My dear friend &

London 21. Decem.r 1784

I know not to what to attribute your silence It is now more than nine months since I have had the Scrape of a Pen from you Had I been thus long silent you would have attributed it to that constant business which employs every Moment of my time. - I had no Idea that I could have gone through so much ~~much~~ business in so ~~short~~ a time - especially as it rushed on me not more rapidly than unexpectedly - and I am sure my friends would doubt it still more - especially those who knew how much I was attached to pleasure & dissipation -. However I must I shall not cause any of them to blush for their partiality. - My Business thank Heaven is well arranged and I believe not an American shipping house in London can say they are in such a pleasant situation as myself - I do not know how Moddue & my friends in Maryland stand. but I am very grateful for the support I have met with from Virginia & to you my Dear Sir I most of all am indebted. - I have never yet suffered a debt to become Due & I have the pleasure to tell you that two thirds of my Payments for Sarg.t Toby the heaviest of all my Shipmnts are anticipated and that I am fully provided for the other third I not an uncomfortable Complus - The washington Blackwell & Patuxent Cargoes both being unclog'd Cargo's the former I have long since paid for

W.L.

(151)

John Stewart
Decem.r 21. 1784

MdHS 1974 [711-152]