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Col. John Foncier to James McHenry.¹

Philidelphia 13th. 7^{ber}. 1814.

Sir

The gratitude which I constantly preserve of your Kindness towards me, permit me not to go to France, without letting you know my feelings on this account. You not only have supported me while you were secretary of war; but your satisfaction towards my conduct, has been a great encouragement for the exerting of all my faculties in the service of the United States; and I still keep alive the flattering remembrance of the Satisfaction of the citizens of Baltimore, while I was building fort Mc Henry. I always have done all that was in my power to show my zeal; and in this very moment notwithstanding my displeasure of not being employed since many years, I am happy to answer the desire of the Citizens of Philidelphia, who have applyed to me, in order to help them in the projecting and erecting some fortifications for the defence of ~~the~~ their city. I do it with the greatest pleasure, being extremely thankful for the protection I have enjoyed there during many years. But our French Government being returned to our old beloved sovereigns, it is my duty to go back to my country; and I request from you Sir, the favor of an answer, which might be wundered as an evidence of the approbation of the U. S. for my services, while you were secretary of war. Your letter will be a record which may be some day useful to my son; and I must not neglect to procure him such an honorable title. Besides I wish to retire form the United States in the most convenient manner. I shall be very thankful for your kindness, and beg your pardon for the trouble I give you.

I am with great respect

Sir

Your most humble and obedient

Servant

John Foncier.