

**Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, July 15, 1803,
Report, from Thomas Jefferson and Early Western
Explorers, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis

Washington July 15. 1803.

Dear Sir

I dropped you a line on the 11th inst. and last night recieved yours of the 8th. Last night also we received the treaty from Paris ceding Louisiana according to the bounds to which France had a right. Price 11¼ millions of Dollars beside paying certain debts of France to our citizens which will be from 1 to 4 millions. I received also from Mr. La Cepede at Paris, to whom I had mentioned your intended expedition a letter of which the following is an extract. 'Mr. Broughton, one of the companions of Captain Vancouver went up Columbia river 100. miles, in December 1792. He stopped at a point which he named Vancouver lat. 4527' longitude 23750'E. Here the river Columbia is still a quarter of a mile wide & from 12. to 36. feet deep. It is far then to it's head. From this point Mount Hood is seen 20. leagues distant, which is probably a dependence of the Stony mountains, of which Mr. Fiedler saw the beginning about lat. 40 and the source of the Missouri is probably in the Stony mountains. If your nation can establish an easy communication by rivers, canals, & short portages between N. York for example & the city [they were building] or [to be built] [for the badness of the writing renders it uncertain, which is meant, but probably the last] at the mouth of the Columbia, what a route for the commerce of Europe, Asia, 7 America.' Accept my affectionate salutations. Th. Jefferson

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