Cambridge 30th May 1809.—

I have heared, Dear, Sir, with no small surprise that charges have been prefered against Dr Waterhouse for misconduct as physician of the U.S. Marine hospital at Charles-town.— I have been intimately acquainted with the Dr for 30 years; so far at least as to have been able to form for myself, a correct opinion, which ever has been a respectable one, of his moral, political, & professional character.— I have seen his defence, & a number of certificates in support of it; all of which have been productive of no change in that opinion: his lady, who is respected, beloved, & admired, for her amiable disposition, correct conduct, & excellent qualifications, social & domestic, had, I perceive been induced, from her attachment to her husband & family, to submitt to become for a time, directress of the hospital; a measure which appears to me, to demand the approbation & eulogium of every lady & gentleman of the U.S, a measure which has eminently contributed, to place the reputation of the hospital on a eminence not before attained by any in this quarter.— In the year 1774 I was concerned with Genl. Glover & others, in erecting an inoculating-hospital, at the request of the town of Marblehead, then in danger of being ruined by the Small-pox, & it was allowed by foreigners to have been as compleat, as any institution of the kind in Europe; but the system of the Marine-Hospital at Charlestown, was, under the direction of Dr Waterhouse, as much superior to that, in point of economy, cleanliness, comfort and regularity of every kind, as that was to a common hospital ship.
to the sick, beside the internal regulations, Dr W. has improved & cultivated the grounds and rendered it more valuable, by planting a great number of fruit & ornamental trees, The aspect of the building & grounds strikes the eye; as the effect of valuable improvements, and the internal parts, of excellent management:— And I have been informed, all this has been done by the Dr. with either no additional, or very trifeling annual expence to the funds.— The professional skill of the Dr., is placed on very high ground, by the certificates mentioned, which are from the some of the oldest & ~~from the~~ most eminent Physicians of the State.— They have visited the hospital

— I think it is not to be surpassed. — It is painful to remark, that from the time Dr W. took the lead of vaccination, a number of reputable medical gentlemen became his enemies.

When the Drs appointment was announced, it was generally remarked, that no appointment of Mr Jefferson, excited more general approbation from all parties. The Dr is surrounded, not only by competetors for his office, but by the [redacted] federalists [redacted] who influence the affairs of the University, & have been long laboring in vain to remove the Dr from his medical professorship therein, which he has filled with reputation these 30 years. — He is obnoxious to these men, because he is friendly to the administration of our republican Government. — Lest all the other charges should fail of removeing the Dr, one is added that explains all in my mind the whole matter: I mean that of having rediculed and spoken sarcastically of Pres: Jefferson. — All who ~~know him~~ are most intimately acquainted with the Dr, pronounce that charge to be impossible. — Dr Waterhouse has uniformly, in public, & so far as I can testify in private, & in print, treated respectfully of Mr Jefferson. —

It is said that Dr Waterhouse has too closely copied the modes & customs of the European Hospitals: be that as it may, it is conceded on all hands that he has improved every part of the establishment, & it is generally conceded, without increasing the expence. — The Dr has indeed devoted more attention to the cultivation of science, all his life time, than the accumulating of property, & as his ~~the~~ income from the hospital is said to be his chief support, I fear the deprivation of it might be followed with distressful circumstances to his family; but his continuance in it will renew the satisfaction generally felt by his appointment. — I therefore sincerely hope that the Drs affairs will so appear to the Government, as that he may be permitted to continue his important services to that valuable class, the Seaman of the U. S. — Pardon the preceeding remarks they proceede from a love & wish to promote justice. —

I am happy to inform you, Sir, that your public conduct has met the highest approbation of all parties, except those devoted to G. Britain or France; & they are silenced by the wisdom & policy of your measures. — Your acceptance of the federal olive branch, I flatter myself will be the commencement of the downfall of party spirit, the greatest misfortune of every country. — My conjectures in regard to Mr. Canning & his british party in this country, are confirmed by the speeches of Lord Grenvill & Mr. Whitbread, & by by the observations of Mr. Stevens the reputed author of "War in disguise", that the object of their united endeavours, was a war between this country & G. Britain. — Accept my Dear Sir, the unfeigned esteem, & higest respect of your. — — — obedient servant. — —

E Gerry. —

a copy

His Excellency

Mr. Maddison President of the U States.

Mr Gerry to
Pres.t Madison
May 20th 1809