your Excellency's Goodness will readily plead on my presenting you with such a scrawle & you may rely on my continuance to transmit you every circumstance worth relation. it is probable a second express will go off in two or three days when I shall address My Father & other friends and take the liberty to inclose them to your Excellency —

With my respectful Compliments to Mrs Lee & sincerest regard & esteem for your Excellency I have the honor to

[illegible]

Prog[ms] [illegible]

P.S. I changed my determination and have stopped my Father a few lines but as I have not given him all the particulars contained in this letter [illegible] may you can communicate of them to him

Dr Gen[l] Washington
Oct 1st 1781

Dear Sir Octr 1st 1781 Head Quarters
Camp before York

707

An Express is just setting off to the Eastward. and altho I have but a few Moments yet from an apearance that your Excellency will be anxious to hear from us in every stage of our Operations I cannot hold embracing them to give you a short account of our progress & situation at this period — On the 28th the Army was put in Motion at Williamsburg and the evening of the same day took a position within two Miles of the Enemy. the Morning following after reconnoitering their Works we advanced our Troops within distant Cannon shot of them Yesterday the 30th early in the Morning the whole of their out Works were evacuated and our Troops immediately took possession of them & last evening we broke Ground within 600 Yards of their main Works. They have been endeavoring all this Morning by a heavy cannonade to annoy our Working parties and prevent their progress in erecting the batteries but from their infinity this the Night they raised works sufficient to cover them from the Enemy's

MdHS 1974 [471-707]