

Washington city february the 17th.
1825.

My Dear Captain, when I last wrote to m^r. Whitlock, I intended answering your kind letter the next morning, and that very morning, I received from France the most melancholy piece of news; my friend, La Grange is no more what you have seen it. I have lost my wife's respectable mother, and that young family which you have seen so gay and so happy, is now spending its whole days and nights in tears and mourning. She was the tie, the life, the animation of all around her, and the thought of her death will always rend my heart, which was here so much exulting in joy and gratitude. — however great has been the temptation of going immediately to Europe to weep in the arms of the best of ~~all~~ ^{loving} wives, I had to consider that two sacred duties, enforced upon me the obligation of staying in this country: in leaving it I would have transgressed my duty towards my father, and perhaps might have appeared ungrateful to your admirable Countrymen. I determined to stay, but my father himself is so —

so good for his children, and grandchildren, and was
such a friend to my venerated mother-in-law, that he
has taken, ~~the~~ firm determination of going away on
the fifteenth of august. — pardon me my friend, if
I did not begin, by regretting with you that you
think yourself obliged to ~~get~~ again in that
fatiguing course of life which you had for a moment
the hope of giving up, you will excuse me on account
of my particular situation; be assured that if my
father or myself could do any thing for to
contribute to the gratification of your wishes
we would be eager to seize that opportunity of
showing our friendship to you, but if you must
go to sea again, with whom could we prefer —
returning home, if an order of your countrymen
does not oblige my father to go in a public ship.
I calculate that the Cadmus will sail again
for France in the month of May, and will be back
to New York towards the end of July. am I
mistaken. So write me a line to let me know
what will be her regular course. —

I depend on your friendly care for to forward
our letters to us, as we proceed on our southern
tour. you will I am sure, have the kindness to

Calculate the time which will be necessary for them to reach us from New York, to the several places, which I will indicate to you in two or three days by a letter. —

I now receive a kind note from M^r. Whitlock, informing me that he has received and forwarded my last letters, be so good as to thank him on my behalf —

My father requests to be most friendly remembered to you, Levasseur and myself join with him, in the hope that you know that we shall be yours forever.

G. W. Lafayette

G. W. D. Lafayette

1828

Captain Allyn
of the Cadmus
New York