

Dear Sir

on the Canal of Languedoc, approaching Toulouse. May 21. 1787.

The only incalculable part of my journey now drawing to a close, I am able to give you a state of my future motions from which there will probably be no considerable variation, unless any considerable accident happen. I expect to arrive on the days following at the several places named.

May 23. Bourdeaux

31. Nantes.

June. 4. Lorient

7. Rennes

8. Nantes

11. Tours

13. Orleans.

15. Paris

as there is a possibility that I may vary my route a little from Lorient, so as to avoid the re- passage by Nantes, it will be advisable to retain at Paris all letters which may arrive there after the 25th of this month. I have passed through the Canal from it's entrance into the Mediterranean at Cette to this place, & shall be immediately at Toulouse, in

the whole 200 American miles, by water; having employed in examining all it's details nine days, one of which was spent in making a tour of 40 miles on horseback, among the Montagnes noires, to see the manner in which water has been collected to supply the canal; the other eight on the canal itself.

I dismounted my carriage from it's wheels, placed it on the deck of a light bark, and was thus towed on the canal instead of the post road. That I might be perfectly master of all the delays necessary, I hired a bark to myself by the day, & have made from 20. to 35 miles a day, according to circumstances, always sleeping ashore. Of all the methods of travelling I have ever tried this is the pleasantest. I walk the greater part of the way along the banks of the canal, level, & lined with a double row of trees which furnish shade. When fatigued I take seat in my carriage where, as much at ease as if in my study, I read, write, or observe. my carriage being of glass all round, admits a full view of

of all the varying scenes thro' which I am shifted, olives, figs, mulberries, vines, corn
& pasture, villages & farms. I have had some days of superb weather, enjoying two
parts of the Indian's wish, cloudless skies & limpid waters: I have had another lux-
ury which he could not wish, since we have driven him from the country of Mocking-
-birds, a double row of nightingales along the banks of the canal, in full song. This
delicious bird gave me another rich treat at Vaucluse. arriving there a little fatigued
I sat down to repose myself at the fountain, which, in a retired hollow of the mountain,
gushes out in a stream sufficient to turn 300 mills, the ruins of Petrarch's chateau
perched on a rock 200 feet perpendicular over the fountain, & every tree & bush
filled with nightingales in full chorus I find Marzani's observation just that
their song is more varied, their tone fuller & stronger here than on the banks
of the Seine. it explains to me another circumstance, why there never was a
poet North of the Alps, & why there never will be one. a poet is as much the
creature of climate as an orange or palm tree. what a bird the nightingale
would be in the climates of America! we must colonize him thither. you should
not think of returning to America without taking the tour which I have taken,
extending it only further South. I intend to propose to Col^o. Randolph the
permitting his eldest son to take it the next spring, & suppose it would be an
agreeable & economical circumstance to you both to go together. you should not
stop short of the country of Mons^r. Pio, to whom be pleased to present me in the most
friendly terms, as also to M. Marzani, the M. de la Fayette & Chastellux, maison de
Chaville, two Abbés &c. desire Froullé to procure for me immediately le Recueil
alphabetique des droits de traites uniformes. 4. v. 8^{vo} printed in 1786. & as is said, at
Lyons. Petit should immediately make them plant the vacant space of the garden in Indian
corn in rows 3 feet apart, the plants a foot apart in the row. I finish my page with as-
-surances of the sincere esteem & attachment with which I am dear Sir your
affectionate friend & servant

Th: Jefferson

Jefferson May 21 1787
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