

Captain Allyn

Philad. 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1826.

Dear Sir

I have received your favor of yesterday. I cannot but approve of your determination not to incur such a heavy expense as it now appears the carrying home of Dr. Linnæus would occasion without the most express & positive orders from the General, who is generosity itself, but whose interests should not be too lightly involved to a considerable extent by those in whom he places such unlimited confidence as in you & me. After all, a little delay is the worst that can happen if by chance you should have erred by too much caution; the Doctor will be taken good care of at New York in the mean time, & a less expensive mode may be struck out to return him to his friends. It is difficult to measure the extent of Genl. Lafayette's heart; but great as it may be, there are bounds, when acting at a distance, which prudence seems to dictate not to exceed.

I intend, if in my power, to write by the Cadmus to Genl. Lafayette; but our Supreme Court is now sitting, & I fear very much that my professional business will prevent me. At any rate, as you will see him, I beg you will not fail to present my best respects to him & all his family, not omitting Mr. Levaillant.

I am respectfully

Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
Peter S. Du Ponceau

Mr. DuPoncean  
Phil<sup>a</sup> Dec 1826

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