

[Charles Carroll to Gov. Johnson.]

Original

23<sup>d</sup> April 1778

Dear Sir

By this opportunity you will receive Draughts of two bills and L<sup>d</sup> North's speech ushering them into the house of Commons: I have little doubt myself but that these Bills have long since been cloathed with all the formalities of law. If Lord North's speech is genuine, (and I think we have no reason to suspect it to be otherwise) we may fairly conclude that the Administration begin to see the impracticability of reducing these States, or of retaining them, when reduced, in such a state of subordination as to be useful to G. B. The heavy & encreasing expence of the war, a Jealousy of France & Spain, perhaps the appearances of an approaching rupture in Germany about to be occasioned by the death of the Elector of Bavaria, the actual commencement of hostilities between Russia & the Porte have forced the british Ministry on this measure: However I am satisfied they will try the arts of negotiation first, in order to divide us, if possible, and will hazard another campaign before they acknowlege the Independence of these States: to withstand their hostile efforts this campaign. wh I am convinced will be vigerous and to counteract their insidious profers of reconciliation, it will be absolutely necessary to have a very respectable force in the field this year; and if a right & dexterous use is made of the minister's speech, it will probably much promote the recruiting service among us. In a word, if we guard ag<sup>t</sup> their insidious offers on the one hand, and can resist their warlike efforts on the other, during the ensuing campaign, I have not the least doubt but that they will acknowledge our Independency next winter, or Spring, particularly if no alliance between these States or any other European power be concluded on in the interim

The Raleigh continental Frigate is arrived at Porsmouth in 32 days from France; the Alfred w<sup>h</sup> sailed with her is taken: we have not yet rec<sup>d</sup> by this opportunity any dispatches from our Commissioners at Paris, tho' I do not yet despair of receiving them, as the Express may be on the road.

The Congress has passed some observations on the two draughted Bills, to counteract their obvious design, or at least the possible bad effects they might produce in the minds of the People, if published without such strictures. These observations will be printed to day; they will be immediately distributed throughout the United States: I fear they are not so perfect as they ought to be, but the hurry of business & the want of time must & will, no doubt sufficiently apologize