

Hon Sir

Rue & Faubourg Montmartre No 25.
Monday 11th May, 1802.

I presume You have heard from William & Edward, since I wrote to them, & that they have informed You of the Essentials — but least my letter to William should have been lost I repeat here that I have put down Mr Wilkins name as a subscriber to Mr Denon's book on Egypt, & that the price is 15 £.

You hear of my commencement of an acquaintance with the celebrated Cernot — We have called on each other since, but have not had the chance to meet. I am anxious to see him, as he is one of the private mathematicians both in reality & by estimation — He is printing a large work, of which he has promised me a copy.

I met Mr W. Taylor a few days ago by accident, & since that have spent several agreeable hours with him. He very kindly took me one evening that I called upon him to a Conversation at Mr Smiths an English man of fortune who is here for a short time with his wife & sister — they are people of perfect breeding, & I found them very agreeable — especially the Mesdames — whom I rencountred again the next evening at Miss Wilkins, where we strengthened our acquaintance considerably. They very politely asked me for my address that Mr Smith might call on me — but they will soon leave Paris, which I am sorry for — as it is very difficult to find people whose manners are correct & whose sentiments are at the same time interesting — I fell into conversation at Mr Smiths with a Mr White, a civil engineer, who has been here during the whole revolution, & was spared, as an artist,

excepting 3 months imprisonment under Robert's reign
He is a man of high talent I find in Machinery
- he lived some time with L^d Stanhope occupied in
pursuits of that nature - we exchanged cards, & I expect
a great deal both of pleasure & profit from his acquain-
tance - He is as honest as the day, & there is no trusting
to faces. - I remember in one of your letters you seemed
to suppose that none but Englishmen would sit opposite to each
other, like me & Mr Gillet (who by the bye is gone to Brussels for
a short time to look after his workshops) without speaking - but
I assure you it's quite the custom at those restaurants where
many dine at the same table who are not acquainted with
each other - I have seen hundreds of French men dine without
speaking a single word to their neighbor - the French can
hold their tongues - tho they do I believe talk more than the English
But what they most differ from us is in having no man-
vaise honte, no reserve with a stranger, if they wish to con-
verse - For my part, I am become quite a talker
in societies - tho from policy - in order to make
myself a welcome guest in literary parties - for if I
encounter an artist or a Mathematician or a Physician ^{min}
or a Metaphysician or a, I can't do my host a greater
service than by engaging such a man in a conversation
upon his own matters, & drawing him out - & I assure
you that spite of my ignorance I find plenty of subjects
where I am guest at home - & if not I could soon add to my
stock - I engage in a fortnight to learn Chemistry by enough
to talk ingeniously (I mean what talkers call ingeniously, I call it
nonsense) & have opinions of my own on the disputable parts - because
I study it with that view - but God forbid that I should waste my time in
learning things for the sake of talking of them. - In the next
page I'll give you the great news - My hope is that I shall
anticipate the English papers - for what I have to tell is unknown to
3/4 of Paris - & more of it will never appear in the Gazette here. -

Tuesday Morning

The first Consul was to have been assassinated at the review, last 15th floreal - the whole plan was discovered by Duroc, the general at the Tuilleries, & the principal agents secured. The blow was to have been given by a Colonel Fournier, a great Mafiacre man - he was arrested but partly by force, & partly by craft escaped from his guards (being a very strong man) & concealed himself in the house of a lady opposite whom lives a lady (of distinction formerly) whom I meet sometimes; but he was discovered & finally taken - General Delme is deeply concerned in it. Angereau & Massena I have heard mentioned. It is supposed to be an extensive plot - Bonaparte said it was too horrible to be assassinated by his confederates in arms & he would not have it published - Paris in general knows nothing of it - The plan was to set Moreau at the head - Bonaparte sent for Moreau

Y in a very handsome manner expressed his conviction that G. M. had too much honour & loyalty to be engaged in such a plot himself, but since his name was made use of, he beg'd G. M. to withdraw from Paris for a while - in order to afford the conspirators no pretext, & that he Bonaparte, would take care to vindicate his character from any injurious reports that might spread - the review went on as usual, every thing having been provided against.

Great rumours have prevailed in Paris for some time concerning Bonaparte's taking some new title - about 10 days ago people who have the best means of information inform except that of being in the secret were all confident that he would be proclaimed Emperor of the Gauls - it was well known that the Legislative bodies were employed in preparing some new mark of the Nation's reconnaissance - I strenuously deny'd that B. would take the title of King or Emperor & was laugh'd at - ~~But~~ But as yet I am right - the Nation's gratitude is contented with bestowing on him 10 years more of the Consulate - tis all arranged & settled but not yet published (unless it was published yesterday) my authority

is D Petty, who may be depended upon - (Volba la Blanchepense)
I must finish - Remember me to all friends - W^m D^r for T. M.
Rue & Lark P.S. You'll see by my date that I have
changed my lodging - I am now Chez Mr Demainville.

speaking
hold them
But w^t



MS

The Rev^d Wm Manning
Dipl^t Norfolk
England

W^m

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