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March 1, 1806

entertaining a high respect for your benevolence and
Judgment I have taken liberty of asking your approbation, on
a subject which my Interest is engaged in which is the change-
ing of Iron into Steel as near as Imported, therefore I am Induced
to address a ^{few} lines supposing that the President will direct those
measures as shall appear congenial to his wishes, believing the
Success of undertakings of this kind rest on making genuine
calculations, I am well assured that foreign customs are in many Instances
erroneous and may be curtailed and every art may be Improved
I am Induced to believe that the Americans is not to be secluded
from Nature's bountifull Arts, and the Importance of these
Researches I dare say will meet the approbation of every noble
mind and sufficiently excuse for the addressing these lines, and as the
pure essence of the mind is ever willing to Encourage Ingenuity I
feel willing to communicate my Intentions to my President whom
I presume will conceive this business of the highest Importance
as it attends to amediate publick Utility no way or publick

Marsh Jay Phil. Mar. 1. 06. rec^d. Mar. 3.

business or even private concerns can be carried into complete effect
Without this valuable article especially should our ports be in a
State of blockade, this secret has been fostered by the European Nations
in general wishing thereby to aggrandise their wealth, should this
making of steel meet the approbation of the President, I shall by returning
a line answer the same giving a true statement of the expense & time
that is necessary for this operation, and should this be the first application
Of this kind made to the President, I should esteem it as a particular favor
Of having the first chance of conducting the same either for the publick
for individuals, I am a back Woodsman and on expense at Philadelphia
therefore wish the President will be so kind as to order an immediate answer
Addressing the same to Jay Marsh, to be left at the Postoffice at
Philadelphia untill called for, and on reception, if favourable I shall
come to Mattemou or Washington, to put the same in practice &c &c &c

Philadelphia
March 1. 1800

I am for an American and your most Ob. and Devy

Wm. Gifferson
Wm. Gifferson, Jay Marsh