

St. Louis Decem 15, 1808

Sir

I thought it my duty to state a few days since the knowledge I had obtained of several English vessels or vessels under English flags, ^{having been} taken up by Americans in different parts of the United States & proceed to the Mississippi & Florida to procure Cotton - since I had the honor to receive that communication I have received the enclosed price current & circular it shews that the same plans are pursuing by British Merchants from Great Britain

That ship of Country ~~Sea~~ the East of the Mississippi held by the Spaniards & claimed by them as a part of West Florida produces a great deal of very fine Cotton - I believe the Speculators think they can go in Spanish or British vessel to Spanish Forts on the Mississippi (Mauron) there load & proceed thence to Sea without interruption if prevented in doing so their plans is no doubt laid to carry the Cotton across & through

Handl. Phila. Dec. 15. 18. yr. Dec. 18.

take Pouchatrain & Spanish possessions
there load. They calculate wth all probability
on a great proportion of the Cotton from
the American possessions in the neighbour-
hood going this way.

With sentiments of true respect
I have the honor to be

Yours Excellency
most obed^t serv^t
Francis Pickens

His Excellency
Thomas Jefferson
President of the
United States