

Paris August 4<sup>th</sup> 1796

Sir,

Within a few days past M<sup>r</sup> Mangourit formerly Consul at<sup>1</sup> Charleston, now Secretary of Embassy in Spain, was appointed with the rank of Chargé des affaires to succeed, with us, M<sup>r</sup> Adet. This event as well in respect to the Gentleman employed as the grade chosen, gave me great concern and therefore merited my immediate attention. Accordingly I visited the Minister of foreign affairs this morning and remonstrated earnestly against the mission of M<sup>r</sup> Mangourit to the United States, as a person who having given offence to our government upon a former occasion, could not be well received by it upon the present one. To the grade however I thought proper to make no explicit objection, because I had no reason to conclude that it was chosen with any unfriendly view towards us, and because I presumed if the measure was broken in one part it would be most probably be so in the other. The Minister replied to me in terms sufficiently respectful, but nevertheless in such as induced me to believe, that in case any change was accorded in the measure, it would not be by his consent: he observed however that if I would write him a short note on the subject he would lay it before the Directoire and which I promised him I would do.

Within a few days past too I heard that the Directoire had passed an arrêté authorizing the seizure of neutral vessels destined for England, to take effect when the English likewise seize them. This arrêté was not announced officially. But by the copy of a letter from the minister to Barthelemy the French Ambassador at Basle published in the gazettes, I saw that the report was true. In consequence I likewise spoke to the minister upon this subject, and received from him in reply to my remonstrance against it, a general answer corresponding much in sentiment with his letter above mentioned, a copy of which herewith inclose you.

It is said that a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive between France and Spain is in great forwardness, and whereby the latter cedes to the former Louisiana and perhaps the Floridas. I have no authentic information of this, but the source from whence it came, is of a nature to merit attention.

I have the pleasure to transmit to you herewith, some communication respecting our affairs in Algiers, by which it appears that M<sup>r</sup> Barloe had the good fortune to succeed with the Dey in prolonging the term allotted for the payment of the sum due him by our late treaty for the ransom of our prisoners, and for peace, and finally and although the money was not received, that he had obtained the discharge of our prisoners and who are fortunately arrived at Marseilles. Upon this even therefore which not only liberates from a long and painful captivity so many of our countrymen, but in all probability secures the peace which was endangered by the delay of the money stipulated to be paid, I beg leave to congratulate you, since it is an even important not only in respect to the consolation which it yields to humanity, but equally so in regard to the extension and security of our commerce, in a region of the world heretofore unexplored by it, and where it promises to be very productive.

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I commit this letter with other communications for you to the care of<sup>2</sup> D<sup>f</sup> Edwards who will deliver them in person and to whom I beg to refer you for other details upon the subject of our affairs here, upon which you may wish information. He has been more than a year in Europe, and the greater part of that term here; has had opportunities of correct information and which he has improved to advantage. To him therefore I beg to refer you as to an authority well informed and very deserving of confidence. I am, Sir, with great respect and esteem your most obedient serv<sup>t</sup>

Ja<sup>s</sup> Monroe.