It is with unfeigned ~~concern &~~ humiliation that I respectfully request the attention of Congress to matters of a personal concern. My representations shall be principally confined to statements of facts, and be as brief as possible; — If my reflections in some particulars seem to savour of ostentation ~~[illegible]~~, I hope to be forgiven, this first Offence of that kind; if they are expressed in tones of affliction, the desolations of my kindred and the blighted prospects of my children, will at least excite ~~some~~ the consolations arising from your sympathy.

It is indispensible that I should ~~[illegible] necessary to my purpose~~ to become my own Biographer. My public services, commenced in April 1779, when I was a pupil of Yale College, seventeen years of age; ~~at~~ From November preceding, my Father had been from home, attending Congress at Phila & afterwards at Baltimore, ~~where that Body was convened~~, during the darkest period of the revolutionary War.

In the middle of the Night, I was summoned from bed to ~~attend~~ repair to the Rendezvous of the Militia Company, commanded by Captain Eton Jones of ~~in~~ this place, with information, that the Enemy had landed on the Coast, and by ~~a~~ forced marches ~~had~~ proceeded to Danbury, where they had burned the Continental Stores, and ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Village. I arose and equipped with Military accoutrements myself: My Mother ~~fell~~ supplied my Knapsack with a Blanket & Provisions and hastened my departure, with ~~the~~ cheering advice, to conduct like a good Soldier. I left my native home, in company with a near kinsman, of my own age, confiding ~~the protection~~ my Mother, Sisters, & Brother, (then ten years of age) to the sole protection of two young ~~a Male & a Female~~

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