payment.

I was once told by a Gentleman of the Council, Mr West, – that some of his Colleagues were not without suspicions that I had made a Job, in the most disgraceful sense of the word, of my transaction – to such Gentlemen I would say, that the most honorable of ~~this~~ transactions never were influenced by motives more laudible than those which governed me in the purchase of my order.

I hope for you will excuse the trouble I am giving you – and believe me to be, with sentiments of the most perfect respect & esteem. Yr. Excellency's Most Obed. Hble Servt.

Ben Stoddert

Benj. Stoddert.
29th Sept. 1798

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