

Florida, Montgomery County, February 5<sup>th</sup> 1807.

To Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States.

Sir,

In a heaven-favored country like this, where the supreme power of ruling owes a large measure of its origin to those who toil in the humblest vales of life — where temperate Liberty, rational Equality, and the natural Rights of Mankind constitute the basis of Government, and are the privileged blessings of all orders of society — where personal Merit is the avowed criterion of Distinction, and equips the elevated rank and dignified office of its Chief Magistrate; — although that office may exalt him to <sup>a</sup> Station superior to all the tyrannical potentates of the earth, it does not demand that servile awe, that cringing obsequiousness, and those fulsome apologies in addressing him, which proceed from sycophantic manners and inspire contempt: — His highest honor is, that he presides over a free people; — his greatest reward that he deserves and shares their grateful benedictions. —

But, Sir, though a natural free-born citizen of this happy land, yet, have I felt the torturing scourge of Tyranny, and have tasted the nauseous cup of Slavery; — for I was among those unfortunate Americans who were long immersed in

the

loathsome walls of Tripoli. — To gratify, therefore, a number of  
friends, — to serve the public, and perhaps to gain a little recompense  
towards the support of an indigent family, I am preparing,  
for publication, a Volume, to be printed by Subscription, containing  
an account of our sufferings, the remarks and poetical pieces which  
I wrote during our captivity.

And as I am anxious to make it as  
useful and interesting to the public as possible, I have ventured to  
solicit your patronizing indulgence, that I might be furnished  
with such duplicates, or public papers, as contain the most important,  
correct, and authentic information, relative to our operations of war,  
or negotiations of peace with that power; provided a compliance  
with this request does not clash with official duty. —

The work will be printed by Mr. John Barber of  
Albany, to whom all communications for me will be sent. —

That you may long live the champion of those  
republican principles of which you have proved the father and  
defender; and that you may forever participate in the happy and  
secure rewards of exalted virtue, is, amongst thousands of others,

the sincere prayer of, Sir, Your most obedient

Humble Servant.

M. Ray

Ray in Florida. Montgomerie Feb. 5. 07.  
recd Feb. 18.