

Original little discretion. I wish you health & happiness and am with
great regard

D^r Sir
Y^r most hum: Serv^t
Ch. Carroll of Carrollton.

Original

[S. Chase to Gov. Johnson.]

York town April 21. 78.
Tuesday Night 11 o'Clock

Dear Sir

Congress this Evening reced a Letter from Gen: W. inclosing a Philad^a Paper, of the 17 ult.—The Draft of the two Bills (ment^d in mine of the Day) are published in it—Dispatches arrived there last Tuesday, in 28 Days—under the London Head of 19 Feb^y—on the Monday preceding Leave was given to bring in the two Bills Lord Norths speech is in it, on making the proposition.

last late acts for your Satisfaction.

our army is great, our navy is great, our Men in Health, in Spirits & well supplied, but the Resistance of America is greater, & the War has lasted longer, than was at first apprehended, much longer than any friend to this Country could wish, & I do not think it will end in this Campaign, in the present situation of affairs only three propositions can be made—1st to strengthen our force & continue the War upon the present plan. 2. to recal it from America, and 3 to offer Terms of Conciliation to her.—the first is attended with too great an Expence of Men and Money, an Expense which Conquest itself wo^d not balance. The second is to subscribe to the Independ^y of America. the third is that which appears to Me to be the best and the wisest. I wish for an open Conference with America—he then explained his plan as expressed in the Bills.

I will now hold out to the Colonies a Cessation of the Exercise of Taxation, & I will not subject it to any Condⁿ or to the Demand of any specific Contribution. I do not see that any other Concession can be made without admitting the complete Ind^y of America but wo^d better Effect of that Independ^y. I cannot see into futurity, but it is big with many possible Evils. Independ^y with a cordial Love between us, is one thing with an Union with our Enemies, fatal. from their Ind^y a Danger arises from a great Naval Power; a Danger also to our other Possessions. I do not think that we should yield to it, till our Resources are much lowered—Ind^y is not beneficial to America, she cannot be so happy, so easy, cannot have such personal Liberty; as if she remains dependent on us.