

Van Madaem

Brussels Jan: 31<sup>st</sup> 1817.

3 2<sup>00</sup>  
Heise  
5/23/41

Sir,

Previous to my last Letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> instant I had been informed by the Consul at Antwerp that American Vessels entering that port paid no higher tonnage-duties than vessels belonging to the country. I have since learned that the same regulation prevails in all the other parts of the Kingdom. The order given in this respect was said to be founded on information that a similar regulation applied to Dutch Vessels on leaving the ports of the U. S. Having no information of as being in such a regulation, I concluded that it was probably founded on misinformation or mistake, and said nothing on the subject. In a late conversation with Mr de Nagell, he informed me of the fact adding that the order had been given in anticipation of a like arrangement on the part of the U. States and expressing a wish that such arrangement might not be long delayed as complaints were made by others that favour shown to the American was not extended to theirs.

Whether this regulation, which has been observed from the commencement of the present year, was the fruit of some error or a real advance towards a mutual arrangement you may be enabled to judge from the order of Mr Wickes, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. Mr de Nagell added that after waiting a reasonable time if the American government did not adopt such arrangement, the foreign duties would be required on American vessels.

I have the honor to be

with the greatest respect

Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

The Hon: James Monroe  
Secretary of State.

W. Eustis.

My opinion would be to issue an order to the several  
collectors to require of Dutch vessels the same duties of tonnage  
as are paid by American vessels, and for the present  
to stop there. My last letter will explain the ground  
of this opinion.

W. C. C.

The Hon. James Monroe  
Secretary of State