

Sir

Middleburg Loudoun County Virginia

Dec. 16th 1802.

I intended last week to have done myself the honor of delivering to you in person the enclosed papers, but my business in Alexandria having detained me so long as but just to give me time to get ^{to} our Court last Monday prevented my going to the City. The serious sum which I have at stake and its certain loss without the interference of Government will I hope be a sufficient apology for troubling you on the occasion. The papers I believe will give a full explanation of the case & which I hope will appear to you ^{to be} such an one as to merit instructions to our Minister in France.* The Acceptances alluded to are now in Holland but could be had at any time, if however this case should be thought worthy of attention I suppose all that our Minister could do with the French Government would be to fix the principle, that being done I could have the business finished by our Agent.

In 1796 I went to Phil^a with a view of laying this case then before Congress but was advised by Gentlemen ^{they} to decline doing any thing in the matter until a general peace should take place when they believed that the French Government would make such arrangements as would enable all those ^{all} who had suffered by ^{of a friendly nation} ~~the war~~ ^{its measures} to obtain justice. In 1800 I left with Col^l Pickens then Secretary of State a short statement but have never understood whether any thing was done with it. With sentiments of respect I am

Wth y^r Obedt^{nt} Servant

L. J^r

* The money deposited has either been used by that Government or still remains where it was placed, in either case it seems to me proper that the French Government should reimburse me for it has either had the use of the money or has it not to redeem.

The Honble James Madison

Secretary of State

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Washington City.