April 1782

A Monsieur Mons. des Marbois,
Intendant des Iles à Portau Prince.

Sir,

I have regularly received the letter you did me the honor to write to me on the 30th of November last, accompanied by one from the Count de la Laye neuve, respecting the claim of M. de Angier Des Tourels to be admitted a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

I should certainly find myself extremely happy in an opportunity of gratifying the wishes of so meritorious an officer as M. des Tourels: if I thought myself at liberty to take any part whatever in the premises, I should recommend strongly as he is by the Count de la Laye neuve and yourself. You will have a doubt that he would be an acquisition and a credit to the Institution; but I cannot have any hesitation in believing that his pretensions are as good as those of some who have found admission into the Society. Yet as I have (amidst the almost innumerable applications that have been made to me) scrupulously avoided giving any decision and only referred the Documents I had received to the General Meeting, I shall, myself, be considered as having done very little in the present instance.

You will perceive, I tremble.
April 1782

Sir, that from the Constitution of our Society, it would not have been right in me to have given a positive determination on the question. It would now be less proper than ever for me to take that upon myself. For, having by a circular letter to the several State Societies requested that I might not be re-elected President on account of my numerous avocations the last year, Meeting was pleased so far to instruct me, as to make it a condition for inducing my acceptance, that I should be absolutely excused from all trouble and application incident to the office, and the whole business should devolve on the Vice President, viz. General Mifflin. As I shall not be present at the next General Meeting, I will transmit the application of Mr. de Tencels to Gen. Knox, the Secretary of the General Society.

The appointment of the Count de la Luzerne to the office of Minister of Marine & his consequent removal to Europe, will, I presume, supersede the expediency of my addressing him on this subject. Had that not been the case, I should have seized with celerity the occasion of paying the tribute of my homage to his acknowledged talents and virtues. I am truly rejoiced to hear of the felicity of Madame de Marbix and yourself: and hope you will be made still more happy in the preservation of the two nations to which you allude.

Yam are

Mount Vernon
april 4th 1782

D. Washington