1775 JAN. 24, 28 STEVENSON & RANDOLPH TO JAMES CHESTON

Bristol 24 Jany 1775

Mr. James Cheston

Dear Sir

Herewith You have copy of what We wrote You the 16 Inst. via Packet, to which We beg leave to refer & wch We now confirm. this will be handed You by Capt Crawford of the Restoration who we have the pleasure to tell You delivered his Cargo in most excellent order & We should do Your endeavors great injustice were We not to tell You also the Wheat was by every purchaser thought to be the best & cleanest ever delivered here from America. We are promised the same price for the Williams Cargo when she arrives provided it turns out as good in quality but whatever may be the cause we know not but We are sorry to say it falls short in measure 252 bushls nothwithstanding Crawford saw every bushl measured himself the 3d Indian Corn also fell short upwards of 300 Bushls We could wish some method could be hit upon to remedy this great evil.

We have had a very large import both of Wheat & flour from America since the Snow arrived, however its being lower yet a while unless the very great glut We have been threatned with should drop in at once, the Worthington has brought a Cargo of 10000 Bushls wch is esteemd very fine, equal to the Snows but not so clean however its going off very readily at 7/ ⅌ bushl

You will observe what We last wrote You respecting Tob.o We have no reason to expect a declination in that article unless particular & unforeseen accidents shoud happen (such as great crops, the American Acts repealed wch at present does not wear the least appearance, or the planters going as has been reported out of the growth of that article) it has been observed ever that once in 7 Years many people make fortunes, the time seems to come round again those who can make purchases before it gets up wch must do great matters in the trade, We are therefore inclind to think You may now have it in Your power to do great matters, if You can put Your intentions into immediate execution wch We recommend also to be as secret as possible that Your agreements be permanent tho room to retreat, provided You can fix on the time of delivery & payment, from those who stand indebted to us for Goods We could wish You to agree for as much Tob.o as You can, & push it on board the first of our ships that may arrive with You, We need not repeat to You the necessity there is for drawing as much of our effects coming out of the hands of those who are indebted to us as You can, as there is no knowing what the consequence of our disputes with America may terminate in, We wish You may have it in Your power to agree for a paym.t in Tob.o