

John Bradford Esq.  
Philad<sup>a</sup>. Decem<sup>r</sup>. 24. 1776

Dear Sir

I have just rec<sup>d</sup> your favours of the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. & 5<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>m</sup>. by the first it appears to me that you have written some letters that have never come to hand for <sup>know</sup> nothing about the ship loaded with slaves in a particular manner nor have I heard any thing of the others you say were to be sold in the course of a Month. I suppose the letters in which these things have been mentioned must have fallen into the Enemys hands. The bill you have drawn for acct of the Schooners Wolfe & Cays shall be paid when presented and I am very glad you have drawn it as I wished the matter settled before I left this Town; if I should be obliged to leave it. You must undoubtedly have heard of our unhappy situation here, the Enemy have marched unmolested through New Jersey, with an avowed design of taking possession of this City, & yet the Militia or rather associators both of that of this State cannot be prevailed on to turn out in that general & spirited manner that People should do on such an occasion, their backwardness does not proceed from want of Spirit, but from a dissatisfaction that is but too general both there & here, with the Constitutions formed for their future Governments, with many of the People now in power with the scarcity & high price of Salt and many other Articles, the Tories & dissaffected People amongst us take advantage of the present confusion, work on the fears of the timid, excite the Jealousies of the suspicious and in short one way or other prevent the Force of the County from being exerted in this day of Tryal.

I am now at the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. & have the pleasure to tell you the associators are coming down from the back parts of this State, those from the City have been with Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington for some time & I begin to have hopes that Philad<sup>a</sup> may be preserved from the hands of our Enemies

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MMN # 102172

Date: December 24, 1776

Description: Robert Morris on the state of the war, Philadelphia

The loss of it would be the most fatal blow that America  
could receive as our artificers & manufacturers have  
proved a constant Magazine of Necessaries for the Army  
Navy of all the other States — The Congress adjourned  
about a fortnight ago to Baltimore in Maryland, at  
that time I sent away my Family, Books, papers  
and a considerable Value in Effects, but having still  
a great deal left here I am unwilling to depart  
until it becomes absolutely necessary for personal  
safety, especially as I find myself very usefull in  
adjusting a deal of Publick business that the Congress  
left unfinished. I mention these things to show you that  
I have not with me the Copies of the former Letters I wrote  
you, nor any other of your Letters than the two acknowledged  
in the beginning of this. I cannot help regretting very much  
that your Answer to my Letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct never came  
to hand, for it was in that Letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> of November right  
that I proposed Speculating in Prize Goods &c your reply  
therefor would have been very usefull & for want of it  
I am much at a loss what to say on that Subject.

having been called off when I had got thus far on with this  
Letter I am now at the 12<sup>th</sup> Jany, you will think it strange I  
should be so long as from the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>m</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> Jany writing  
you a Letter & so it seems to me, but I declare to you my  
time is so taken up with Publick business since the Congress  
departed from hence, that I am obliged to neglect my own  
affairs totally. With respect to any purchase you  
have made on speculation in which you have interested  
me or did intend to interest me, I am content to abide by  
what you have done and offering unlimited confidence  
in your judgment and integrity. I agree that you  
proceed in such speculations as I formerly proposed to the  
extent then mentioned, and I will send you money  
to pay my quota fast as you advise me of the  
Sums necessary. Thank God I think our City is now  
perfectly safe and as I think the British Troops  
must

The loss of it would be the most fatal blow that America  
cou'd receive as our [artificers?] of manufacturers have  
proved a Constant magazine of necessary for the Army  
Navy of all the other States— The Congress adjourned  
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soon evacuate all New Jersey, & intercourse will become  
free & open again, in the mean time if you are obliged to  
advance Money or borrow it, to pay any part of the  
purchases I will cheerfully pay the interest. The Congress  
have appointed myself & two other Members that happened to  
remain here, a committee to Conduct the Continental business  
in this place of plenty of it we have & are like to have.

I gave Mr. Alex<sup>r</sup> Rose & Mr. N. Eveleigh of South  
Carolina letters of introduction to you, these Gent<sup>l</sup> deposited  
considerable sums of Money in the Loan office here  
& took with them the Continental Loan office Certificates  
bearing interest, I persuaded them to this measure supposing  
they would readily get money for the Notes in all or  
any of the Eastern States, but I depend on you to prevent  
their being disappointed of which however I hope there is  
not any danger, but rather than they should suffer  
I will send them the Money power hence on notice  
that it is necessary. I am very happy to learn  
the Alfred is arrived in your port & her Prize at  
Bedford in Dartmouth, the cargo of that Prize will  
be particularly useful to the States at this  
time as the Recruiting Service for the New Army  
goes on very fast. The Wolf is sailed from Virginia  
with a cargo of Tob<sup>o</sup> for Curracoa & I hope will arrive  
safe, your draft on me was paid soon as it appeared  
& if you can draw on me for any Money, wanted  
in our speculations the bills shall much equal honor.

I congratulate you on our late successes in New  
Jersey and with great esteem remain Dr<sup>r</sup>  
Your Obedi<sup>t</sup> hble Servant

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris,

I expect to write you  
separate letters on public business—

John Bradford Esq<sup>r</sup>

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