

1808.

Jefferson Aug: 29-08

Dear Sir

Monticello Aug. 29. 08.

Yours of the 7th & 10th inst. were acknowledged in mine of the 19th. Mr Madison is now with me and is preparing instructions for you. we now very much wish we had asked you to take a trip here. it is impossible to give on paper so intimate an expression of our views as in conversation: and more difficult in this case than in others because in addition to the general objects of cultivating friendships and declaring our purpose of observing neutrality, which can be put on paper, a more pressing object, which cannot be put on paper, is to avail ourselves of the ^{emperor's} marked dispositions of friendly regard for us, whenever a treaty of peace shall be on the tapis, & to ^{engage him to} patronize our interests there, so as ~~that we may not be~~ the benefit of the maritime rights which shall then be settled, may be attended to us & nothing plotted to sacrifice us by France or England, neither of which wish us success. but it is now too late to see you.

while your instructions are in preparation, we have advertised the sailing of an Aviso on the 15th of Sep. from Philadelphia, and by a letter of the 26th from hence, Mr Gallatin was desired to instruct the Collector of Philadelphia to engage one there. The only persons who know of your mission are the heads of departments & Mr Graham, chief clerk of the department of state. with any of these whom you meet you may speak safely on the subject. it would have been very desirable that you should have read our Russian correspondence. but this appears impracticable without making your mission public.

Mr Short

Recd at Philad^a Aug. 29. 08

I send you the emperor's ^{*} letters to me, which he pleased to re-
turn after perusal, but mine to him are at Washington,
not to be got at in my absence. They would have been more
important to give you a view of what has passed. I believe
Mr. Lewis Harris has copies of them. our correspondence was
produced in this way. The Emperor, from a disinterested &
virtuous regard to this country expressed a wish to correspond
with me, which was communicated to me through a fourth
person, but afterwards a letter of his was shewn me expressing
the same wish. I took the occasion therefore of his generous
& voluntary interposition in the case of the capture of the
Philadelphia & her crew, to begin the correspondence, which
has been more in a private than public style.

I expect to receive a letter for you from Price in time
to inclose it in this package. I have written so lately
to my friends in France that I have no letters to trouble
you with. I have written two to M. La Fayette on his af-
-fairs here, & have nothing new to add to them. I have
pressed him to borrow money in Europe to pay his debts
on a hypothecation of his Orleans lands, for 10. years, at the
end of which time they will sell for 8. times what they will
now. Still however remember me to all those whose nomi-
-nation with whom I am intimate. They are all known to
you; and wishing you safety, health, & success, I repeat
the assurances of my constant affection & respect.

W. Jefferson

* These were dated Nov. 7. 1804 - in answer to one of June 15. 1804
& Aug. 10. 1806 - in acknowledgement of (date not in hand) sent by Mr. Harris
with books on the American constitution - note of 1805.