

Private.

United States Consulate, Tunis,
Sept 3. 1843.

My dear Sir,

 In great haste I slip this line among my despatches, for the purpose of asking from your tried friendship a new favor. ~~Indeed~~ By the present conveyance, I have sent in my years' accounts, and full explanations of them; but as I have been compelled by the enormous expences of the beginning to exceed the Contingent Allowance a little, it may require some vigilance to make the statements understood; and consequently to make them available; especially as I am told it is a rule to cut down all accounts, whether right or wrong. Now you understand these matters, and I will solicit your attention. I am new to public business, I have been greatly inconvenienced by finding my Consulate an exclusively costly one, and entirely misconceived at home. All my resources have been already used up to provide myself a shelter, and to pay my expences of living. If the Department disallow any part of my account, it will make my position indeed forlorn.

~~Good~~ I will write to you again very soon, and more at large. Meanwhile it will afford me real ~~pleasure~~ delight to hear from you. I have had but one letter from America since I left, and that dated last April. — When you do write, perhaps you will let me know if I have made any blunder of form or substance in my accounts. Perhaps, too, you will give me such information as may guard me against mistake hereafter. I think if you can find Cutts, he will co-operate with you in looking after my affairs, when you say to him how grateful I will feel if he does.

Believe me,
ever truly,

John T. Cochrane Esq.
Washington City

Your obliged friend
John Howard Payne.

✓ 1
J. T. Cochrane Esq

War Department



SHR

Washington City.

Recd Oct 20th

For Howard J. Agnew
Secy of War
Sept 30 1843.

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