

Wmsburg July 22¹⁷th 1785.

My dear [Short](#)

As I have not recd a line from you of a later date than Janry, I fear that my letters have miscarried, and, if they have miscarried, I fear that your suspicions of neglect still continue. This is the fifth that I have written since your arrival in France.— One was committed to the care of [M^r. Latill](#), who sent it by packet, under cover to [M^r. D^eBeaumarchas](#),— one was given to [B H](#) to be sent by him, and the others went by post— one of them[^] sent under cover to our friend [Monroe](#), and ~~&~~ another [Mr. Mazzei](#) took charge of, which no dout you have recd— Tho' scarcely any thing new has occur'd since my last, I am determin'd to write incessantly 'till I have it from under your own hand that you have received ~~some~~^a letter from me.

The ecclesiastical convention, which was meeting when I wrote last, in May, have published an address to the people, on the necessity of their exertions, & propriety of aid from government, for the support of religion—

The style is elaborate, tho' the sentiments are liberal— It goes so far as $\langle \dots \rangle$ to hint the possibility ^{^of}, and even a wish for, a coalition with other religious societies— However, altho' the difference among some ^{^sects}, as this address observes, is rather of form than essential, no coalition need be dreaded, as the nearer they approach, the more inveterate is their animosity— They are really like the assymptotes of the hyperbola— always approaching, and yet never meet— Such an event, if effected, would be highly dangerous, as an establishment would be the consequence.

The genl assessment will certainly be rejected in October. The bill has been published for the inspection of the people, and has drawn forth numberless remonstrances & instructions from the upper part of the country.

The inhabitants of Kentucky are now assembled in convention ^{^for} the second time. They have resolved about the right of com^mplaining of grievances,— the necessity of an executive in that country etc and to address the assembly for a seperate government— One of their resolutions respects the impropriety of nonresidents holding land ~~in that country~~ ^{there}—

This may affect you,— but, as it will be some [probable missing page] but [M^r. Oster](#) informs me that he is connected with a considerable house in France— He goes for an assortment of goods, which, I hope, will convince our countrymen that we may be supplied elsewhere than from England.

Remember ^{^me} with great respect to [Genl Chastellux](#) ^{^and} [Mr. Jefferson](#) and believe me

Yr's sincerely

[WmNelsonjr](#)

PS. I forgot to give you any information about my own plan.— I have resigned my seat in council, and have entered seriously into the practice of the law— [M^r. Tazewell's](#) business, I hope, will be a good introduction.

Aug^t. 10th 1785.

I left this letter unclosed, near three weeks ago, to make an excursion as far as Richneck (where [Col^o. ^W Cary](#) resides), and on my return was overset in a chair— I have been confined ever since, and unable to write without great difficulty— Today I got on horseback, and within a few days I have exchange'd two crutches for a stick— In short I am getting well fast, so that it w^d. not have been worthwhile to inform you of the accident—, except to account for not sending this letter and the papers by [M^r. Perens](#), who sail'd a few days since—. I enclose you a letter for Gen^l Chastellux which you will deliver This is consigned to the care of our friend Monroe, and I shall send the newspapers to M^r. Oster, who will take care that they have a passage in a vessel ^ which is to sail from York in a few days.—

ever y^r. fr^d—

WNjr.

Finding the packet was to sail on the 10th, M^r. Oster will send this from York—

WN

12th. Augt 85.

A late paper has announced a proclamation from the [Governor](#) of a state called “Franklin”— it is a self-created commonwealth in the count~~nties~~ties of N. Carolina mentioned above.—

WN

Inclosed is a letter from [M^r. Wythe](#) to M^r. Mazzei which he begs you to deliver or contrive to him— Remember me to him and tell him I expect to hear from him on his arrival—

Envelope:

The hon^{ble}

W^m. Short

at

Paris

Endorsement:

WNelson July 17. 85

Ed note: It appears the third page of this letter is missing. According to a postscript, matters discussed therein included the western portion of North Carolina, where the short-lived state of Franklin was established.

Document Information

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[Letter](#)

Author:

[Nelson, William, Jr.](#)

Recipient:

[Short, William](#)

All People:

[Latil, Joseph](#)

[Caron de Beaumarchais, Pierre-Augustin](#)

[Harrison, Benjamin](#)

[Monroe, James](#)

[Mazzei, Philip](#)

[Oster, Martin](#)

[Chastellux, François-Jean de](#)

[Jefferson, Thomas](#)

[Tazewell, Henry](#)

[Sevier, John](#)

[Wythe, George](#)

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