Bordeaux 31st December 1803

1407

My dear friend

It is true that I have been a little negligent in your regard since my arrival here; you must not attribute it to ingratitude or forgetfulness of that friendship you ever testified to me during my long residence at College with you, but only to my idleness in writing. I do not think that I deserve to be called ungrateful; I have always endeavoured to be the contrary; I have always placed ingratitude at the head of all crimes that a person can commit against another who has proved himself a tender friend to the former. I am convinced that you will overlook this negligence of mine; I am too well acquainted with the goodness of your heart to entertain the least doubt on that head; I see you ever ready to forgive a slender fault committed by one to whom you have always been much more than a common friend.

I would have written to you sooner had I been in Town. Few days after my arrival the whole family went to the country where we spent nearly three months. We arrived in town two weeks ago. There are not as frequent opportunities for the U. States as I could wish.

I am here with a great part of my family; I am master of my actions; I do as I please; I enjoy all the amusements of this city (which are without end) but still all those pleasures never could & never will be able to obliterate from my mind those many happy moments we have spent together. I will always

Mr John Lee
George Town
District of Columbia
United States of America

Mark Fontaine's letter of 31st December 1803

Answered and recorded page 7 book 1.

MdHS 1974 [1113-1407]