

503. JESSE ROOT TO THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT  
(JONATHAN TRUMBULL).<sup>1</sup>

PHILADELPHIA May 11th, 1782.

Sir,

I arrived here last Monday, my horse's getting lame delayed me two or three days in my journey. The Committees to whom was referred your Excellency's letters, in respect to commissioning privateers, and in respect to the prisoners, have reported, but no resolves have been passed upon them.<sup>2</sup>

Monday next the Minister of France has an audience to announce the birth of the Dauphin. . . .

504. THE SECRETARY OF CONGRESS, REPORT.<sup>1</sup>Monday May 13, 1782.<sup>2</sup>

This day having been assigned for giving the Minister of France a public audience, in order that he might deliver to the United States in

the letter to the superintendent of finance is in Papers Cont. Cong., no. 49, f. 69. At folio 67 of the same volume is the following memorandum:

"Add as a postscript to the letter for the super finance

"As the Comptroller Treasurer Register and Auditor are within your department the Messenger will deliver you the tickets for those Officers.

"To that for the Sec'y at War add

"As the Officers of the Army come more immediately under your notice the Messenger will deliver you as many tickets for them as you shall think proper."

The following letter was addressed by Secretary Thomson to the president of Pennsylvania (William Moore):

"The United States in Congress assembled having appointed Monday the 13 instant at 12 o'clock for giving a public Audience to the hon'ble the Minister of France and having resolved That a place be assigned for the President and executive Council of Pensylv'a

"I have the honor to inform [you] that the place assigned for your Excellency and the hon'ble Council is within the bar to the right as you enter, and facing Congress." Papers Cont. Cong., no. 49, f. 75 (draft).

[503]<sup>1</sup> Mass. Hist. Soc., *Collections*, seventh ser., III. 348.

<sup>2</sup> See the *Journals*, May 4 (p. 238 n.), 6 (p. 243 n.), May 21; cf. *ibid.*, June 14 (p. 333 n.), June 20 (p. 340 n.).

[504]<sup>1</sup> *Pa. Mag. of Hist. and Biog.*, XXIX. 497.

<sup>2</sup> The following plan for seating the guests at the entertainment was drawn up by Secretary Livingston May 12:

"The Order in which the Guests shall sit at the entertainment given to morrow by Congress, shall be as follows

"The President of Congress on a Chair in the center. The Minister of France on his right hand on a Chair; the Members of Congress in equal divisions on each side of him.

"The President and executive Council of Pennsylvania on the right of Congress, on the left, the Principals of three great executive Departments, (except the Secretary for foreign Affairs, who as Master of the Ceremonies shall sit opposite to the President of Congress). The Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled.

"The Secretary to the Legation, shall sit on the left hand of the Secretary for foreign Affairs, and the Consul on his left. The eldest General Officer on the right of the Secretary for foreign Affairs. The Genl. Officers Treasurer, Comptroller, and Auditor General, and foreigners of distinction on his right and left without designation of Rank.

"The remainder of the Company seating themselves without any particular attention to rank.

Congress assembled a letter which he had rec'd from his most Christian Majesty to them announcing the birth of a Dauphin. The Minister came in his own coach to the State house, being escorted by the city troop of light horse. At the State house he was rec'd with military honors, and being met at the foot of the steps by two members deputed for the purpose he was by them introduced to his seat.

The house was arranged in the following order—The President in a chair on a platform raised two steps from the floor with a large table before him. The members of Congress in chairs on the floor to his right and left with small tables before them. The tables were all covered with green cloth. On the left of the chair sat 1, delegates from Massachusetts, 2. Rhode Island, 3. Connecticut, 4. New York, 5. New Jersey. On his right sat 1 Georgia, 2 S. Carolina, 3 Virginia, 4 Maryland, 5 Delaware, 6 Pennsylvania. The whole in a semi-circle. New Hampshire and North Carolina were not represented.

Next to the Members of Congress on the left of the chair stood the principals of the three executive departments namely the Superintendent of finance the Sec'y at War and the Sec'y for foreign affairs.

The Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled stood on the right of the president on the first step of the platform. At his right on the floor stood the interpreter behind the chairs of the Members.

The president and council of the State of Pennsylvania stood within the bar on the right as they entered and facing the president.

The rest of the audience stood without the bar. The doors were opened. Centries were placed at the inner door and none except the minister and suite were admitted without a ticket which was signed by the Sec'y of Congress who furnished each of the members with two, the Super. finance with as many as were wanted for the officers in his department, the Sec'y at war for those in his department and for such of the general officers of the army as were in town and the Sec'y for foreign affairs with those wanted for foreigners of distinction whom he might think proper to be admitted. The President of Congress was furnished with a number to distribute among citizens. The whole number prepared was 200.

The Minister was conducted into the Congress Hall by the two members who had received him at the foot of the steps of the outward door. As he entered the bar the president and the house rose, the president being covered. The Minister as he advanced to his chair bowed to the president

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"Gouverneur Morris Esqre. will do the honors of the Table at one end, Major Jackson at the other, Lewis Morris Esq. at the side of the table which is opposite and farthest from the President." Papers Cont. Cong., no. 79, vol. II., f. 197 (not in Livingston's writing).

Gouverneur Morris was assistant to the superintendent of finance, Maj. William Jackson was assistant to the secretary at war, and Lewis Morris, jr., was assistant to the secretary for foreign affairs.

Just prior to the reception Secretary Livingston proposed an addition to the address of the President in response to that of the minister of France. The addition constitutes the last nine lines of the response as it appears in the *Journals*, May 13 ("an union . . . principles of the alliance"). See the two communications from Livingston to the President, May 13, in Wharton, *Rev. Dipl. Corr.*, V. 416. Concerning Livingston's course in connection with the audience to the minister and the entertainment given by Congress, see the article on Livingston by Milledge L. Bonham, jr., in *The American Secretaries of State and their Diplomacy*, I. 129.

who took off his hat and returned the bow. The Minister being uncovered. The Minister then bowed to the members, on each side of the chair, who were standing uncovered but did not return the bow. The Minister then sat down and put on his Hat. A chair was prepared for him on the floor directly opposite to the president and before it a table covered with green cloth. On each side of his chair was placed a chair for the members who introduced him. He who was first named of the two took the chair on the right and the other that on the left. The president the members and the Minister all took their seats at the same time. The Secretary of the embassy stood on the left of the chair of the member at the Minister's left.

After about a pause of a minute the Minister arose and taking off his hat addressed the United States in Congress assembled in a short speech delivered in french. The house sat while he delivered his speech. The president only being covered. Having finished his speech he sat down. And the Sec'y of the Embassy coming forward delivered the letter from his most Christian Majesty to the Sec'y of Congress who advanced to the end of the platform to meet him and having received it carried it back and delivered it to the president who opened it and delivered it again to the Sec'y who causing the interpreter to advance to the first step of the platform gave it to him open and he read it in the original to the audience. The Sec'y then on the platform read a translation of it and returned the letter to the president. Whereupon the president, the Members and the Minister rose the President being covered, but the Members and the Minister uncovered; and the president on behalf of the United States addressed the Minister in a short speech after which they all sat down and after a short pause the Minister rose, whereupon the president and the members rose. The Minister then bowed to the president and the members and withdrew, the members who introduced him reconducting him to the foot of the steps at the outward door.

A report drawn up by the Secretary and shown to the president and some members who thought it too minute (on the present occasion) to trouble Congress for an order to insert it on the minutes, it was therefore suppressed.

CHA THOMSON Sec'ry.

505. JAMES MADISON TO EDMUND RANDOLPH.<sup>1</sup>

PHILADELPHIA May 14, 1782.

Dear Sir,

The *Ceres* man of War we are informed by a New York paper arrived there in twenty five days on the 5th instant having on board his Excellency Sir Guy Carleton, Commander in chief, etc., and *commissioner for making peace or war* in North America. . . .

We have at length brought our territorial business to an issue. It was postponed *sine die* on the 6th instant. We have transmitted the whole proceeding to the Governor to be laid before the Assembly.<sup>2</sup> . . . .

[505]<sup>1</sup> Library of Congress, Madison Papers, Ac. 1081 (copy); *Papers*, I. 127; Wharton, *Rev. Dipl. Corr.*, V. 417.

<sup>2</sup> See no. 498, *ante*, nos. 509, 514, *post*. Madison wrote to Randolph May 21: "The final report of our suit to Congress for an answer to the Western cession was sent by the