

Portsmouth 8th Nov: 1779 ²⁶² 79

Sir

I am Honoured with your favor of the 5th instant inclosing a copy of a vote appointing me a Delegate to represent this State in Congress the ensuing Year. — Nothing can be more flattering to me than a continuance of the Confidence of my Country, of which I Esteem this Act a Testimony that demands my warmest Acknowledgments.

My long absence from home has placed my private affairs in such a situation that my particular attention to them is absolutely necessary. I therefore hope I shall be excused for declining the Honour of a seat in Congress at least for the present.

I have the Honour to be with the
Greatest Esteem & Respect

Sir Your Most Obedient &
Most Humble

W^m Whipple

Forble Meshech Weare Esq

Genl Whipple's Letter declining

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged, yellowed paper]