Washington Jan'y 19th 1807.

Dear Sir,

Have written you by the two last Post requesting that you would send down the Exer. Roll but it not having come I must not believe that my letters have either miscarried or ended in some of the Post Office which I am afraid our under bad regulations—Though it came as soon as this got to hand, the letter not well buttered I doubt the same hands will do that as well. You can bring it with esteem made up by wonder.

Your lately been much cringed on & which of the two Lord Chancellors for their juster would best promote the public good. I felt no difficulty in according it my Opinion in favor of Mr. Jefferson among his friends informing my opinion was the Private Character of Mr. Burr which had been stated to me in such terms as to induce belief that his Appointment would be disapproving to this Country.

Since the Congress has come in the Character of both these gentlemen have been well scrutinized and after hearing all that has been said in one against both Mr. Burr stands less exceptionsable in that respect than he did at first with me & perhaps in front of More Principals they are in equal or they stand even in better.

With respect to Mr. Burr Political Principles there are several circumstances mentioned in his favor. One that he possesses no foreign feelings, on the Question of the Treaty he gave evident proofs that he held none in favor of that Nation & Mr. Jay having appointed him one of the Commisary to put the State of N. York in a posture of defense whenever an attack was feared from France shows that he had reasons for that Nation.
It is believed too that his neglect would be very different from that of Mr. Pitt. I apprehend our little Navy, that is less important in the eyes of the States than the Opposition here, as many believe. There is reason before me to think that some alterations would be made, but the present is such a time of peace that the whole of our眼前 naval force into the hands of foreigners, a measure which in my opinion would be equally fatal to the agricultural and commercial interests of our Country. But notwithstanding these circumstances, there are few of Mr. Pitt or any other of the other Federalists, myself included, that I have written to my friends throughout this district in order to get the opinions of our citizens on the subject, which should, at present, be always the first and last word in all matters extraordinary. I think there is some responsibility attached to this to devote such a sum as would be neither more nor less than a part of our present taxes. I am not sure what will be the result of the French treaty, but that it would be adopted with some modifications. We have reason to hope that the war may appear to be an end in Europe with the combined nations. Our envoys to our American friends, I wish you would consult twice as often as the Congress of Paris in order to secure the same sentiments as your friends having but little to do — remember me to all particularly to your Mother. Love,

M. Talbot

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