

**George Washington to James Wood, July 1758, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

**\*To COLONEL JAMES WOOD**

[July, 1758.]

My Dear Colonel: If thanks flowing from a heart replete with joy and Gratitude can in any Measure compensate for the fatigue, anxiety and Pain you had at my Election, be assured you have them. 'tis a poor, but I am convinced welcome tribute to a generous Mind; such, I believe yours to be.

How I shall thank Mrs. Wood for her favourable Wishes? and how acknowledge my Sense of Obligations to the People in General for their choice of me I am at a loss to resolve on; but why; Can I do it more effectually than by making their Interests (as it really is) my own, and doing everything that lyes in my little Power for the Hon'r and welfare of the County; I think not; and my best endeavours they may always Command. I promise this now, when promises may be regarded, before they might pass as words of Course.

I am extreme thankful to you and my other friends for entertaining the Freeholders in my name. I hope no Exception were taken to any that voted against me but that all were alike treated and all had enough; it is what I much desir'd; my only fear is that you spent with too sparing a hand.

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I don't like to touch upon our Public Affairs; the Prospect is overspread by too many ills to give a favourable Acct. I will therefore say little, but yet say this, that backwardness appears in all things but the approach of Winter;—that jogs on apace.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This letter, which was written after the Fairfax election (Ford dates it July), was drafted by Washington on the address leaf of Colonel Wood's letter to him of July 7. William Sprague appropriated the Wood letter, tore off this address leaf, and left it, with a copy of Wood's, in the Washington Papers. He either did not recognize Washington's handwriting or else had no interest in the drafted answer because it is unsigned.