as will amount to the Ballance you are to ask, it is not by any means the case, Should every farthing that is Owed, be collected, which you may easily suppose, is not to be expected, there will not be enough after my claim is Satisfied (which must first be before any thing can be remitted to his Creditors in England) to pay off the ballances due there by a considerable Sum — This you may depend on as a fact, let him Say what he will — Knowing this to be the case, I cannot possibly Suffer your Accounts to remain in the situation it is at present in — The Duty I owe my wife & Children as well as what is due to myself, renders it incumbent on me, to put what Property I have left, on as Secure a footing as possible. I wish not to put you or any other Man, to any unnecessary trouble and as to Politicks Swaying me either one way or the other I declare to God, in the Affair between us, it has not the least weight whatever. You may be assured, Notwithstanding any Suggestions to the contrary that may be thrown out by an artful & bad man, I am only actuated by a Desire of Defeating what I think an unjustifiable Attempt to withold my property from me And an Unwillingness to forego that Right which the laws gives me of securing myself for a large part of my paternal fortune, which that man most cruelly has withheld from me to this time —

There is not a man in the World more averse to going to law than I am, I never have recourse to it untill other methods fail — In the present Instance It would certainly be more pleasing to me, to have the Affair between us Settled amicably and without having recourse to the law, which however must be the case, If you still continue to contend the payment made to Mr Stevenson is binding upon Mr Randolph & myself and that nothing further is due from you to the late partnership of Stevenson Randolph & Cheston —

I shall be extreamly glad, If you could come to some Determination in a short time and as soon as that happens favor me with a line on the Subject

I beg my Compts to Mrs Page & Fam

D Sir Your Hble Servt

James Cheston

D Sir

Maryland July 2d 1783

I have now to acknowledge your much esteemed Favor of the 31st of January and the 13th of May. The former came to hand about a Month ago & the latter reached me within these 4 days. The kind expressions and Friendly Offers contained in them, particularly the first, adds still more to the Obligations, I shall always feel, you had before laid me under —

I did myself the pleasure of writing you, the moment, the proclamation of Congress for a Cessation of hostilities, opened a Door for the renewal of a Friendly Intercourse between both Countries. At so early a period, the Infor

mation