Greenwich near New York,

Sept. 12, 1803.

My dear Sir:

I have received your favour of the 5th instant, and must answer it briefly as I expect tomorrow to commence an excursion of a few weeks, to commence to visit my family. On the subject of your silence, permit me only to say that I never suspect my friends and have only to hope their indulgence for my omissions, which they may impute to any cause, except a want of sincerity and affection.

The Louisiana Treaty is a Pandoras Box which will be found "pregnant" with"sore evils and of long continuance" - The article most malignant is that which stipulates for the admission of the allied Countries into the Union on same principles as our existing new Territories. We are bound to govern and protect the French and Spaniards, who are or may settle, and those at present settled must be considered as citizens naturalized by Treaty. I have not adopted the terms, but have no doubt that I have correctly stated the import of the stipulation.

I have no doubt that this is a flagrant violation of a fundamental principle of our Constitution and if ratified it will prove its destruction. Is it possible to annex immense countries to our Country - to give votes and influence to strangers, and thus under the spacious appearance of extending the limits of the United States, to subject us all to a foreign dominion? Such a power is unknown to any other, than a personal or despotic Government. But mischievous as this engagement is, it will be popular in the Western States, as it will open a vast field for local ambition. Kentucky will immediately be-