

Paris Feb. 7th 1778

Sir

I received your favour by Mr. Austin with your most agreeable congratulations on the success of the American arms in the Northern Department.

In return give me leave to congratulate you on the success of our negotiations here in the

completion of two Treaties with his most Christian Majesty; the one of amity and Commerce on the Plan of that projected in Congress with some good Additions; the other of Alliance for mutual defence; in which the most Christian King agrees to make a common cause with the United States if England attempts to obstruct the Commerce

~~If England attempts to obstruct the Commerce~~

~~his Subjects with them;~~ if his Subjects with them; and Guarantees to the United States their Liberty Sovereignty and Independence absolute and unqualified with all the Possessions they now have, or may have at the conclusion of the War, and the States in return Guarantee to him his Possessions in the West Indies.

The great Principle in both Treaties is a perfect Equality and Reciprocity; no advantages being demanded by France, or Privileges in Commerce which the States may not grant to any or every other Nation.

In short the King hath Treated with us generously and Magnanimously taking no advantages of our present difficulties to exact
Term

Terms which we should not willingly grant
when established in Prosperity and Power
— I may add that he has acted wisely, as
wishing the Friendship contracted by these
Treaties may be durable which probably
it might not be, if a contrary conduct had
been observed. Several of our American
Ships with Stores for the Congress are now
about sailing under the Protection of a
French Squadron —

England is in great consternation
and the Minister on the 17th Instant
confessing in a long Speech that all his
Measures had been wrong and that Peace
was necessary, proposed two Bills for
directing America; but they are full of
artifice and deceit and will I am
confident be treated accordingly by our
Countrymen &
B Franklin

Of the Treaties were signed by the
Plenipotentiaries on both Sides July 6th
but are still for some reasons kept Secret

no soon to be published, it is said
that Spain is soon to accede to the same
The Treaties go over to Congress by this
Conveyance

Copy of a letter of
Benjamin Franklin
Plenipotentiary of
the United States
in Paris 27 July
1776