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12. for Hamb. Letter.

1796 (2)

from M<sup>rs</sup> F'archenoltz  
to M<sup>rs</sup> Pinkney

Sir.

I had the honour to send you at different times . . . . .  
the unfortunate General Lafayette . . . . . all this . . . . .  
Letters were forwarded by me. it is my pride that it was in my  
power to do this service to a man I greatly admire and I embolden  
by his honourable confidence to address you Sir these lines and to  
tell you the present situation of your unhappy friend who is not  
able in his rigorous confinement to give signs of life to those  
without. his situation is a more pityfull one, and but very little  
alleviated by the Society of his lady and daughters, as they are become  
joint sufferers with him. they are all shut up without any difference  
or rather buried alive, every communication with the living being  
entirely cut off. they have neither air, nor exercise and are melting  
away in their grave. if the generous americans forsake them,  
a virtuous family, (and what a family) will sink into oblivion.

I have heard that in several countries the americans are  
preparing an address to the emperor for the deliverance of their  
fellow citizen, but I am afraid that this will not have great effect.

Without being founded by Diplomatic assistance, and the more I am  
Doubtfull, as the superior in an audience given to mad... told her, that  
the matter was complicated, and all did not depend from him.

The english ministers have publicly shewn their hatred against  
the General, but perhaps they have relaxed since, or they will be less  
scrupulous, when they know his earnest intention of going to america  
as soon as he will be free.

according to all probability there is no prospect of a speedy  
peace, but if a negotiation for this purpose is earnestly entered  
upon, even then no party will take notice of the worthy performer,  
and the Martyr of liberty will be forgotten in his Dungeon,  
if the americans are silent on his Subject.

fit - you will be pleas'd to excuse those reflexions  
of an independent Man. I do not presume to extend them,  
it is sufficient to have expos'd to you the present wretched  
situation of oppressed Virtue. your Generous heart which the  
Gal was once extolling to me, and your Wisdom will dictate  
you what is the best to be done in this case in your  
diplomatic Character.