

George William Fairfax to George Washington, August 5, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM WILLIAM FAIRFAX, ESQ.

BELVOIR Augt. 5th. 1758

DEAR SIR

I have scarcely time to acquaint you That I was Yesterday at Mount Vernon to Visit Mr. Patterson, who consulted me about taking up the upper Floors, as you gave him no orders about them, whereupon I had them clear'd in order to View them the better, and found most of them very uneven and several defective plank, upon which I made Patterson calculate the difference of Expençe, between New laying them & intire new, which you'll see is too trifling to hesitate a moment provided you choose either.

Undoubtedly they may do with a little plaining, but that cant bring them even, or make them of a piece with the rest of the House. If you prefer a new Floor, their must be new Doors also, So that we beg you'll consider this matter and lett us have your directions — This word reminds me of breaking one of yours, which we hope you'll pardon, But it was upon seeing full imploy for the joiners, and that it would take too much of their time That I took the liberty to hire a hand to paint the House, which is suffering for want of it — I think the Chimneys above are to much contracted and would be better were they enlarged. For if you remember they are taken in but whether to prevent Smoaking or for a Stove you perhaps can best tell, and the only one that can direct us — I have the pleasure to acquaint you, That you have some of the finest Tobacco & Corn I have seen this Year and

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a pritty full Crop of both which I believe is more than any in this or the next County can say. But yett we want much rain to make it, and the Grass spring. for I have never seen so melancholy a Prospect. It is reported pritty confidently that our Fleet, has Landed a body of Troop under the Command of the Duke of Marlborough at St. Maloa or near it, and taken Seven Ships of War all the Privateers and many Transports, but I hope soon to see it confirmed and some further particulars

Mrs. Fairfax Miss Cary Hannah & the Miss Dents join in their best wishes with Dear Sir

Your most Obedt. and very humble Servt. WM. FAIRFAX