

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE  
VIRGINIA HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY: NEW SERIES.  
NO. I.; LETTERS**

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**JR. NELSON**

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PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

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*No. 1.*

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LETTERS

OF

THOMAS NELSON, JR.,

Governor of Virginia.



RICHMOND:  
*Virginia Historical Society.*  
ANNO MDCCCLXXIV.

[EDITION OF 500 COPIES ONLY.]

*No.*





*THESE LETTERS, from the pen of Governor THOMAS NELSON, JR., relate to the siege of Yorktown, the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and the Naval and Military movements which resulted in that decisive triumph of the Continental arms, and are now published for the first time.*

*THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY are gratified to have this opportunity of quickening the public interest in Governor Nelson, whose example of self-sacrificing patriotism will outlast the bronze which commemorates his name.*



## LETTERS.

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*Thos. Nelson, Jr., B. G. to Major Dick.*

NOTHING has offered since I last wrote, Holt's  
Forge,  
Jan'y 8th,  
1781,  
after 6 P.M. which renders it necessary to vary the orders then given. It was my wish to have collected the troops on this side of James River to one point, that if any opportunity presented itself of gaining an advantage of the enemy, we might have seized it to the best effect. For this reason I should this night have marched the troops here towards your station, but that this would have thrown our whole force too far into y<sup>e</sup> rear of the enemy, to give any protection to the lower country, should the enemy embark in any short time, which I think not improbable. If they should not, I shall to-morrow morning draw closer to them by the way of Charles City Court House, and wish you to keep as near them as you prudently can. In case of their embarkation and going down the River, you will march your troops by the most direct