consider me as one who has been invariably your friend, and who shall always have for you and Mrs Lee the most cordial esteem and attachment.

It is not easy to send you news from this quarter in which you may confide. Our foreign servants write diversely respecting the nearness or remoteness of a peace. I have a letter from the Marquis of the 26 July. I have another from Paris of the 6th of August. I have a letter from his Excellency, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Hague of the 20th of August. From the whole it is by no means evident that peace is at the door.– The claims and pretensions of Spain and the Dutch are high and humiliating, not to speak of the claims of France and America. Add to these that the claims of the Neutral powers alone (which will be insisted on) are of themselves sufficient to darken if not totally extinguish the sun of Great Britain. The Independence of America would not hurt her so materially. – Under such circumstances, with a ministry too averse to our Independence, Great Britain must be reduced to the last necessity to make her receive a peace. That she is not reduced to this necessity is my humble opinion; and it is most reasonable to believe therefore that we shall have a continuance of the war, till she feels, or thinks that she feels this fatal necessity.

Adieu most sincerely

and

and affectionately

James W Henry

You will be pleased to give Mr Plates letter on his arrival. It is my excuse for non attendance –

Gibraltar by a letter per from the Gov, who has the account from the Marq. Vandeuil by a vessel from Cadiz the 24 Aug. says; Gibraltar was to be assaulted the 25 ~~by the~~ Aug. by the combined forces of F & Spain.

MdHS 1974 [603-664]