

John Quincy Adams to P.P.F. Degrand
St. Petersburg, Russia, 16 June 1812.
Autograph letter signed, 2 pages + address leaf.

M^r P.P.F. Degrand – Boston.

S^t: Petersburg 16. June 1812

Dear Sir

I received with much pleasure your obliging favour of 13. March, together with the file of Newspapers to the 14th: The Message of Gov^r: Gerry concerning libels, and the Act of Incorporation of the State Bank – As I had scarcely seen any Boston Newspapers for several Months, these were highly acceptable, as I need not add that it always is to me to hear directly from you:

I regret very much the loss of the letters which you mention having written to me prior to that of 10 March 1811 – for I must now consider them as lost, never having received any of them – I hope however to be more fortunate in future while I remain here. I have just learnt that an Embargo for ninety days was laid in America shortly after the date of your letter, but I hope there will be no occasion for the renewal of it, and that after its expiration there will yet be time for writing before the close of the present Summer –

It was my wish to have returned to the United States this year, but I have now postponed this intention untill the next Summer – [2] Your anecdote from Washington amused us all very much; especially as the alarm of assassination terminated only [inserted: in] the damage of a pistol ball passing through two doors – In this quarter of the Globe Assassination appears more in the natural horror of its shape, and for several months past has become in England frequent, and fatal beyond all example – That of the British Prime Minister M^r Perceval, as he was entering the House of Commons has shocked all Europe, and will no doubt be not less affecting in America.

Though I had not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with your friend M^r J.T. Giliman, yet from the Reputation he has always borne I am persuaded he will be again what he has been before, a very good Governor. M^r: Plumer is a particular friend of mine, and I have a high opinion both of his Judgement and of his Integrity – The unfortunate prevalence of party

Spirit among us, and the licentiousness of the press, makes it almost impossible for any one to be, I do not say candid and charitable, but even just to the real characters of our Candidates for high Offices. – The Attorney and Solicitor General in the pamphlet you sent me report nearly three hundred libels to have been published within six Months in the Newspapers of the single town of Boston – If the faces of all the libellers were reddened and blackened, in M^r Stackpole's manner, what a painted tribe they would exhibit!

I am Dear Sir, with great Esteem your very humble & obed^t: Serv^t

John Quincy Adams.

P.S – You forget to tell me what is to be done with the large package, I mentioned in my last Letter. –

[address leaf]

M^r: P.P.F. Degrand.

Boston

United States of America.