* 1779 (?)

must you on any pretence pay any Money to the Order of any other person—the Pay Rolls must be made out fair by the Regimental Pay Masters every Month as well as the Abstracts the former must be Signed by the Captain or Commanding Officer of each Company the latter by the Col'l or Commanding Officer of the Regiment & by the Gen'l or commanding Officer of the Brigade after these requisites are comply'd with you are to Examine them by Comparing them with the pay Lists (& Muster Rolls when you are furnished with them by the Muster Master) to see that the pay is charg'd agreeable to the Establishment by Congress to observe that the Officers do not exceed the Number allowed by said Establishment & to take Care that the sums are right Cast after which & your certifying the same they are again to be Examined & Certify'd by the Auditor which being done the General will give his Warrant on you for the Amount w<sup>ch</sup> you will pay this I believe is nearly the Channel in regard to the Payment of the Troops will go through all other matters will be by Warrant only—You will take care to transmit me monthly an Account of all the sums you pay Specifying particularly for what purpose they have been paid the Date of the Warrants ordering the Payment & if for Pay of the Troops the time for which it was paid & to whom—I have herewith sent you one hundred & Seventy one thousand Dollars for which you will send me  $\text{ff}$  the Bearer three Receipts of the same tenor & Date to serve as one the Generals Warrants will be your Vouchers for the Expenditure & which I shall take up from time to time as may be Convenient by giving you my Receipt for the Amount of them which will be against those you give me.

Capt. Watts of Blands Horse gave me his Pay Rolls for their Regiment made up to the 1st Instant, I have not had time to Examine them properly I just run them over in haste and have made some remarks on the back of the Instructions in any matters of difficulty you must apply to the General or Auditor tho the Resolves of Congress

must be our surest guide when a Regiment, Company, or Detachment March from one State to the other they should take with them from the P. M. General of the State they come from a Certificate certifying the time they were paid up to in the State they came from—I presume Col'l Templeton or his Pay Master has one to that purpose as they appear to be tolerably regular & exact in their Pay Rolls the Abstract is not yet completed I presume waiting till the Rolls were Examined as an Error in one will make an Error in the other—Col'l Doolly also gave me his pay Rolls made up for different Periods I promised him to examine them but time would not permit without detaining the Money longer from you than would be proper indeed I am quite at a loss in regard to them that is in what manner the service should be certified I think the Executive body of the State ought to Certify the Services done during their existence the General I presume will direct on that head Pray write me the State of matters at Camp if the Siege is continued or a Blockade formed I will be with you in a few days if any thing important is like to take place you may detain the Bearer a Day or two inclosed is a Letter for General Lincoln—give my Compliments to General McIntosh.—I am w'th regard

D'r Sir

Major Handley.

Your most Obed't Serv't,  
Joseph Clay.

P. S. You will take the Receipt for the Money paid on Warrants &c in my Name as they will be drawn on me.

Ashley River Oct'r 18th 1779.

Major Gen'l Lincoln  
Sir:

I mentioned to you before I left Camp that I had sent the Public Money over the River & that I was apprehensive the Person I intrusted it to had come on with it w'ch I

found to be the Case, this laid me under the necessity of Proceeding here after it; before I came away I engaged Capt. Geo'e Handley of the 1st Geo'a Battallion & one of Gen'l McIntoshs Aids to Act as my Deputy during my absence, which I hope will meet with your approbation—to enable him to perform this Duty I have sent him proper Instructions Conformable to those I have received from time to time for my own Guidance—I have also sent him 171,000 Dollars to enable him to Discharge your Warrants so far as it will go, this leaves in my Hands less than 29,000 Dollars of the sum that came last, exclusive of the Draft in favour of Col'l Drayton, w'ch was paid out of the Money that came for the use of the State of Georgia, & there are several Small Warrants unpaid that will nearly absorb the Remainder of the Money in my hands—Col'l Doolly delivered me before I left camp Pay Rolls for his Regiment Certify'd by himself for Pay due his Officers & Men, himself included, for services Performd from the 1st of March to the 1st Instant Amounting in the whole to upwards of 30,000 Dollars as this is out of the Common Road I am at a loss how to Act, they are all charged agreeable to the rate of Pay allowed by Congress, but as to the times of service the Men were actually on Duty (for during that time only I apprehend they are entitled to Pay) how that is to be check'd I know not, as there was no Brigadier or Executive Body in the State during part of the time which will I apprehend lay us under the necessity of closing them in the best manner we can the Number of Men included in them is upwards of 400, & above 25 Officers Capt. Handley has the Rolls & will shew them to you.

I am with great respect,

Sir Yours &c

Joseph Clay.

Charles Town 2d Nov'r 1779.

Mr. Christopher Pechin

D'r Sir:

I have received none of your favours since my last to you which has rather surprised me & led me to fear least you have been unwell—Our hopes have been lately very much raised with the Expectation of being able w'th the Assistance of the Count D'Staing to have drove the Enemy intirely out of Georgia, but tho' in Conjunction w'th our Allies the French we were strong enough to have effected it, yet Principally for want of time we failed; an Attempt was made to carry the Town by Storm, w'ch did not Succeed, & time & Circumstances not admitting the Count to Stay long enough on our Coast to compleat the Reduction of the Place by a regular Siege we were oblig'd to desist for the present; however as we are Daily in expectation of a Body of Troops from N. Carolina & Virginia we hope when they arrive to be able to Act on the Offensive again unless the Enemy shoud be reinforced before that time these States complain very much & w'th great reason how much they have been neglected by the N'thern & Eastern States for though it is well known how weak they are yet about 300 Horse & Foot from Virginia is all the Assistance of regular Troops we have ever received, & as to Naval Force, tho we have been in the greatest need (& we observe to the Estward) they are forever Cruising & Daily sending in Prizes) we have never had even a single Vessel to look into our Ports the Enemy were before we drove them all into Savannah Principally at Beaufort in this State & at Savannah in Georgia they had a Small Post at Sunburry & another at Ebenezer & Acted only on the Defensive but if they get reinforced there is no doubt they will soon commence Offensive Operations, repossess themselves of their former Posts & if possible possess themselves of this Town; a small Force I believe wont do it—its now Strong & they are Daily adding to its Works—I have received one or two Letters Lately from Polly Bridges complaining much of

her Situation, & pressing me to inform her of her Affairs, desiring to know if her Estate is sold & the Money at Interest or if Rented w'ch surprised me much—I have been so much about this last 10 Months & taken up with other Matters that I have hardly once looked into my Books there is a Ball'e due the Estate I believe of near £80 or thereabouts and that is all Mr. Farley never paid me a farthing more than the Tobacco I sent you—The House Capt. Bridges never paid for & Mr. Butler of whom it was Bought Sued for the purchase Money levied on the house & sold it to pay himself—I have not my Books in Town or I woud send you an exact State of the Account, but I will do it very shortly, the mean while you may advance for me on Account of Moneys in my hands due said Estate 200 Continental Dollars & as soon as I have ascertain'd the Ball'e she may have the remainder—I have wrote her by this Opportunity—my Family are at present about 15 Miles out of Town, but I am about taking a House for them in Town—I now Act as Pay Master General for this State as well as Georgia which requires my being here so much that I am under the necessity of doing it—Every thing is very dear Flour 90 Dollars & very scarce Barr Iron & Ship Bread also very high & in Short, every other Article the same—the Produce of this Country is in Proportion Rice 31 Dollars ₤ 100lb Indico 6@7 Dollars ₤ lb Sole Leather not to be had—the Risque on our Coast is not near so great as it was & if the French & Spaniards keep a Superiority at Sea & the latter Attack the Florida's as is hourly expected it will Still be less if you see an opening to Adventure here I believe when Produce woud not Answer to Ship I coud procure good Bills Dry goods are in General from 25 to 40 for one the Sterling Cost, many Articles much more, Osnabrigs from 7 to 8 Dollars ₤ Yd—Irish Linnen in the same proportion, Rum from 20 to 30 Dollars, Coffee 1¼ to 2 Dollars ₤ lb—Brown Sugar about the same Price—as I shall now I hope soon be a little setled (if the Enemy dont send a considerable reinforcements this Winter w'ch we

are much afraid of) I should be very glad to receive our Accounts & a News Paper now & then I have a Brother from Europe this last summer who has settled at Williamsburgh in Virginia & has been tolerably Successful, if you should have any Commands there you may be assured of his Punctuality he is well acquainted w<sup>th</sup> Business being Brought up in an English & Dutch House—I shall be very glad to hear from you & am w<sup>th</sup> regard, D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Yours &c

Joseph Clay.

Charles Town November 2d 1779.

Mr. James Clay

Dear Brother:

I received yours of the 6th August, w<sup>ch</sup> I should have notic'd before this but have been principally travelling, or in Camp, from whence I had no Opportunity of Conveying a line to you—I am very glad you are likely to Succeed so well—the present times are very hazardous but were Success is obtained in a tolerable degree great Profits is commonly the Consequence—the principal care you must have is to Guard against a Depreciating Currency otherwise you may be deceived, what may appear a great Profit to Day may from the Depreciation of Money in a very short Period Sink into nothing; Nay sink both Capital & Profits too; I wish you had receiv'd my other Letter in that I gave you my opinion on this Subject at large at any Rate you must keep your Money Circulating—I did Business sometime in 1777 for a Gentleman of Virginia Mr. John Burnley, who left a Ballance in my hands of I think about £520, Georgia Currency (reckoning Dollars at 5s Each) equal to 2080 Dollars which he desired me to lay out for him in Lands & to inform a Brother of his who resides in Virginia what I did in the matter, & gave me his Name & place of Residence, w<sup>ch</sup> unfortunately through

the confusion of the times & moving about I have lost or should have wrote him before this—I think his Name was Charles Burnley but am not certain but I dare say on inquiry you may find him out, inclosed is a line for him the Substance of w'ch you may Copy that in Case the Letter should miscarry & you at any time hereafter should see or hear of the Gentleman, You may be able to give him the necessary information—I am but very lately returned from Camp before Savannah, which we had every reason to expect that we should in Conjunction with our Allies the French, have reduced. We made an attempt to carry the Town by Storm in which we failed & the Count De Staing not being able to stay ou our Coast w'th his fleet long enough to carry it by a regular Siege, & we not having a sufficient Force of our own to carry it on without his Assistance were oblig'd to give the matter up—We have been much disappointed in the not Arriving of Gen'l Scots Brigade from your State whom we have been expecting for some Months past; there not being here in time may Prove of the most fatal Consequences to these two States (So. Car'a & Geo'a) in particular, & the continent in General; had they have been here at this juncture we could at least converted the Siege of Savannah into a Blockade instead of retiring from it—the whole Force of the Enemy in both States had retired into the Town for Shelter, they did not hold a foot of Land besides, the consequence of w'ch would have been, they must either have came out & fought us under every disadvantage, or have Capitulated—The reverse may be that they get Strongly reinforced from the Northward, penetrate into & Perhaps reduce one or more of these States for they are but Weak, & thereby Encourage the Enemy to go on with the War which in all probability without some Success to Buoy them up they would give up the ensuing Winter. I have not had a line from my Brother Ralph for a very long time past, nor did I ever learn any thing relative to our Fathers Death, not even when he did Die I learnt he was Dead &



that was all; I presume the very precarious conveyances has prevented Letters getting to hand indeed I have from that Consideration but very rarely wrote since the War began—all the Letters you mention came safe to hand the one to Mr. Ewen (who is dead) also, the Estate it referred to is in possession of the Enemy at present, so that nothing can be done in it; when they are drove out I will obtain the necessary information. I know the Circumstances of it in a General way—Mr. Beale never came this way it was Jno. Habersham's Name you must have seen among the Names of the Prisoners he was a Major in the first Geo'a Continentai Battallion, & was taken at the time the Enemy Possessed themselves of Savannah he is Still a Prisoner, but we expect him to be Exchang'd in a few days—his Brothers are both well Mrs. Joseph Habersham his Wife & Daughter are now at my house on a Visit he resides at present about 100 Miles up the Country, tho' both him & myself have been the Principal part of last Summer in the upper parts of Georgia—I am now about taking a House for my Family in this Town I at present Act as Pay Master General for the Army for both these States (So. Car'a & Geo'a) which will require me to be so much here that with some other Circumstances induces me to this Step I have done very little Business since the present War began, the mode of carrying it on was repugnant to my principles & what I deemed (& Experience has since proved) to be the Interest of our Country that I never coud enter into it with any Spirit I held a part in a Number of Adventures which turned out but indifferrent owing to Captures, I did a very little better than save myself however as I shall have a good deal of Leisure on my hands I intend to turn myself that way in future, indeed the great Depreciation of Money will lay me under the necessity of doing it in my own defence—Charles Town is a Place well adopted for it on every Account, I believe there has been more Business done here than in any Port on the Continent, Boston excepted, since the present Contest began I shall have some advan-

tage tho' I have fix'd no plan nor Indeed do I intend to pursue any in particular, but to Act just as Circumstances may admit, indeed the times will not allow of any fix'd Plan—I am not fond of being concerned in Shipping unless it was very fast Sailing small Vessels, or well Armed large ones, I do not know whether we could do any thing between here & Virginia I shoud be glad of we could—I am not acquainted with the Prices w'th you so that I cannot Judge, have you any Insurance Office, a small Vessel inland may go tolerably safe, Vessels for Sale are exceedingly Scarce & very dear here, Perhaps we might contrive Voyages round by the W. Indies, the French Fleet have lately scoured our Coast indeed they have not yet left it, a Frigate & two 20 Gun Ships are now in this Port they will sail the first fair Wind but we expect 3 Frigates from the N'ward which will be a Security to the Trade, however we also expect the Enemy will if they can get reinforcements here give us some Employ this Winter, herewith you will receive the Prices of many Articles here but they are so fluctuating that but little Judgement can be formed from them—Mrs. Clay Presents her love from your Affectionate Brother and Friend

Joseph Clay.

Head Quarters Cha's Town

November 2d 1779

No. 8

Sir

We have considered your Letter of the 27th Ult'o to Mr. Clay relative to the Money granted by Congress for the Use of the State of Georgia, & are very sorry that agreeable to their Vote granting the same, it is not in our Power to comply with your request—You'll please notice by the Resolve of Congress they direct “the 500,000 Dollars which by a Resolution of the 24th Instant—That the

“five hundred thousand Dollars which by a resolution of  
“the 24th Ins’t were ordered to be transmitted for the Use  
“of the State of Georgia to the Executive Authority thereof  
“be sent to Joseph Clay Esq’r Paymaster to the department  
“of So. Carolina & Georgia, and that he be directed to  
“Pay the same to the Orders of the Governor & Executive  
“Council of the Said State of Georgia established agreeable  
“to the Constitution of the Said State, or in case no such  
“establishment Shall have been made, to be otherwise dis-  
“posed of as the said J. Clay Esq’r with the advice of Major  
“General Lincoln or the Commander of the Services in that  
“Department for the time being Shall judge most con-  
“ducive to the Service and welfare of the Said State of  
“Georgia.”

You’ll observe Congress are extremely pointed in the manner of appropriating of this Money, though the present Executive Authority Established in your State may be the best, or the only one, that under the present Circumstances can be Establish’d, yet we dare say Sir, You will concur with us in opinion when we Say it has not the requisites required by Congress in the first Instance not being Established agreeable to the Constitution of your State—to have brought your Application within the meaning of the latter part of the Resolve, we are of opinion it should have set forth the particular purpose for which it is wanted in Order that we might be able to Judge whether the applying it to that purpose, would be most Conducive to the Service & Welfare of your State in which Case only have we a right to grant. We are w’th respect

Sir Your most Obed’t Serv’ts  
Joseph Clay  
Benj’n Lincoln

The Hon’ble John Wreath Esq’r

Cha's Town 2d November 1779

No. 9

Will'm Palfrey Esq'r

Sir

I embrace the present opportunity to Urge the necessity of my being supply'd as soon as possible with Money, the sum you sent last is expended, & we have been under the necessity of Borrowing as much more to answer the present exigencies to which is also nearly paid away—in a very few days I do not expect to have a farthing in hand, the Quarter Master Commissary & Clothiers Generals & indeed every other Department is supplied out of the Military Chest, these Departments are not furnished with Money, by their different heads of Course the General is Compelled to draw on me to enable them to support their Departments, tis impossible for me to conduct my Office properly without being regularly Supplied with Money—Accounts become long Standing, Pay Rolls are extended to many Months, instead of Monthly, Complaints murmuring & every other disagreeable Circumstance naturally attending such a Situation takes place—I shall be much obliged to you to send me the several Resolves of Congress relative to my office—I am greatly at a loss for want of them—I am now making up my Accounts for last Month which shall transmit ☞ next safe Convey'e & shall then write you fully nothing but the pressing necessity for Money induced me to trouble you with this

I am with great respect

Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 23d April 1783.

Dear Sir

The unfortunate difference which has Subsisted between Great Britian & America for some years, put a

Stop to a correspondence and intercourse which had subsisted between your Father & myself, and between him & myself & Mr. Joseph Habersham under the firm of Joseph Clay & Co. & which the present flattering prospect of a permanent peace affords an Opportunity of renewing; during the course of our business we became indebted to your Father in a very considerable sum, for Negro's sold on his Acco't, & for Goods ship'd us by him, which Ballance we should have discharged Years ago had not G. Britain plung'd us forcibly into a War with her—how soon we shall now be able to discharge it, 'tis not in our power to say, I can only assure you nothing on our part shall be wanting, but this will not rely on ourselves alone, it must depend in a great measure on many others who are largely indebted to us, and who in General have been very great sufferers by the War—however I am hopeful 'twill not be long before we may begin to lessen our Debt, tho' I must own my prospects are not very sanguine at present, the very heavy expences every one will be at this Year in repairing old buildings, building new ones, where the old have been burnt or destroyed, and settling their plantation a new (for by far the larger part of the planters quit this State when the British Troops came into it) I say these Circumstances will put it out of their power to do much towards the discharging of their debts untill the Crop after the Coming one, & of course but little will be in our power before that time aware of what might & has taken place (being drove from our Country for a time) in March 1778, I pressed your Brother in Law Mr. Ralph Izard to put us in some way that we might be discharging the Ballance due your fathers Estate, pointed out to him what might be our probable future situation, & how much it was the Interest of the Estate, to enable us to discharge our debt by every possible means, proposed to remit the Money to Carolina, to invest it in Land, or do any thing else in our power that he cou'd propose, since we got peceable possession of our Country I have been at him on

the same score, proposing to dispose of Lands to him to be discounted in part of our debt this Country is settling again with great rapidity and the fertility of the Soil, the many natural advantages it possesses, will introduce so extensive a trade as must make Lands valuable if you choose to invest a sum in this way—I could accommodate you with two or three Tracts, perhaps more, which would be doing you no injury, & putting it in our power to discharge our debt the sooner—Mr. Habersham has not yet returned to this Country—I expect him Daily with his Family. I am sure twill be his wish to do every thing in his power to discharge our debt as soon as possible I do not know whether you are concerned or propose to be concerned in a commercial line, if you or any of your friends are, I should be very happy to execute your or their Commands, Mercantile business has been the employ of my life, & every kind of business that has heretofore or can be carried on in this Country I have a thorough knowledge of, which I mean to avail myself of by every exertion in my power, in Order to make up for loss time & discharge as quick as possible all my former Contracts, any services in my power you may freely command—twill afford me pleasure to be able to render them—I am not sure whether I have a State of our Accounts, if I have, they are with my Books & papers that I sent to the N'ward for safety while this Country was the Seat of War, from whence I have not yet received them—I expect them with Mr. Habersham should they not be with them I must trouble you for a Copy of them I have only to add that I am with respect

D'r Sir Your most Obed't  
Hon'ble Serv't

Mr. Benjamin Stead

J. Clay

London

Savannah the 17th Jany 1783

Dear Sir,

I received yours of Yesterdays date informing me that my resignation as D. P. M. G. to the Southern Army was accepted in all matters, but the Settlement of my Accounts, & that I am desired by the Hon're Robert Morris Esq'r to repair to Phil'a as soon as possible to bring them to an Early close, as they cannot be brought to a Settlement in any other way—I have ever been desirous of having my Accounts settled & have very often complained that no mode was established by which they might be frequently by Auditor and settled, it has been my constant request for Years past, as reference to my Letters to the Pay Master General, Treasury Board, &c will testify, several Months ago Mr. Pierce wrote me in Answer to one of mine on the Subject that the Financier had assured him that an Auditor wou'd very shortly be appointed, for the purpose of settling the Acco'ts of what he termed the great Departments in the Southern States—with this I rested satisfied—all my Accounts except those relative to the business, I transacted when last in No. Car'a & a very few other matters of little consequence have been transmitted to the Pay Office from the time I entered in the Office to the Period I just mentioned—& those since that Period I shoud likewise have transmitted had not Mr. Pierce have given me reason to suppose I shou'd soon have it in my Power to settle them here & of course the transmitting them to Philada wou'd be needless—No one can be more desirous to have their Acco'ts settled, than I am—but to be under the necessity of going to Phil'a for that purpose is a request I can by no means think reasonable, even if my Expences were allowed,—if when I accepted the appointment I had been inform'd that 'twou'd be expected that I went to Phil'a to settle my Accounts, I might have chose whether I wou'd have taken it, or not, & if under this information I had accepted it I shou'd not at this time have had any right to have complained of such a requisition as a hardship—

but so far from it, nothing of the kind was ever hinted, if it had I shou'd most certainly have declined the Appointment at present were my inclinations to go to Phil'a ever so great, I cou'd not accomplish it, the want of Money alone wou'd be a sufficient Bar, nor in my opinion, can it with any degree of Justice be expected that the Public Officers of the United States who reside at so great a distance from Phil'a as they who live in this part of the Continent do can be expected under any circumstances to undertake so long a Journey untill ample Provision is made for them, both to defray their necessary expences in going there, as well as a recompence for their trouble & loss of time in so doing—I may not be a competent Judge, but in my opinion, substantial Justice to the United States may as effectually be obtained by an Appointment of special Auditors in these States as by the respective Officers going to Phil'a & at a far less expence, & much more to the convenience of the several Officers, many of whom have a right to be considered in this respect as tis well known their Offices have not been lucrative ones, & therefore they ought not to be subjected to any unnecessary hardships on Account of having Executed them—I can't help beleiving that when Mr. Morris comes to reconsider this matter he will see the hardship this requisition will lay Public Officers under who reside at so great a distance from Congress, in so strong a light, as to induce him to appoint proper Auditor to settle w'th the several Officers in the respective States they received their Appointments, and I am sure Sir You must see this matter in such a View, that I need not Say any thing to Urge the favour of you to Use your Interest that so reasonable a request may be complied with—at least so far as respects the past—and am with very great regard & esteem Dr Sir—

Your most Obed't humbl Serv't  
The Hon'le Nath'l Greene Esq'r J. C.  
Major General



Savannah the 24th Jany 1783

John Wright Stanley Esq'r

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 22nd Ulto I duly rec'd a few days ago, covering a copy of Commodore Gillons letter of agency to you, relative to the Ship of War S. Carolina Cap't John Joyner, also a power from you to me relative to said vessel, empowering me to act in your stead, shou'd that Ship send any Prizes into this State (& Mr. J. S. Cripps not be within the same) & have only to assure you should Capt. Joyner send any of his prizes in here you may depend on my doing the needful & on the terms you propose. I shall also take care to give you the earliest notice of any matter relative to said concern worthy of your attention, as yet we have not heard anything of her.

In regard to our Trade particularly our W. India trade, our situation gives us every natural advantage, the many convenient ports for shipping, their contiguity to all the Islands, & the many valuable articles afforded by this Country, all bespeak that branch of trade as one that must be profitable to adventurers & greatly beneficial to the State; at present it is not in our power to avail ourselves of them to so much advantage as we might wish, the ravaged situation we found our Country in the absence of many of our most valuable inhabitants & their slaves, the as yet convulsed state of our Government, all have & still do operate in some measure against us, but our prospects are brightening every day—our old inhabitants are daily coming in & new ones increase very fast, & I expect this Session of Assembly we shall open our Land office, which will bring vast numbers of Settlers into our back Country add to which we are hopefull of obtaining a large cession from the Indians of very valuable land on the Okonees & Okmulgees: a Congress is proposed with them for the purpose of opening the business in March-next.

We have already commenced a Trade to the Havanna, I am now concerned in trading two armed vessels for that Port

belonging to Messrs Coppinger & Seagrove & one of them I believe partly to Mr. Constable of Philadelphia, they will both sail in consort in five or six days loaded with Rice, Tallow, Butter &c Beef & Pork particularly the latter will be a considerable article with us, but our Stocks are at present so much diminished by the long continuance of the enemy in our Country, that little can be expected before another Crop comes round, The consumption of W. India Produce is even at present considering our situation considerable, but in future we may expect it greatly to increase— at present our markett is tolerably supplied tho' should not any quantity drop in shortly it will very soon be otherways—we have a large quantity of sugar on hand & no inconsiderable one of rum, this last article is in demand & I expect as is usual after a Glut the former one will be so very soon, the price is better with us at present than in Cha's town, we have as yet no duties imposed on any commodities, but I expect before the house breaks up that the duties recommended by Congress & perhaps a small transient duty may be imposed, both of these are very contrary to the Ideas of many among us, but the necessity of supporting the Union & enabling Congress to maintain their & our consequence impel us to submit. Has your State acceded to this recommendation.

You desire me to lay out the money you lent our State in a confiscated estate, but before I can well do that I would wish to know your Ideas on that business generally, that is, whether you would wish to have a settled or an unsettled tract of land, or a tract on the Sea Coast, or rather in the low country, or back parts of the State. Possibly I might succeed in either of these plans, if I knew which you would prefer. A very large proportion of these estates are sold, but there are many of the purchasers willing to dispose of them again. I believe there were not a few, who had an idea when they purchased, that some kind of paper currency would have been emitted on the faith of these estates, & looked forward to a depreciation

to enable them to pay for them, they now begin to loose all hopes of any such measure being adopted, and therefore many of them are desirous of getting rid of their purchases. If you have no idea of settling any tract that might be purchased immediately, an unsettled tract would suit you better than a settled one, because any improvements that might be on them would only enhance the value without any advantage to you, as the improvements would be totally lost or destroyed before you could make any use of them. Our tide swamps that were improved have sold as high £22.0.0 sterling ₤ acre and hardly any lower than £12 & £16 & some unimproved tracts have sold upwards of £12. I could procure you just now a tract to the S'ward (say about 40 miles) in a good settlement adjoining a very valuable settlement of one Robt. Baillie (lately dead) at not exceeding 60s ₤ acre which from the description I have heard of it is a very valuable one & would most undoubtedly realize your money with a great prospect of gain. I know also of some very rich Indico lands on or near the Salts, which could be purchased tolerably reasonable. The tract adjoining Mr. Baillie's contains 700 acres and is reckoned as good as any of his which was always rated at 90s ₤ acre in peaceable times, 'tis principally rice land & at the head of the swamp. Our assembly have not as yet taken up the making provisions for any loans to the State, but probably before we break up it will be done, tho' we have so many matters to attend to that we hardly know which to take up first, but I have no doubt that the loan certificates will all be received in payment for confiscated property, allowing for the depreciation of the money at the time the several sums were respectively paid into the Treasury, so as to make them equal to specie—At foot of this you have the prices current—If Danish bottoms or any neutral ones could be obtained, they would give very fair prospects of great voyages from this to the Islands; I should suppose it very practicable; Lumber, rice & naval stores may be procured

in any quantities—Spars & masts of all sorts, some flour & tobacco: the former will be scarce & too dear for exportation, & the latter I presume would not yield a great profit. My best respects to Mr. & Mrs. Cogdell & family, your brother & lady & my Newbern friends in general & believe me to be with great regard

D'r Sir

Your most obed't serv't

Joseph Clay.

An idea of peace taking place this Spring prevails with many & in some degree fetters our Commercial plans. What is your opinion on this business.

Jno. Wright Stanley Esq'r

Savannah 20th Jan'y 1783.

Mr James Green, Newbern

Dear Sir,

Since my last to you I rec'd a triplicate of yours 7th October last. During the time I was gone from this to bring my family from Camden, Capt. Kelly sent a prize in here & the Prize-master being informed I was not here deliv'd his letters to the Gentlemen I am connected with in some business, who on Mr. Ogden's application to them & informing them he was a part-owner of the privateer, they gave them up to him & he did the necessary business I dare say full as much to your advantage as I cou'd have done.

Capt. Kelly was in this Port when I returned, I was much hurried just then, getting my family settled & withal very unwell, or I should have wrote you by him—We have nothing new here of any consequence. Our Assembly is now sitting & deeply engaged in many important matters. The long time the enemy were in this country so deranged our Police, that we have every thing to settle

anew. My best respects to Mrs. Green, your brother & lady, to all of whom Mrs. Clay desires to join me—~~at~~ this conveyance I shall write your Mr. J. W. Stanley fully in answer to one of his of the 22nd Ulto & have only to assure that I am with great regard

D'r Sir

Your most obed't serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah Feb'y 8th 1783.

Mr Cornelius Coppinger, Havannah

Dear Sir

You will be surprized to notice the date of my letter to find your Brigs still here, but a variety of circumstances have occurred to detain them. Poole has been loaded upwards of three weeks & Gifford some Days but the want of hands contrary winds &c, has kept them both here. We were exceedingly put to it to supply them with cash, their wants for sailors & provisions being beyond our expectations. However we rubb'd through tolerably well. The Brig Nancy will follow directly, she has had her cargo as fast as she cou'd take it, I believe they have not had an idle moment since the Capt. & people went on board: her cargo will be very near your directions. The next opportunity will give you the particulars,—she will stow away as much as we expected—By the time Hog's schooner returned from Carolina we had the remainder of the two Brigs cargo on board or on the wharf. Banks's brig & cargo were condemned; we got of that cargo above 200 barrels which gave us a great push. We sent Sheftal's sloop to Carolina where she loaded & on her return here was chased into a creek on St. Helena island, by some of the Enemy's boats, where she still remains. However we hope to be on a better footing. We have one Galley that carrys 4, 9 pound cannonades, some swivels, two Prow guns (not so large as we could wish) & soon hope to have

another, and our Assembly which is still sitting have directed a fort to be built immediately on Cockspur & a proper command to be kept there. This will be a security to our trade.

Dr. Lyman Hall whom you have heard Mr. Howley speak of was chosen our Governor. A Mr. Telfair was in opposition to him but the majority was large in favor of the former, he is a New Englander by birth & a firm Whig & I believe will suit our present situation. Flags are not so common as they used to be & I believe will still decline. He proposes writing your Governor & I believe you also relative to a supply of cannon & ammunition & we have promised him to get you to ship on our account 2 or 4 eighteen or 24 pound cannon & one of Ton of Gun powder also some shott to suit the guns. I believe he may probably write the Gov'r relative to our neighbours, they are at present very quiet but I am apprehensive if a peace should not be agreed on this Spring that either we must cut them out work, or they will us. We had very violent struggles in the present house of Assembly but they have all preponderated as we would wish, so far as our circumstances permitted. The seats of 4 or 5 men who had taken protection under the British Gov't were declared vacant from their not having been long enough under an American Gov't to make them eligible to so important a trust.\* Tho'

\* An explanation of this hastily made statement will help the reader to a proper understanding of the matter. The constitution of 1777 required that no one could serve as a member of the Legislature who had not resided in the State twelve months and in his County three months. Certain persons had been elected to that term of the Legislature who had, for various reasons, been within the British lines until shortly before it met. Among them were William Maxwell, Thomas Netherclift, Nathaniel Adams and William Bryan. A question arose as to whether they were eligible, as they had resided within the lines of the enemy. Mr. Adams resigned, but the others were, by a vote of 19 to 12, declared ineligible on the ground only that they had been outside of the American lines. The facts in regard to three of those gentlemen are not known, but the case of Mr. Maxwell may be fully explained. He had been active in opposition to the British; had been one of the "Trustees for taking into their custody and management the British forfeited estates," and a privateersman commanding his own armed vessel, recovering property taken by the British, and attacking parties of the enemy engaged in collecting forage and provisions for the royal troops in Savannah. He was arrested by the British, taken to Savannah, tried for "treasonable practices" and convicted, in 1780, fined £300 and put under bond to keep the peace, being forced to remain in the enemy's lines until the evacuation of Savannah, July 11, 1782. He considered the decision of the Legislature very arbitrary, and, on his election again at the next session as a member of that body, "declined to take his seat."

Sir James Wright is authority for the statement of the arrest and fining of William Maxwell.

I gave the Collector directions relative to the naming of Gifford's brig as did Maj'r Cuthbert (who returned the day after you left Savannah) yet Capt. Gifford got his commission sale the other papers through in the name of the Blacksloves & we did not know whether the expence of new papers would be material for the sake of altering the name, & Gifford's inclination was very strong in favour of the present one which he says Mr. Seagrove had consented to before he left the Havanna—the Cannon and Ammunition mentioned in the foregoing is only to be Shipped under Circumstances of which shall write particularly—herewith you'll receive a Letter from Mr. J. McQueen w'ch reached this a few Days after you left this I hope will find you w'th your family & that they are all well—Mrs. Clay & Family all desire to be very kindly remembered to you as well as to your Lady (tho' unknown—I am w'th great respect

D'r Sir Your M't Ob't & humble S't

J. C.

Mr. Howley writes you ☿ this Opportunity all the Gentlemen of your acquaintance present their Compliments to you. Capt. Poole is every thing you describe him to be—& I am sure Gifford is an Active brave Fellow—tho during the War he will probably always be fonder of Cruising after the Enemy than being in the Merchant Service.

18th Feb'y extreme bad Weather & head Winds still detains the Brigs—we have had a long spell of unsettled dirty Weather—they are over all the Banks & past the Wrecks without touching the Ground & only wait a Gale to Waft them to their Desired Port—our House of Asembly breaks up to Day—it has confined me so close that I write this at 4 in the Morning—nothing new

J. C.

Savannah Feb'y 17th 1783

Mr. James Seagrove Merit Havanna

D'r Sir

Contrary winds & bad weather has detained the Brigs. I have this day been conversing with our Gov'r relative to some public matters he was writing to your Gov'r on among others respecting some cannon & ammunition; he has an idea that probably some of these may be ordered out of your public stores to be sent here; but to guard against any failure he has requested me to write to you on the business—that is if you find there is no probability of obtaining any in that way, that you will send four good iron cannon 15 or 24 pounders & one ton of gun-powder;  $\frac{3}{4}$  Ton of which to be cannon &  $\frac{1}{4}$  Ton muskett powder. The heaviest metal will suit best. If all four cannot be sent at one time, let 2 come  $\text{¶}$  the first conveyance & 2  $\text{¶}$  the next that offers: more ammunition will be wanted, but the quantity now ordered is as much as he would choose to have in one bottom, He has wrote Mr. Coppinger pretty fully, so that if he is returned you will receive the necessary information through him, but if that should not be the case I must request your attention to the matter so that we may receive the cannon & Gun-powder from you should the channel I mentioned fail which I am of opinion it will & more especially if Mr. Coppinger should not be returned. I have wrote Mr. Coppinger a line on the same subject—I shall hold myself accountable to you for the Cannon & Gun Powder & all Expences attending the same and am with regard—D'r Sir Yrs

Feb'y 5th 1783.

Mr. James Seagrove

Dr Sir

Your favour of the 1st Nov'r last  $\text{¶}$  Capt. Gifford & Poole afforded me great Satisfaction a return to our own



Country was the utmost of our Wishes & though 'twas to a desolated & ruin'd one yet the Idea of having so far prevailed against an Enemy that had been by every means in her power trying to crush us overbalances every other Consideration—a Country like ours will very soon recover & far exceed her former Situation her natural advantages w'th respect to Agriculture & Commerce are so great that her increase & rise will be rapid—Our Old Inhabitants are daily dropping in & New ones are coming in from all Quarters—we have just opened our Land Office w'th a view to catch & Nurse the present flame & thirst for imigrating to this Country—a Col'l Geo'e Matthews, Col'l Roote, Mr. Cobb Col'l Lewis & one or two others (w'th some of whom you are probably acquainted) have just obtain'd a Reserve of Land on purchase on purpose to remove in the coming Winter w'th a sufficient Number of Families to make respective separate Settlements the No. & So. Car'a are likewise Endeavouring to push in among us, all these things present to us the most pleasing future prospects—nothing but another invasion (w'ch I am of opinion we need not be very apprehensive of) can damp them.

Our S. J. C & Co. have been particular w'th you relative to our Commercial matters to whom must refer you—Mr. Coppenger I hope is with you before this—he will advise you with the mode he arranged his & your concerns here the information you had received w'th respect to the Prices of Negro's here was by no means the Case governm in So. Car'a in the Year 1782 sold a few of the Confiscated Negro's for Cash to supply immediate wants who from the Scarcity of Cash sold exceeding low—the Vast Number lost in these two States by the War & carried out of them have made them exceeding scarce & in demand, from 70 to 100 G's is a very common Price; unless it is by now & then purchasing 2 or 3 from some or others whose necessities oblige them to sell they are not to be met w'th on any terms—those whose Propertys were Confiscated in general took their Slaves away w'th them; one or two small

parcels were Captured & brought in here before your Letters came to hand, w'ch might have been purchased reasonable, but such Circumstances may not happen again during the War—

An Agent for the purposes of protecting & executing our business at foreign Ports has not as yet been taken into consideration, indeed so many matters of present necessity have continually pressed our House that their attention has been constantly drawn to other matters this business will in my opinion soon naturally force itself & you may be assured when this happens we shall attend to it—the Brig Mr. Coppenger gave directions about 2-3 loaded & the remainder of her Cargo is along side or on the Wharf—she may Sail in about 10 Day's (Wind & Weather Permitting) at farthest—

You have  $\text{f}$  this Conveyance the Prices of Lumber here & the mode of Measuring compared w'th the W. India Measurement—this will be a very profitable branch of business in conjunction w'th Provisions & Stock &c—you may not Probably heard of the Arrangement for this Year in So. Car'a—the following is in part—Mr. Benj. Guerard Gov'r our old Friend Beresford Lieut Gov'r Mr. J. S. Dart Clerk of the Assembly—Hugh Rutledge Speaker—& Jno Vanderhorst Secretary—the other Officers I have not yet learnt Parties run very high there the back Country Interest prevails. the Rutledges & Gadsden oppose each other—God grant a Coalition soon take place & the only strife be who shall serve their Country—We have nothing New—your part of the World 'tis thought will be the theatre of War this Year—& Jamaica the grand object—shoud you send any Vessel this way immediately a load or two of Rice may be obtained w'th dispatch—we shall in all probability have a considerable Quantity in Stock looking forward to such an Event—I have only to assure you that I am w'th great regards—

D'r Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah Feb'y 19th 1783,

(To Col'l Gremke)

Dear Sir

We have very little news, From Augustine a flag brings an account that some persons had arrived there from a port abroad, I believe Teneriffe, who says they had an acco't there from London of the 6th & 7th of last Dec'r that preliminaries for a general peace was concluded on. How far this may be true can only be conjectured. I am with regard

D Sir

Your most obed't serv't

Joseph Clay

Savannah 23d Feb'y 1783.

Dear Sir

¶ Major Habersham I received your of the 1st Inst. relative to a debt due to your brother from Mr. Graham's estate, which is as you observe confiscated. I have agreable to your desire entered your claim with the Commissioners, but the most speedy way of obtaining payment would be by commencing a suit against the State as that will bring it to an issue at once. To enable me to do this for you it would be necessary that you send a power of attorney or at least the bond our Law has not made any particular provision for the discharge of debts due from the estates confiscated to individuals, but only generally made them liable. The estates have been sold on a long credit the real estate 7 years, the personal four years, paying interest annually. Very little personal estate was left in the country belonging to those persons. Those who purchased at the Sales can discount, but those who have no, the Legislature have not as yet made any provision for, but I presume at their next meeting they will.

I have only to assure you any services in my power  
you may freely command & am with respect

D'r Sir

Your most obed't serv't

Joseph Clay

Wm. Blake Esq'r

Savannah the 28th Feb'y 1783.

Dear Sir

I receiv'd your favour of the 6th Inst too late to prevent the sale of the lands, however I am hopeful no material injury will accrue as I think our Assembly will not countenance the disposal of young Mr. Stead's part of the land & as to yours & Miss Stead's they are out of the question, yours as a Citizen of the United States & Miss Stead's as a lady & consequently no party in the present war—Our Assembly meet next May at Augusta, by which time you had best have a memorial ready, which I will take care to get presented, & I have no doubt it will terminate to your satisfaction. It should be on behalf of all the claimants & setting forth young Mr. Stead's minority during greater part of this war & the difficulties that have prevented his coming to his native country America, as well as his Fathers (during his life) well known attachment to our cause. Or you might go on another ground. That is, as you are intitled to such a proportion of the real & personal estate of Mr. Stead, the confiscating any of it in America will only injure you, as 'tis more than probable as a large property belonging to the estate is in Great Britain, so much of it as may be equal to the property confiscated here may be by way of compensation retained there. If I had been in the way when the land was sold I would have bought it, but I knew nothing of it till after the sale. The land will be planted this year or a considerable part of it which will be no injury & the buildings

that are left will be preserved. I have spoke to the person who has it in possession & informed him of the circumstances relative to it & proposed the giving the purchase up to me, which I rather think would have been done, if it had not been the desire of planting it this year, it is in a secure place from marauders or robbers by sea or land, which in these times is a very desirable situation In a former letter you desire me to inform you the situation of Mr. Stead's concerns in this State. This is a matter not in my power. Rae & Sommerville were largely indebted to Mr. Stead against whom I commenced a suit & obtained a verdict for him in April 1775 for £4528..0..0 our money, no part of which was ever received, owing to the present war so immediately succeeding. The House of Rae, Ebert & Grham I beleive are indebted largely. This House has been greatly ruined by the present war, but I should suppose in time they will be able to pay all their debts. But it will take time to recover & work hard too, before those who have been in trade in this State can get the least a-head. A Mr. Graham partner of R. E. & G. went off from the Indian nation with a large property belonging to that House for Pensacola early in 1776, where he traded for several years as I have been inform'd with great success, whether he has paid any part of the Company's debts you may perhaps be informed, but if he did I rather think it was to Telfair's House to whom the house of R. E. & G. were also indebted. Our House is also very largely indebted to Mr. Stead's estate & which it is not our faults that is was not greatly lessened long ago, as I early in the present war made you a proposition to that purpose predicting at that time what has really happened, drove out of our country, our property wasted & ourselves thereby rendered unable to discharge our debts. Both Mr. Habersham & myself have been unfortunate in this respect to a great degree. He is not yet returned to this State I expect he will be here in about two months at farthest. I am doing every thing in my power to retrieve my circumstances &

putt myself in a condition to do justice to every one, whether I shall even have it in my power fully to do so, time only can shew. If peace takes place soon & I have health & success I hope I shall. I can only say nothing on my part shall be wanting. To shew you how desirous I am to make a beginning towards this business, I mean now to make you another offer & that the only one that is now or can be in my power for a considerable time to come—that is to sell you some land, I have a number of tracts which I mean to appropriate to that purpose & I think without any view to my own interest I could as a friend recommend as a measure that would promote the interests of Mr. Stead's House. All British debts are sequestered under a law passed in this State last May, it has not yet been carried into execution & I trust if the war does not continue long it never will. But to guard against this I should expect that you would secure me against any damage that should or may arise on that score. The following are tracts I would dispose of.

Nine hundred acres in three tracts adjoining each other; rice & provision lands, in St. Andrew's parish (adjoining St. John's the parish Mr. Stead's land is in) about 35 or 40 miles from Savannah, about 8 miles from a good landing. Part of this land was run in 1759. All of it belonged to a Mr. Andrew an old inhabitant of this country & of whom I bought it some years ago, this is worth 50s  $\text{⌘}$  acre. 500 acres on the confluence of great Ogeeche & Canooche rivers in tide way, about 300 acres of which is tide swamps adjoining Gov'r Wright's plantations. This I have been offered near 10 G's  $\text{⌘}$  Acre for on a long credit & paying interest. If you choose to have it I will be as reasonable with you as possible from a desire to lessen my debts. I have also two tracts of 500 acres each, on great Ogeeche river the So. side about 40 miles from Savannah very valuable ones which I would dispose of to you for under their value. I would let them go at  $\frac{1}{2}$  G's  $\text{⌘}$  acre. I have two tracts near Augusta one of

500 & the other of 300 acres. The former is a very good one about three miles from the river on what is called the Keokas & about 16 miles from Augusta in a well settled part of the country. I have some other tracts which I would sell from no other cause but an anxiety to discharge my debts as fast as possible. I should be very glad to know your ideas on this business if they meet mine I will do every thing in my power to throw as large a property into your hands as in my power & on as equitable conditions as you can expect & I have no doubt Mr. Habersham will do the same as far as his circumstances will permit. You will please notice we have not nor can have any other mode of paying for a very considerable time to come. No debts due from a citizen of this State can be sued for in less than two years from this: Our legislature considering & that very properly that men drove from their country for several years, their estates ruined & every kind of distress befell them, were in no condition to pay debts however willing they might be, & if the law was left to operate against them it could answer no other purpose but lay them open to be completely ruined & thereby become a burthen to their country. All the property of the disaffected that has been sold (many of whom are largely indebted to the merchant) is on seven years credit so that nothing can be expected from that quarter in any reasonable time, so that the mode I have proposed is the only one that can exist for some time & it is in my opinion a very eligible one. The vast increase of inhabitants now daily taking place in this country, the valuableness of our lands, its many natural advantages, all bespeak it is a very rising country & of course landed property must & will be an increasing one. I have only to assure you any services in my power, you may freely command I am

Dr Sir

Your most obed't serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah March the 29th 1783

Dear Sir

Though unknown to you yet from a knowledge of your character I have taken the liberty to send my son (who I expect will be the bearer of this) to your college, in hopes of your admitting him there & of his participating in those advantages which your instructions must afford to any youth who is desirous of & willing to avail himself of them. Tho' partiality to the one in question as my son naturally leads me to a bias in his favor, yet I flatter myself I do not say an untruth when I assure you I believe you will find that this is his disposition, and that he wishes to inform himself by every means in his power, with every thing that may tend to promote his future interest, or make him a useful member of society. It was my intention to have sent him to you 3 or 4 years ago, but the distresses of war have prevented. When the enemy quitted this country & restored it thereby to its proper owners, I had been an exile, or rather refugee, from it with my family & that a large one, near four years. This situation so deranged my affairs & straitened my circumstances, as well as kept my mind in such a perturbed state, as to preclude every thing that tended to domestic concerns, or to do that to promote the education & future benefit of my children that I wished.

My son was part of the year 1780 & 1781 with Mr. Smith of Virginia, Brother I believe to your son in Law, to this gentleman I owe the greatest obligation for his very tender & polite behaviour towards him. Since that time he has been principally to the S'ward & with out any opportunity of improving himself. His inclination as he informs me leads him to the study of the law, to which end as he is so far advanced in years I have prevailed on a friend to article him as a clerk before he left this, that in case he may choose, or it may become necessary for him in order to support himself, which idea I would wish to inculcate, he may not be under the necessity of throwing



away 5 Years of the prime of his life, the term preposterously prescribed by law, to serve in that character before they can be admitted to the bar. This I obtained as a favour from a friend & from a knowledge that his situation at present was not from choice but from necessity. I have been so much separated from him latterly that I am but imperfectly acquainted with the progress he has made in his education. I believe you will find he has a tolerable knowledge of the Latin, some idea of Greek, & has paid some little attention to the mathematics & natural philosophy. The great loss of time he has suffered makes it necessary for him to exert himself & to retrieve it by every means in his power. I have no doubt you will from the same consideration put him in such a course as will best enable him to attain that end. I care not how learned he is, but the great object I would wish his education to point to, is the making a useful member of society either in a private or public station; in Republics it may be every man's lot to be called to the latter and it therefore becomes now our indispensable duty to bring up our youth under those ideas. I have relying on his prudence made him master of his finances, I have frequently had occasion to try him & I think shall not have reason to repent it, indeed they are too scanty for him to be extravagant, tho' I hope sufficient to answer all necessary purposes and I shall take care to remit him as regularly as the situation of the times will permit. I do not mean or wish to hurry him in his studies more than his advanced years make necessary. My present intentions are for him to remain at college as long as you may judge necessary & his inclination may accord.

As he is an entire stranger in your part of the country & will on that account be deprived of the advantage a friend might be to him, in directing him in his connections & superintending his morals when abroad, I must take a liberty I have no right to assume, that is to request the favour of you to give him your countenance & advice gen-

erally, I mean in all such matters as may not properly belong to his education, but at the same time be absolutely necessary for his welfare. I will not urge you on this head, as perhaps your necessary close attention to business may put it out of your power if so possibly you can prevail on some of the Gentlemen under you perhaps Mr. Smith, the anxiety you can easily suppose I have on this head I am sure will plead my excuse with you for taking this liberty. I shall wait anxiously to hear of his having reached you & I hope at the same time to learn he has met with your countenance, and am

with great respect

Dr Sir

Your most obed't hble serv't

Joseph Clay

Dr. David Witherspoon

Savannah April 16. . 1783

D'r Sir

I presume before this will get to your hands a general peace will have taken place, an event very desireable and one that I hope will tend to repair many Breaches which the late unhappy War has occasioned, & as such gives me leave very sincerely to congratulate you on it—we have not rec'd here any Official Accounts in regard to the Business but private Accounts Via—New York, Philadelphia St Augustine &c all so generally concur in the matter that no doubt remains of the fact Your friends here are in general well—Your Mother enjoys but a very poor State of health I believe the Situation of her Mind tends greatly to disturb it—this is a very natural supposition and I hope, under that Idea, that the alteration in the times will tend greatly to relieve & of course mend her Health—Mr. Will'm Gibbons Sen'r plants this Year at Morton Hall,

with some of his own & I believe the Estate's Hands his Wife is near laying in & on that Account stays with her Mother at present, I brought my family about 4 Months ago since which Mrs. Clay has enjoyed but a very indifferent State of health, the fatigue of travelling and the very great alteration in situation in every respect all concurr'd to injure it—Mr. & Mrs. Habershams have not yet reached this but are hourly expected.

The very great loss of time together with the great destruction as well as loss of property will oblige many of us, as it were to begin the World again this will in some Measure be my Case for though Idleness cou'd never be attributed to me, yet to enable me to discharge all my contracts, & preserve & increase my fortune, 'twill be necessary for me to exert myself much more than I once thought, I ever shoud have occasion to do again & I am very thankfull that I enjoy a degree of health & Spirits sufficient to this purpose—I dont know what may be your future plans, but if a continuance in Jamacia & commerce shoud be apart of it, a very great opening to do business between that Island and this Country in my opinion presents itself this I dare say strikes you as forcibly as myself, shou'd you be of the same opinion with me, & also have an Idea to commerce from that part of the World, I shou'd be very glad to concur in promoting a plan of that kind here, either in the Commission way or on our joint Account, tho' I shou'd prefer the former. I shall lay myself out for that line, & my situation here will put it much in my power; shoud you not incline to a plan of this kind, if any of your friends shoud propose any business here I wou'd be obliged to you for your recommendation—on my coming here I was concerned w'th Major Cuthbert & Mr. OBryen in purchasing out Messrs Crookshanks & Spears, & one or two large parcels of Goods, w'ch with some other concerns turn'd out to advantage but my concern that way was only temporary and on the Spurr of the occasion just suited to the times—Peace will require more steady pursuits what

they may be exactly on my own part I have not come to any conclusion further than generally to pursue business by every means in my power that presents itself on a rational plan people are flocking into this Country to Settle beyond every Idea—the War has opened a knowledge of the Advantages that the So Countries afford hereafter not believed—Major Habersham was married about three weeks ago to Miss Nancy Camber a very amiable Young Lady—Mrs. Clay & all our family desire very kindly to be remembered to Mrs. Hall to whom please make my best respects acceptable, and believe me to be with regard

Dr Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay,

Nathaniel Hall Esq'r

Savannah 15th April 1783

Gentlemen

The very agreeable prospect of peace taking a place directly has induced me to address you, hoping thereby to renew a correspondence which the war has so long interrupted & I should also by this Conveyance have sent you your Acc't Curr't & Sales of Rum ~~on~~ the Schooner Elizabeth Capt. Caldwell had it been in my power but as soon as our House found that this Country was likely to become the seat of War we sent our Books as far No'therly as Maryland, from whence I expect them every day as soon after they come to Hand as any safe Conveyance offers you may expect to receive them & we hope twill not be a very long time before we shall be able to remit you the Ballance of your account the ravages & distresses natural to a country that has been the Seat of War, & in which we have bore our full proportion will keep us backward a little time but I hope not long—I am engaged in business again as usual and shall be very happy to receive you and any of your friends Command's soon as Trade

can take place again without interruption which I dare Say will be the fall before this will get to your Hands the many Articles of product raised in this Country together w'th the great Quantities of Naval Stores & Lumber made here will very naturally open a very lucrative & beneficial Trade between your Island and this Country—the produce of your Island will always bring reasonable prices but Negro's in my opinion will yield a great profit I shoud have no doubt of getting 60 a 70 for good Windward Coast Negro Men & for Women or leeward Coast Negr'o in proportion & perhaps more provision Articles will be scarce before the next crop comes in which will not be till late in the fall, Rice may be to be purchased but I expect twill be very high all the summer 12/6 Sterl'g ₤ 100 lb is the present price but I think tis probable it will be higher not knowing whether your House subsisted under the old form I have directed to them or either of them—Peace has not yet been proclaimed here but from the Accounts we have received from almost every Quarter we expect hourly to receive Official Accounts relative thereto I have only to tender you any services in my power and am with respect.

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Messrs Scott Dover Taylor & Bell

Copy—————

Savannah the 22d April 1783

Original—Via Cha's Town

Dear Sir—

Copy of yours of the 14 February came to hand yesterday—the Original nor the one of the 4th then Current have not yet come to hand, so soon as they doo I shall pay every attention necessary—Mr. Wereat is not here at present I expect he will be in Town in a few days when I will endeavour to do the needfull with him I am much sur-

prised at his neglect of you while in your City his Character here (where he has resided many years) being that of a very honest man & punctual in his dealings his inability to pay could have been no excuse for not giving you every information in his power—Mr. Farleys debt I believe you must give up as lost unless you can find any property belonging to him in Antigua—he quit this Country on Acco't of his Attachment to the British Government I think in 1776 & returned here again when their Troops got possession of this State & died I believe sometime in 1780, & left no visible property—he owed me upwards of £300 Sterling for a debt contracted 13 or 14 Years ago of which I never received any part, & tho he confessed a Judgement for the debt I never found any property that I could levy on, the Gentleman who did your business, Mr. Young, is also dead—Peace has not yet been announced here Officially but from the several Acco'ts we have from different Quarters we expect Daily we shall be enabled to do it—this Circumstance I hope will produce the most happy effect to all the continent & more especially to these Southern I may add Young rising States—this is already hourly feeling the benefits of it the Old Inhabitants are constantly coming back & new ones daily adding to our Numbers & the many valuable Articles it produces must make Trade increase & flourish among us the West India Trade must be a great branch, Negro's will also be in great demand here—

Dr Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

J. Clay.

Geo'e Meade Esq'r

Savannah 22d April 1783.

Dear Sir

I received a line from Mr. Seagrove yesterday in which he mentioned you had wrote if so yours must have miscarried as I have not had the pleasure of receiving it—

give me leave to congratulate you on the approaching general peace it has come on us of a sudden & rather deranged our Commercial concerns for the present—a considerable part of the Pattys Sugars are on hand we used every means in our power to push them off—East florida I find is to be returned to Spain this being the Case a Garrison will of course be sent to Augustine, & who must be supplied with provisions from some part of this Continent this I presume will be by contract which very probably you may think worth your attention I could assist in fullfilling of it and should have no objection to being concerned in it with you we could procure Cattle from this State & as twill not be long before I shall have a concern in a Vessel to and from Philadelphia I should be enabled to send Flour there on reasonable terms and as to rum I have no doubt it might always be bought here very reasonable—I only mention these matters as a hint & for your information should it be necessary dry goods will be very low here in three or four Months great Quantities are coming to America & one or two very large Cargoes are expected here I hope you have heard of the Brig Nancy's arrival & to a good Market she carried a most excellent assorted Cargo—Copys of all her Acco'ts are making out to send you Via Cha's Town & will if ready in time go ~~th~~ this Conveyance—Mr. Howley is very well but he has had the misfortune to loose his Youngest child a few days past Major Habersham has taken to himself a Wife about a Month ago—a Miss Camber who I believe came in from the No Ward since you left us—we look hourly for his Brother James & Joseph both their and his & my Negro's are come in and are all employed in planting I hope when the next Crop comes in we shall cut a very different figure & the Year after that a few more respectable one—Mrs. Clay and family all join in presenting their respects to you I am with great regard and respect

Dear Sir Your most Obed't Serv't  
Cornelius Coppinger Esq'r J. Clay.

Savannah 23d April 1783

Original Via Augustine

Copy—Via—Charles Town

Mr. Joachim Noel Famming

Dear Sir—

The long interruption to our Correspondence by the late unhappy War though gloriously ended on the part of America I hope is no more and that everything is paving the way for mutual communications & friendly intercourses—since we saw one another I have gone through various scenes the Camp and martial sounds took place of every thing else when the Enemy got possession of this Country I quit it & was never in it again untill American Govern't took place, except in Arms this I was frequently—as soon as the British Troops quit this Town I came into it & in a very short time after entered into business again & have been concerned to a considerable Amount, & with Success and I have now all my Family with me here once more enjoying Domestic ease which had been many years a Stranger to me a Blessing I am very thankfull for to that providence who has so wonderfully carried us through this contest—as soon as this Country became the seat of War I sent my principall Books & papers as far No'therly as Maryland for safety from whence I have not yet got them back therefore cannot send you a State of your concerns I expect Mr. Wm. McIntosh will be very pressing in a little time he has been a great sufferer by the War, & of course will be necessiated however I have his Brother the Generals Bond for a very considerable Amount which I may probably be able to get discounted or at least have every matter Stop'd untill I can have your instructions on the Business—I cannot advise you what woud best promote your intrest—these lands will be very valuable, more especially as this Country will settle in Amazing rapidity tis beyond conception the eagerness the people on this Continent discover to settle in



Georgia, the amazing fertility of our Lands invite all who know them, & the War has been the means of spreading a very general knowledge of them from having Troops continually operating in every part of them upwards of 500 Families have come to settle among us in the back Country within this 6 months past—Trade will expand here beyond conception Negro's will be in great demand & will bring high prices the best way for you to place your money here will be by Commerce as you may thereby do it with some profit if you choose this mode I will be concern'd with you in any way you please either to dispose of any thing you may choose to consign to me on your own Account on Commission, or to take a part with you in the concern as you may think proper—Dry Goods will answer very well Negro's from Africa will do far better, & something may be done from the W. Indies particularly the french Islands, though I am of opinion more Money may be made on Cargo's from here to the Islands, than from the Islands—as I am apprehensive the Imports from there will far exceed our Consumption however this is only conjecture—the increase of Inhabitants may occasion an Expenditure of W. India Commodities I am a Stranger to I only mention these matters for your information as I conclude you must be anxious to know our Situation here its said large Quantities of goods are coming to America particularly So'therly under an Idea of making great profits on them if so they will be mistaken & many will be ruined—Goods except of particular kinds are by no means scarce the War made them obtain high prices—the importations into the British Garrisons were very considerable most of which remained in this Country I think the very heavy Exports made to America must ruin many of the So'thern Merchants—folly and ignorance mark'd many of their Steps, Strangers who come out now with large Cargo's must suffer—they should consider how long this Country has been the seat of War how much it has been desolated and laid Waste & that its Inhabitants are in as it were settling

again & beginning the World anew—& that very large sums are due to the Old Merchants which must be paid as soon as possible all these circumstances in my opinion will operate most powerfully against Strangers unacquainted with the Country should you be inclined to send goods to this Country let me advise you to be very cautious in the business, avoid fine Goods of every kind the following Articles there will be a vast demand for, and as they are always consuming there will be no great risque of them sooner or later Negro Cloth from 12 a 15  $\text{₥}$  Yd Osnabrigs, coarse linnens—Nails a larger Quantity particularly 20d & 5d—Hoes w'th round Crests & Welded Eyes 18 a 20/  $\text{₥}$  doz good felling Axes a 30/ to 32/  $\text{₥}$  doz hooks & Hinges of all Sizes most of those fit for Windows all kinds of Plantation Tools, Carpenters & Coopers Tools Callicoes of a midling Quality handsome Figures Say from 12/ a 25/ or 30/  $\text{₥}$  Piece printed Linnens and Cottens from 18 to 2/6  $\text{₥}$  Yard some Hosiery principally Cotten & thread Hatts 14/ a 40/  $\text{₥}$  doz some higher but less in Quantity—Blanketts will be in great demand if large Quantities should not come out—Manchester goods for summer ware—Medicines of the Common Plantation kind—some Broad Cloths particularly 6/4 Yorkshire Cloths cost a 4/ to 7/ or 8/  $\text{₥}$  Yd & a few fine Cloths say 12/ to 16/ a few fine Goods may do but not too many, care must be taking in Shipping, that the Articles are not such as Foreigners can afford to Ship at a Cheaper rate for Great Britain must remember that she will have a great many competitors in her Trade & who will be very cordially received in America the french in particular will meet (and very deservedly) with a very great partiality in their favour from the Americans—I have only mentioned the foregoing as Articles that will suit best not as the only ones wanted but as those that will probably command the first sale every thing that is daily consumed or wanted for Artificers or planters must have their day—since I came into this country now I have had some concerns with two or three Gentlemen here

merely for the sake of dividing risques but that was intirely temporary while the War lasted tis more than probable I shall be intirely alone in future—I find few Men who like business as well as myself or that are willing to pay so close an application to it & I am not of a disposition at this time of life to divide the profits of my labours with any one who will not contribute their full proportion also—neither of the Mr. Habershams have yet come in with their Families—their Negro's are Here and they are daily expected possibly my old Partner Mr. Joseph Habersham & myself may do something together as we have some large Debts to work out, and Collect in—which must be a work of time as the planters must have a little time to get forward again before much can be expected from them Mr. John Habersham (now a Major in the Continental Army) is here & was lately married to a Miss Camber who must have been too Young for you to remember—I have just dropt you this letter for your information my situation heretofore and that of the times prevented my being able to write you any thing Satisfactory—do let me hear from you relative to your Land as soon as possible in the intermin shoud you or any of your friends have any commands here in the Mercantile line or other ways you may freely command my services.

I am &c

J. Clay

Bethesda Matters—I received the Rice mentioned is new as well as a further Quantity, I shall write her Ladyship very fully by a Vessel that sails from this in a few days have you any directions relative to the Orphan House they suffer much for want of more attention to them—I have (as a Volunteer) made Advances, Employed an overseer to take Care of the planting business & done every thing in my power to keep things together, expecting every day some Person.

wou'd be sent out to take the management of them intirely, as neither my business (nor Mr. Jas Habershams who has also assisted) will permit either of us to pay the attention to them they stand in need of during the time the British Troops were in possession of this Country as far as I can learn they made nothing—since they left it they have done very little more—the plantation was in exceeding bad Order, this year they have made only 50 Barrels Rice, there is about 20 hands on the plantation many of which are very ordinary—I have a power of Attorney from Mr. Glen who had one from Lady Huntingdon but I only wish'd to keep things together untill some other person was appointed I shall only add that I am with respect

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Savannah 16th February 1784

James Jackson Esq'r N5—Igleon Street—London

I rec'd your favour of the 7th Nov. last ☿ the Tartar Capt. Coates, & note the contents; I have as you have been informed entered into Copartnership with the Gentlemen ment'd in yours, & hold myself responsible in common with them, for all contracts made under our respective firms, and I have only to assure you, while I hold any Connection in the business, nothing on my part shall be neglected that can render it mutually beneficial to both you and us as to the Indian Trade, I am but little versed in it, but I flatter myself the Gentlemen who are will pay the strictest attention to it every other business, natural to this Country I hold myself competent to, & I think from the extension of our Trade, the great increase of our Inhabitants, & the natural advantages of our Climate the most flattering prospects are before us—the Negro business is a great object with us, both with

a View to our Interest individually, & the general prosperity of this State & its commerce, it is to the Trade of this Country, as the Soul to the Body, & without it no House can gain a proper Stability, the Planter will as far as in his power sacrifice every thing to attain Negroes, & those who have the disposal of them, will always command their Crops, which is every thing to a Merchant; the prices with us are tempting to the adventurer, until importation takes place immediately from the Coast, many will be sent in from the W. I. Islands, we have a small Cargo on hand from there at this time, but this is not the Channell we woud wish to attain them through—tis from the Coast only we wish to receive them, & we must request your exertions to gain us a share of that business it will tend to promote your interest as well as ours.

Our C. T & Co. write you so fully ¶ this Conveyance, that I have little to add except to confirm theirs—they inclose you a Letter from Messrs Roebuck & Herckle, the intention of which is to countermand an Insurance on a Vessel & Cargo from Jamaica to our port, & to our Address, & which is arrived safe—therefore the sooner it gets to hand the better—the reason for inclosing it to you, is the Letter directing the business, & giving us the Address of those Gentlemen is in so blind a hand, that we have our doubts whether we have directed it properly, particularly whether the Name of Herckle, ought not to be Merckle—the Gentlemen who write us are Mess. Jno. & Wm. Coppel of Jamaica, & one of the concerned is a Mr. A. Peate of London, by this Clue, if we have directed it wrong, you may possibly find it out—I have only to add that I am w'th respect—

D'r Sir Your most Obed't Serv't

J. Clay.

Savannah 16th Feb'y 1784

Lady Huntington

Madam

I rec'd yours of the 19th Oct'r last under cover from Mr. Roger Smith of Charleston together with an Application from him for Moneys due by me to your Ladyship, all of which to me is a Mystery—I received the 102 Blls Rice mention'd in yours and upwards of 40 more since my last settlement with Mr. Piercy, but so far from any thing being due from me, I am very largely in Advance, Joseph Clay & Co. (Say Joseph Habersham and myself) furnish'd Mr. Piercy with supplies for the use of the Colledge & Orphan House, to the Am't of upwards of £200 Sterling, and they have paid him in Cash at different times in payment for Rice & for the use of the Colledge & Orphan House upwards of Five Hundred Pounds, the far larger part of which before our Money suffered any depreciation—the last Rice rec'd was after our Money depreciated, (it was in March 1777 from 123 to 134 for 100,) the Price was in that Money 6/  $\frac{7}{8}$  100, there was little or no export at that time owing to the War, which rendered it of little Value, to the best of my knowledge there are no other Credits due to the Colledge or Orphan House, from me or Partners, & as to the Amount of Debits they exceed the sum mention'd by me, time wou'd not permit me to have a State of the Accounts made out by this Conveyance, nor indeed shoud I wish to close them untill I hear from Mr. Piercy, for fear of any omission it was upwards of seven Years that little or no attention cou'd be given to Accounts, during a very large part of which time myself & Family were drove about as the operations of the War progressed, many of my Books & Papers lost such as I preserved were sent above 700 Miles from this Country for safety, under such Circumstances it may be possible that I may be mistaken, & therefore on that Account & the very misterious appearance of these matters, I woud wish to hear from him whether any thing has by any means escaped us that

ought to have been carried to the Credit of the Institution, to which end I herewith inclose a Letter for him on the subject, which I have left open for your perusal before its forwarded to him, as I have no secrets in the business nor do I choose that there shou'd be even the appearance of any.

When the British Troops quit possession of this Country, it did not appear that any person had the management of the Orphan House or Colledge property, there was a White Man on the plantation, but not in the Character of an Overseer, nor was he capable, as he did not understand any thing of Planting, finding it in this Situation, Mr. James Habersham & myself, from a regard to the Institutions & w'th a wish to promote its Welfare, interferred in the business & placed an Overseer over the people, 'twas too late to do much in the planting way, there was a Crop sowed, but it had been so neglected & over run with Grass, that nothing cou'd be expected from it, 12 Barrels Rice was all that was made for sale, which I disposed of they had not sufficient provision for the year, part of the Rice was consumed in that way, & I also bought Corn for them, as the Cheapest mode of supplying them, this Year they have made sufficient to serve themselves, & near 50 Barrels Rice for Markett, tis not all clean'd out therefore can't say w'th certainty the exact Number, this after paying the Overseer, Cloathing the People, furnishing them with Tools &c will leave a Ballance in favour of the Plantation, but by no means what ought to have been made this Year they may perhaps do better, as the Plantation is in better Order for Planting, but unless the whole business is in the hands of some persons who can devote their time to the undertaking generally, little can be expected; for my own part, if I had thought that no person woud have appeared before this properly Authorized to take on them the management of the business, I shoud hardly have ventured to have interferred at all, as my situation in life does not allow me to devote so much time

to the concern as it requires, nor I believe can Mr. Habershams, all we attempted was to keep the property together, & to as much advantage as possible, until your Ladyship shou'd send out some person to manage for you, which we apprehended wou'd be the Case, as soon as you were informed your former Attorneys had left this Country, & under this expectation we deffered writing to you I wrote Mr. Piercy sometime ago informing how matters were situated which I presume he communicated to your Ladyship Inclosed is a list of the Negroes now on the plantation & at the Orphan House, many of them are Elderly & in general from what I can learn, they are but a very indifferent set of hands for labour—& they are too few to be profitable, the expences of a plantation with that Number of hands being nearly equal to one with twice as many soon after we got possession of this Country a Privateer intercepted a Vessel bound to St. Augustine, with a Number of Negroes on board, which some Persons had decoyed from this State, and were carrying them, among whom was a Wench & two Children belonging to the Orphan House, which I claimed & recovered on paying near £16 Sterling as a Salvage—in regard to the Debts in the list inclosed me, I can say but little—Mr. Read left this Country with the British Troops, Mrs. Crooke died before we returned, Mr. Hathaway I do not know when I see him, but I believe he may be somewhere about the Country, Mr. Netherclift I have not had an Opportunity of inquiring of, but there can be no doubt the Money is due—there are also some Moneys due for lands rented by Mr. Tatnall or Mr. Glen, but we have no Account from them relative to it, therefore can't say to what Amount—I shoud suppose Mr. Tatnall must owe something for the labour of the Negroes, as they say they were employed sometime by him on his own land making Staves—there have been three or four persons applyed to me for debts due them by the Orphan House among whom is one Miller, & a Mr. Saxe also Mrs. Floyd, who has lived many Years at the Orphan House.



and Says there is a considerable sum due to her—I have put every one off who have applyed to me, with an expectation of some person coming out to settle the concerns, not being competent or sufficiently informed to enter on a liquidation of these Acct's myself; Mr. Habersham has also a very considerable demand on the Institution—the late War has been very unfortunate for every one concerned in this country—the Stoppage of Commerce, the wanton waste & destruction of property, all operated to bring on very heavy losses on all who were interested in it but God be praised those times are past away and better prospects are before us, may we be gratefull for them & improve them in such a manner as may shew we are sensible we owe them to his goodness only I have as far as in my power giving you a detail of such facts as have come within my knowledge relative to Bethesda—I shall always be happy to promote its prosperity or render your Ladyship, who I know has its welfare much at heart, every service in my power; it is absolutely necessary that some Person shou'd have the Sole direction of this business, & be as a head to it, in its present situation its an unprofitable property—Mr. Habersham or myself may barely keep it together, untill you direct otherwise, but neither of us can give that attention to it that it requires—we may advise or direct or furnish them with necessaries but this is not sufficient—some person shoud reside on the spot but in that case, to put it in a Situation to repay the Expence the hands must be increased—or otherways twoud be better to drop it altogether—I shall only add that I am, with great respect

Your Ladyships most Obed't Humble Serv't

J. Clay.

Savannah 16th Feb'y 1784.

Rev. Mr. Wm. Piercy

Dear Sir

A few days ago I received a letter from the Countess of Huntingdon of the 19th Oct'r last, under cover from Mr. Roger Smith, who requests me as her Ladyships Attorney, to pay him the Monies that may be due to her for Rice received from her Plantation, this you may be assured surprized me not a little—her Ladyship writes me on the same subject & requests me to give her every information in my power, & observes that you in your Accounts have left me so large a Debtor to her, that she wishes to know the various particulars or the Justness of her demands—to me this is all darkness—I have wrote her Ladyship as fully as in my power—I have not sent her the particulars of my Accounts, nor an exact State of them for fear I shou'd omit any thing to the Credit of them. the little attention that have paid to Accounts for some Years past, the Various Situations I have been in, the loss of many of my Books & Papers all may have operated to make such a thing possible & therefore I wou'd wish you to see them as they stand in my Books—I think the Quantity of Rice Credited in 1776, is more than I received, to the best of my remembrance all we received from the Orphan House was ship'd on board the Georgia Planter, which was 33 Blls—this Vessel was detained here & her Cargo landed again—in July following I find we sold 12 Blls Rice received from the Orphan House, which I have added to the 32, but on recollection I am in some degree perswaded in my own mind, they were a part of those relanded from the Geo'a Planter—you will be able to inform me—the Amount of Debits are just as they stand in our Books, by far the larger part of w'ch youll notice is Cash I shall be very uneasy untill I hear from you and this business is properly explained—what I am to think on the matter, even conjectures fail me for any probable reasons to satisfy myself, you only can afford me any light—these

Advances fall very heavy on me, the various losses sustained by the War make a reimbursement very necessary, & if it can be accomplished in England, it will afford me some compensation for the great length of time I have lain out of my Money, & I must rely on to press this matter with the Countess; I am sure if the business is properly Stated to her, she will see so much equity in it on our part as to induce her to Order an immediate payment—I have been long in expectation that some person would be sent out to take charge of Bethesda Affairs, I have paid what attention I could to them, but the various concerns I have to attend to puts it out of my power to render them Essential services, they suffer much for want of being properly look'd after tho' the hands are too few to do much in the planting way Pray let me hear from you as soon as possible Mrs. Clay & Family are all well & join me in best respects to Mrs. Piercy having rec'd none of your favours since my last to you I have only to add, that I am with Respect,

D'rSir

Your most Ob't Ser't

J. Clay.

Savannah the 17th Feb'y, 1784.

Mr. John Wright, Dorset Street  
Dublin

Dear Sir

Since my last to you I have rec'd yours of the 1st August last—I now enclose you a Copy of Capt. Deanes Will for your information—Mr. Habersham & myself have since then sold all the Negroes in our possession belonging to Capt. Deane, except two, one of which is a small Girl that Capt. Deane left with Polly Kest when he bound her out, & as she seem'd to look on her as her property I deferred selling of her for the present, as twas not absolutely

necessary the final determination in regard to her must rest with you, nothing is said about her in the Will the other is a Man, a great Villain, who remain'd in Georgia I found him here & took him into possession, but he was soon detected with some others in a Robbery in this Town, tried & Condemned to be hanged, & while under Sentence of Death broke Jail, what may be the end of him time only can shew—the whole Number sold is Eleven & a Sucking Child the Gross Amount of Sales is upwards of £800 Sterling the Vendue Commissions &c will reduce the Net proceeds perhaps near £15—but of these Eleven Negroes Six of the primest of them were part of those sold by Capt. Deane to Dr. Clitheral—the Day of Sale we received a Letter from him Dated in St. Augustine claiming these Negroes and forbidding the Sale of them however we had them appraised & sold as Creditors in possession we thought we had a right to do so—they sold high as we gave Credit for a considerable part of the whole Sales untill next Crop this though very inconvenient we did rather than sink the Value of the property by selling for prompt payment which it woud have done at least one half the balance due on the Bond we have laid in our Claim For in So Car'a but I cant learn we have any prospect of receiving any part of it for a considerable time to come—as far as as I have been able to Collect as yet the Demands on Capt. Deanes Estate for Debts, will exceed £800 Sterling, if no more appear than has—We have advertized for them to be brought in of some time—the Legacys the Will will shew the Amt of—I have never inquired for David Laurence nor informed him of his Legacy indeed not being able to discharge it 'twas not necessary—perhaps it may be convenient for you to advise his Guardian therewith—the Amount of the Legacy will depend on the contrsuction of the Will if the Current Money of So. Caro'a shou'd be deemed the usual Currnt Money before the War they will be £1000 Sterling if according to the depreciated Value of it when the Will was made it so small a sum that no person

will presume Capt. Deane could possibly mean to leave them so small a sum I believe by the Scale of depreciation I believe they would not amount to £35 Each & on the other hand £1000 Sterling each was more than the Value of Capt. Deanes Estate—I never heard him speak on the Subject—he had but a very short illness before he died—& I was many Miles from him at the time so that I had no Opportunity of conversing with him Polly Kest is now in my Family & Joe I board out in the Town & have put him to School—the Boy has lost one foot occasioned by the bite of a Snake some Years before his Father's Death he is about 12 or 13 Years of Age a good tempered well disposed Boy—he writes and Cyphers tolerably—the Girl was bound to a Mantua Maker whom I gave leave to take her out of Charleston, into the Country when the City was likely to be Besieged—they returned soon after twas taken, & when the British left the place she went from thence to Augustine, from what I can learn inveighled away by a Young Fellow—however I sent for her here and she has now been with me some Months, behaves very well & is of an exceeding good disposition, she is about 17 years of Age—these young Folks are very unfortunately situated in this Country their descent places them in the most disadvantageous situation, as Free persons the Laws protects them—but they gain no rank in Life White Persons do not commonly associate with them on a footing of equality—so many of their own Colour (say the mixt breed) being Slaves, they too naturally fall in with them, and even the Negro Slaves claim a right to their acquaintance & Society—thus a little reflection will present to you what their future Prospects here must be—neglected by the most respectable Class of Society, are forced to intermix with the lowest, & in what that must end—we would wish to draw a Veil—all the Care that can be taken of them cant prevent it, it arises from our peculiar situation in regard to these people—the most eligible plan that I can recommend is that they be sent to Europe—this alone can

save them—if you would consent to receive them as your Wards, I think they might both be made usefull Members of Society no such distinctions interfere with their happiness on your side the Water—the Boy might be Bound to some business, which he might be able to pursue for his Maintenance, and the Girl might make a very good Wife to some honest Tradesman, who would be glad to take her with such a sum as she might be intitled to from the Estate—Mr. Habersham accords with me fully in this Idea, and Mr. Hamilton who was here sometime past, & with whom I conversed freely on the subject, recommended the same thing & promised me to write you fully on the business, should this be your opinion I would send them to you by the first safe Conveyance to London, from whence they might be sent over to you I mention London because Opportunities direct to Ireland very seldom present themselves should a direct Conveyance offer twould be preferable—I shall be glad to hear from you on this business as quick as possible—should you concur in opinion with me Our Executorship might soon be closed—we might settle all the Debts, receive a Security from you to save us from all claims for Legacys &c due from the Estate, & then place the whole residue of the Estate in your own possession by which mode every thing might be soon closed—Mr. Hamilton when he was here went to view the 1000 Acre Tract of Land at my particular request that he might write you his opinion of it, mine is the same as when I wrote you last—if the mode I propose of settling matters should be agreeable to you—you may command any services in my power as before—the Person who rented the land last Year, quits it this, nor have I any prospect at present of getting any person to take it this—indeed I wish to meet with any person who will take charge of it Gratis in Order to preserve the buildings,—unless you improve these Lands I cant think you will gain much by keeping them—few Persons in this Country rent lands a freehold is so easily obtained by those who possess any kind of property that

hireing places to plant on is rarely thought of—I think you are now possessed of every information necessary for you to enable yourself to decide finally—when I can compleat a full liquidation of all the Accounts you shall have Copies of them but you may Calculate on the outlines as I have given them to you with certainty I suppose the Girl & Boy will cost including boarding Schooling &c between 80 & 90 Guineas ꝯ Annum I give 30 G. ꝯ Ann for boarding & washing Joe and the person who has him complains that she cant afford to keep him at that. Polly at her own request lives intirely with me but how long it may be convenient for her to stay with me (as my Family is large) may be uncertain—the Will will afford you every other necessary information—shall therefore only add that I am with best respects to Mrs. Wright

DSir your most Ob't Amb't Serv.

J. Clay.

Savannah 15th March 1784.

The Hono'ble Henry Laurens Esq

Dear Sir

I had the honor of receiving your esteemed favour 30th August last but a short time past, the one of the 16th same Month referred to never came to hand I also at same time rec'd from Messieurs Polsons a Letter covering the power of Attorney mentioned in yours—the Father of these Gentlemen was included in our Act of confiscation & banishment & their lands advertised for Sale to take place a few days after I received their power thus situated I was at a loss what to determine, the time being so short & not being sufficiently acquainted with the particular merits of the business when Old Mr. Polson Died, or what had been the motives that induced the legislature to include him in our Act; under these Circumstances I determined to purchase the whole of their Lands myself, for their Account

expecting one of two things wou'd happen, that is either that I shou'd by being enabled to lay some favourable circumstances before the Legislature or by the treaty of peace being in their favour, obtain a full restitution of their property, or that if I shou'd fail in this, that from its being known that I purchased for the heirs, I shoud buy them in so low as to put it in the power of Messrs Polson to dispose of them again to advantage & to this end, I empowered our friend Mr. LeConte, who was to attend the Sale to buy them in—whether Messrs Polsons wou'd have approved of my conduct I dont know—I meant it for the best—however by accident we were fortunate enough to have the Sale suspended, Mr. William Houstoun who was at the Sale took, on him as an Attorney, to forbid the Sale of Mr. Polsons lands among some others of his acquaintances absentees, & the Commissioners agreed to postpone them untill the Assembly met; they have since met, but did not come to any determination respecting Mr. Polsons Land Mr. Houstoun, though he forbid the Sale—had nothing particular to Offer being as much unacquainted with the Circumstances as myself however as no further Sale was Ordered, & the effects of the War are daily decreasing, I am of opinion nothing further will be urged on the business, but how far Mr. Polsons selling at this juncture may be prudent, I can't say, untill so much of the Act as relates to these Lands is repealed, or it appears some clause in the Treaty secures them they cant give sufficient titles

Our State is settling again very fast, especially the back Country—a large Cession of Land as far So'therly as the Oconees has lately been agreed to by the Creek Indians which will be settled immediately some valuable setlers have and are coming in from East Florida our Ports has been tolerably filled this Winter and though individuals will feel the effects of the War for many years, I may Say all, their lives, yet the Country at large will soon recover—Nothing is wanting but hands to cultivate the earth I have entered into business again with a hope by my Industry



to retrieve past losses and with an expectation of being by that means more in the way of collecting my Old Debts; how far it may answer either of those purposes, time only can shew, nothing on my part so far as my knowledge & ability reaches shall, be wanting to effect it—I have only to assure you—I am with great respect, & regard

D'r Sir

Your most Hum'le Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 3d April—1784.

Mr. Joachim Noel Famin

Dear Sir

I rec'd yours of the 31st October last ꝑ Capt. Russell who arrived here three days ago—Your information from Car'a & Georgia in my opinion is in no respect well founded every thing in both States being in general in a thriving way, many of the British may possibly complain; they have been so used to be Masters in this Country, that it gives them pain to find we can in every respect do without them, and some of them who find themselves obnoxious to the generality of the Citizens of this Country I trust are the writers of such unfavourable reports—however even at this Day they have too many Friends in the Towns—Goods 'tis true have sometimes been brought in by Strangers & sold low, & just as peace took place large quantities were pushed in, & glutted the Markett for sometime, but that is over & things are nearly in their Old Channell—if I meet with a purchaser for your Land so as to answer the purpose of settling every thing as you propose, I will dispose of them, as population increases that may be effected—I cant well say what Goods woud bring the most profit but I shoud suppose coarse & midling linnens hardware Callicoes & printed linnens &c woud do as well as any thing—for Cash any thing is difficult to part with, owing to the

Scarcity of Specie, on Credit they sell as usually—your friend in East Florida has nothing to apprehend on account of his bearing Arms during the War; as a British subject he had a right to do so; if he owed no Allegiance to the United States, or took the Oaths to any of them, or is included in any of the Acts of Treason of the several States, he has nothing to fear—he will find protection & perfect security for his person & property come when & from where he will—no Army will kept in our State, our Inhabitants hold themselves competent to their own defence, as to the Indians they are looked on as too contemptible an Enemy to create the smallest uneasiness, nor is their any thing to apprehend from them—in regard to Lumber it would be very tedious to mention the mode of measuring, prices &c, probably you may have an Account of the former, as it is the same as before the War, as are the prices in general, at foot is the present Curr't prices I have only to assure you that I am with regard

D'Sir

Your most Obed't humble Ser't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 3d April 1784.

Messrs John & Hugh Polson  
Gentlemen

I received your favour of the 23d August & shoud have reply'd sometime past had not indisposition prevented—your Power of Attorney to me and Col'l Laurens & his son also came to hand at the same time accompanied with a Letter from the former—the Lands you mention were in such a situation that it was not, nor has not been in my power to do any thing with them as to Sale they were unfortunately included in our Act of Confiscation, either a British property or the property of your favour as an

Inhabitant of this State, I do not know which—they were advertized for Sale to take place in 3 or 4 days after yours came to hand—the time was then too short to take any Steps in the business nor was I sufficiently acquainted with the Circumstances to know how to act I concluded to buy such of them in as should be sold (the whole not being advertised) on your Accounts, expecting that we might be able to lay matters before the Legislature in such a light as to induce them to order a full restitution of the property, or that the Treaty of Peace between G. B. & the U. S. woud by some Articles or other secure them to you; to this end I empowered a Friend who proposed to attend the Sales (they being held at Sunburry) to purchase them in; fortunately Mr. William Houstoun who is well acquainted with you was present at the Sale & by some means prevailed on on the Commissioners to postpone the Sale of your Lands with some others untill the Legislature met—they have since met but did nothing in the business neither for or against—he (Mr. Houstoun) was not any more acquainted with particulars relative to this property than myself however I do not think the State will interfere further in the matter, but untill so much of the Law as includes this Land in the Act of Confiscation is repealed, you can't give legal titles to any one who might be desirous of purchasing it—it woud be proper that we shoud be informed when your Father Died if it was before the War I apprehend our Act woud not reach his property—tis my belief the Public will not make any claim in future but at present matters do not stand on such a footing as to make it prudent to proceed to sell nor will the land in my opinion bring near so much as it may at some future day—as the Inhabitants increase, and which they are now doing very fast Lands must rise in Value I do not learn that your Lands are so valuable for the richness of their Soil as the pleasantness of their situation, which as yet is not so much attended to with us as the Quality—Mr. Mossman will pay the Amount of your draft—& shoud no Expen-

ditures be necessary on your behalf I will remit the Amount no Taxes has been paid I presume for some time—'twill be proper in my opinion in future to pay them as they become due least a failure should give rise to any unfavourable measures—I have only to assure you of any services in my power and am with respect

Gentlemen

Your most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 17th April 1784.

George Meade Esq.

Dear Sir

I hope we shall very shortly Say at least that the produce of America shall not be Ship'd from her Ports to the British Islands but in American Bottoms, & by American Merchants only, or some other mode operating to that effect—tis an Insult to the feelings of Men, and a great indignity to the States, that the Subjects of a Nation who have for many Years being laying Waste our Country, & deluging it with the blood of its Inhabitants, should at so early a period attempt to Monopolize so large a branch of our Trade as the one they are now aiming at.

I am with great respect

D'Sir your most Ob't Serv't

J. C.

Savannah the 22d April 1784.

Mr. John Wilcock

Dear Sir

Since my last to you I have rec'd your several favours of the 11th Nov'r 24th Dec'r & 16th Ulto I observe you have altered the destination of the Pallas—I very sincerely wish she may make a profitable Voyage, such a one as may compensate for the many disappointments & expences, you

have been put to on her Account this last Winter—I cant say whether tis for your advantage that you could not prosecute your Voyage here—had you been permitted to have carried it into execution, nothing in my power shou'd have been wanting that could have in the least degree promoted your Interest.

The very great losses this State has sustained by the War in Slaves, and property of every kind—the great dispersion of her Inhabitants when the British Troops got possession of it, & the many evils the natural consequences in any Country that becomes the Seat of War, have all contributed to throw her greatly behind hand—the last may be said to be the first Crop that has been planted since the year 1776 & it was very far short of what it used formerly to be, & very inadequate to our wants & very disproportionate to the Amount of our Imports—however our prospects are greatly brightening most of our Old Inhabitants are returned with their property, & amazing Numbers of New Setlers have come in within the last twelve Months, it is supposed there will be near three times the land planted this year that there was last, this must tend greatly to ease our Trade, & to remove many difficulties it has been labouring under for some Years past, & there can be no doubt but that this State must become in point of Commerce, in a very few Years, one of the first States in the Union.

Our Vessels lay here in fresh Water no worms ever touch them, if they lay below, Say at Cockspurr in the Summer—they might suffer, we bring near 24 a 25 feet Water to Cockspurr, which is a very safe Harbour, about 7 Miles from the Barr, & 11 from Town we bring 12 feet up to Town, & Vessels that exceed that Draught may compleat their lading to 14 or 14½ feet about 3½ Miles below the Town.

Very respectfully  
D'r Sir

Your most Obed. Serv.  
Jos. Clay.

Savannah the 24th April 1784.

Mr. Robert Dillon

When Capt. Saltus arrived with us I immediately applied to Major Washington to furnish me with Lumber to Ship by him, or to provide a Quantity  $\text{¶}$  the next Trip, to both of which requisitions I rec'd so evasive an answer that I wrote him desiring him to write you himself on the subject—these kind of people without knowledge or Experience, have been purchasing & Speculating on every thing they can lay their hands, the generality of them knowing, one thing, & that was, that they cou'd not be worsted, having nothing to loose, in this way they have laid themselves under so many obligations, that they comply with none of them, but on the contrary, deceive and disappoint every one who have any thing to do with them Washington tis said has realized a handsome fortune, at least this is the general opinion, for my part the winding up only in my opinion can ascertain that—if we were to Sue him he woud, or at least he might, traverse the matter at Court so as to Spin out twelve Months before you could obtain Judgement, were this not the Case I woud recommend that mode.

In regard to Deane's Wench the keeping her at hire will not answer and is a trouble I never can think of suffering you to remain subject to, woud she not sell payable in the Crop, if she was fit for a family, I woud have no objection to send for her here I know she is capable, but I presume has been so long her own Mistress, & so attached to Caro'a that, she woud with great reluctance come here—I am told you have great uneasiness in your State relative to the Tories—tis hard that Peace or War they shoud interrupt our Gover't your Assembly in the opinion; even, of moderate Men, certainly went too far—Your Legislature and ours are the only ones on the continent that have given themselves, any trouble, about them, remember me to all with you, & believe me to be with great regard D'r Sir

Your most Ob't Serv.

J. C.

Savannah June 1st 1784.

Mr. J. Wilson, Esq'r  
Dear Sir

I received your favour of the 5th Ulto covering fifteen Treasury Certificates Amounting to Nine thousand seven hundred & fifty one pounds 9/—I observe the Certificate for £396..6/ of the 20th May 1777 has been in part paid in Continental Money as ~~£~~ Endorsements on the back of it.

Our legislature have taken no Steps as yet either for paying, or funding them; they directed an Account of them to be rendered in, that they might know the Amount, and which has been done by most of the holders—Our Treasurers Books were lost which rendered this Step necessary—this is all I can do with yours at present which I will do & return them to you as you desire, might the recording of them in our Secretarys Office be proper to guard against any future Accidents—Our Assembly meet the first of next Month, 'tis very probable they may come to some rule for providing for them—Audited Certificates pay for Confiscated property sell from 3 to 4 for 1—but loan Certificates untill the Assembly make a provision for them, will not be in demand, & am with regard

D'r Sir

Your most Obed. Serv.

Joseph Clay.

Savannah June 8th 1789.

D'r Sir

If we are to believe the reports from the Indian Country they were just about leting loose their Vengeance upon us what wou'd have been the consequence in our unprepared situation may be more easily conceived than described.

I have only time to add that I am in regard

D'r Sir

Yours

J.C.

Savannah 27th June 1789.

Abraham Baldwin Esq'r

We have nothing new—no advices from above respecting the treaty—I am told Gov'r & Council are adjourned to the Oconee's at whose charge or for what purpose none I have met with can inform me I auger very ill of this business—my Idea is the avidity we have for land will prevent a treaty on reciprocal ground—the utmost I expect is that something may be patched up by w'ch we may gain time—we have not the smallest means to go to war with & the Indians will be cautious how they drawn down the force of the Union—were it not for that I am convinced they have so indifferrent an opinion of our ability (as a State) to hurt them that they wou'd risque a war directly I am with regard Dear Sir

Yours &c

J. Clay.

Jonah Horry Esq'r

Dear Sir

I received your several favours of the—— & 1st Inst respecting a negro of Mr. Blakes in our Jaol I had some expectations of sending him to you by Mr. Elliott he gave me reason to believe he cou'd make it convenient to take him—unfortunately I was not in town or did not know when he sett off for Beaufort by which means I was deprived of opportunity writing you.

I have this day put Caesar on board Capt. Godett & drawn on Mr. Gadsden's for £15..12..11 Sterling the amount of Jaol fees, taking up Mileage advertising and a small Doctors bill and which I was obliged to pay when I took him out—I am surprised it was not known sooner that the fellow was here and the more so as I find he was very regularly advertised—

I hope your residence at Beaufort will have the affect



of preserving you and Mrs. Horry from the fall fever—Mrs. Clay and our family are well and join me in best respects to Mrs. Horry and am with regard and respect

D'r Sir

Your most Obed Serv

Joseph Clay.

Savannah 9th August 1789

Dear Sir \*

☞ Capt. Burnham I received yours of the — Instant the appointment of the Custom house Officers, in general gave tolerable satisfaction in this part of the Country—the Collectors I believe almost universally, and I am very sure the United States will never have occasion to regret it, either for want of attention, capacity or integrity; how Collins's appointment may operate I dont know—tis said on the late investigation he discovered either a want of ability or attention—perhaps both—a small Port so near a large one, and where a single Officer presides—a great door may be opened for smuggling, unless their shou'd be very great integrity in the Officer who presides, when goods are landed so near Markett, and where the conveying them either by the inland water carriage, or by land, is so easy, the temptation will naturally present itself—if the Coast trade, as well within each State, as from State to State, is not under very severe regulations, and them well attended to, the revenue will be defrauded frequently—foreigners will embrace every opening, and too many of our own citizen's may be found too prone to assist them in their attempts, and not a few of them also may be as willing to take advantages of that kind where they present themselves as foreigners—

I am very glad to find Indian matters are attended to by Congress—I had no Idea of any thing I wrote on the

\* Probably to the Hon. Henry Laurens.

subject being used in a Public way, or I shou'd probably have wrote with more attention, if any loose hints I may have drop'd on the subject have been of any service I shall be very happy—if once the business is fairly in the hands of Congress, so that both we and the Indians feel the restraining and Protecting Power of the Union, we shall do well—posts must be established to carry this into effect—many talk of Strong forts and large Garrisons to me they appear totally unnecessary—I do not consider them as Places of defence, but for the purpose of restraining those either White or Red who shall infract the treatys subsisting between us, the laws of the land, or regulations of trade, so as to bring the perpetrator to account whenever they happen, and which in my openion will be very Seldom, when once the law less know they can't do any of these things with impunity—as to what may be necessary between us an the Spaniards—we being in that respect a barrier country—the forts and Garrisons or Vessels must bear a proportion to those they keep up, or they will not answer the purpose intended—tho I shou'd presume when they find our Government rising into respect and power they will for their own interest place things on such a footing as will remove the complaints we have had occasion so justly to make against them latterly—I wish our People to the Westward may not in part ballance this account, by giving the Spaniards like cause of complaints against them.

I have been put to a great deal of trouble in a piece of business which originated when I was pay Master to the Southern Army—and that principally from the neglect of the treasury board or their Officers, and which after every difficulty is nearly over is still kept pending for want of information from them, at least as I am informed and which I wou'd be obliged to you if you shou'd have time, before you leave New York to make some enquiry so as to Push the business on to a conclusion—but to make you informed therewith, 'twill be necessary for me to detail a few circumstances in order to give you an Idea of the

business—in June 1781 while our Army was encamped before 96 in St Carolina Gen'l Greene proposed to me to go from there to Augusta, to endeavour to get the People together, encourage them and endeavour to form some System of Government suitable to the present Situation of the Country and some other business respecting the safety there securing Public Stores &c, all of which I effected as far as the circumstances of the time wou'd permit—while I was absent a sum of paper Money came on for the Use of the Army as far as Charlotte in No. Car'a—the Country at that time being very insecure, the Escorts wou'd not come any further—and the Money being of no use not haveing any circulation, or being of any service either as Pay or for the purchase of supplies the sending for it was no object—the General wrote me from the Army while I was in Georgia, that the Money was at Charlotte, and that as the Escorts were uneasy to be gone, he shou'd direct it to be left there, which was done, some time after I returned to Camp, and after a while had occasion to go to No. Car'a, I applyed to the General to know if I shou'd have the Money brought from there—he said there was no occasion, that it was of no use, and as we had no fixed station at that time, and our remaining there must depend on who had the longest sword the enemy or us—it was not necessary or words to that purpose, When I went to Charlotte I found it in the hands of a Mr. Alexander, with whom it had been left by the Escorts, to whom he had given a receipt for it—he was a Quarter Master to the Continental Troops, while they remained in that part of the Country, and so long as a Post was kept at Charlotte—I found on inquiry he was a man of family there, and of good Character—he now resides there and in repute—when we got possession of Georgia I resigned my Office which was in July 1782 and wrote to this Alexander to send the Money to a Col Kershaw at Camden, I also made a return of all the Moneys, bills &c in my hands, and of this in Alexanders, and wanted Gen'l Greene to appoint a per-

son to receive them from me, but he declined it—when Major Pierce came on to the So'ward he received all my Vouchers Money &c—every thing respecting them, took a power of attorney from me and promised to get all my accounts settled, and which was done and a considerable sum is now due me for Pay—the Money left in Alexander's hands, I returned stating the ballance exactly as it was, and which was received and no hint ever thrown out that I was held Accountable for it, nor until three Years afterwards—When Major Pierce was here, I informed him fully of the business, and he advised me to return the fact as it was, he was well acquainted with all the circumstances as all my accounts and correspondences during the War (after Mr. Palfreys resignation) being through here at this time, say when he was in Georgia, I had never heard from Alexander, soon after he went to the No'ward he Alexander wrote me that he had delivered it to one Russell who was then in business in Charleston and that he had desired him to deliver it to me—I then wrote to Russell who some time after informed me he had the Money—that he offered it to General Greene Col'l Carrington but none of them wou'd receive it from him, and that it was ready to be delivered at any time—I then wrote Mr. Pierce (in Dec 1785) where the Money was, and inform'd him as I presumed it must go No'therly had given no directions relative to it—in May 1786 I again wrote Mr. Pierce as follows—I wish the Money in Mr. Russell's hands was ordered into some Officer of the United States, for tho I do not hold myself responsible for it, I shou'd wish it to be placed in such hands as wou'd take even the most distant charge of it from me—notwithstanding this it was March 1787 before any step was taken in the business when he wrote me of the 23d of that Month that the Treasury board had directed him to send for the Money in Mr. Russells hands, and that he had drawn an Order on him for it in favour of Mr. Neufville, when Mr. Neufville got the order Mr. Russell cou'd not be found, he had with drawn himself

as afterwards came to light into Wilkes County (where he now resides in business and making Money very fast as I am informed—soon after about half the Money (the whole was 57,600 dollars new Emission) was brought to Mr. Neufville in Charleston as from Mr. Russell but no information of Mr. Russell—but that he had used the Money, that so soon as he was able, every farthing should be repaid but so soon as the treasury board found the Money was in Jeopardy they fastened on me, and directed that I should be sued for the amount, they did this before I presumed they knew Mr. Neufville had received a part of it from Mr. Russell—a suit was accordingly commenced and is now pending the event of it to me at present on many scores is of very little consequence—further than that I would not wish there was even a surmise that I ever had used the property of the United States, or any other, or that I directly or indirectly withheld any of their Monies—the fact is the very reverse I served them faithfully upward of 5 Years during all of which time while I was in Georgia I was in advance for them from £1500 to 8 or £9000 at a time as my Accounts by being referred to will shew when we were drove out of our Country I had it not in my power to advance however to return to my Story Russell since the suit was pending has sent upward of 10,000 Dollars more of the money lodged in his hands which he had as he says through his necessities been induced to pledge as a Security for goods he purchased in Charleston and with which he set up Store in Wilkes where I understand he carries on a very profitable business—I never to my knowledge saw him tho' he also was a Quarter Master in the Army—he has wrote me two or three letters taking the whole business on himself & assuring me that I never shall suffer in the least for I wrote him that I was sued in order to spur him as well as from a Wish to get the U. States secured his last letters are advising that he is ready to pay the ballance whenever he knows what money will be received for it—or at what rate Specie will be received—

neither myself nor Major Pendleton cou'd inform him but Major Pendleton in consequence thereof suspended the operation of the suit against me, & has as he informs me wrote for Instructions as to what money he may receive but can get no answer he suggested to me the requesting you to Urge it—to me the present situation is very injurious I am kept out of a large balance due me by the United States & which I can with truth Say I diligently & faithfully earned, & am hung up as the ostensible person in a business that their neglect only has been the cause of—the Money was Maryland & Virginia New Omission issued at 40 for 1, I suggested to Russell who by his letters appears anxious to pay the balance, that Old Continental Money at 40 for 1 C. loan Office Certificates wou'd probably answer, but as neither Major Pendleton or myself cou'd say any thing w'th certainty the business remains where it was—tis more than probable he could help out to defray the Indian treaty either by furnishing Tobacco or some other means if its put on any tolerable generous footing so that he has it in his power to comply—The money when it came from the No'ward was worth nothing—nor I believe until near the time Russell pledged & sold it—nor can the U. States be chargeable (if they were ever chargeable at all) by the States who were & have been bound for its redemption for more than its Specie Value when they received it—the indifference of Congress or the treasury board respecting it for 5 Years is Proof of how little value it was, they were too much in want themselves to have let it lay idle so long if it cou'd have been of any Use—the ballance unpaid is 19700 dollars, the other paid he has repaid in like money—probably as the business has been so long dormant it may come suddenly on Law, in w'ch Case the U. States being well secured & receiving Interest it wou'd be no Inconvenience to them to give time for payment Mr. Pierces death was very unfortunate for me—he took a great deal of pains to have all my matters settled & had near brought every thing to a close when this matter

turn'd up—the want of means only prevented my being paid & discharged—I was at one time to have had an order on the Treasury of So. Car'a for the ball'e of my pay—however when the money business is brought to Issue I hope there will be no further hindrance— from the Acco't I have of Russell—I shall have no objection to receive an order on him for my ballance provided it can be so managed that he will not have it in his power to pay me in our paper money—how this money will be charged I don't know, but when it came to the So'ward & for Years afterwards the ballance due from him was not worth half the ballance due me by the U. States I hope you will excuse this trouble & the long epistle on such uninteresting matter except to myself & more especially as the whole of it comes to this one point how much is now to pay—I presum'd without your understanding the progress of the Business through-out you wou'd be unprepared to urge it—I am just now much engaged w'ch makes it come rougher to you than if I had more leisure—I have only to assure you of any Services in my Power here and am

D'r Sir Yours m ob Serv

J. C.

P. S.—Mr. Neufville says in a letter he wrote me the 22d Oct'r 1787—that he had found out that Russell had pledged to Snowden, Lothrop and Forrest of Charleston 19,700 dollars as a security for goods purchased of them to the amount of £235 Stg. so much for its Value then—he in the same letter mentions that he heard Russell was in Wilkes County—wishes me to preserve his (Russell's) letter acknowledging the receipt of the money—in case he shou'd be obliged to account in this State & doubts not of my readiness to assist in the recovery if he shall be found in our State at the time you see they did not hold me responsible—When Mr. Pierce left this I promised to do every thing in my power to find Alexander & recover the money which I did & advised him accordingly—I have

both their letters Say A and R acknowledging the Receipt of this Money however I have no doubt from Russell's 3 Letters & the character I hear of him that he will end the business by paying or securing to be paid so soon as its Value is fixed, w'ch I hope will be on reasonable Terms & by w'ch terms——at loss more than the real Value of any Curr'y not the nominal one.

Savannah the 30th Dec'r 1789.

Alex Hamilton Sec of the Treasury the United States  
Sir

I received your very obliging favour of the 2d Oct'r last respecting a claim of the United States on me for a sum of money of the new emission—& tho under the peculiar circumstances of this business I can't think myself responsible yet 'tis my wish to see the United States secured in the same as soon as possible & shall do every thing in my power for that purpose the person who received the money and appropriated it to his own use (as he says prompted by penury & want) is I am told at this time in very good circumstances & writes that he only waits to know what money will be received in payment & at what rate—he has already sent to Savannah 10,100 dollars of that emission over & above what he paid to Mr. Neufville in Charleston So. Car'a he offered a very considerable sum in Public securities of So. Car'a provided they wou'd be received, but neither Major Pendleton nor myself cou'd venture to receive them not knowing whether they wou'd be accepted nor what was the value of them when I first inform'd Mr. Pierce that that money was in the hands of this Mr. Russell he was in possession of it & resided in Charleston and tho' I mentioned the matter repeatedly to him no order came on to receive it & until upwards of 12 months afterwards during which time he, Russell, as he says made use of it he has been pressing for a considerable



time past to know what will be rec'd for the ball'e—his circumstances may again decline, tho I have no reason for saying so, or suspect it, yet as it has once happened it may again & therefore shou'd as far as possible be guarded against—he says 'tis not in his power to procure the same emission—'tis probable he might procure old Continental money or Continental loan office Certificates.

I hope you will excuse my troubling you on this subject—I know your time must be always engaged in much more important business—the desire & anxiety I have to see it brought to a conclusion & the U. States secured & myself intirely rid of it moves me to urges it.

I am

Savannah 24th April 1790.

Mr. James Thomson Jun'r Sterling

Dear Sir

The last I received from you proposed the Sale of the lands belonging to Burn's Estate, but where you acquainted with the situation of our Country you wou'd not push such a measure because 'twoud not be for the Interest of the Proprietors, on the contrary tend much to their injury—the Principal tract Say the 750 acre tract is situated in a part of the Country that has hitherto been thought a very unsafe one, as on the one hand from the very few settlers near it 'tis exceedingly exposed to the ravages of the Indians (who have very frequently committed ravages in that part of the Country this three or four Years past) and from its vicinity to the Spanish settlements, Slaves are apt to quit their Masters & run into their lines, where they are too frequently countenanced; these circumstances effect lands in that part of the State very much, & lessen their Value, & of course the demand for these Lands in general are low, the very heavy losses many

of our Inhabitants Sustained during the late War has obliged many who possess lands (which was a kind of Property they cou'd not lose) to offer them for Sale— the great loss of Slaves during the War has also effected the Value of Land, as their cultivation depends much on them, particularly in our low Country, the excessive heat & situation of our best Say our Rice Lands, being such that White People can't labour in them—We have also had a very large tract of Country ceded to us by the Indians since the War, which have been granted out or sold on such very easy terms by Government as to operate much to keep down the Value of those for Sale by individuals, & the last are in the upper Country, & fine healthy Climate, fertile Soil, & where the Culture of farming is nearly the same as in Europe & holds fourth such temptations as draw great numbers of emigrants & Settlers into them— from all these circumstances you will naturally suppose the Sale of Lands will be impeded, notwithstanding all the disadvantages the Value of Lands must increase, & soon be in more demand than they have been for some time past—this State is flourishing with rapidity & increasing in its Commerce and Population—the establishment of our new federal Constitution Produces the most happy effects, & gives energy to our laws, and the utmost security to our Property, & of course must tend to bring an increase in its Value—if you propose to sell & do it for Cash, the land will bring a very trifling Value indeed— on a Credit by installment, giving Security for the payment wou'd tend to Promote the Value & enhance the Price, but to do this, both the heirs must agree to the measure, or it can't be done—you on the part of Mr. Galt, & Mr. Alex Burn by himself or his Attorney, the last letter I had from them on the subject was desireing me on no Acco' to sell the lands, but it is now upwards of two Years since I heard from them tho' they do reside above 200 Miles if so much from this—I have been thus Prolix for your information that you may be able as far as possible

to Judge for yourself—One of the Tracts say the one we purchased is only ten Miles from the Town, & near a good landing, it will be much easier disposed of than the other which is in an uninhabited part of the Country at this time—Troops are expected to be Stationed to the So'ward of the latter & on the back of that part of the Country immediately, which will probably give such security to the Setlers, as to induce many of the Proprietors to settle & to settle again on these lands & of course soon brings them into Value again—I have had the Acco'ts of the Estate made out & laying by me this two Years past & nearly compleated to send you for your information, & only waited for a Settlement w'th one of the heirs, of Mr. Gibbons (late one of the Excrs of the Estate & Doctor Jones on whose lands the Negros planted five years under the management of Mr. Gibbons, for until after the Death of Mr. Gibbons, I never had any thing to do w'th the planting business—it being intireiy out of my way being in business & always closely confined to it—I have not yet been able to get these matters closed—as I know the matters unsettled, at least I think so, can't make any very great alteration in the general Statement of the Estates affairs I have here with sent you a Copy of them to the 29th Dec'r 1778 ballance in favour of the Extrs £118..2..8 Sterling at which times the Country became the Seat of War & I left it & did not return till after Savannah was evacuated by the British Troops—soon after I left the State the late Mr. Hugh Burns brother came into it, got possession of the Estate under some pretence or other (for I left an Overseer on the plantation, and supposed as the property belonged to Minor, & all that time British Subjects it wou'd have been unmolested, as the property of Minors & Widows, was always held Sacred by all Nations even at War) what was done w'th the property in that time, which was near four Years, I don't know, Mr. Burn went away with the British Troops & took such of the Negro's away with him as wou'd go

with him, & w'ch he wou'd have done with the whole of them if they had been willing to go, at least I am informed so—the plantation when I left the State had a good dwelling house on it—a Barn, sufficient houses for the Negro's & all other necessary Out buildings, was well fenced, had a very considerable quantity of Rice on it both cleaned out in the Rough, & in the Stack (it being of no Value at that time nor cou'd we dispose of it for any thing after the Year 1775 all Commerce & Trade almost ceasing in this Country after the War began) there was also a small Stock, some Horses & necessary Carriages—when we returned not a vestige of any thing was left—every building was destroyed, not any fence or the least traces of any kind of Stock or property whatever—all was desolate—how the whole of the buildings came to be destroyed was & is very uncertain—Old Mr. Burn lived there until the Evacuation of Savannah, & the last that were destroyed the neighbours say was done a few hours after he left it, & they charge him with it—he was much addicted to liquor & with all of a bad natural disposition, in such a situation he might have ordered some of the Negro's to have set fire to them, but I never cou'd find any thing to ascertain the fact in that or any other way—When Mr. H. Burn died he possessed twenty Negro's Valued at £575 our Money, dollars 1 less 5/ & half Johanico 40/—many of them were small Negro's—8 of them were boys and Girls Valued from £10 to £20 each—one of them a Man afflicted with the leprosy Appraised at £10 & who died soon after 8 other Men & 3 Women—we added to the Number by purchases as the Accounts will shew—there never was any children raised to grow up that I know of—of the above one was killed by the fall of a tree, one by Lightning (a woman who had a fine Child that died soon after) six or seven others by natural deaths at diff't Periods including the man above mentioned with the leprosy—the whole amount of Mr. Burns personal property including his Negro's were appraised at £639—he was very considerably

in debt when he died, partly from being Security for others, all of which we were obliged to pay, some of them we secured again in part, & part of them we could not & had we not become answerable until we could sell & make the most of matters his estate wou'd have been intirely sunk, for if we had not interfered but let suits at law have been commenced, it must have been sunk with the charges & the losses that wou'd have been sustained by selling property under Execution—he was considerably indebted to a Mr. Brewton with whom he was in America at that time after his Death made a purchase of some Negro's in Carolina & his brother joined him in the bond & afterwards got him arrested for the sum & had not Mr Brewton became his security he wou'd have ruined him—Mr. Brewton afterwards paid the money & we repaid him, he also owes Mr. Jn Graham a considerable sum for Negro's purchased of him and other matters—he also owed myself and partners a considerable sum for Negro's & other Articles sold him so that it was a considerable time before we could get his affairs so extricated as to be able to look forward much—he was a very thriving Young Man, a good Planter, & had it pleased God to have spared him, wou'd with his management & economy & Industry have made a fortune—Credit at that time was very extensive, especially to industrious men of good Character, & he woud have availed himself of it with advantage, notwithstanding the small number of his Hands & our being unfortunate in planting yet Sir You will observe in 1775 we had purchased a Snug Plantation, paid for it & increased his lands, furnished the plantation w'th every necessary, paid all the Debts of the Estate & must from that period have made money fast if the late unhappy contest had not taken place w'ch subjected the Estate in common w'th all others to very heavy losses & almost total ruin—his brothers conduct contributed much to injure it & indeed he had always been inimical to its Interests—his brother Hugh was so much afraid of his brothers ill conduct and disposition, that

added to his Will 'twas his last request to me that we wou'd Act for him, & not let his brother on any Account have the possession or management of his property who he said wou'd soon destroy it notwithstanding his own Son was equally Interested with his Sisters son in the proceeds of it—we never had a suit brought against the Estate but by Alex'r Burn, who tho' his ballance was small wou'd not wait as all the other Creditors did until we cou'd pay him without distressing the Estate—the ballances appear sometimes for & sometimes against the Estate—every thing was done on Credit here formerly—I don't suppose there was £100 passed through our hands in money from the day of Mr. Burns death to this time—all was barter, assumptions, discounts & transfers, so that many sums & debts assumed by us did not come to Account sometimes until the final adjustment of the ballancing took place—I hope I may have time to send you a further Statement up to this time, if this Vessel stays a day or two longer as I expect—I shall be able to accomplish it, & if not, ☿ the next Opportunity there is the hire of the Negro's since the War until divided to go to the Credit of the Estate—there is also a proportion of Overseers wages while they were at Doctr's Jones's—

..... .. Mr. Burns  
 join'd him in the bond for the purchase money w'ch was £250 Anderson run away after paying a part of the money, & Mr. Burns Estate was liable for the remainder, which we paid & I believe is not brought to Acco't in these rendered—there is also an account of Doc. Jones for Medicines rendered long since the ballances were struck, amount upwards of £25 Sterling—this is also not included in these Accounts so that the ballance I think will remain ultimately as it now does, against the Estate—I have only to add that I am w'th regard

D'r Sir Your most Obed Ser

J. C.

Savannah the 31st March 1790.

Dear Sir

The first of Mr. Herberts bills went  $\text{ᄞ}$  a Ship in March 1776 on board of whom Mr. Graham, Mr. Stokes the then Chief Justice, and several others went passengers who all arrived safe which affords a very reasonable presumption that the bills got to hand also and of course they must either have been paid or protested.

And are with respect

D'r Sir

Your Most Obed't Serv't

Joseph Clay & Co.

Savannah 10th May 1790.

Lady Huntington

Madam

By Mr Philips you will receive mine & Joseph Clay & Co's Acco't against Bethesda College stated to the 1 Feb 1789 ballance thus due me & Jos'h Habersham under the firm of J. C & Co. 277,1.1½ Sterling there is the Interest from that period until paid to be added the Interest charge is the legal Interest of the Country you'll observe there is none charged from the 29th Dec'r 1778 to the 12th July 1782 this is agreably to a law of our State and commences the between the time the Day the British Troops captured Savannah & ends the day they evacuated it—the Acco's since the War are closed annually, and the ballances remaining after paying the expences of each Year are carried to the Credit of the Acco't for advances of supplies for the Institution before the War—Your Ladyship from these will be fully inform'd of the Annual income & Expenditures since the War to the time of Mr. Philip's arrival—since w'ch I am totally unacquainted with all the affairs there Were I to Judge from his behaviour I shou'd have supposed that he believed that

instead of my having given every support to Bethesda and to advancing my money & property to afford it support when it was all together unable to support itself (as was the Case w'th all Rice Estates in this State during the War the Crops of us and of whose are ruined & the generality of them reduced thereby—that few of them can expect to live long enough to see them recover their former Situation) that I had been acting a very contrary part on his arrival he entered on the plantation in a very different manner from what he might have done the more so as he knew or might have known 'twas in my possession contrary to my desire & that only in daily expectation that your Ladyship wou'd send some person to take charge of it was I induced to pay any attention to it, & that what I did was without fee or reward or expectation or desire of any—in a very short time after his arrival he turn'd off the Overseer a Son of a very old Servant of the House (& whom I had employed for the Year) & though he had all the property in his hands directed him to me for payment—yet so strong was his then, or his present Conduct in that business, that he has placed the same Man (Cha's Boyd) in charge of the plantation & Negro's during his present absence—this is at least a proof that he is at this time of opinion that he was & is a proper person to be intrusted w'th such a charge. I only mention these matters, lest your Ladyship shou'd suppose I had been intentionally inattentive or inimical to the foundation and not as matter of complaint, very far from it—Mr. Philips I believe knows by this time that his frowns or smiles are equally important to me & alike engage my attention, & that so far from it were he at any time to want any assistance in any thing that would further the Interest of the institution I would most chearfully render it—Your Ladyship will observe the Acco's are ballanced to the 1st Feb'y 1789 Mr. Philips about that time talked about a settlement, & they were then ballanced for that purpose & I did not think it necessary to make any alteration until a final one took place in



which I hope your Ladyship will find it convenient to direct in a short time and am w'th great respect  
 Your Ladyship &c &c &c

Savannah the —July 1790.

Nicholas Eveleigh, Comptroller of the Treasury  
 Sir

Yours of the 4th May last came to hand a few days ago unsealed containing a statement of my accounts with the United States which so far as I admit the charges are nearly right By my general Account rendered to Major Jno Pierce, there was a ballance due the United States exclusive of my pay and Rations from the 6th August 1777—to the 6th August 1782 and which was expended by me when the depreciation was from 5 to 1200 for one & upward Say—in the Old Emission.....196.262 46-90

There appeared on the examination of my Accounts the following Errors to the prejudice of the United States, on a Warrant in favour of Col'l Drayton ..... 5.000  
 on a do in favour of Wm. Prendergast in  
 No. Car'a Curr'y ..... 4.000  
 on a do in favour of Doct'r James Haig  
 April 1781 ..... 8.155 30-90

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213,417 76-90

making together two hundred & thirteen thousand four hundred & Seventeen Dollars and 76-90 due by me in that Emission—the Last mentioned Error, was in fact not one Major Habersham who acted for me during the Siege of Charleston had no more money by him when Doct'r Haig produced his Warrant then its the sum he payd him but expected to receive more & pay the ballance as above in a day or two, & which he was ready to do, but the Doct'r

never called for it and I believe the real truth was that its value was so trifling that he was indifferent about the War while it had any circulation, not less than two for one Continental, so that the specie Value of the 4000 dollars was very trifling at that time—my getting in debt to the United States was altogether latterly after that Period—————means in my power & in general did not stand in need of having money of my own sufficient to answer every purpose, in the Acco't I stated the Credit of the Old money at 700 for 1 & which I believe was more value than I received for it, & was what Mr. Pierce thought reasonable in No. Carolina & Virginia and where the Public business called you—at that time but principally the latter the real depreciation was intolerable in travelling, which tis more than probable you may have experienced, before I left Georgia the United States were generally in My debt as My Acco'ts will shew, during the whole time I was in the Service when I was Obliged to travel or be with the Army, I always found my own Horses & Servant, & therewith transported my book paper's & Money, never having put the United States to the Expence of Tent or Waggon & team and scarcely ever drew any Rations, & unless when in Camp or at Posts any Forage, and which was the smallest part of my time, being generally moving about on Public business, I observe 1650 dollars discount from my ballance as My nominal pay, & Mr. Pierce wrote me it was said I ought to have drawn it—there were two reasons why I did or cou'd not, the one was not knowing what my pay was, & the other that a considerable part of the time it was not in my power—& if it had 75 depreciated dollars at that time was too trifling a sum to pay any attention to on the Score of pay—I observe by the sum you mention as due from me in Old money that a Warrant for 129,100 dollars is still kept to my debt, this business I have fully explained before, & must Say that I am Surprised at the charge as there is no just foundation for

it the parties on whom twas drawn, the Commissioners of the C. loan Office in So. Car'a haveing never paid me or any person for me any part of it, nor have they charged the United States one farthing as paid in part of that Warr't & is the reason I say that I am surprised at the charge—I have never returned the Warr't tis true, & in times of tranquility & Order I grant I ought to have done so, but will any person say it was even possible for every person in Office to transact their business according to strict rule & for me during the different periods of distress and confusion in the several States in the late War it was ever my study as far as was in my power to pay the strictest attention to the Interest of the Public—Mr. Pierce was kind enough to say when I delivered up my Vouchers, that very few who had done business for the U. States to the extent I had, had secured them in their property better than I had done—the Warr't in question was drawn in favour of Mr. Gervais who indorsed it to me for so much Public Money I had left in his hands & for which I was responsible & that he had made use of as pay Master for the State on my receiving it I waited on the Commissioners for payment—they told me they had not money to take it up at that time on which I left it with them in confidence and for Safety and which I had frequently done before with other Warr'ts both on them and the Treasurers—this was just before the Siege of Charleston—after calling once or twice & they not being able to pay me I ask'd Mr. Blake (who happened to be in the Office at that time) to return it to me on which he told me it was not in his power as they had already packed it up & if I remember right sent it away with their own papers—I was no ways uneasy at his information relying on their integrity & knowing that as they cou'd have no Credit by me for it with the U. S. having paid no part of it to me, & that of course the U. S. wou'd have no Voucher to make any charge against me for any part—I gave myself no trouble concerning it—I was about carrying my family out of Town at that time,

and wanted to give the Warrant to Major Habersham who was there and Acted for me during my absence otherways I should not have called on them for it then—after I was informed that the Warrant remained to my debt altho I had acquainted the Treasury board with all the circumstances relative to it—I wrote to Mr. Blake reminding him of the business & requesting him either to send me the Warrant or a Certificate certifying that I had received no part of it—after some time he replied to mine that he had searched their book carefully & could not find any charge against me nor was there any, & that there could none be made against me by the U. States, and acknowledged also that he remembered to have had the Warrant—this letter I inclosed to Mr. Pierce the 28th April 1787 and at the same time inclosed him 12 Setts bills Exchange amounting to 2800 dollars which Mr. Pierce by his letter to me of the 12 Sept'r following acknowledged the Receipt of—I am surprised that they should still remain to my debt and the more so as it must be known that I had not, nor could not receive any thing for them—I tendered them to General Green when I resigned my Office and again to Mr. Pierce when he received my Vouchers, but they both declined receiving them, expecting I believe that I might be able to negotiate them in part of the pay due me by the U. S.

The ballance by my Account due the U. States in Specie was £291..1..1½ No. Car'a Curr'y dollar's at 8/ but their appeared to be a short addition of £8 which brought it to £299..1..1½ equal to 747 58-90 as ₤ your statement—there was also a ballance of 35-90 Specie of the new Emission—these are all the sums due by me to the United States against which their is 5 Years Salary due me & Rations, Mr. Pierce informed me I was intitled to 75 dollars Specie ₤ month & 6 Rations ₤ day but in the Account delivered in I charged only 5 in order to make all allowance for what I had casually drawn which I am tolerably certain would be far short of that allowance—I charged the rations

a 10-90—inclosed is a statement of My Account with his as well as the stating of my Account as to pay I did by Mr. Pierces directions—United States ballance due me thereby exclusive of interest 4460 88-90 and with the interest thereon to this day a 6 ¢ Cent—£2141 22-90—is 6602 20-90 this I hope will be allowed me it is no more than equity especially to such of us in this State who have suffered very heavy losses by the War and of course owe considerable sums of money & for which by the laws of our State are obliged to pay 8 ¢ Cent ¢ Annum—this is my case and every farthing of this ballance has cost me that because if when, or as it became due I wou'd have paid it to those I am indebted to, and thereby saved that Amount in Interest—there was also a charge of £300 said to be over added in My Acco't for October 1778 No 7—this Acco't I transmitted in December 1778 & it got to hand—no notice was taken of any Error in it that came to my knowledge until 1788 near ten Years after the occurrences relative to it had passed away—I have looked over my book carefully, and cant find no such Error that I am rather of opinion it must be some Error in the figures. I have inclosed you an Extract of the debits & Credits as they stand in my books, which will enable you to point out where the Errors lays or to shew that there is none, & will be much Obliged for you to examine that Months Account and advise me and am with respect—

Savannah Sep'r 11th 1790.

His Excellency Charles Pinckney Esq'r

Dear Sir

I received yours ¢ General Jackson & two other of your favours prior to that to which shou'd have replied sooner but have been a principal part of my time in the Country & much engaged when in Town that I had not

an opportunity of making the necessary enquiries of the Collector of Taxes respecting the Tax Account you sent me & part of the time he has been out of the State which also occasioned some delay.—my Son went about 2 Months ago to the No'ward for his health from whence I expect he will return in Six or Seven Weeks not sooner at present it makes no difference in respect to suits because no suits have yet been commenced in the federal Court within this State nor is the Seal of the Court yet arrived at this time the district Judge and Attorney General of that Court are both to the No'ward—shou'd business commence in that Court sooner than my Sons return, I will advise you, that you may direct some other Gentlm of the Bar to bring the Suits.—

J. Clay.

Savannah 5th Nov'r 1790.

The Honble Wm. Few Esq'r  
Dear Sir

Expecting that the late treaty with the Creek Indians wou'd at least afford us more Security than we have enjoyed in the low Country for sometime past, & knowing hew much more agreable, as well as convenient it will be to the Indian Traders to carry their Skins to, & trade at Beards Bluff, than to Augusta, we have been induced to move our Indian goods again to that place, & which we are now doing at a very heavy expence as all the buildngs we formerly erected there are either destroyed or ruined during the late disturbances with the Creeks.

We have heard much of an exclusive trade being granted to Mr. McGillivray, but we see nothing of it in the treaty, and as the Constitution of the U. States is so pointedly against Monopolies, we conclude nothing of the kind has been attempted—indeed if he is to trade at all, he is a very improper person for a Superintendent, under

the British Government tho Superintendent of all the Southern Indians & his Deputies, were all strictly forbid carrying on any trade with them and very properly, because their business & Duty was to see equal Justice done between the traders, & the Indians, & the Indians & Traders as well as to support the dignity of the Nation, they represented nothing wou'd have proved more injurious, than to have allowed them to be in a situation than on any occasion they might be Parties, instead of Arbiters—

By the Act for regulating the trade & intercourse with the Indians, we observe no person is to trade or hold intercourse with the Indians without having a license from the President or Superintendent or some Person authorized by the President for that purpose, which I think may be right enough—Our business is always with the Traders, who bring their Skins & purchase goods, & where we have any faith in them they some times have them on a Credit but laterly many Indians and half breeds have become Factors, and some of them are very respectable as such, and are possessed of very considerable property trading with such persons might subject us to the letter tho' not to the Spirit of the law, if we have no license—and it may sometimes happen that Indians may come to the landing with Skins for Sale, which you must either purchase, or send them away discontented w'ch is always disagreeable and might prove injurious to our House and it might also subject us to censure from envious individuals, to avoid which 'tis our desire to take out a license—it does not appear that Mr. McGillivray is as yet empowered to give Licenses to trade—under the British Government the Superintendants never granted nor any persons but the Governors—he gave temporary Permits which answered the purpose untill they came down & renewed their licenses and gave bond anew—if Mr. McGillivray is empowered to grant licenses the distance we are from here so great & the communication so seldom that it may be a long time before we may have an opportunity of applying to him & if he

does now or intends to carry on trade on his own Account 'tis reasonable to conjecture if any obstacles or delays can be thrown in the way of those who wish to trade in the same way that will happen—if he his————— no other person in this State is that we know of for w<sup>ch</sup> reason we must take the liberty of requesting the favour of you to obtain a license for us in the name of William Clark & Co. as he might not always be at the Store by being in the name of the Comp<sup>y</sup> the Clerks of the House wou'd be authorized to Act under it—any Expences attending it we will remit you as soon as known under the British Government the Price of a license was from about 30/ to 60/—they were then only for a Year—by the Law of the U. States they may be granted for two Years which we shou'd prefer to one Security for 1000 Dollars is required—we wou'd also esteem it a favour if you wou'd do us the favour to be ours I trust we shall put you to no inconvenience by so doing—our line in that business is quite out of the way of irregularities nor was, it ever required, nor was it usual for mercantile houses supplying Traders to take out licences—but as Indians are many of them of late Years become factors, our Store being in the line of the Indian hunting grounds, they may individually sometimes straggle in & we wish as far as in our power to avoid censure & to comply with the law in its strictest sense—I am inform'd that formerly those who took out licences had always the Names of their Pack Horse Man & all the white Persons employed by them indorsed on the back of the—————that may be necessary, & if so the following are the Names of the White Persons that will be employed about our House as Clerks, Hose Keepers, & Patrooms, George Irvine Hull, Jas. Barnard, Isaac Lagardere, Thomas Morgan, William Cousin & John Anderson—

The Indian treaty makes much noise amongst us, & people have various opinions about it, I scarcely ever knew any matter so generally objected to, & yet, in which the people disagree so much in their objections Our legislature



I expect at their present sitting will take the business up and I hope and believe they will do it decently & firmly tho' we have heard nothing from them as yet, and therefore tis rather difficult to form an opinion of the Temper of the house some are very violent but my Idea is that a Majority will be temperate—for my own part I think the treaty will do the State more good than harm, but if reports are true, I think the State has been treated very indelicately in the mode of concluding it—I always looked on the Cession claimed by us from the Indians, as on a very weak foundation, because I was allways well inform'd 'twas only a part of the Nation, & that the Minors who agreed to the Cession, and therefore I concluded if ever a fair investigation took place, the claim of the State was never fairly investigated but Mr. McGillivrays assertion was admitted without the State being heard or her Senators or Representatives being either consulted with or enquired of—this can't be justified, we were in the full possession, & therefore ought not to have been dispossed without being heard the meanest Wretch in the U. States is intitled to a hearing much less a State—the Next Question is the right of territory..... as actually supposed to be the boundary of the Province when we confederated infringed on it is it not—we gave no part of our territory away, occupied or unoccupied, when we associated the Congress of the U. States, can claim nothing either rationally or legally, on any other ground—is our right preserved by that clause that relates to pre Emption, or is it not—these are the principal matters of objection; their are several others—for my own part we entered into the Union to preserve our rights & privileges & tho' I shou'd be assured any attempt to preserve them wou'd be fruitless, I wou'd make the attempt tho I shou'd be assured of Perishing in the so doing—I consider that every thing we gave by the Constitution to Congress, they may freely exercise and no more—what we did not give remains where it was before the Constitution took place, however for

my own part I am for preserving Government & order—  
let every step be taken to preserve Temper decency and  
extremes of any kind, & at same time let moderation and  
every thing that good sense & a due respect for the federal  
Government take place and be predominant before any ill  
tempered or Passionate dispositions are suffered to have  
any weight—I am with regard & respect

Dear Sir

Yours &c

J. Clay.

Savannah the 5th Nov'r -1790.

General Cotesworth Pinckney

Dear Sir

I wrote you in August 1789 respecting our debt to Mr. Stead—I have also wrote Mr. Stead two or three times respecting that & some bills exchange which were unaccounted for but never had the pleasure of recieving a line from you or him on the subject this has given both Col'l Habersham & myself uneasiness as well as placed us in a very disagreeable situation & the more so as twas both our wishes to communicate freely with you or him on the subject & if any eligible mode had Pointed out to have exerted ourselves to have reduced our debt by every means in our power as soon as possible.

A short time past Mr. Saunders call'd on me with a Message from you that you had heard we intended to pay our debt to the Public of Georgia, that if we did you wou'd put our bonds in suit & make us pay you over again or nearly to that purpose for I must own I was so much surpris'd at the Circumstance that I did not attend very minutely to what he said nor cou'd I but feel it as very indelicate treatment & the more so as we had but a very short time before given the most unequivocal demonstration in our Power of our determination to do every

thing that we cou'd to avoid having any thing to do with the Public respecting the business & to—————

—————a Citizen of the United States we had been cited by Public notice & after that Supposed by the Auditor to render an Account of all moneys due by us or in our possession that we owed to any of the subjects of Great Britian on the 10 April 1790—Our connection w'th Old Mr. Stead was a maker of notoriety here & perfectly within the Auditors own knowledge & which he hinted to us, & we inform'd him that we had liquidated our Debt w'th Young Mr. Stead who we believed was an acknowledged Citizen of the States & that therefore we shou'd not consider our debt to him as within the law alluded to-- there the matter now stands and I believe it remains w'th the Legislature at their present sitting to determine what further steps shall be taken in the business as tis generally supposed tis a subject that will be brought before them before their consideration—Mr. Pendleton from whom we are intitled to receive a large sum for moneys due myself & Co. produced to us a Receipt from you for sundry obligations promising to become them in part of our bond to Mr. Stead this was brought about at our instigation as you cou'd but know & might have served to convince you that we cou'd not have any desire to pay the Public, because we cou'd not be supposed to set so little a Value on our property as to be desirous of paying you and the Public also or that we cou'd ever have it in our power We have Judgements against Mr. LeContes Estate for near £2500 Sterling & which by private agreement we consented to wait four Years for—Mr. Pendleton mentioned to us he expected to have Property in your State shortly which he wou'd apply in payment of these demands if we cou'd make them answer our purpose in which we inform'd him that if he cou'd negotiate the business w'th you so as to obtain us a Credit in part of our bond to Mr. Stead 'twou'd be the most agreeable payment to us—we cou'd say no further on the subject because we did not know that you wou'd

receive bond or Notes or what else you wou'd receive in payment never having received a line from you on that subject—I don't know on what terms you received those papers but if you take them at par I presume he has the advantage—however what is agreeable to you we are satisfied with—When Mr. Pendleton came from Caro he determined on going to the No'ward immediately & he also informed us that since he had lodged those papers with you, he had entered into some further engagements by which means he expected to have a further sum in your hands, or that he cou'd place there, & that if we cou'd pay some Moneys for Mr. LeContes Estate he wou'd take to settle as much with you for us, to w'ch we agreed if in our power but I am afraid we shall not be able to do much that way as he confin'd us to two Persons only the one a Resident in Car'a (where if we had money we cou'd as easily pay it to you) & the other here & who has also a Judgement against the Estate—if we had been at liberty to have settled every sums among the Creditors at large, we might have by discounts brought several sums round, if we can accomplish any thing further we shall certainly do it—during the existence of our paper Money twas not in our power either to collect or make settlements that being now done away, it is a business we shall pursue as fast as Possible, but such is the situation of the People of this State & more especially those who resided in it before the War that vigorous measures will frequently be very imprudent & often tend, to occasion the loss of a Debt, as 'twill drive some to get rid of their property by making it over, selling, confessing Judgements to cover, & various other measures to keep off their Creditors, where this is to be apprehended we are endeavouring rather to induce those who are indebted to us, to give us security for the Amount & allow them such time as they think they can pay in, & even with those who we have the utmost confidence in. I know our Debts to be as secure as possible, we shall be oblig'd to allow them time & to receive partial payments—others we

are oblig'd to receive lands from, some that have been cultivated & others that have not—we have now two or three that have considerable improvements on them, that are not more than 10 or 12 Miles from this Town on Little Ogechee, besides two or three tracts Souherly unsettled that we have been oblig'd to receive in Payment, those are circumstances unavoidable, and such as have naturally arose in this State from its peculiar unfortunate situation during the War, & such as the most prudent and Industrious Men cou'd not escape—it has been a Public calamity & as such every one who has an Interest or rather who had an Interest among us in those times have partaken—on this Ground it is that we wou'd again Urge you or Mr. Stead to receive part of your payments in such lands as we are oblig'd to receive & that only on such terms as shou'd be thought perfectly reasonable, in many instances this has been done in the payment of Old Debts—& in some intire payments have been made in that way—the property is growing more secure every day & will become valuable and more especially in the part of our State, which has scarcely had any security since the War until lately—We cou'd offer many equitable reasons in support of this Proposition wou'd the usual limits of a letter admit of it & twou'd probably be in the end rather a debt discharged than an inquiry—wou'd assure you tis our desire to get out of debt that prompted us to prefer this mode, if our circumstances wou'd admit us to Keep all our lands, without injury to others we shou'd not feel their were any burthen on his lands at any rate you wou'd suffer far, very far short of what we have and shall do even if our most sanguine present expectations are answered—in regard to our Debts—we presume from your receiving these obligations from Mr. Pendleton, that you will be as willing to receive others from us, but we shou'd wish to be inform'd from yourself—we shall not desire you to receive any that are doubtfull—by giveing indulgence in point of time as to Payment on their paying Interest we have no doubt 'twou'd

not be long before we shou'd be enabled to make you very considerable payments & of which we shou'd always advise you before hand for your approbation we hope to have your concurrence to our propositions as we think taking every thing into consideration they are not unreasonable, admitting that in this way some property might for time lay dead, yet there is a probability of an increased Price when a Sale takes place, & if not it is not unreasonable to expect, that between Debtor & Creditor for debts contracted before the War difficulties & losses shou'd be shared—the determination of the Legislature respecting these matters we suppose will be known in a few days, if the subject is (as tis said 'twill be), agitated by them, shou'd that be the Case and they shou'd determine on any steps against us respecting Mr. Steads Debts—we shall advise you Mr. Pendleton has promised a discount between 5 & £600 more than the amount lodged in your hands, & which wou'd have been settled before this had I not been unwell, the principal part of the time since he returned, & Col'l Habersham generally at his plantation We have near £200 Sterling if not more due us by one Wm. McGowen on his own account & in the———— Josephs who has removed from our State to yours somewhere on Santee near Nelsons Ferry, tho' I have heard that he had got to Pedee—I received a letter from him sometime ago but it was not dated from any Place, he made very fair Promises of payment & offered us as he says a very valuable tract of land on North Newport Swamp, & if I am not mistaken lays directly in front of Mr. Steads land there, & which Old Mr. Stead empowered me to buy for him, but they wou'd not accept the Price he was willing to give & the matter dropt—if you can learn where he resides, woud be obligd to you to inform us we wish to put

his & his brothers Obligations in suit and if agreeable to you wou'd send them to you for that purpose—We are also inquiring as we have Opportunity—We have every reason to believe he is able to pay his own & brother Joseph's Debt as we understand they have several Negro's among them—I am w'th respect

D'r Sir

Your most Obed Serv—

Joseph Clay.

General Pickney

Savannah the 13 Nov'r 1790.

W. Wm. Cowper

D'r Sir

I wrote you a short time past respecting your State and loan office certificates since w'ch our Commissioner of loans has received orders from the Treasury to receive all loan Office Certificates and to transmit them to that Office giving to the Parties who deliver them a Certificate describing particularly the Certificate paid in their sums, dates &c—the proper Cheques being lost they give as one reason for this mode to prevent imposition and tis presumed that so soon as they have undergone examination some provision will be made for them—I therefore thought it proper to give you this information, that if you desire it I may return yours & take the Commissioners certificate for them in order that the originals may be transmitted to the Treasury for Examination—you will therefore direct as you think proper and am w'th respect

D'r Sir

Your most Obed Serv

J. C.

Savannah the 13th Nov'r 1790.

Mr James Ryan  
Dear Sir

I received two of your favours since my last also as many from Mrs Sharp—were I capable of withholding Mrs Sharps ballance & at same time have it in my power to discharge it with the least degree of convenience to myself I shou'd undoubtedly be blameable but be assured Sir that is not the Case—few Men before the War had more resources at their command in proportion to my property & Trade than myself & wou'd be the Case even at this time if I cou'd command my debts, in w'ch my Resources principally lay and w'ch from a depreciatted Paper Currency w'ch has been in circulation and a trader in law this five Years past they have been in a manner lockd up it has been done away about two months and I am in hopes shall in a short time do better but so much have I been injured from not being able to collect my debts that I have been obligd to decline all business this four Years past for no other cause & if I had not a Plantation I cou'd not have supported my family tho I have at least due myself and partners thirty thousand Pounds Sterling for debts contracted before & since the War—however all this is nothing to the present business—if I had not failed in water to beat out my last Years Crop Mrs. Sharp wou'd have received her full ball'e What was sent I don't know that I saw one barrel of it opened it was out of a large Parcel none of w'ch I ever heard either before or since was found fault with—I expect to begin to beat out in a few days & it has been my full intention to Remit this ballance out of the first Property I cou'd command for that Purpose—if opportunity offers and I can by any means make it out I shall try to remit it so as to be with you before the River closes and am w' respect &c

Yours J. C.



Savannah 19th Nov'r 1790.

Mr Nalbro Frazier

Dear Sir

When Cap Burroughs sailed from this for your Port I was so much indisposed that I cou'd only inclose you a duplicate of our Aff'd and respecting the bill of Exchange or I shou'd have given you some information respecting the bills purchased by—————

to them for them I feel no uneasiness on this subject—Bunner sailed on———— & our employ in a Brig called the Georgia Packett w'ch said Brig and conjoint property as well as the Cargo on board—just as she entered in our River I believe in Feb'y or March 1776 she was taken by a British Man of War & detained some time at Tybee When I understood they were about going away having every reason to believe that Capt. Bunner was destitute of money or at least in great want of it—& that probably for want of resources he might not be able to claim the Vessel & Cargo w'ch I had desired him to do whenever he got to a Port where the Vessel shou'd be libelled (the same being regularly cleared out from New Castle in Delaware to Savannah these Ports being excepted in the Act of parliament w'ch prohibited Commerce from any other of the Colonies now States) twas not in our power to send him Specie & therefore under this consideration I wrote to Capt. of a Merchantman for whom we had disbursed a considerable sum & who then lay at Tybee requesting him to draw a bill on his owner for £50 in favour of Bunner not choosing to draw myself at that time if I cou'd help it w'ch he readily complied with & gave Bunner a Sett of bills for that sum—the Scarborough M of War & our Brig & I believe one or two more proceeded from Tybee for Halifax—on their way our Brig was retaken by the Rhode Island Gallies & carr'd up to Providence where C: P: went claimed & bought her in again as our Acc't will shew Bunner soon made his escape & got back to your City.

D'r Sir Your most Obed Serv J. C.

Savannah 29th Dec'r 1790.

Mr. Nalbro Frazier  
D'r Sir

Your favour of the 15th Ulto came to hand a few days ago advising me that the referrees between us and Mr. Bright had finally adjusted that business, & found a ballance in favour of Jos Clay & Co. of.....£398..11..5 and of me ..... 283..17..8

682.. 9..1

and you wish me to advise you as early as possible, wether we will abide by their determination or attempt to set it aside—tho' the ballance awarded is far short of my expectations, yet I have no doubt the Referees thought it the full sum we were intitled to, & we must hold ourselves under obligations to them for the great trouble they have taken in the business—the delay has been particularly unfortunate for us, as I shou'd suppose there is no Interest allowed us on these ballances, while we have been paying an Interest of 8 % Ct % Annum (the legal Interest here) for that Amount, for want of it to discharge ballances we owe, while Mr. Bright has had the use of our Money without any compensation not having any Statement of the business we can form no opinion or have any Idea on what principles the Arbitrators settled the ballances, or wether they are awarded, as the whole ballances to be paid us by Mr. Bright, or are exclusive of the ballances acknowledged and charged by him % his Acco't Curr't rendered before our dispute was submitted to a reference—if the latter is not the Case, the ballances awarded to me is very unaccountable, by his Account rendered to the 20th March 1784 he acknowledges a ballance due me of £536..13..8½ your Currency—my Son received from him about £100—and I don't recollect wether your E. & F. received any thing from him on my Account (and my books are not at hand just now to refer to) I never understood he pretended any claim against me on my private Aco'ts I am sure I have not been

furnish'd with or inform'd of any, nor has he any in law or equity—I made several claims on him, & such as in my opinion were very just ones, if they were disallowed my ballance shou'd not be lessened, even without any Interest being allowed me—but that he shou'd be allowed to keep my money so many years without any compensation does not appear to be very equitable—I shou'd have drawn the whole of it into your late house (C & F) hands, seven Years ago, & have had the Use of it since that period if he had not refused to Pay it, as your late J. C. or C & F (I don't recollect which) wrote me, & at same time informing them that as I disputed his (Mr. Brights) Accounts he was advised by his Attorney not to pay me any further sum of the balance he had acknowledged to be due me ¶ Accto't Curr't rendered by him I will be much obliged to you to obtain for us a Copy of the Accounts as settled by the Arbitrators—as to endeavouring to obtain further redress: unless any thing shou'd appear in the Statement of the Accto'ts to excite us to such a measure it is not the present intention of Col'l Habersham or myself—Mr. Bright has had the Use of our Money 12 or 13 Years and tis uncertain wether we cou'd obtain any advantage from it unless the one or the other of us cou'd be on the spot to support & give the necessary proofs as they might be wanting to inforce our demands 'twou'd probably not avail, & if any great delay shou'd take place in bringing it to a close again—our being kept out of our Money and the additional trouble & expence cou'd not be compensated by any small difference—

We do not mean by these observations to insinuate that we are in the least dissatisfied with the referees or that any attention has been wanting in any or every part of this business very far from it, we dare say they have to the best of their Judgement & information endeavoured to do impartial Justice, & if we have failed in what we thought so, we attribute it to our not being in the way to illucidate & give every information, while our adversary

was on the spot for tho' we endeavoured as far as by letter we cou'd to State every thing clearly, yet its hardly possible to explain matters so clearly & forcibly in that mode, as by an immediate communication—I assure you it has always given me pain when I reflected on the great trouble you have had In this business & for which we return you our sincere thanks & am with regard & respect

D'r Sir

Yours &c

Mr. Nalbro Frazier

Savannah 20th May 1795.

Mr. Peter Schermerhorn

Dear Sir

The want of proper Schools & seminaries for the education of youth in our State lays us under the necessity of sending them abroad, for that purpose ☿ your brother Capt. C. Schermerhorn, I have sent my Youngest Son who has taken him under his charge during the Voyage, & I have to request the favour of you to receive him on his arrival untill he can be placed at School at Erasmus Hall on Long Island, & I shall hold myself under very great obligations if you will be good enough to inquire from time to time as opportunitys offer into his situation, health & general conduct, my son mentioned to Mr. Todd when he was with you last Summer, the probability of my sending Ralph to him this Spring, & he writes him ☿ this Conveyance—he (Ralph) has a Cousin (Alex'r Habersham) with Mr. Todd—I apprehend he woud wish to board with him unless he shou'd board with Mr. Todd I understand the Person who boards Alex, has no more, & Mr. Todd I presume has several, & if so his being with his Cousin wou'd be the most eligible, as well as the most agreeable to him—difference of expence between one place & another wou'd be no object with me—where they will be best

attended to, & well taken care of in case of indisposition, & where their Morals will be attended to, or at least where they will not suffer from bad example are material objects with me—I hope you'll excuse my freedom in this business—the anxiety for the Welfare & desire for the improvement of a Child can be more easily conceived than expressed, & I hope will plead my excuse—your brother will pay you one hundred dollars for the purpose of defraying his expences, Schooling &c & you may rely on my taking care to lodge further sums in time to defray all future expences, but shou'd it by any accident happen otherways, you may allways rely on a speedy reimbursement of any advances that may be made on my Account—he may some time hence have occasion for a little pockett Money—I wou'd allways wish lads according to their Years to have enough to keep them from the most distant temptation to meanness & at same time not enough to encourage them in folly or dissipation—I do not believe my son has a propensity to one or the other—his opportunitys for improvement have been very trifling, but his Morals are good & he is of a tolerable good disposition & orderly—I have only to request that you will excuse the freedom I have taken in troubling you with this business respecting my Son and am, with regards

D'r Sir

Your mo: Ob. Serv

J. Clay.

Savannah the 7th Feb'y 1792.

His Excellency Edward Telfair Esq'r

Dear Sir

You have doubtless heard long before this of Mrs. Elberts death—I have been employ'd this two or three days in arranging and Stating the several Accounts against the Estate in which we are interested or concerned—in his life

time he furnished me with an Account against the Owner of Capt. Raines for 1/15 of the Sloop General Gates bo't by him of Capt. Lapena—I remember something of his pressing us to take a part of his share in her & something of our agreeing to it tho' imperfectly—however as no further information can be had or inquiry made I have stated the Acco't & credited the Estate with my fourth & yours Amount with Interest to the 1st February say Ins'e £63..19..7¼ Sterling each Share that is so much by you & the same sum by me together £127..19..2½ I presume this will meet your approbation—inlosed you have a Copy of the Statement & I shall be glad to have your opinion respecting the business as soon as convenient in examining these matters I came across a statement of the Voyage of the Sophia & Friendship in the hand writing of some of your Clerks which fully illucidates the business of Bugg & Walton—a Copy of which you have herewith, as also of Bugg and Walton's Acco' Curr't with Owners which I found in my own hand writing by which a ballance of £149..6..9½ is stated as due them—& by the Statement of your Acco't with Owners it appears you assumed that ballance & you are credited therewith accordingly say the sum of £14..6..9 as paid or to be paid by you to Jno Walton—this Will enable you to clear up finally to Mr. Watkins that business & remove all his objections to setling C. T & Co. Acco. with that Estate—which will be obliged to you to do as soon as possible.

I am endeavouring to get Marburrys Judgement into my hands if 'twill require a considerable advance to do it, however if I can accomplish it 'twill enable me to proceed with ease two or three days will bring things round so as to fix on some mode or other—Mr. Burke claims 27 Negroes as the property of his Wife's & Betsey & some of the lands the two Boys appears to be without the smallest provision—I wish any thing may be saved for them—if no other mode presents I woud propose that we each make some small sacrifice towards establishing a small fund for

them—however at present nothing can be agreed on with any certainty—I am with regards & respect

D'r Sir

Yrs &c

Jos. Clay.

Savannah 25th Sep'r 1792.

His Excellency Ed: Telfair Esq'r

Dear Sir

By Mr. Hulls Account it appears the Citizens of the United States are almost outlawed in the Creek Nation, and that were it not for the influence of some individuals among & with the Indians, 'twou'd hardly be safe to go among them in the way of trade—the Spaniards who we suppose & say are far behind the Neighbouring nations in policy & commerce act much wiser than we do, at least in Indian affairs—they fix a superintendent of Commissary among the Indians in their Nation, where he ought to be—he talks of his Catholic Majestys subjects, and that he must protect them & this I believe within our own territory, & if Mr. Hulls information is good, & he speaks very positively, he is not backward in doing us as a Nation, and this State in particular, every ill office—and he says further that its said this very Man has been not long past stirring up the Northern tribes against us—I shou'd suppose the necessity of our having a proper representative in the Nation, must soon impress every part of our government—We have nothing new, our town is healthier than usual at this Season, & tho' we have had more shipping than common at this time of the year the Sailors have not as yet suffered so much as they often do however we are as yet only over a part of the sickly season—our harvesting has gone on tolerably for some days & still continues, at the beginning 'twas very unfavourable for the early planters—I am with respect

D'r Sir &c &c

J.C.

Savannah 24th Oct'r 1792.

Jacob Waldburgher Esq'r

Sir—

Inclosed are our several Accounts against the Estate of the Rev'd Mr. Zouberbuhler from the time they were laid before the Executive by orders of the legislature, and examined by the Auditor to the 15th Ins. ballance then due £1817.1.0 the Interest makes a considerable addition to the former ballance and will continue to do so untill discharg'd we woud wish to have the Accounts closed & placed on some certain footing so as to remove all difficulties in future to which end we shall be ready to concur in any reasonable plan that may be proposed for that purpose, and am,

Sir Your mo: Obed't Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Savannah the —March 1793.

The Hon'ble Anth'y Stokes Esq.

D'r Sir

I received your obliging favour of the 12th May 1791 inclosing Dr. Irvines of the 25th June I have not the least doubt but that all the facts there stated are strictly true—but unfortunately they do not afford me the smallest prospect of redress on this side—so far from it, that added to the large sum I lay out of I am threatened with a suit by Mrs. Vandyke, for an overplus which she says their land sold for more than the debt they were sued for, this is very unpleasant tho' I am not apprehensive of any ill consequences arising from such a Suit, and I am of opinion she will not bring it, because I do not believe she can give a very satisfactory Acco't how she came by the bond, at least she never wou'd afford me any when I applied to her—from the Survivors of Wood or any one Else I can't obtain any intelligence that leads to



any advantage, & I have not been sparing in my researches for that purpose Altho' Mr. Wood used my Name in that business I never considered him as my Attorney, or under my direction, but though you, nor did he ever do any business for me that I recollect—Mr. Young you may remember was my attorney, and did all my business, and probably 'twoud have been fortunate for both of us if he had conducted this—Mr. Wood was a Young man you appeared to have a predeliction for, & you put the business into his hands, and as I did not consider myself in any way responsible, I never interfered, presuming that you alone was liable for any consequences, my Name being only used at your particular request and which your letters fully express & therefore I suffered you to conduct all matters respecting it as you thought most for your Interest & Security—my personal regard for you wou'd always induce me to do every thing that wou'd promote your Interest and avoid every thing that wou'd injure it or even hurt y'r feelings but my losses have been so exceeding heavy in consequence of the Revolution join'd to the many obligations which as a Merchant I was liable to, & which as far as in my power I must & will fulfill, compel me to look for every resource I am intitled to, to enable me to do so this among many others I conceive to be one that I am in justice intitled to and that if I can't obtain it by any other means that you in honour & law are bound to bear me harmless—'twas no matter of mine or had I any interest therein I entered into it at yr request & under y'r indemnification & to oblige you & which as I before observed is very fully stated by yrself—I have sought for every resource or information in this Country, without effect, which obliges me to apply to you for reimbursement—at foot is a Statement of the bond, & inclosed is one of the bona fide debt due to me without any charges, being thereby £211..8..6 Sterlg I hope you will be able to point out some mode by which I may without ill convenience be reimbursed, or if I can't be immediately paid, that I may

have it secured to be paid in some future reasonable time,  
and am with great regard & respect

D'r Sir

Yr mo: Obed—Humbl Serv't

Jos. Clay.

Bond dated 16th May 1771 for Int....	£183..19..8	
Int. on do deducting 3½ Years		
to the 1st March 1793.....	268..12..1	452..11..9

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I suppose the above must have included  
Exchanges law fees &c

Savannah 1st Feb'y 1793.

The Honb'le Charles Cotesworth Pinckney Esq'r

Dear Sir

A short time past Mr. Young delivered me your favour of the 5th Oct'r last—I have made every search for papers respecting the debts of Rae & Somerville, but have found none—I know that I had them, but I believe must have delivered them to Mr Wm. Young deceased, who with Mr. Jno Houstoun prosecuted the suit against that concern to Judgements; or I must have left them in Georgia when the British drove us out of it, as I did a great number of my own papers & books, all of which were destroyed or lost unfortunately the most of Mr. Youngs papers shared the same fate, his were moved out of the Town to a plantation at some distance, but that did not save them.—I believe sufficient proof of the Judgement then obtained can be found, so as to establish the debt—Mr. Young thinks, at least he says so, that he shall not suffer for the want of those papers, having ample proofs in his possession without those—I am very sorry our prospects with the McGowen's is so indifferrent they were generally supposed.

responsible people formerly—some valueable land of theirs have been attached in this State a short time past—

We are very sensible you and the other heirs of Mr. Stead have not been pressing hitherto and 'tis more than probable, it has been full as beneficial to you and them, as to us, as your security for payment has thereby been increased and that intirely from our exertions & Industry since the War—our losses in various ways during that period, and from the consequences thereof, exceeded the sum we owed Mr. Steads Estate—the property we remained possessed of at the end of it, was principally inactive, and outstanding debts, the latter which were very considerable, have diminished far beyond our hopes & expectations, many of the parties indebted to us from the same causes, say from the general one, the War, have been rendered unable to pay us, some altogether, others in part, & from others we have been obliged to receive inactive property, say lands or get nothing, & several are dead & others gone intirely off—these circumstances places the burden very unequal, and that arising not from any failure neglect or extravagance, but from a public calamity w'ch neither prudence or exertion cou'd foresee or prevent—certainly debtor & Creditor as far as reasonable, shou'd share those ill conveniences between them—if compensation for losses, had been afforded to American Citizens, as has been allowed by the British to their Loyalists, the case wou'd be altered but as the matter now stands, it may be said without deviating from the truth, that a large part of the losses of individuals in the Southern States have fell upon the Merchants who traded to Great Britain before the Warr, there is no doubt but many other individuals have also sustained very heavy losses, but none in so great a proportion as they very generally have, 'tis equally true and must be allowed that the British Creditors have also suffered considerably from their debtors being unable to pay them, but that does not lessen the weight of those who suffer on this Side for my own part I had been several years carrying on business

with success before I had any connection with Mr. Stead of consequence, & that for several Years with equal success, say untill the War put a Stop to our Commerce, and I am now, & have been for upwards of Ten Years past, toiling & exerting myself (& that I may say in my latter days & with a large family) for no other purpose but to make up the losses of others as well as our own, & to enable ourselves to discharge those obligations we contracted before the Revolution—I mention these Circumstances as the causes that have prevented our progressing so much in the discharge of our debts to Mr. Steads Estate as his heirs cou'd have wished or we have most ardently desired—If landed property had not have been of so little value among us since the War, or it had been so that we cou'd have disposed of it for moderate prices, or that we cou'd have received it in payment & paid it, or only a part of it away in the same manner 'twoud have enabled us to have lessened our debt before this—but it has been otherways, the great cessions of territory our State has obtained since the Peace the very considerable diminution of Slaves to cultivate our lands in the low Country—frequent Alarms from the Indians, & many other circumstances have tended to keep it down—things begin to look up a little, but 'twill be sometime before they come to their old standards.

Under all these advantages both Col'l Habersham & myself have been constantly engaged in measures to increase our ability to make payments to you, & though we have not been so successfull as we cou'd wish, we hope we have been & still are endeavouring to lay such a foundation as will carry us through & enable us to do Justice to you & all who have a right to expect it from us—Major Pendleton had promised to make a further payment to you for us of about £2000 this last Summer, & he still flatters us he shall bring it about, & we have actually entered into some engagements here for the purpose of making payments on his Account to that Amount—We also had a draft on Mr. Roger Saunders of your State for

between 2 & £300 which we were hopefull wou'd have also  
fell into your hands, but of this last we have no Idea of  
its being accomplished at this time, & have in consequence  
thereof recurred to the drawer—it is impossible for us to  
bring payments about but by these kind of modes, our  
property both in debts or otherways is scattered over the  
Country, and we must draw it in by every means in our  
power we consider it as unfortunate that we have had so  
little communication with Mr. Steads representatives, as  
we presume 'tis more than probable things might have  
come forward or have been brought about, that wou'd have  
been beneficial to them & us without injury to either, but  
that not being the Case we have been restrained in our  
efforts more than tis possible were for either of our  
Interests—We observe your hint as to doing as others do  
we believe there are very few who woud wish to oppress  
others without a cause, & we have always had that con-  
fidence in Mr. Steads representatives & it has been the  
spur to our exertions relying that they wou'd meet with no  
interruption \* \* \* \* \*











