## Dear Sir,

## Mount Vernon (11 August) 1799

- 1 Sometime ?between illegible?ment to the walks of ?private illegible? girl\*, the body servant of
- 2 Mrs Washington?,? absconded without the least pr?ovocation? and without our having
- 3 ?illegible sus?picion of such, her intention ?illegible? whither she had gone.
- 4 At length, we learnt ?illegible? got to Portsmouth in New H?ampshire; in? consequence of this
- 5 information ?illegible? authentic) I wrote to the Collect?or of the? Port, Mr Whipple requesting
- 6 ?illegible? use proper means to restore ?her to her? Mistress. At first, according to ?illegible? she
- 7 appeared willing to return: ?illegible? the Vessel in which she was to ?illegible? about to sail, she
- 8 concealed ?illegible? one difficulty and delay ?illegible?ther, so as to keep her Mistress
- 9 ?from *illegible*? Services until this time.
- 10 If, under this statement of ?illegible? intention (as declared when here) of ?illegible? Portsmouth,
- 11 you could by any easy ?illegible?self & proper means, be the ?illegible? of recovering, &
- 12 forwarding the ?illegible? place, it would be a pleasing circumstance to your Aunt.
- 13 I do not however wish you to undertake anything, that may involve ?illegible? unpleasant, or
- 14 troublesome ?illegible.? The girl, as we have been ?illegible? was enticed away by a Frenchman,
- 15 ?illegible? her, she was willing to come back; but ?illegible? other connexions, wan?illegible?
- 16 conditions to her return, afterwards.
- 17 This I could not *then*, nor will ?I? agree to; further than that, if she put?s me? to no unnecessary
- 18 trouble and expence; ?and? conduct?s? herself well for the time ?illegible? she will escape
- 19 punishment for the ?illegible?, & be treated according to her merit?s illegible?. To promise more,
- 20 would be ?an im?politic & dangerous precedent. Your Aunt unites with me in ?best wishes? for
- 21 you; and I am—Dear Sir Your obedt & Affecte Servant
- 22 Go: Washington

## 23 \*She went by the name of Oney Judge

\*This is a transcript from Founders Online. Because the letter is torn and faded, many of the words are not readable.

Citation: "From George Washington to Burwell Bassett, Jr., 11 August 1799," *Founders Online*, National Archives, https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/06-04-02-0197. [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Retirement Series, vol. 4, *20 April 1799–13 December 1799*, ed. W. W. Abbot. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999, pp. 237–238.]

and interior as declares when here ? of Botsmouth, gon could by any en on a goursalf & proper means, be the is the nast of cacovarian & forwardia to he has place it would be apleasing in trace to your aust. watertake and they that man involve me Alean at or troubles The girl, at we have been That he lift her the was willian to come , as poring other convenions, was he exactions to her return, at The Fabrica not have nor we to finite the a that, if the pe to an after brouble and expense is conduct, Carrell cook fould time myther and escape purishment forth to the tracted according to he hard tundis To promisa more word as the to dangerous precedent . your auxturities with main sher fory par Jam - Dear Sir Jour obes \* Alfact! Jawaph F Waheapres During Bare 9 802

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