Alexandria 9th March 1798

My Dear Friend

This I address to you at New York for which place our friend Anthony tells me you was to set off about ye 6th Instant — no great change has taken place here except what the revolving season presents — War has been loudly rumored and all things considered I believe it would be much best for our Country if it was formally declared with France — Your friend Parrott is here I suspect as love-sick as ever — but I have little to say either of men or women — our society & Trade are now equally dull — I shall therefore soon overtake you, as the pleasant season comes on — I have not been able to obtain the Bank Stock on quite so good terms as I expected and have therefore thought best to commence a purchase on the best Terms I could, especially as the term of dividend which is half yearly, is now elapsing fast — I have bought Three Shares at 180 Dolls each (the original value of them being 200 Doll per Share) these were transferred to me the 2d Instant & the amount 540 Dollars I have charged to your account — it is not always that stock can be had on these terms & so soon as I can effect it