

Dear Sir Philadelphia 1st April 1776

It hurts me exceedingly that you should attribute to declining friendship what really arose from the necessity of my situation. After an absence of many months, I had obtained leave to pay a short visit to my family, when I had been but a few days when the public business called me to Williamsburg, and Mr. Lee's occasioned a summons from thence. She was but just recovered before I was compelled to return to this place. This situation of my affairs will very sufficiently account for my not gratifying myself by visiting Sabine Hall, without imputing it to want of regard. You will have heard no doubt of our enemies shameful flight from Boston, where they left behind them many marks of apprehension and hurry, altho they took time to remove with them all the American prisoners they had made in chains, while they left to the resentment of an injured country, many Tories, to whom they had ^{promised} protection. Where these hostes humani generis will go next, we can only guess, and hav^s already strengthened N. York, we are preparing with 10,000 ^{men} well commanded, to meet them in Canada, the Capital of which Country still continues besieged by the Continental forces. It is curious to observe, that whilst people here are disputing and hesitating about independancy, the Court by one bold Act of Parliament, and by ^a conduct the most extensively hostile, have already put the two Countries asunder – They think for ever, and are therefore preparing the minds of the people.

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Date: April 1, 1776

Description: Richard Henry Lee on status of Revolutionary War, Philadelphia

people of England for this event, by having hired Dean
Tucker to prove the measure an eligible one.
As well dear Sir, might a person expect to wash an
Ethiopian white, as to remove the taint of despotism
from the British Court - The vicious principle has
pervaded every heart, pervaded every head, and will
govern every movement of that Body. The measure of
British crimes is running over, and the barbarous
spoliation of the East is crying to Heaven for vengeance
against the Destroyers of the Human Race. Out of
60 vessels from F^{lorida} which have with provisions for
their army, have been taken and the 8th driven on
shore - They are disgraced in the East and the North,
and their friends beaten in the South. Were it not for
their present Marine superiority, I do verily believe
that N. America could give Cane to that proud
imperious Island. Be so kind as give my compli-
-ments to your Son and inform him that I, as well as
my brother, applied to Gen. Lee to receive Squire Landon
as an Aid de Camp, but the General was already
provided with two, M^r. Byrd & M^r. Morris, and two
only were allowed by the Continent; but the General
is willing to receive M^r. Carter into his family if he
chooses to attend on his own expense as an Aid de
Camp - I wish you healthy and happy dear Sir
for I am sincerely your affectionate friend

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. If M^r. Carter chooses to go as above
mentioned I shall be ready to furnish him with a
Letter to General Lee.

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