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Title: Letter from John Dickinson to Caesar Augustus Rodney

Date: November 16, 1807

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Dear Caesar,

The President's speech was received, for
which I thank thee.

My letter of the month is now

before me.

The infatuated Policy of Britain has pleased
her in such a position, that she seems to think her safety
depends on Hostility against the world. Perhaps it does.
If she is to fall in the contest, she will go down with a
 tremendous crash, and dreadful ruin to many

others. What, in this Crisis of Difficulties can we
wish for? Her Destruction? Then the Domination of
France will be established for ages to come. Her
Triumph? Then her Involence will be madly outrageous.

Truly convinced as I am, that France aims
at universal Empire, and that the act of the
Tragedy relating to us, is intended to produce the scene
now grasping in Europe, a Question of "great
Bith and Momentariness"

I turn my eyes from the Object, witness, as I am
for more than fifty Years of British Policy.

At present, let us prepare as well and as quietly
as we can, against the most imminent Danger.

We ought, among other Things, to have 15 or
20 Gun boats in the Delaware.

A single Vessel might
plunder ^{and burn} New Castle and this Town. No moment
should be lost, in guarding against such Events.

I am thy truly affectionate Friend,

John Dickinson

Wilmington
the 18 of the 11th
Month 1757

[Wilmington, November 16, 1807]

Dear Ceasar,

The President's speech was received, for which I thank thee.

Thy Letter of the ninth is now before Me.

The infatuated Policy of Britain has placed her in such a position, that she seems to think her safety depends on Hostility against the World. Perhaps it does. If she is to fall in the Contest, she will go down with a tremendous Crash, and dreadful Ruin to many others. What, in this Crisis of Difficulties can We wish for? Her Destruction? Then the Domination of France will be established for ages to come. Her Triumph? Then her Insolence will be madly outrageous.

Fully convinced as I am that France aims at Universal Empire, and that the Act of the Tragedy relating to us, is intended to succeed the scenes now passing in Europe, a Question of "great Pith and Moment" arises-

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John Dickinson

Wilmington
the 16th of the 11th
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