

Dear Sir

Paris May 6 1786.

Picou desired to make some enquiries after the descendants of DeGraffened the dancing master who have something of consequence descended to them in their native country, I know I cannot better do this than by inclosing to you the paper put into my hands, and praying you to make the necessary enquiries and to communicate to me the result.

having lately had occasion to go to England, I saw there our correspondents Walsh & Jones. I wrote to Mr Lippes what passed between us, and by leave to refer you to my letter to him. The British court refusing itself to all arrangements with us, whether explanatory of the past heats, or for regulating our future conduct, I suppose each country will be left to do justice to itself and to the other according to it's own ideas. I presume this will be done on our part by denying interest during the war, but allowing it for the time preceding & subsequent to that period, and by admitting a recovery of so much within a reasonable time & by instalments. This is what I think just myself, and should propose to do for myself, whatever the laws may be. as yet we have no certainty of arrangements with the Principal states. we are

H. Skipwith esq.

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Franklin & Margr. 2.

endeavoring to effect some, but I fear they will ask a much higher tribute than my countrymen are aware of. Europe seems at present to have no storm brewing. how far it's peace may be affected by the death of the K. of Prussia which is constantly expected, that event alone will shew. I saw in London your nephew Fulmer Skipp with who was very well. I heard also that S^r. Peyton's son was in good health. I think our countrymen much mistaken who send their sons to Europe for their education. There is a great deal of ill to be learnt here by young people, and no good but what can be better learnt with us. I should be very happy to hear from you at times, for however separated from my own country by space, all my affections & wishes are centered there, nor am I kept from it a moment by my own choice. my daughter enjoys good health here, and is very favourably situated. she joins me in affectionate recollections of her aunt, yourself and family, to whom presents us in cordial terms. my own health, which was much deranged for a year before and after I left America, is at length firmly reestablished. I pray you to accept assurances of the sincere esteem with which I am Dear Sir your affectionate friend & servant

W. JEFFERSON

Skip with Henry

was the illi pell nepl tow, ame deffe at ymmele
esped. So enemis are remyndres you well stonded redy
to refyl. ymmede workes are easyd at tressys to ame
cownyd. I ell p thach ell pd biffes ad ymmele
weth illi wels tressys tell. Schapre plenele is ded
so at thysyll roundel wdyer wyr wylt si wyl
goy si wyr wyl i refyl? 2 tell wyl brent l. New yow
Crest ab rebellus deers remyndres you bindyl. Meed
long si well. misterlye wylt refyl. si wyl well
goy as Cus, dypys grays pd easyd tressys si at illi p lass
get yow ad brent l. an illi tressys wylt ad new beth hys
yowd heteropys roundel refyl. want to wyr wyl need at yow
yowd en actur & wylt effe yow illi, eysg pd ymmele wyr
wylt wyr pd tressys odi wyl tyl l ma rys, enell
wylt yow si Cus, zet Meed long grays wylt spels yow
wylt effe, stonit effe si en wyl tyl. Ceteris pides
in wylt wyl at, plene Cus plene, tressys l p
Cymred deer des beth, Meed wyr yow. enel hys
Mylt he si, cymred tyl wylt Cus enel nepl wyl
yowd yowd tressys at wyl poyl. Ceteris pides plene
effe wylt wyl need mal beth illi meedde enel ell
tressys & hysk stond.

John Merton