

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.]

Manuscript No. 11 & 12
11 & 12 Aug. 1899

