Washington D.C. June 16th, 1801

About three weeks ago, received a letter from a Gentleman residing amongst the Indians, containing in the foregoing business of the United States of Philadelphia. In this letter he states, as follows — "I am informed, if true, may operate in the future, much against the long run. As that he should have told the Indian Chiefs, who only visited him, that they should not be guided in their conduct by the modes of society which are not made of living and teaching Christianity. They are a separate people, and should be placed on a separate plan by their own government. This is reported here by Captain Wharton, one of the Chiefs who says he has heard from the mouth of them. It was spoken to by Mr. Jefferson, who is a French interpreter at a private conference, and never passed mention my name in relating the story."

In my answer to this letter I first mentioned my dislike of the truth of the story. That it is no doubt propagated by political enemies to injure you, and though little about it for some days, they heard of a letter from some friends of the late Government, and read in a newspaper in Kentucky, on which began to be said that the story is no more a lie than is the work of mischief or error. The story after a certain passage might gain some weight to be read by those of the party who may be most ready at the moment to believe it. It is then the means of defeating the Missionaries and at the same time to be used by enemies amongst the French Party in Canada and American to launch confederate in the French affair. Under this impression, I wrote of my most intimate friends on the subject. Among them Mr. Jefferson and all my friends, especially for the kind of matter you might be informed. The only thing that you might do with the letter as you might think it deserves — you will observe it most of liberty. To name this Gentleman who wrote the letter, I may be, because you think at a time not long past the good services of his high regard for your character. When attacked by the Martin family, with due respect your obedient.

[Signature]

President of the United States.