Washington, Nov 21st 1812.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter, and though I have nothing particular to communicate, yet as I know you must be anxious to hear any thing from Washington, I will endeavour to scrawl a few lines. Our business is in much the same state as it has been for these a few days past. The committee are occupied in deliberating upon it, and the committee of ways and means in collecting every tag and rag of evidence they can lay their hands on. We were before them a few moments last evening and left the Philadelphia and Boston committee with them, when they started examining last evening. Before we left them I took occasion, (as we had before done after each examination) to mention explicitly that having produced abundance of testimony to refute any misrepresentations and dispel any prejudices that might exist as to the merchants having put the amount of the bonds at their sales, we now reverted to what was our original and what we still considered as our strong and real ground of petition, the perfect innocency of our intention in Settlers: which was grounded on a faith in the

declarations of our own Government, and the opinions of the diplomatic character then resident in England. Indeed Mr Rufus King the morning had informed me that he had advised the merchants to ship after the revocation of the orders in council; considering them as perfectly safe: and as the committee have required his testimony before them I doubt not they have had ample satisfaction on that head.

An examination has been rather irksome, but I must say they have treated us with great respect and delicacy; and indeed have more than once taken occasion to pay the New York committee the handsome compliments our statements will be laid before the house at full length. I am told Gallatin is to give them an opinion in writing. I believe on the whole that he is favourable to us, but I rather think that he wants to get the business just in the least; and if possible to extract some compromising offer on our part. I have to pick a conviction of the honesty of our cause, and am so satisfied that both as to motives of equity and policy the wise Lords of congress will find it necessary to listen to our petition, that I have cause rather royally to despond as to the ultimate event, though I look forward to much delay embarrassment and vexation in the struggle for our rights.

as to the apprehended attack on our city; there has been a little talk of it here. Admiral Warren has sailed from Halifax; but it is now supposed he means to make a cruize and then go in to winter at Bermuda.

As to the chattering sloop when you were to consider as somewhat dangerous, he arrived here the other day in forty nine hours from New York by good sir + never taken more than fifty sir,— never sir + means to sit down here for the winter. has taken cognac for new years sir, and means to turn it whenever he can sir +." But my dear sir don't suffer yourself to think for a moment of such an arrant mountebank: at present he has appearing to do enough his own to occupy his shallow head, and I have no doubt, the strength of our standing here, to meddle with us. If he should do so in the most trivial manner, I will make him such an object of ridicule and scorn, that he shall raise a smile of amusement and contempt wherever he appears. But this is an accompany threat of which you need say nothing.

When any thing important occurs you shall hear from us, In the mean time let my brothers know that I have nothing to inform them of and believe me

with great respect

Yours truly & ever

Washington Irving

Mr Isaac Cason.

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Mr Isaac Carow

Pearl Street

New York.

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