

Annapolis 16th January 1784

I wrote to you my Dear Mamma some weeks ago by a frigate that went from this place to Brest this you will certainly receive as it goes by a Gentleman that carries a Copy of the definitive Treaty ratified by Congress who are in this Town at present, but I fear they will not make it their permanent residence it would make property here of value if they did. I went with several others to see Gen. Washington resign his Commission the Congress were assembled in the State House both Houses of Assembly were present as Spectators the Gallery full of Ladies, the General seemed so much affected himself that everybody felt for him, he addressed Congress in a short Speech but very affecting many tears were shed, he has retired from all public business & designs to spend the rest of his Days at his own Seat. I think the World never produced a greater man & very few so good – I have not yet seen Mr. T Lowndes. Mr R. has & ask[e]d him many questions but I should ask him more he gives favorable accounts of dear Children Sam & Harriett. Why my dear Mamma don't you write, I have not had a line since Mr. Rawle came last September was a twelve month, we hear from Mr. T. Ridout six or eight times a year: your best way is to send your Letters to England I shall get them sooner. Nanny desires her Love to you her Brother & Cousin in whose Society she promises herself a great deal of Happiness. Horace is at Mr. Brooks he was well when we heard last – my Brothers Family are pretty well, tho their Son was dangerously ill this autumn. I think him a weakly Child their Daughter is healthy & rather pretty is improving she will be tall, which is more than any of mine are. We have a very pretty aged & agreeable little Man here, Mr. Harford I hope the Assembly will do something handsome for him they ought when they taken such a noble Estate from him, he is much liked – Sr R. Eden seems in bad health he does not flirt now, they are very agreeable neighbours to us, they live in Doctor Scotts House – the Doctr himself is in an ill state of Health. Mr R is well joins me in affectionate Love to you Sam & Harriet. We hope to see you in the Spring you must bring a Clever Maid as here are none tolerable be got here several necessary articles you had best bring as Tea China [?].

I am my
Madam your dutiful
Affectionate daughter
M Ridout