Martha Washington's Letter about the Presidency

1 My Dear John   Mount Vernon. April the 20th 1789

2   I am truly sorry to tell that the General is gone to New York, - Mr. Charles Thompson
3 came express to him, on the 14th – when, or wheather he will come home again god
4 only knows, - I think it was much too late for him to go to publick life again, but it was
5 not to be avoided, our family will be deranged as I must soon follow him.

6   I am greved at parting, and sorry to part with your sister as well as the rest of the
7   family, - I expect to set out the middle of may… – the same Horses that carred the
8 General is to return for me to carry me to New York –

9   My love and good wishes to your mother grandmother Brothers and sisters and
10 believe me Dear

11   John your most
12   affectionate
13   Aunt
14   M Washington

Background: John refers to John Dandridge
Source: "Worthy Partner" The Papers of Martha Washington, pg. 213

1. What type of source is this and when was it created? _____

2. What is the relationship between the author and the recipient? _____

3. On line 2, Mrs. Washington refers to "the General". To whom is she referring?

_____

   Underline evidence in the text to support your answer.

4. Reread this sentence from the text:

I think it was much too late for him to go to publick life again, but it was not to be avoided, our family will be deranged as I must soon follow him.

What does Mrs. Washington mean when she uses the phrase *publick life again*?

_____

_____

Based on the context of the sentence, what is the most precise meaning of the word *deranged*?

      a. crazed   b. upset

      d. in confusion   d. insane

Mrs. Washington states, "…I must soon follow him." Where is she going? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.
_____

Rewrite the sentence in your own words:

_____

_____

_____

5. Circle the three words or phrases from the text which are the most important to understanding the author's tone of the text? Explain your choices using evidence from the text.