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Philadelphia 10th July 1778

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Sir

Congress intent upon the present and future security of these United States has never ceased to consider a Confederacy as the great principle of Union, which can alone establish the Liberty of America and exclude for ever the hopes of its Enemies.

Influenced by considerations so powerful, and duely weighing the difficulties which oppose the expectation of any Plan being formed that can exactly meet the wishes and obtain the approbation of so many States, differing essentially in various points, Congress have, after mature deliberation agreed to adopt without amendments the Confederation transmitted to the several States for their approbation the States of New Hamshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina have ratified the same, and it remains only for your State, with those of Jersey Delaware and Georgia — to conclude the Glorious Compact, which by uniting the wealth, strength and Councils of the whole, may bid defiance to external violence and internal dissention; whilst it secures the public Credit both at home and abroad, Congress is willing to hope that the Patriotism and good sense of your State will be influenced by motives so important, and they request, Sir, that you will be pleased to lay this Letter before the Legislature of Maryland in order that if they judge it proper, their delegates may be instructed to ratify the Confederation with all convenient dispatch, trusting to future deliberation to make such alterations and amendments as experience may shew to be expedient and just.

I have the honor to be
With very great Respect
Sir Your Excellency's
Most obedient Servant
Henry Laurens
President of Congress

ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND.

His Excellency
Governor Johnson
Maryland.