

Wilmington Delaware July  
1798

Sir

If I have not too much sense, I hope I have not enough of vanity to attribute the very kind & flattering message delivered to me by Dr. Reynolds in your name, to any but the true cause; the exaggerated encomia of a most eloquent pleader.

I came here as I thought to a country of Liberty and equality, phrases that may, & have been much distorted but can not be dishonoured, I do not find it such & my sense of duty bids me withdraw rather than remonstrate. But whither to go I know not. By no means satisfied with French Political morality & certain that my going to that country would irritate the British Government, which



as my wife informs me is about to make over to her  
 and to our children my late property I will not remove  
 thither. My present intention is to remove to New Orleans  
 as soon as I can wind up a business which I had  
 hopes would have rendered me independent of British  
 clemency for support, even thro the medium of Mr<sup>s</sup> H. N.  
 And that it might not be said hereafter if ever I should  
 return to my own country that I had been abject  
 enough to receive favours or base enough to forget them

With the most sincere good wishes for your personal  
 happiness and without the most minute doubt of the  
 ultimate success of the friends of universal freedom, I  
 beg leave to subscribe myself your attached friend

Your obedient servant

Arch: Hamilton Rowan

Thomas Jefferson Esq<sup>r</sup>