

**Jonathan Boucher to George Washington, August 2, 1773, 19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER. <sup>1</sup>**

[A Copy.]

MY DEAR SIR,

I persuade myself you and Mrs Washington as well as the hospitable [illegible] family you are in will readily excuse my not waiting on you, when I assure you that nothing should have prevented me, but my being in a situation which renders me totally unable. It is but the third time I ever had the toothache, and no ideas I had formed how painful so slight a cause could be are adequate to what I have felt and still feel I have gone thro' all the nostrums to no purpose; like Macbeth it has murdered sleep beyond the power even of laudanum to recall.

Making sure of being with you last evening or the Saturday, I ran out Mr Custis's account, which if it be right, you will much oblige me by leaving me a Bill on London for the amount. You spoke last year, I remember, of my having to allow you something on the score of Exchange; but I see I have made a mem: in your letter that the state of it then was in Annapolis as I had said. You will now please to be guided by the information you will receive from his Excellency and Mr Calvert. The inclosed letter from Jack may not be unacceptable to Mrs Washington nor perhaps *to somebody else*; at the same time that it

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justifies a little, I hope not unbecoming pride in me. I have often owned with shame and terror [?] that I did not do so much for him as I could or ought, but I really did more than I feared you thought, or than many would who appear more regular & attentive

It is peculiarly vexing to be interrupted & disappointed in the pleasure I had promised myself from this visit to a family and some friends, I am proud to rank by far the nearest to me. Your humanity will plead my apology to them, and in the hurried, distracted condition I am placed to write, excuse my adding more than

that I am with great regard Yr. most obedt. servt. J. BOUCHER— 2, Augt. 1773

<sup>1</sup> This copy, inserted in the manuscripts in lieu of the original, is very illegibly written.