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To His Excellency George Washington Esq<sup>r</sup> President of the United States.

The Representation of M<sup>rs</sup> K. G. "Mary Katherine Goddard"

Assembly Sheweth. . . . . That she hath kept the Post Office at Baltimore for upwards of 14 years; but with what degree of satisfaction to all those concerned, she begs leave to refer to the number & respectability of the persons who have publickly addressed the Postmaster Gen<sup>l</sup>. His Assistant, on the Subject of her late removal from Office: And as M<sup>r</sup>. Osgood has not yet favoured <sup>between two & three hundred</sup> of the principal Merchants & Inhabitants of Baltimore with an Answer to their last application, transmitted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Nov<sup>r</sup>. ultimo, nor with any Answer to sundry private letters, accompanying the transcript of a like application, made to M<sup>r</sup>. Burrell, when at Baltimore.

She therefore, at the instance of the Gentlemen thus pleased to Interest themselves on her behalf, lays before your Excellency, Superintendent of that Department, as briefly as possible, the nature & circumstances, of what is conceived to be an extraordinary Act of Oppression towards her.

That upon the dissolution of the old Government, when from the non-impairment agreement & other causes incident to the Revolution, the Revenue of the Post Office was inadequate to its disbursements, she accepted of the same, and at her own risk advanced hard money to discharge & pay the charges of Post riders for many years, when they were not to be procured on any other terms; and that during this period, the whole of her labor and industry in establishing the office was necessarily unrewarded; the Emoluments of which being by no means equal to the then high rent of an Office, or to the attention required both to receive & forward the letters, as well evidently appear by the Schedule hereunto annexed, and therefore, whoever thus established and continued the office, at the gloomy period when it was with no persons acceptance, ought surely to be thought worthy of it when it became more valuable. And as it had been universally <sup>understood</sup>, that no person would be removed from Office, under the present Government, unless manifest misconduct appeared, and as no such charge could possibly be made against her, with the least colour of Justice, she was happy in the Idea of being secured both in her Office, and the protection of all those who wished well to the <sup>to the Institution</sup> Prosperity of the Post Office & the new Government in general.

That she has sustained many heavy losses, well known to the Gentlemen of Baltimore, which swallowed up the fruits of her industry, without even extricating her from embarrassment, to this day, altho' her accounts with the Post Office were always considered, as amongst the most punctual & regular of any upon the Continent; notwithstanding which, she has been discharged from her Office, without any imputation of the least fault, and without any previous official notice: The first intimation on that head being an order from M<sup>r</sup>. Burrell, <sup>resident</sup> at Baltimore, to deliver up the Office to the Bearer of his Note; and Altho' he had been there several days, yet he did not think proper to indulge her with a personal interview, thus far treating her in the Style of an unkindly delinquent, unworthy of common Civility, as well as common Justice. And <sup>altho'</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. White who succeeded her, might doubtless have been meritorious in the different Offices he sustained, yet, she humbly conceives he was not more worthy of public notice & protection, than she has uniformly been in <sup>her's: H</sup>

Mary Katherine Goddard to George Washington, December 23, 1789.  
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09756.02)

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It must therefore become a matter of serious importance & of peculiar distress to her, if Government can find no means of rewarding this Gentlemans Services, but at the expence of all that She had to rely on, for her future dependence & subsistence.

NOTE

That it has been alleged as a Plea for her removal, that the Deputy Post-master of Baltimore will hereafter be obliged to ride & regulate the Offices to the Southward, but that she conceives, with great deference to the Postmaster General, is wholly impracticable, & morally impossible; because the business of the Baltimore Office will require his constant attendance, and he alone, could give satisfaction to the people; if therefore the duties of the Assistant W. Durrells Office are to be performed by any other than himself, surely it cannot well be attempted by those who are fully occupied with their own; And as two persons must be employed, according to this new plan, She apprehends, that she is more adequate to give Instructions to the Riding Post-Master, here to Act, than any other person possibly could, hitherto unexperienced in such Business.

She therefore most humbly hopes from your Excellency's Philantrophy and wondred humanity, You will take her situation into consideration; and as the grievance complained of, has happened whilst the Post-office Department was put under your auspicious protection, by a resolve of Congress, that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to order that She may be restored to her former office, and as in duty bound, She will ever Pray &c

Baltimore December 23<sup>d</sup> 1789.

x - this plea is now known to be absolutely false - It must be a ~~poor~~ wretched system, indeed, which stands in need of so despicable ~~and specious~~ an Auxiliary, as a palpable lie, invented by Men high in Office - proposing themselves for Gentlemen of Property & Independence -

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## Transcript

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To his Excellency George Washington Esqr President of the United States

The Representation of M:K:G:

Humbly Sheweth..... That she hath kept the Post-Office of Baltimore for upwards of 14 years; but with what degree of satisfaction to all those concerned, she begs leave to refer to the number & respectability of the persons who have publicly— addressed of the Postmaster Gen<sup>l</sup> this assistant, on the subject of her late removal from office: And as M<sup>r</sup>. Osgood has not yet favored between two & three hundred of the principal Merchants and Inhabitants of Baltimore with an Answer to their last application, transmitted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Nov<sup>r</sup> Ultimo, nor with any Answer to Sundry private Letters, accompanying the transcript of a like application, made to M<sup>r</sup>. Burrell, when at Baltimore: She therefore, at the instance of the gentlemans thus pleased to Interest themselves on her behalf, Lays before your Excellency, Superintendent of that Department, as briefly as possible, the nature & circumstances, of what is conceived to be an extraordinary Act of oppression towards her.

That upon the dissolution of the old Government, when from the non-importation agreement & other causes incident to the Revolution, the Revenue of the Post Office was inadequate to its disbursements, she accepted of the same, and at her own risque advanced hard money to [*struck*: discharge] defray the charges of Post-riders for many years, when they were not to be procured on any other terms; and that during this period, the whole of her labor and industry in establishing the office was necessarily unrewarded; the Emoluments of which being by no means equal to the then high rent of an office, or to the attention required both to receive & forwarded the Mails, as will evidently appear by the schedule hereto annexed, and therefore, whoever thus established and continued the office, at the gloomy period when it was worth no persons acceptance ought surely to be thought worthy of it when it became more valuable. And as it has been universally [*inserted*: understood] that no person would be removed from office. under the present Government, unless manifest misconduct appeared, and as no such charge could possibly be made against her, with the least colour of Justice, She was happy in the Idea of being secured both in her Office, and the protection of all those who wished [*struck*: well to the] Prosperity [*Inserted*: to the Institution] [*struck*: of the Post office] & the new Governm<sup>t</sup> in general.

## Mary Katherine Goddard to George Washington, December 23, 1789

That she has sustained many heavy losses, well known to the Gentlemen of Baltimore, which swallowed up the fruits of her industry, without even extricating her from embarrassment, to this day, altho' her accounts with the Post-office were always considered, as amongst the most punctual & regular of any upon the Continent; notwithstanding which, she has been discharged from her office, without any imputation of the least fault, and without any previous official notice: The first intimation of that Head being on order from M<sup>r</sup>. Burrel, whilst at Baltimore, to deliver up the Office to the Bearer of his note; And Altho' he had been there several days, yet he did not think proper to indulge her with a formal interview, thus far treating her in the Stile of an unfriendly delinquent, unworthy or common Civility, as well as common Justice. [*struck*: And mr.] M<sup>r</sup>. White who succeeded her, might doubtless have been meritorious in the difference offices he sustained, yet, she humbly conceives, he was not more worthy of public notice and protection, than she has uniformly been in hers [2] It must therefore become a matter of serious importance & of peculiar distress to her, if Government can find no means of rewarding this Gentleman's Services, but at the expense of all that She had to rely on, for her future [*struck*: dependence] & subsistence.

That it has been alleged as a Plea<sup>X</sup> for her removal, that the deputy Post-master of Baltimore will hereafter be obliged to ride & regulate the offices to the Southward, but that she conceives, with great deference to the Postmaster General, is wholly impracticable, & morally impossible; because the business of the Baltimore Office will require his constant attendance and he alone could give Satisfaction to the people; if therefor the duties of the Assistant M<sup>r</sup>. Burrell's Office are to be performed by any other than himself, surely it cannot well be attempted by those who are fully occupied with their own; and as two persons must be employed, according to this new plan, She apprehends, that she is more adequate to give Instruction to the Riding Post-Master, here to Act, than any other person possibly could, heretofore unexperienced in such business

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Baltimore December 23rd, 1789.

## Mary Katherine Goddard to George Washington, December 23, 1789

X- this file is now known to be absolutely false It must be a [*struck: illegible*] wretched system, indeed, which stands in need of so despicable [*struck: a Species of illegible*] an Ancillary, as a palpable lie, invented by men high in office [*struck: in*] passing themselves for Gentlemen of Property & Independence