

1806  
Jan 10

Please Your Excellency—

To permit me begging as a favour to have a Committee composed of three Members, acquainted each, with the principles of Geometry and Mathematics; the principles of Shisics; the different situations and cases of Vessels, either sailing, or laying-to-at-sea, or at Anchor in harbors; and the requisites qualities they must have for to be as perfect as possible. That I may first demonstrate before them, that the Method, called geometrical, attributed to M<sup>r</sup> De L'Hospital, which the Ship-wright generally follow and use for making their Plans of Vessels, is so defective that it is impossible to make ever a perfect Vessel by it: And next to demonstrate, that the Plans which I shall submit to their view, are so combined by my new method, in comparison to others, that the Vessels built on them shall be as perfect on all accounts as can ever be any Vessels having the same principal Dimensions.

Therefore if my prayer thereabouts be granted, I think the proper place where to have it done, will be in a large room in the Secretary of Naval Department Hotel, which room must be provided with sufficient number of tables, whereon to place at once my Plans, besides several sheets of papers on which are figures, and calculations relative thereto; and because there may be had models of Vessels, where by to illustrate and explain easier and better said Demonstrations: and that a Saturday be appointed to make said Demonstrations, for the convenience of the Honourable Members of Congress of all Denominations, who will be present; as also all other officers of the United States, principally the Naval officers, and Ship-wrights, as by standers.

And please Your Excellency to let me know your approbation, and changes you shall think proper in the above dispositions, if my prayer be granted; or your denial if not?

I am with the greatest respect

Your Excellency

Washington City, January the 10<sup>th</sup> 1806.

Most humble and  
dutiful Servant

P Landais; Lodged at the  
City Tavern, kept by W<sup>m</sup> Rhodes —  
Washington City.

His Excellency Thomas Jefferson. President of the United States.

London P. Math<sup>r</sup> Jan. 10. 06.

recd. Jan. 11.

I Peter Landais, formerly Capt of the Frigate Alliance, wrote to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> J. Saine Esq, three years ago, my opinion against having the Men of War of the United States's military Arsenals and Harbours either at Brook-lyn, near New York; or at Washington City; and J. Saine told me he had given that letter to his Excellency J. Jefferson President of the United States.

I have a System of organisation made for the Navy of a Republic <sup>Democ<sup>ie</sup></sup> whatever, which will contribute to render it as perfect as possible.

I have wrought this fifty last years on the form that the frame or bottom of men of war ought to have to be as perfect as possible; and have found that by the methods known, described in the Encyclopedie, and Authors therabouts it is impossible to attain it; But I have found the Method to do it by a series of combinations, which I have the presumption to believe to be the only professor of, and that ~~it may~~ many centuries <sup>may be</sup> resolved before it is discovered by any other.

Lan Dai Peter.

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