

risk, have been placed on the same footing as other  
Subjects of the United States, making the protection  
of his Majesty: as they can therefore no longer  
be considered, or brought under the denomination  
of Prisoners of War you will be pleased to send  
a List of all such English Slaves as are taken  
for the purpose of restitution, that an equal  
number of White American Prisoners in any  
possession may be selected as hostages for their  
appearance. I cannot perfectly agree with  
you that your observation "to demand payment  
of old arrears" is similar to letting a bankrupt  
be brought for payment" applies to the United States  
when still holding a considerable number  
of English Prisoners: certainly while possessing  
the means of decreasing their balance they  
cannot be bankrupt, and therefore until  
they have cleared their arrears to the extent  
of their resources I must, in duty to my Country  
pursued in sending all prisoners to England,  
where they can be maintained at a much  
less expense & the lower than in Halifax or America,  
and secure without inconvenience, the late Order  
of French Prisoners being ready and sufficient  
for their reception. It was my full intention  
that you should have communicated to the  
American Government the Report of my Letter  
of the 27<sup>th</sup> April, as it is equally my wish that  
the resolutions herein expressed may be perfectly  
understood by the Executive: for I am desirous  
of acting fairly and openly with them and of  
manifesting that such measures as I threaten  
threaten will most assuredly be carried into effect.

Should you feel any delicacy in making  
known these communications (which I am  
hardly expect) I request you will inform  
me of your objection that I may be able to