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Lincoln 1st Inn 11th May 1795

It is impossible for me, my dear Obed,
to ascertain how many of my letters
have been sunk, burnt, or taken since
the commencement of the war, but the
number must have been prodigious,
since, in spite of my punctuality as
a writer, I seem to have lost all character
as a correspondent. I have no doubt
but it will be restored to me at the
peace, which our Stock jobbers say can
be at no great distance, but to which
I do not imagine we shall make any
advances till we have tried the fortune
of another Campaign. The French are I
believe well enough disposed to treat, but
not I fear on any terms to which we
could listen. Sir Fred^l. Eden is just returned
from France - He had been sent to attempt

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to settle a Carrel - They told him they did not want men so much as we did & therefore would not agree to an exchange, but that it was in our power to have all our ~~for~~ men at once by agreeing to a peace. The Emperor seems resolved to make one more campaign whether any other power will do the same seems doubtful. Prussia has concluded, & Spain is said to be negotiating, a treaty. France is in the extremest state of want. The government begins to depart from the moderation it had affected since Robespierre's downfall. Indeed it seems to be getting into different hands. The old remains of the Brissotin party are gaining an ascendancy. They are more of Republicans upon principle than the Modérés who were immediately instrumental in bringing about the last revolution. The latter are accused of a leaning to Monarchy, & some severe laws

have lately been passed against Emigrants
who had begun to return in considerable
numbers, & had not at first been molested
by the government. - Of Irish affairs
I hope Cruise will give you a full
detail. The Catholic Bill which Lord
Fitzwilliam so rashly engaged to support
has been rejected on the second reading
by a great Majority. I take it for
granted it would have passed by as
great a one, if he had continued.
They are a practicable people, the
members of the Irish House. - We
have had a number of riots in
different parts of the country about
the price of provisions. The most
serious circumstance attending them
is that the Militia has in almost
every instance joined the mob,

instead of acting against them. This seems
to prove the truth of Arthur Young's
proposition that property can have no
absolute security unless proprietors have
arms in their own hands. By every ^{other} force
it is liable to be invaded instead of
being protected. On this idea corps of
gentlemen & yeomanry have been
formed throughout the country. If there
were public spirit enough to carry this
scheme to its utmost extent, it would
afford us the best security against a
levelling revolution - for that a mere
army is not to be depended on for that
purpose, the example of France sufficiently
demonstrates. - I am glad you so soon
stopped the growing spirit of sedition in
your province. Your spirit & temper have
the praise they merit. I hope you received
my letter on Treason. I shall perhaps be
able to write you another sheet before the
convoys sails. Mean time I remain faithfully yours
M. W. M.