

My dear Gen

I was disapp

you and my dear Saba; but I learn from home that you
half an hour of the period of my departure.

I found here, among our political friends, much despondency on
account of public affairs; and whilst I have endeavored to rally them, I have not
been able to avoid sharing their despondence. If among the elements of opposition
there could be any union and concert established, all might yet be saved; but
I regret to say that no appearance yet exists of accomplishing that desirable
object. We shall see if a sense of common danger will not yet suppress the
ambition of individuals and put aside foolish theories and bring us all together.

The most engaging subject of the Session is likely to be the President's
Message relative to our French affairs. His rashness, in advancing a wretched
measure, without waiting for the decision of the French chambers at their approach-
ing Session, seems to be generally condemned. It is apprehended that, if his message
reaches France, as is probable, before any appropriation is made, the Chamber
of Deputies will refuse the appropriation, in consequence of the threat which
the message contains. In that event, our difficulties will be greatly increased.
Excitation begets excitation, and I should not be surprized if, in the sequel,
two gallant nations, hitherto calculating for each other the greatest respect,
shall be found unexpectedly engaged in war.

The Senate has placed me at the head of the Committee of F. affairs - the
most responsible situation of the Session. I shall endeavor to discharge my
duty, but I confess I have less heart than ever to exert myself in public business.

I saw Mr. Lehauncey in Philad.^a but he did not mention the subject
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