I therefore beg to take the liberty of respectfully recommending to you in return the enclosed report, trusting that it may be of service. In the meantime, I beg to say that the state of affairs has been so altered as to make it necessary for me to inform you that the last Monday prevented my going to the City. The letters sent which have not been answered, I hope will be sufficient apology for troubling you on the occasion. I should like to give a full explanation of the case of which I hear so often from you, but I am not able to do so until a very important instruction is given to our Minister in France. The instructions allude to a note in Berlin but are not yet to be done. I have been told that the French Government would like to see the Prussians leave, and that being done, they would have the business finished by our agent.

In 1796, I went to Berlin with a view of saying this case to them before Congress, but was advised by gentlemen to decline doing anything in the matter until a general peace should take place when they believed that the French Government would make such arrangements as would enable all those who had suffered by it to obtain redress. In 1800, I left with Mr. Pickering, then Secretary of State, that statement, but have never understood whether any thing was done with it. With sentiments of respect,

W. S. M. Whedon.

[Signature]

* The money of which we have been informed by that Government or State remains where it was placed, in either case it seems more proper that the French Government should reimburse me for it than to have the use of the money in its stead.
The Hon. James Madison

Secretary of State

Copy

Washington City