

Norfolk. february the 25th 1825.

my dear Captain, to day we begin our long journey, and that by the finest weather in the world, but the season here has it seems been very rainy, & we will find the roads very bad. — now I must apply to your friendship, for the sending of our letters to us, so that they may reach us on the road. — the last melancholy news I had from my family have rendered it I would say necessary for me to receive new information from France. my expectations as to the hope of receiving in Washington

the packet which was to sail from I think I must send them, specially as I have discovered that the observing of them would be still more important for the good of science than I had believed at first.

I have in your friendship confidence enough, for to ask you to take charge of them when you go, and to have them put on the roof of the diligence in harve for paris, when you go there, the only thing is that they must have always water, and earth in their cage.

will you only be so good as to write, to Colonel Lehmanowsky, whose direction is written under the inclosed note and to tell him, how he may send ^{those animals} them to you in time by a trusty man matter of a newyork sloop.

they do not leave us a time to say more
G. W. Lafayette

to the navy, you know my dear Allyn how much we should like to be carried home by the same friend who so kindly brought us here. —

I told you once you know that I had been charged by a friend, a very learned young man in France, to try to carry over to him, two opossums which it has not yet been possible to perform, ~~before~~, though the professors of the Jardin des plantes have wished it most earnestly. I must confess I am not at all disposed to think of anything but my grief, but however, as my directions for procuring those animals, had been given before and as I have two males and two females ready the letters brought by ^{me} have ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~sent~~ ^{sent} on the fifteenth of January have ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~sent~~ ^{sent} to Washington, for those letters to be sent to Charleston, in case they would come to the city after our departure. — now I send you a note which will show you the days on which we will leave every place, knowing that you will be so good as to calculate the time necessary for the mail to go from New York to every one of the places designated, so that our letters do not arrive, the very day we depart. — if you sail for France my friend, before we have done our tour, be so good as to entrust somebody at New York with the care of those letters of which now we stand so much in need. my happiness so great here, is now much clouded. — now we must know also, if you decidedly take the command of the Cadmus again, when you go, and whether we may hope to cross the ocean with you, in August if we are not obliged to go in a ship belonging

Captain Francis Allyn
of the Ship Cadmus
New York

G. W. Beaufort
New York 25th July
1825