Gentlemen,

I arrived here on the 17th of October, after a passage of 35 days, anchored in Gibraltar the 28th. Here there is no field for adventures or speculations in this country, as the whole commerce is transacted by the Jews, Valletta by one House Baeri, and who are brokers for the Dey of Algiers. The Jews of Algiers are not more honest than theirs in other countries.

This is a more despotic government than you can form an idea of. Costs the United States more than peace, far beyond any calculation to be made by the treaty. In fact the Dey of this monarchy, regards the treaty as far as he is pleased with it, and violates it when ever he takes it.

The Dey is the most cruel and unprincipled of the East Indians. It is surprising to see the weak and defenseless nation, as I find them to be, live in defiance of the great Republic of France, the powerful British fleet, and with contempt on the other Christian powers. The information I have received respecting this regency is too lengthy to give a detail in full. The following part of this letter will give you an idea of the treaty.

The 14th article of our treaty is:

"Should the Dey wish to capture any American vessel that may be in the regency of Turkey, said vessel not being engaged in consequence of the friendship, existing between..."
...the President to whose influence owes him
on the part of the Union, or of any other nation.

The people of Algiers have always oppressed by the
United States. The excess of their number, or the
laws of the nation, is it not to be considered in the
value of their property, which will be 60,000
thousand dollars, there will be
in the United States, but shall not be
and the men of the government, which by this
money be considered as the money of the United States
in that country, unless the said money
be made known to
him. All property of the said money has been
stated, yet the said money of the said money shall not
be considered as the money of the United States
and of the money to be held in both
as hostages, as hostages whilst the United States made
and for his life, in case they refused, which I have no
doubt but they would, their property would be seized, and
the loss of property from 600,000 dollars for our lives.

I suppose to be a certainty. If any accidents happen, which
protect the said property, we must do, in case of our own
as the possession of the property. We have the
United States, the treaty with this nation, and not the
powers, with whom we have thus acted with whom the
United States are at peace, consider
letters of marque, or justice, or a war on their part.

And now stated the government, from whom have
the honor of holding my commission, Daniel and Co., and
not authority of the other. — I have been as anxious
to have as much space of time as I shall be in the event of
engagements having both hundreds of thousands in both
in a country where the United States are not
known, as I am in Cases of emergency, I do not think
the language in a case where the plague ravages, as the
mercy of God.

You can say my friends, judge for yourselves
Samuel, whether it will believe me, but the arrival of
a similar despatch, which I expect, the Dog has promised
to take care of the case, I shall in hopes after the gale,
I shall have pleasant views.

It is highly necessary to
have a marine force in the seas, to show their pictures.
that we are a Maritime Nation. Events in my opinion have a just tendency to check their Excessive Ambitions. If not, they would be on the spot in case of any emergencies or event of war, to operate. I saw our Commerce, which otherwise would be a sacrifice to the Conquests of these States, before our vessels of war could arrive from America. This is the conduct of all nations who are at peace with them except the United States, they do not depend altogether on the article of their treaty, but keep constantly done. Leaving batteries in the seas of their allies. I am assured these people know the unprotected state of our Commerce, and the easy prey it would be to their Cruisers. I shall try your patience. Present my most respectful compliments to your good ladies.

I am determined never voluntarily to meet Napoleon again with a tribute except it be that 'Tis' the mouth of a Cannon.

Yours always sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. James Select
Philadelphia
P. S.

Don't make the public for it may alarm our enemies.

Hope all will be well. We have a proper person at the helm of affairs here. Abrems, but no man can count on security without force.
Miss [illegible]

New England

Aug. 23rd, 1800

M. Nan N. Clarke

Marblehead

Philadelphia
Algiers, 25 September 1800.

Gentlemen:

I arrived here on the 17th inst. after a passage of thirty eight days, anchored in Gibraltar on the twenty eighth day. There is no field for adventure or speculations in this country as the whole commerce is transacted by the Jews and almost by one house - Bacri & Co. who are brokers for the Dey of Algiers; Be assured the Jews of Algiers are not more honest than Levites in other countries.

There is a more despotic government than you can form an idea of, costs the United States preserving our peace far beyond any calculations to be made by the Treaty. In fact the Dey of this Regency regards the Treaty as far as it is his pleasure, and violates it whenever he sees proper. No faith can bind these Infidels. It is surprising to see so weak and defenseless a nation as I find them to be bid defiance to the great Republic of France, and the powerful British fleet and looks with contempt on the other Christian powers. The information I have received respecting the Regency is too lengthy to give a detail in full. The following part of this letter will give you and idea of the respect he pays to Treaty.

The Fourteenth Article of our Treaty is - "Should the Dey want to freight any American vessel that may be in the Regency of Turkey, said vessel not being engaged, in consequence of the friendship subsisting between the two nations, he expects to have the preference given him on his paying the same freight offered by any other nation."
The Dey of Algiers has requested and appears to insist on the United States' ship of War George Washington carrying his present to the Grand Signior of Constantinople, the value of which will be 6 or 7 hundred thousand dollars, also upwards of two hundred Turks, passengers, these will be forced to board the United States vessel, causing her to deviate from the orders of the government, and will by this Regency be considered at the risque of the United States until its arrival in Constantinople, although said vessel was compelled to take it in, my orders are made known to him and the impropriety of changing said orders has been stated, yet this obdurate Dey, I am afraid will persist in his requisition. A non-acquiescence would be the detention of the frigate, and captures of American vessels, and if I am compelled to go and fall in with Portugese, Neapolitan or any other power at war with Barbary, a superior force to myself, the Dey's property no doubt would fall a sacrifice. In this event, his cruisers would have orders to bring in American vessels as hostages until the United States made him restitution for his loss, and in case they refused, which I have no doubt but they would, war would be instantly declared, and the loss of property occur and slavery for our citizens.

If I refuse to go war is certain. If I go and accidents happen, which is probable, the ultimatum will be war, in case of my making resistance for the preservations of the Dey's property, and to save the United States from war with the Regency, would not those powers, with whom the United States are at peace, consider it a sufficient breach of neutrality to justify a war on their part.

And how would the government from whom I have the honor
of holding my commission sanction such conduct not authorized by their orders.

If I go it will take a period of six months and for that space of time I shall be in the worst of purgatories, having two hundred infidels on board, being in a country where the United States are not known, no person to call on in cases of emergency and not able to speak the language in a land where the plague ravages, and at the mercy of Devils.

You can, my friends, judge how unpleasantly I am situated, and nothing will relieve me but the arrival of a Swedish frigate who is expected. The Dey has promised to take her if she comes. So I am in hopes after the gale, I shall have pleasant breezes.

It is highly necessary to have a marine force in this sea, to show these pirates that we are a maritime nation, and would in my opinion have a good tendency to check their capricious demands, if not they would be on the spot in case of any emergencies or event of war, to operate, and save our commerce which otherwise would fall a sacrifice to the Corsairs of these states before our vessels of war could arrive from America. It is the conduct of all nations who are at peace with them, except the United States, they do not depend altogether on the articles of their treaty, but keep constantly some floating batteries in the seas of those Sea Robbers.

You may be assured these people know the unprotected state of our commerce, and the easy prey it would be to their cruisers. I shall tire your patience.

Present my most respectful compliments to your good ladies.
I am determined never voluntarily to visit Algiers with a tribute except it be that through the mouth of the cannon.

Yours always sincerely,

Wm. M. Bainbridge

Messrs. Jones and Clarke,
Philadelphia.

p.s. Don't make this public, for it may alarm our commerce. I hope all will be well, we have a proper person at the helm of affairs here, O'Brien, but no man can count on security without force.

W.B.