

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from John Dickinson to Caesar Rodney

**Date:** May 21, 1779

**Location:** MC 2001.13, B1, F2

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

iii,

Congress have this Moment formed the following  
very important Resolution, which I beg You will please  
to communicate <sup>immediately</sup> to the Council of Assembly, who  
I understand are now sitting

In Congress May 21<sup>st</sup> 1779

Resolved, that these United States be called upon,  
in addition to the sum required by Resolution of  
Congress of the 2<sup>d</sup> of January last, for the respective  
Quotas of forty five Million of Dollars, to be paid  
into the Continental Treasury before the first Day of  
January next, in the proportion following,  
that is to say — They follow the Quotas which  
are exactly in the same proportion with those of  
the fifteen Million, called for by the Resolution  
of January last above mentioned — so that the Quota  
of our State will be 450,000 Dollars —

The Emergency  
of our Affairs both foreign and domestic, owing greatly  
to the Depreciation of our Money, is grown so  
alarming, that every true Friend to his Country  
finds himself devoted to new Hopes of Prospects by  
this vigorous Measure, which <sup>was</sup> become indispensably  
necessary as one Step, to recover not only the Credit of  
our Currency, but even of our national Councils —

This Operation will be followed, I expect, by others that  
will put us in a Situation sufficiently respectable to  
confound our Enemies, & give Comfort to every true  
hearted Citizen of America.

This will be delivered to you, Sir, by Mr Jonathan Mumford, who  
 on behalf of Mr Benjamin Wood Master of a vessel from Bermuda,  
 will present to you a Resolution of Congress for the Relief of  
 the distressed Inhabitants <sup>of that Island</sup> — I need not use any Arguments to  
 interest your Humanity in the Cause of these unhappy  
 people — Tho' under the power of our Enemies, they are Friends  
 to these States, and are <sup>such</sup> regarded by Congress and by his most  
 Christian Majesty's Minister —

I am, Sir, with great regard,

your very obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

John Dickinson

Philadelphia

May 21 - 1779

The Bermudian vessel is loaded  
 with salt, if care is taken, the  
 Cargo may be divided between  
 the three Counties, considerably  
 to their advantage — Such salt sells  
 here at ten pounds a Bushell, if  
 Mr Mumford has pledged his Honour  
 to me that it shall be sold at that  
 Price in our State

Governor Rodney

*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

[Philadelphia, May 21, 1779]

Sir,

Congress have this Moment formed the following very important Resolution, which I beg You will please to communicate immediately to the Council of Assembly, who I understand are now sitting

"In Congress May 21<sup>st</sup> 1779

Resolved, that these United States be called upon, in addition to the sum required by Resolution of Congress of the 2d. of January last, for their respective Quotas of forty five Million of Dollars, to be paid into the Continental Treasury before the first Day of January next, in the proportion following, that is to say"

Then follow the Quotas which are exactly in the same proportion with those of the fifteen Million, called for by the Resolution of January last above mentioned

So that the Quota of our State will be 450,000 Dollars

The Emergency of our Affairs both foreign and domestic, owing greatly to the Depreciation of our Money is grown so alarming, that every true Friend to his Country finds himself elevated to new Hopes & Prospects by this vigorous Measure, which was become indispensably necessary as one step, to recover not only the Credit of our Currency, but even of our national Councils

This Operation will be followed, I expect, by others that will put us into a situation sufficiently Respectable to confound our Enemies, & give Comfort to every true hearted Citizen of America.

[Page Break]

This will be delivered to You, Sir, by M.r Jonathan Rumford, who on Behalf of M.r Benjamin Ward Master of a vessel from Bermuda, will present to You a Resolution of Congress for the Relief of the distrest Inhabitants of that Island

I need not use any Arguments to interest your Humanity in the Cause of these unhappy people

Tho under the power of our Enemies, they are friends to these States, and as such are regarded by Congress and by his most Christian Majesty's Minister

I am, Sir, with great Regard,  
your very hble Serv.t

John Dickinson

Philadelphia  
May 21<sup>st</sup> 1779

The Bermudian vessel is loaded with Salt & if Care is taken, the Cargo may be divided between the three Counties, considerably to their Advantage

Such Salt sells here at ten pounds a Bushell, & Mr. Rumford has pledged his Honour to Me that it shall be sold at that price in our State.

Governor Rodney