

Dec 31 1796

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Staunton 31st Dec^r 1796

Sir

Considering the attempts which will probably be made by some of the friends of Great Britain to widen our breach with France. I feel an Inclination to forward a memorial to Congress from this quarter declaring our friendly disposition towards that Nation & that if we should be compelled to take part in the European war we prefer a union with France to that of any other power

lest however such a measure should tend to embarrass the Government or be attended with evil consequences which I do not foresee I take the liberty of asking your advice as to the propriety of the measure under my promise of Secrecy. — Out of your large supply of Chinese Bells I am in hopes you can spare me one without incommoding yourself, I mean one of the highest price & to which you will add the expence of Carriage from Philadelphia here; If so the Money shall be remitted to you through Mr Clarke — Mr Cavendish has not yet returned from the Assembly

I am Sir y^r most sincerely
Thos Jefferson Esqr
Arch Stuart

