

Dear Colonel Philadelphia April 9th 1776

The assurances of friendship in your Letter of the 30 of March, give me very great pleasure. I hope it will always continue, as a compensation for the many inquietudes, unavoidable in this Life. Who in the name of Heaven, could tell you, that Independancy had been 3 times thrown out of Congress. You may be assured, the Question has never been before the Congress, and it is probable they will wait till the people brings it before them; which event is not far off, from the best accounts, from the different parts of the Continent, for your information, with respect to the disposition of the northern people is as erroneous as the other. Of this I am very confident, having made it my business to be informed. It is not improbable but that even the Colony of N. York will step foremost in this great Question. It makes me uneasy to find from Y^r Let^r. that licentiousness begins to prevail in Virg.^a; tho' I have always expected it, from the mismanagement of the Gentlemen. The old Government being dissolved, & no new one

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Date: April 9, 1776

Description: Francis Lightfoot Lee discussing independence in Congress, Philadelphia

substituted in its stead; Anarchy must be the consequence. The Congress foresaw this, & therefore recommended it to Virg.^a & the South.^d Colonies to establish such Government as wou'd best secure their peace & happiness. I anxiously hope this will be done, the next convention, or I dread the consequences. Rhode Island & Connecticut, having Governments of their own, every thing has been carried on with order & quiet. New Hampshire & Massachusetts Bay, whose Governors & other officers were appointed by the Crown, were getting into the utmost disorder, but upon their assuming Government, by the advice of Congress, they are restored to perfect harmony & regularity. The Southern Colonies by delaying the remedy which I fear, have violent symptoms to encounter. I feel myself deeply interested in the security & happiness of America; compared with which, the interest of Britain, is as a feather in the scale. Let us my dear friend do the best we can for the good of our Country, & leave the event to fate. I take it for granted that all our friends at

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