Washington City February the 17th. 1825.

My dear Captain, when I last wrote to Mr. 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, LaGrange is no more what you have seen it. I have lost my wife and that young family which respectable mother, and that young family which you have been 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 remain in my heart, which was here so much easier in joy and gratitude. However great has been the temptation of going immediately to Europe to weep in the arms of the best of 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 toward 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 venerable 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 into that fatiguing course of life which you had for a while 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 anything 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 alone 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 Mr. Whitlock,
informing me that he has received and forwarded
my last letters, beso good as to thank him on
my behalf.

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

S. W. Lafayette
[Handwritten text not legible]