

New york

14th June 1785.

Dear [Sir](#)

Your favor of the 29th, of Jan^y, which is the second only I have received from you since your arrival in Paris came to hand a few days ago. It would have reached me rather earlier; but I have been detained in virginia during the Months of April & May in making some small advances in the line of my profession previous to my leaving Congress. I saw your Brother [Peyton](#) & the most of your friends & have the pleasure of informing you they were well.

As to any great fund of public information you will scarcely expect it from this quarter. We have but little that is worth giving, but even that little it is imprudent to commit to paper but in Cypher:— I have every reason to suspect that your last letter had been opened before I received it. I cannot however forego the pleasure of informing you that I think that our Affairs on this side the Water begin to take a more favorable turn. Public credit is encreasing, & the fœderal Government begins to acquire some small degree of respect. Could we but rescue our Commerce from the restrictions to which it is subjected in several parts of Europe but more particularly in those of Great Britain, the effects would be immense.—

As to the policy or situation of particular States, removed at the distance you are I presume they hardly come within your view: under this presumption I shall but slightly mention to you two or three subjects which engross the Minds of the Citizens of Virg^a at present.— The Port bill as it is termed, I think had passed before you left America; it is one among several other things that seems to have given birth to a Spirit of Enquiry in the State of Virg^a that I think may be productive of future good. The Bill for instituting Courts^{^of Assize} has also become a subject of almost general discussion;— The laws for opening James & Potomack Rivers I make no doubt but you have heard of; the latter I presume will be began some time this summer.—

Believe me My dear Sir I shall not be inattentive to the Subject of the Postscript you enclosed. Indeed I had anticipated <----> <---->the request it contain'd very long before it came to hand. The only difficulty that will oppose itself on the first appointment of the kind that is made, will be the [Grandson](#) of [Doc^r. Fr. k^{ln}](#). & [Col^o Humphreys](#). The Character in which the first of these Gentlemen has long acted, & the one in which the latter was sent to Europe aided by an honorary engagement on the part of Congress to [Gen^l. Washington](#), to make some provision for him, will I expect be considered as giving them the first claim for preferment in that particular line. After this, a road will be opened for you, & be assured I shall^{^not} let an opportunity of serving you pass, during my continuance in Congress.

Several of my friends in virg^a enquired how long you would be absent from America & whether I conceived you would return in time to succeed either [Monroe](#) or Myself in the appointment we hold at present.— Adieu My dear Sir, I shall write you with as much punctuality as I can: but the Missing of a single opportunity or two you must not attribute either to a diminution of friendship, or a disinclination to correspond— The business of Congress & some Measures which I am taking preparatory to settling myself very much engross me. Once more adieu

[SHardy](#)

PS: I forgot to mention that [Judge Dandridge](#) is dead & [Tazwell](#) succeeds him on the bench.—

PS:

I this day brought on the question of appointing a Minister to The Hague; merely to collect the sentiments of Congress relative to foreign appointments in general. The views of Gentlemen on this subject appear various indeed. Some are for having Ministers plenipotentiary at the ^{several} Courts of Europe.— others are against adding to the number of those already appointed. Some are decided on the propriety of appointing a Secretary to each (Minister) as a secretary to the Legation) so soon as they become fixed at the different Courts where they, are to reside: & others are averse to such appointments on the ground of the Economy & a supposition that private Secretaries only will be sufficient.— With an Eye to this particular business I some time ago advocated the appointment of a Secretary of Legation to the Court of London. And on its being very easily carried did conceive the principle so well established that my surprise was great at the Opposition it has now indirectly met with.— But whatever may be the System I shall act for you as under similar circumstances I should wish you to do for myself: I shall not risque a nomination without a pretty good ground of success, nor shall I omit any opportunity that appears to promise it.— Present my most friendly regards to [M^r Jefferson](#) & assure him that my not writing him arises only from a conviction that he has from Monroe every information which I could give him, & that too numerous a train of correspondents is rather a source of embarrassment than pleasure.—

SH.

Endorsement:

S. Hardy 14th. June

85

Ed. note: Short's to Hardy, to which this is a reply, has not been found.

Document Information

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[Hardy, Samuel](#)

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[Short, William](#)

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[Short, Peyton](#)

[Franklin, William Temple](#)

[Franklin, Benjamin](#)

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