Passy, December 14th 1782.

Sir,

I received duly your several Letters of Sept. 24th, 28th and 30th, Oct. 1st, 5th and 7th, all by Capt. Burney, and Oct. 27th since. I immediately made the Application so strongly pressed by the Congress for a Loan of four Millions of Dollars. I annexed my Memoir the Resolves of Congress, with Copies and Extracts of your several Letters and those of Mr. Livingston on the subject; all of which appear to me extremely well written for enforcing the Request. I was at first told that it would be a difficult thing to furnish such a Sum at present, but it should be considered. It was much wondered that no Letters were brought by the Washington for M. le Comte de Vergennes, or indeed were come to the Secretary of War, M. de Segur, and to the Marquis de Castries Secretary of the Marine; and the next time I waited on the Minister, I was told that nothing could be done till the Dispatches from M. de la Sagne were received. I inquired of Capt. Burney who told me he believed M. de Forest had them, who left him to go for Paris by Way of Nantes. M. de Forest was a week or ten Days before he arrived at Paris; and he had not
the Dispatches. After a fortnight had thus passed, I went back to Barney, down to search for them in his ships; he there found them, and in about eight days more they arrived and were delivered. I have since continually pressed for a favorable answer; The Marquis de la Fayette has likewise been importunate, but we could only learn that there was yet no decision. The negotiations for peace were going on, and described the delay partly to the uncertainty of the event, which might make a less sum sufficient if it succeeded, or a greater necessary if the war was still to be continued. I believe, too, that the new loan made for the Government, but not ascertained, might occasion some suspension. But whatever are the causes, the fact is, that, to understand we are to be aided, I am still ignorant what the quantum will be, or when it can be obtained. I have detained Capt. Barney, hoping he might carry or part of it, but seeing that so very uncertain, the commissioners for the treaty here, urge me to send him away with the preliminary articles, and take some other opportunity of sending money when we get it. Perhaps we can make use of the alliance, when it is out upon a bribe.

Of the amount of Mr. Adams's Loan in Holland, I have no certain account.
account. He thinks it may be between 15 and 1700,000 florins. Mr. Grand has obtained Part of it to pay the interest of the Dutch Loan, which is done. But he will acquaint you better with the state of his funds than I can do. As to these he will state his accounts as you desire.

The shipping of the stores from Brest is wholly in the hands of Mr. the Barclay. He will likewise take care of those which are unloaded out of the three transports at Rochefort, that were to have gone with convoy in May last, and have been since been detained there unaccountably, which I did not know till lately.

The four Jamaica Ships brought in by the Alliance will furnish him with money for paying charges.

The accounts of goods bought to replace the Fayette’s cargo, having been sent you by several opportunities, I hope you have them before this time.

I am extremely glad to be freed from your money accounts, and the payment of Bills, and hope this will be last application I shall ever have to my friend.

In a former letter I requested you to be my attorney, to receive and remit my salary, which I now request. The friends of the Due de Lauzun, who is an officer in the French army, having occasion to send him some money, requested me to furnish Bills to oblig

them.
then I gave a Draft on you for six Thousand Livres, which I request you would have
and deduct the same out of my salary. I think Sir Grand should have some
general order to defy the contingent expenses of your Minister. I am concerned
that the Resolution of appointing a Person to settle all our Accounts in Europe
has not yet been carried into Execution. They certainly cannot so well be settled
in America, and I shall think it hard, after I am out of Place, to be detained here on
that account for years like poor unhappy Deane, who by the way is I think, is
that Respect hardly dealt with. Settlement of Accounts and Payment of just
Balance, is due even between Enemies.

I know not where the Virginia Stores lie. I will enquire, and acquaint
Mr. Barclay with your Resolution concerning them, which I think very
prudent.

Penet, who was employed by that State as an Agent to borrow Money
here, is broke and absconded. His creditors are all worrying me with
their complaints, who have nothing to do with his affairs. I have long
since mentioned the Inconvenience of the attempts of separate States
to borrow Money in Europe. They have hurt our Credit, and produced
nothing.
nothing; we have put faith in every adventurer who pretended to have influence here, and who when he arrived had none but what our appointment gave him.

I congratulate on the tokens of approaching Peace. I wish no thing may happen to prevent it. With sincere and great Esteem, I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient & most humble servant,

(Handwritten: B. Franklin)
