

cate? Why else have you left France, where at least you might enjoy those social recreations to which you are accustomed, to wander in the wilds of America, where you must relinquish every such enjoyment? Your letter is silent respecting the motives for your voyage, which has set us adrift on an ocean of anxious conjectures. I presume it is political; for though your resources must be narrow, I do not suppose you can have launched into any mercantile speculations, with a view to retrieving them. But why have you gone at all? My last advices, if they ever reached you, gave you reason to expect that, upon showing a proper contrition, government may hereafter permit you to return to this, the only remaining asylum of tranquillity and happiness. It is now conceded, that you were not guilty of the crimes charged against you; and though it is too late to retrieve the ruin in which we were all involved, a disposition is entertained to forgive transgressions that flowed rather from youth and enthusiasm, than the judgment. But the first, and an indispensable step, is the abandonment of the French and their dominions. Nor will your voyage to the American states be an acceptable proceeding, unless, as I sometimes flatter myself, it should appear that in consideration of the difficulties attending a direct transit, you have gone there only preparatory to your return to England.

In the meanwhile we have happier tidings to communicate. I do not, you observe, date, as heretofore, from Killmallock. Since my last, every restraint has been removed from our persons, and I

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