

Memorandum - Louisiana

2.

from him soon the result, as he said he should see the
consul next morning on the subject. He informed
me that Mr. Talleyrand had asked him whether I was
in health to be presented ~~to~~ to the first consul, &
on my answering in the affirmative, advised
me to let him know it. My colleague promised
as we returned home to inform the minister
that I had recovered my health, ^{next day} - to
guard against accidents however I wrote the
minister to that effect next morning, and a note
to my colleague to request him to call for me as
he went to the house of the minister. Just as I
was ready to visit the minister my colleague re-
turned from him, & informed me that it was
arranged that I should be presented next day, that
is on the first of May. □

May 1st. Sunday.

accompanied my colleague to the Palace
of the towers, where I was presented by him
to the consul; while standing in the circle for
- I saw a communication by the prefect
of the palace from the minister, stating that
he was indisposed, but that I must present the
consul my letter of credence, & that the consul de-
sired I would dine with him.

When the consul came round to me, Mr
Livingston presented me to him, on which
the

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James Monroe, James Monroe Papers: Series 1, General Correspondence, 1758 to 1839;
-1803 Oct. 8 Reel 2. -Oct. 8, 1803, 1796, Manuscript/Mixed Material, <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss33217002/>.

could observe that he was glad to see me" I said
bien aise de le voir. You have been here 15 days
I told him I had - "you speak French," I replied
"a little." "you had a good voyage," "yes". "you come
in a frigate" no, in a merchant vessel chiefly
for the purpose " Mr. Mearns was presented; says he
he is Secy. of Legation" no but my friend'. He then
made inquiries of Mr. Livingston & his Secy. how
their families were; and then turned to Mr. Living-
ston & myself & observed that our aff. shou. be
settled.

We dined with him. After dinner the first
man we talked into us was the Consul, the first
Consul came up to me, and asked whether the Federal
city grew much, I told him it did. How many in-
habitants has it? It is just commencing, there are
two cities near it, one above, the other below, on the
great river Potomac, ^{the latter} of which ^{will be the} is
a respectable town, in itself it contains only two or
three thousand inhabitants. Well, Mr. Jefferson, how
old is he? altho sixty. Is he married or single; he is not
married - then he is ^{young} no he is a widower; has
he children? ^{two daughters} yes who are ~~also~~ married. Does he reside
always at the Fedl city, ~~you say~~ generally, are
the public buildings there commodious, then for
the Congress & President especially? They are. You the
Americans did brilliant things in the war with En-
gland, you will do the same again. ^{shall} I am
persuaded always believe well when it shall be

[Transcription Page 1]

May 1st 1803 Sunday.

accompanied my colleague to the Palace of the Louvre, where I was presented by him to the Consul; while standing in the circle I received [received] a communication by the prefect of the palace, from the minister, stating that he was indisposed, but that I must present the Consul my letter of credence, & that the Consul desired I would [would] dine with him.

When the Consul came round to me, Mr Livingston presented me to him, on which
the

[Transcription Page 2]

Consul observed that he was glad to see me. “Je suis bien de le voir. You have been here 15 days, I told him I had - “You speak French,” I replied “A little.” “You had a good voyage,” “Yes.” “You came in a frigate” no, in a merchant vessel charged for the purpose.” Col: [Colonel] Mercer was presented; says he he is Secry [Secretary] of legation “no but my friend”. He then made enquiries of Mr. Livingston & his secry [secretary] how their families were; and then turned to Mr. Living-
-ston & myself & observed that our affrs [affairs] shod [should] be settled.

We dined with him. After dinner when we retired into the saloon, the first Consul came up to me and asked whether the federal city grew much, I told him it did. How many in habitants has it? It is just commencing, there are two cities near it, one above, the other below, on the
two cities with the federal city
great river Potomack [Potomac], which ^ if counted ^ would make a respectable town, in itself it contains only two or three thousand inhabitants; Well; Mr Jefferson, how old is he? Abt. [about] sixty. Is he married or single; he is not married - then he is a garçon [boy], no he is a widower; Has

two daughters
he children? Yes ^ who are married. Does he reside always at the fedl [federal] city, generally. Are the publick [public] buildings there commodious, those for the Congrefs [Congress] and President especially? They are. You the Americans did brilliant things in your war with En-
-gland, you will do the same again. We shall I am persuaded always behave well when it shall be

[Transcription Page 3]

our lot to be in war. You may probably be in war with them again. I replied I did not know, that that was an important question to decide when there woud [would] be an occasion for it.