

Council Chamber June 10. 1798

Charles

I expect that you have received your appointment as aid de camp to the Commander in Chief, with the rank of Major. Although I do not see any immediate call for a military dress, yet as soon as it is convenient I request that you may be quiet in this respect.

The coat buff faced with buff the waistcoat and Breeches also of buff. The coat full made. Boots of full length spurs & a cocked Hat with the usual cockade of black. Two Epaulette and a small sword. a Horse well broke.

If a degree of ardour could be infused into the militia, it would give me pleasure to attend their meetings.

This spirit has made its appearance here and there, and I trust and expect from my experience of my Countrymen, that its progress will at least be as rapid as the approaches of war, which now appears to be inevitable.

I had flattered myself that after a short period, the tranquillity of Country and the prosperous condition of its public affairs both at home and abroad, would have left every man happy under his own vine and Fig Tree.

The change that is now likely to take place will be felt by many and lamented by all. To me it will be extremely oppressive. Bad health and other considerations for a length of time, has rendered the hurry of the world extremely odious. It was my anxious wish to pass the residue of my time in the innocent and useful employments of a Country life; But circumstanced as I now am, I am bound for a period to mingle in the busy scene, and if during its continuance I can be useful to you it will afford me real pleasure.

were I to communicate dear Charles all that occurs to me upon the present occasion it would exceed the bounds of a letter.

My principal motive in appointing you one of my aids, in the present interesting and alarming crisis