

**Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, September 8, 1793, with Fragment Copy, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.**

**TO JAMES MADISON MAD. MSS.**

Sept. 8, 1793.

I have received and am charmed with No. V. I thought the introduction an useful lesson to others as I found it to myself, for I had really, by constantly hearing the sound, been led into a pretty free use of it myself. I struck out the passage you desired in the last page. I struck out also the words "and neutrality" in the following passage "taking the proclamation *in its proper sense* as reminding all concerned that as the U S were at peace, the laws of peace *and neutrality* were still obligatory," also a paragraph of 4. lines that a minister from France was hourly expected when the proclamation issued. There was one here at the time,—the other did not arrive in 6. weeks. To have waited that time should have given full course to the evil.

I went through Franklin with enchantment; & what peculiarly pleased me was that there was not a sentence from which it could be conjectured whether it came from N. S, E. or west. At last a whole page of Virginia flashed on me. It was in the section on the state of parties, and was an apology for the continuance of slavery among us. However this circumstance may be justly palliated, it had nothing to do with the state of parties, with the bank, encumbered a good cause with a questionable argument; many readers who would have gone heart & hand with the author so far would have flown off in a tangent from that paragraph. I struck it out. Justify this if you please to those concerned, and if it

## Library of Congress

cannot be done, say so, & it may still be re-established. I mentioned to you in my last that a Fr. Consul at Boston had rescued a vessel out of the hands of a Marshal by military force. Genet has at New York forbidden a marshal to arrest a vessel, and given orders to the French squadron to protect her by force. Was there ever an instance before of a diplomatic man overawing & obstructing the course of the law in a country by an armed force? The yellow fever increases. The week before last about 3. a day died. This last week about 11. a day have died; consequently, from known data about 33. a day are taken, and there are about 330. patients under it. They are much scattered through the town, and it is the opinion of the physicians that there is no possibility of stopping it. They agree that it is a nondescript disease, and no two agree in any one part of their process of cure. The Presidt goes off the day after tomorrow, as he had always intended. Knox then takes flight. Hamilton is ill of the fever, as is said. He had two physicians out at his house the night before last. His family think him in danger, & he puts himself so by his excessive alarm. He had been miserable several days before from a firm persuasion he should catch it. A man as timid as he is on the water, as timid on horseback, as timid in sickness, would be a phænomenon if his courage of which he has the reputation in military occasions were genuine. His friends, who have not seen him, suspect it is only an autumnal fever he has. I would really go away, because

I think there is rational danger, but that I had before announced that I should not go till the beginning of October, & I do not like to exhibit the appearance of panic. Besides that I think there might serious ills proceed from there being not a single member of the administration in place. Poor Hutcheson dined with me on Friday was sennight, was taken that night on his return home, & died the day before yesterday. It is difficult to say whether the republican interest has suffered more by his death or Genet's extravagance. I sometimes cannot help seriously believing the latter to be a Dumourier, endeavouring to draw us into the war against France as Dumourier, while a minister, drew on her the war of the empire.—The Indians have refused to meet our commissioners unless they would make the Ohio a boundary by preliminary condn. Consequently they are on their return &

## Library of Congress

we may suppose Wayne in movement.—Since my last which was of the 1st your's of the 22d Aug. & 2d. Sep. are received. Adieu.