Lady.

Received yours of the 14th last, likewise those addressed to me at Richmond and acknowledge the favor, and the cause of my not answering them in due time was owing to absent. I received in one of my fingers soon after I got to that place which prevented me from writing even to my family during my stay there in which I hope is a suff. apology. With respect to Mr. Mason, I am at a loss what to say but expect to be down myself towards the latter end of March and endeavor to have it fixed some how or other. The Matter stands thus my Tobacco was sold on a credit of 60 or 90 days when there was no depreciation but he pretends to say at the time of payment it had depreciated more than one half the real value soon after I got the bill of sales I applied to him in George Town for payment when he assured me that the money was payable in France and at that time it was difficult if not impossible to negotiate it owing to the existing troubles and also mentioned the depreciation but observed at the same time he would endorse any Bills I might draw whenever I thought proper and receive the money as it should be paying at the time it was presented on conditions of not being liable for any interest on the sum.

Payton, Francis's to
Cowell, Leven

1801, 2/20
agreeable to this promise I let the matter rest until the depreciation in their money ceased but these promises I make no doubt he will deny and in having confidence in his word at that time I have no evidence to prove it so that I cannot avail myself of them when I gave the papers to Mr. Thompson to settle with him and demand the money and on failure of payment to assess suit against him on an application Mr. Mason stated his best agreeable to what he said was the depreciation and assured he was willing to pay it which was refused some time after which Mr. T. informed me of the proposals and as I did not wish to have any dispute about it and thinking in some measure it might be right I agreed to settle it on his own statement with paying interest while he had the money in his own hands which I thought no just man could possibly refuse but so it is he objected to that proposal and so the matter rests.

I feel great anxiety with respect to the choice of a President. It is determined to shudder then unless in case Jeff. or B. is not elected the in fact I think many of the leaders of that party really wish it for the sake of confusion and nothing could unit them. I purpose better than for I sincerely hope for the sake of
Abel Burr Jr.

Vice President

Mr. Leven Powell
Member of Congress
Washington
Dear Sir.

I received yours of the 14th Inst. likewise those addressed to me at Richmond and Acknowledge the favor and the cause of my not answering them in due time was owing to a hurt I received in one of my fingers soon after I got to that place which prevented me from writing even to my family during my stay there, which I hope is a Suf't. apology. With respect to Mr. Mason I am at a loss what to say but expect to be down myself towards the latter end of March and endeavor to have it fixed somehow or other - the Matter stands thus my Tobacco was sold on a Credit of 60 or 90 Days when there was no depreciation but he pretends to say at the time of payment it had depreciated more than one half the real value soon after I got the acct. of Sales. I apply'd to him in George Town for payment when he observed to me that the money was payable in France and at that time it was difficult if not impossible to negotiate it owing to the existing troubles and also mentioned the depreciation but observed at the same time he would endorse any Bills I might draw when ever I thought proper and receive the money as it should be passing at the time it was presented on conditions of not being liable for any Interest on the sum agreeable to this promise I let the matter rest until the depreciation on their money ceased but these promises I make no doubt he will deny and my having confidence in his word at that time I have no evidence to prove it so that I cannot avail myself of them when I gave the papers to Mr. Thompson to settle with him and demand the Money and on failure of payment to order suit against him on application.

Mr. Mason stated his acct. agreeable to what he said was the depreciation and observed he was willing to pay it which was refused some time after which Mr. T. informed me of the proposals and as I did not wish to have any disputes about it and thinking in some measure it might be right I agreed to settle it on his own statement with paying Interest while he had the money in his own hands which I thought no just man could possibly refuse but so it is he objects to that proposal and so the matter rests.

I feel great anxiety with respect to the choice of a P. the violent Demo. are determined to shoulder their musketts in case Jeff. or B.F. is no elected tho in fact I think many of the leaders of the party really wish it for the sake of Confusion and nothing could suit their purpose better therefore I sincerely hope for the sake of peace and Trench activities of the views may be frustrated in fixing Jefferson in the Chair.

Your family and Friends are all well and I am

Dr. Sir
Your Mo Ob. Servt,
Francis Payton.

To.
Colo. Leven Powell
Member of Congress
Washington.