George Washington letter to Anne-Cesare, Chevalier de la Luzerne, August 10, 1790

Early in May last, I had the pleasure of addressing a letter to you, My dear Marquis, in which I dwelt pretty copiously on the state of affairs in this country at that time. Since then nothing very remarkable has occurred. The two great questions of funding the debt and fixing the seat of government have been agitated, as was natural, with a good deal of warmth as well as ability. These were always considered by me as questions of the most delicate and interesting nature which could possibly be drawn into discussion. They were more in danger of having convulsed the government itself than any other points. I hope they are now settled in as satisfactory a manner as could have been expected, and that we have a prospect of enjoying peace abroad, with tranquility at home. Congress is just on the point of adjourning, after which I propose to go to pass some time at Mount Vernon.

Col. Humphreys, who will have the honor of putting this letter into your hands, can give you very particular intelligence respecting this Country and your friends in it – on whose number and fidelity you may count with the greatest confidence. For it is a serious truth, all classes of people in America remember your residence among them with a friendly mixture of satisfaction and regret – the former for your good offices and agreeable society – the latter for your absence and a despair of ever having the pleasure of seeing you again.

The acquaintance you have had with Col. Humphreys, first in America and afterwards in France, supersedes the necessity of any introduction or recommendation from me. As you know fully the manner in which that gentleman has been in my family and connected with me for many years, I will say nothing more on his subject than that he expects to travel in several parts of Europe and that, if it should be convenient to Your Excellency to give him letters to any characters of your notion in the Countries or Country which he may happen to visit, I shall consider the interest you take on his behalf in a very acceptable and obliging point of light.

I would not forego as favorable an opportunity of renewing the professions of real esteem and consideration with which

I have the honor to be,
My dear Marquis,
Your Most Obliged
Very Humble Servant

(signed) Geo: Washington

New York
August 10th 1790

Source: Library of Congress, Manuscript Division -- George Washington Papers Collection
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