1778 March 2 William Randolph to Francis Jaudenon

I should not have ventured to have wrote you at this time but the hopes of a safe conveyance together from a letter I receid from Francis Jaudenon dated Philidelphia 23 Decr last wherein he gives some hopes of seeing you there in the Spring, from thence he has sent me an order for some goods to be shipd him for that place at the same time assures me he has settled and paid you every farthing due to our late concern which I mention for your Government but I shall not attempt any thing of the kind untill matters are finally settld and then I only purpose rotting myself in readiness with some small Vessell to send from £1500 to £2000 worth of Goods under the direction of the master till he can meet with you and in case of failure to Bartar his Goods for Tobo & Lumber the first Cargoes of which will come to a good Markett but the latter to a dreadfull one as I suppose you must have great Quantities in the Ware houses in which if you chuse to take a concern with me you will give me the earliest advice you can ——

The present offers made by the Premier will no doubt be a means of settleing the dispute either with or without Independency, in either case I hope some part of our debts may be recoverable and ships allowed to pass as usual in which case probably you'd have it in your power to make a considerable collection of Tobacco; if that should happen twill be our Interest to have it home as early as possible but how to advise you in this matter I am at a loss, I have a brig of my own now employed which will carry 400hhds & upwards which I intend sending out as early as possible should she be disengaged, but should she not, you will then say what must be done, your own discretion must then point out to you and I will be a Moiety concerned with you in any Vessel you may think eligible but I would not recommend one above 300 Hhds unless sufficient of the old Debts can be collected to load a larger which I am doubtfull off however Sir these are only circumstances that at present strikes me God knows what part of them may be practicable ——

I forgot to mention to you altho. your Br D.C promised to do it long ago that from a debt due from WS&Co. to Bush, Were & Bush which they had affirmd to you were within an ace of being outlawed and that there was no alternative left but that of my paying the Money down which was £827.14.0 as you will perceive in the account of Wm Stevenson &Co: this from the best advice I could get was absolutely necessary in order to preserve your Credit & your name from appearing in the publick prints however extraordinary it may appear to you or me appear it would inevitable been the case; your Br. D.C is now about this City but I fear by no means in away of improveing either the little money he has left or his Morals a hint I wish to Conbey to you for your Government ——

I now begin to flatter myself this unnatural & destructive War to both parties will by some means or other be put an end to but on what footing time only can discover but let the Measures intended to be pursued for so desireable an end be what they will I hope they will be permament & lasting and such a line drawn as will leave no room for future quarrells it cannot be the Interest of either America to do without England nor England well without America a discovery they have both by this time I hope fully made tho' at a Woefull & bloody experiment and what ever promises our perfidious Neighbours the French & Spaniards may have made them they would soon shake off and would no doubt in a little time was this Country to shake them off. ~~I would no doubt in a little time was this Country to shake them off~~ Also fall a sacrifice to their unparalelled perfidy may God avert the Blow and that we may again be united together with the strongest ties of Love & Affection till time shall be no more

I have most sincerely & truly felt for you & your good Lady tho' unknown during this unhappy contest but I flatter myself that period is near when both your troubles & my suspicions will subside, meanwhile both long live happy & may the wise director of all things bestow the best blessings on you & yours is the sincere wish of my family and who am

Dear Sir Your Affte Hble Servt

William Randolph

Copy via Irelanger a Newyork
1 Copy sent p the Lucy Oak } Do Philadelphia
1 do sent p Love & Unity }
1 do p Packett