Dr Sir

Geo Town 27 May 1806. 990

You were so friendly to me, as to subscribe in the names of your two youngest sons, four shares in the Washington Tontine, for no reason, I am sure, but to serve me, by promoting my institution. — Yet if Washington is to remain the Seat of Govt — whether under the rule of an American President, or what seems more probable, under that of a Prince of the Bonaparte Family, the Stock I hope I ~~not~~ believe will one Day be valuable to your sons.

I have been for months labouring to get the Bridge at the little Falls renovated — and the work has at length commenced, & will be completed by Octr. to the great advantage of the Town, whatever may be the profit or loss, of those who aid the enterprize. I observe by the Books of the Company, that you have yet one share left in this unfortunate Stock. the cost was 200 Drs — & 200 Drs is the amount of the 4 Tontine shares — If you will transfer this share to me, it will be an agreeable payment for the Tontine shares, as I can make it answer as 200 Drs in my affairs. If this is agreeable to you please to execute ~~after two witnesses~~ & send to your son, or me, the power below, before two Witnesses — My reason for asking you to execute the power, instead of waiting till you come down to transfer in person, is, that I expect to use the shares I have, soon, in my Debts.

I am with great regard & esteem Dr Sir
Yr Obliged & obed Servt
Ben Stoddert

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