

Monmouth 12 Dec. 1816

Dear Sir

It appears to me that Congress may be prevailed on to pass a general law, which would do away all the difficulties relative to our coasting trade in case of a separation - let the law provide that when - ever any State shall hereafter be divided, and one or more new States shall be erected therefrom, such division shall in no wise change or abridge the privileges of the inhabitants of such new State, which they enjoyed in the coasting trade previous to such Division of the State from which the new State was taken. in order to assist in passing such a law, I would ask the favour of you to give your opinion as to the effect it would have on <sup>revenue</sup> ~~revenue~~ <sup>at the custom house</sup> ~~at the custom house~~ or in ~~the~~ smuggling, let it be in shape of an answer to inquiries on the Subject, and direct it to Col. Common, or if directed to me I will forward it to him, I shall request Genl. Wingate to do the same, it will I think have weight with the Secty. & some of the members & I can see no objection to passing such a law.

I am with due regards  
Dear Sir  
your Humble Servt  
John Chandler

Brg. Gen. Dearborn

Monmouth 12 Dec, 1816

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It appears to me that Congress may be prevailed on to pass a general law, which would do away all the difficulties relative to our coasting trade in case of a separation—lest the law provide that when -ever any state shall hereafter be divided, and one or more new states shall be erected therefrom, such division shall in no wise change or abridge the privileges of the inhabitants of such new state, which they enjoyed in the coasting trade previous to such division of the state from which the new state was taken. In order to assert in passing such a law, I would ask the favour of you to give your opinion as to the effect it would have on [?], either in the receipts of duties at the custom house or in [?] smuggling, let it be in shape of an answer to inquiries on the subject, and direct it to Col. Common or if directed to me I will forward it to him. I shall request Emuel. Wingate to do the same, it will I think have weight with the Secty. & some of the members & I can see no objection to passing such a law.

I am with due regards

Dear Sir

Your humble servant

John Chandler

Brg. Gen. Dearborn

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 103657

Date: December 12, 1816

Description: John Chandler to Henry Dearborn about coasting law and its potential repeal, Monmouth, 1816

I have been tempted to get up & leave in  
disgust, you can judge how I feel, being  
naturally very touchy. I have not as yet  
found any thing to do, business being  
very dull & employes very plenty. I wrote up  
to Boston to Mr Blanchard, but hardly  
think I directed it right, not knowing his  
directions, I have also writen to Rufus, to  
find where the Sailors are (I think I shall  
go to Sea) he has not answered it yet.  
I am a weak stripling weighing only  
109 lbs. Julian is growing stout & gaining  
flesh. All of the relatives are well I believe.  
You will excuse this letter & also the  
writing, my ink being very poor.  
Your much loved son  
Somers Sewall

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disgust. You can judge how I feel, being  
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