

**Louis de Tousard to Andrew Jackson, January 18, 1815,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**THE CHEVALIER DE TOUSARD TO JACKSON.**

French Consulate at New Orleans, January 18, 1815.

*General*, By a conduct comparable to that of the hero whom America reveres and laments, under whom I have served, and who honoured me with his friendship,<sup>1</sup> your Excellency secures to the State of Louisiana the Independence guaranteed to it by the Constitution of the United States. It is at this moment, while all your time is employed in directing towards that end, the means, which the zeal and confidence of all, have committed to your hands, that my duty obliges me to call off your Excellency's attention from your noble occupations to listen to the recital of the insult offered to my public Character, by an individual of one of the Uniform Companies, which have so well supported the honour of the French name, in combatting under you. But, General, what I owe to my Government,

<sup>1</sup> Louis de Tousard, captain of artillery in the French army, was an aide to Lafayette, distinguished himself and lost an arm in the Rhode Island campaign of 1778, and was made a brevet lieutenant-colonel in the Continental army. From 1795 to 1800 he was major, from 1800 to 1802 lieutenant-colonel of artillery in the U. S. army. He was now French consul in New Orleans.

to the confidence of my Sovereign, to the dignity of the functions which the President of the United States has authorised me to exercise in the State of Louisiana, and, above all, the Sentiment which your Excellency, as a soldier will feel at the recital of the insult offered to a Veteran, who shed his blood to establish American Independence, have laid

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me under the necessity of applying to you, and give me assurance that you will excuse the interruption I am forced to occasion in your important occupations.

My letter to Mr Ste Gême, of which here annex a Copy, will inform your Excellency of the reiterated insult which has been offered to me by an individual of his Compy. I judged it proper, in deference for Mr. Ste Gême, to apply to him in the first instance. In his answer, a Copy of which I also annex, he informs me that his enquiries, have been ineffectual, and he even intimates a doubt whether the person in question be one of his company, and whether he may not possibly be some obscure miscreant, my personal enemy, or inimical to my political opinion, who put on some part of the Uniform of his Company, for the purpose of committing that outrage, with the sole intent of causing some misunderstanding.

Your Excellency has no doubt had occasion to observe that amongst the French combatting under your command, There are a great number not less brave, not less inspired with honor than the others, but strongly attached to the Government overturned by the revolution of the 3d and 6th April last, and who seem to have vowed an irreconcilable hatred to all such as have given their adhesion to the new Government, and to the restoration of the august house of Bourbon to the Throne of France; although the Government of the United States has acknowledged that of his Majesty Louis the Eighteenth, and has ordered its flag to be respected, Those frenchmen have daily insulted both the one and the other. I have been grievously insulted by them in public, insomuch that I was forced to cause the offender to be apprehended, against whom the Grand Jury for the District Court of the United States found a Presentment; to lay my complaints before the Governor of this State, and to make the affair known to his most Christian Majesty's Minister plenipotentiary to the United States.<sup>2</sup> My dwelling house has been attacked by another individual who is now under bail for his good behaviour. An attempt was made, and at last with success to carry off from my house the Arms of my Sovereign;

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which outrage gave occasion to Governor Claiborne's proclamation of the 2d November last, offering a reward of two hundred Dollars, for the discovery of the offender.

2 Louis Serurier, who, though appointed by Napoleon (1811), served till Jan. 22, 1816.

The last insult offered to my person and to the french Cockade, which I wear in compliance with my instructions, shews me what I have to apprehend from those same frenchmen, when returning victorious, and elate with your Excellency's success, to which they will have contributed, they will think they may without restraint, vent their animosity against the representative of a government which they detest.

You alone, General, by the prudence for which you are distinguished, by the Confidence, respect and attachment which all profess for you, and by the firmness with which it is known, that you cause your orders to be executed; You alone, I say, can remedy this state of things; bring back misled frenchmen to a sense of decorum and good order, and secure to the Consul of a King, to whose Dynasty the United States owe grateful acknowledgments, the respect and protection necessary for the exercise of his functions.

It is not so much to solicit the punishment of an offender, whose name is unknown to me, and whom it is almost impossible to discover, that I have the honour to apply to your Excellency, as to request you to adopt such measures as your prudence, and your Knowledge of Mankind may Suggest to you, in order to secure, in future, my person, the arms, and the Colours of my Sovereign from similar insults.

In concluding this letter, already too long, Permit me to transcribe here the answer of His Ey. the Minister plenipotentiary of H. M. C. My. to the letter by which I informed him of the insult that had been offered to me at the Coffee house.

"I desire you to inform Governor Claiborne that it was a subject of indignation to me, to learn the insult offered to his Majesty's Consul, within his Government; That I firmly rely on the exemplary punishment of the offender; that were he to go unpunished, I should be

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forced to consider the City of New Orleans as incapable of receiving foreign Consuls, in as much as it could not secure to them the respect and protection necessary for the exercise of their functions; and that I do authorise you, on the slightest menace of a repetition of insult, without its being repressed by authority, to take leave of him, quit his residence and come to receive my orders. You will please Sir to inform me of the final result of this affair. I authorise you to realise this menace, in case matters come to such a pitch as to compromise your Safety and the exercise of your functions.”

With great respect I have the honor to be