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Sir, that if you should think proper to grant it that nothing that
is in my power shall be wanting to render any country a service

I have the Honor to be

Sir

With the highest respect

your very Obedt Servant

Elyah Ship

Honorable William Jones

Secretary of the Navy

Washington

If Sir you think my requests are ^{may be given} proper I beg that a command similar to
which I have requested to — some Officer of the Navy and that I may have a chance
of going with him since that of the Constellation would undertake it if he came
spared from the ship there is a Mr. Hensley on board the Constellation who would be
of such a command over me — those gentlemen together with many others would be
happy in serving their country in an enterprise of this kind; and as I am still
desire my country in any way that you may please to direct I hope that I may
be ^{entirely} cut off —

I have the Honor to be

Sir

E. Ship