

London 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1785

S<sup>r</sup>

By direction of an Associated company of Irish Merch<sup>ts</sup> here, who have honour'd me with the Office of their Secretary, I am to congratulate you in their Names, on your appointment to the honourable Station you now hold under the United-States of America, at the Court of France.

It is with much concern the Gentlemen, by whose Authority I write - observe a settled determination in Great-Britain to prevent as far as possible that unrestrain'd commercial Intercourse, which they think should, (and would be beneficial to both Countries to have) subsist, between Ireland & America.

United here - (tho' in a private manner) for certain purposes of general advantage to their Native Country, - they find by an attention to the proceedings of the Ministry, ~~that~~ that notwithstanding the state of the commercial propositions (so well known) in the Irish House of Commons; - the Trade, Rights, & Liberty of that Country ~~has been~~ have been again attack'd, by the tenor of an Act of Parl<sup>t</sup>. pass'd in the British Parliament, at the close of its last Session, commonly call'd "A Tobacco Bill." - the nature of which they presume you are not wholly unacquainted with.

Desirous of a correspondence with, and Trading connect<sup>n</sup> between your Country and theirs, they have propos'd establishing a Company on their behalf in Ireland, to receive from America such Commodities as her Merch<sup>ts</sup> may choose to export to that Country, by way of Exchange for such Articles as Ireland affords, in return.

On this Head I took the liberty of writing (by directions as I now do) - to Congress about six weeks since; - and as we conceive it must be proper to acquaint you also with what has been done, - and w<sup>th</sup> the intelligence we receive of what is intended; I am to mention further ~~that~~ there is good grounds to assert, that England intends equipping a Fleet, to be station'd along the Western Ocean, to intercept the Vessels (if any) which may be destin'd to Trade from America to Ireland: I speak as to American bottoms only. - What pretext may be adopted for this proceeding we can not so well now determine, - but many Vessels have been actually fitted out, for this business.

Anxious however, from Public principles, that Ireland and America, should be still connected; - (their Interests appearing now to require that connection) - We have thought it not improper to suggest to you, how far Ostend might not be made a convenient place of security for conveying the Commerce of ~~each~~ the two Countries to each. - and therefore we submit that point to your consideration, should you be of the same opinion with the Gentlemen for whom I write as to the Importance of Trade between your Country and theirs.

If such may be the case, they should be happy in receiving your  
Advice & assistance upon the occasion - and they will communicate such  
further information as may from time to time be requisite upon the subject.  
— With every Apology for the liberty thus taken permit me both on their  
account & my own

to subscribe myself with great respect

Yr. most obed.

very humble  
Sew.

P.S.

We have been indebted to Mrs. Waight  
of Cockspur Street for the present opportunity  
of forwarding this. — Any answer or ob-  
servations you may please to make in return  
directed to me (74 Haymarket London) will  
be received with pleasure.

*E. W. Wainman Seward*

Sec. Afo. Sa. Mer.

Seward Wm Wainman