New York July 16. 1787

Dear Sir

I am obliged to you for yours of the 11th inst. - with pleasure I communicate to you what we are doing in Congress - not so much from a consciousness that what we do is well done, as from a desire that you may be acquainted with our proceedings - we have been much engaged in business for ten or twelve days past for a part of which we have had 8 states - there appears to be a disposition to do business; and the arrival of R. H. Lee is of considerable importance, I think his character serves, at least in some degree, to check the efforts of the feeble habits and low modes of thinking in some of his countrymen - we have been employed about several objects - the principal ones of which have been the Government enclosed and the Ohio purchase - the former you will see is completed and the latter will be probably completed to morrow - we tried one day to patch up M. & P. systems of W. Govermt - started new ideas and committed the whole to Carrington, Dane, R. H. Lee, Smith, & Kean - we met several times and at last agreed on some principles at least Lee, Smith & myself - we found ourselves rather pressed, the Ohio Company appeared to purchase a large tract of the federal lands, about 6 or 7 million of acres - and we wanted to abolish the old system and get a better one for the Government of the Country - and we finally found it necessary to adopt the best system we could get - all agreed finally to the enclosed except A. Yates - he appeared in this case, as in most others not to understand the subject at all - I think the number of

free Inhabitants 60,000, which are requisite for the admission of a new State into the confederacy is too small, but having divided the whole territory into 3 States, this number appeared to me to be less important, each State in the common course of things must become important soon after it shall have that number of Inhabitants — the eastern State of the 3 will probably be the first, and more important than the rest — and, will no doubt be settled chiefly by Eastern people, — and there is, I think, full an equal chance of it's adopting Eastern politics — when I drew the ordinance which passed (in a few words excepted) as I originally formed it, I had no idea the States would agree to the sixth art. prohibiting Slavery — as only Majr. of the Eastern States was present — and therefore omitted it in the draft — but find the House favourably disposed on this subject, after we had completed the other parts I moved the art — which was agreed to without opposition — we are in a fair way to fix the terms of our Ohio sale, &c, we have been upon it two three days steadily — the magnitude of the purchase makes us very cautious about the terms of it, and the security necessary to ensure the performance of them

we have directed the board to inquire into and report on Rotheir affairs — &c —

Majr. Legn. was prorogued the 7th inst having continued the tender act, as it is called, to Jan. 1. 1788 & having passed no other act of importance except what I presume, you have been reputing the raising of troops and the power of the Governor to pursue the rebells, &c —

You ask me how I like my new Colleagues — Judge Parsons, you know, we all

return but I fear he will not make his attendance on objects whether I am quite unacquainted with — I do not know whether Mr. Otis at his period of life and under his misfortunes will enter with vigor into federal politics — I wish his accounts ~~of the~~ with the Union had been settled &c ——

nothing occurs worth particular notice

Your affect. Friend —

Hon. R. King

N. Dane —

P. S. States present. Mass. N.Y. N.J. Delaware Virg. N. Car. S.C. Carolina & Georgia — brother Potter is rather an invalid, is not well able to take an active part in business — but I think supports pretty good Eastern politics —

Mr Dane

16 July 87

ordinance of 1787.

N-YORK*July 17 [illegible]

FREE.

The Honorable Rufus King Esquire —

Philadelphia —

From —

N. Dane —