His Excellency
Governor Lee
State of Maryland
Annapolis

Free

Philadelphia 29th Octr. 1782.

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My dear Sir.

This letter should be more valued than any one I have ever written you, because I am just able to write and that is all. I have been confined to a sick room ever since my arrival here, and am now only on the recovery. I had a narrow escape having had symptoms of a mortification of the intestines — but as the danger is over, we will talk no more of it.

You are now about to leave your government, having served in the full period which our constitution admits of. I do not intend to flatter you, when I say, that you will return into the common mass of citizens with a Lustre which cannot be easily extinguished. Many will regret your departure, though such is human nature, that few will shew these regrets at the table of your successor. Your partner in dignity, Mrs Lee has acquitted herself so as to gain praises from every one. Her absence we shall not scruple to lament even in the bosom of the Republican Palace. Take with you my best wishes to your country retirement, for I shall not be present at your leaving Annapolis; and be happy there, as blessings never yet found in any public situation. I have one request to make, and let me hope that you will not think it owing to affectation. It is, that you will not cease to consider

MdHS 1974 [603-664]