Jefferson Suggests Transcontinental Expedition to George Rogers Clark, 1783

DOCUMENT NO. AJ-140

Wisconsin Historical Society Digital Library and Archives
Dear Sir,

Annapolis, Dec. 5 1783.

I received here about a week ago your obliging letter of administration, with the powers, &c. for which I return you many thanks. I am also so bound as to keep alive the hope of procuring for me as many of the different species of hares, &c. as you can procure. This will be most acceptable. Pittsburgh, & Philadelphia, or Winchester will be the most convenient places. I find they have subscribed a very large sum among the English for exploring the country from the Mississippi to California. They pretend it is only to promote science. I am afraid they have thoughts of colonizing into that quarter. I am informed that some have been talking here in a similar way of making the attempt to search for gold. I am apprehensive it is a scheme of that kind; but even if it were, I am afraid our present state is not well adapted to the enterprise. The definitive treaty of peace is at length arrived, it is not alien from the preliminaries. The cession of the territory east of Ohio to the United States has been at length conceded by Congress, with some small reservations. If the conditions, are in reality, respectful of receiving it, with the final approbation of Virginia, Congress have been lately agitated by questions where they looked for their residence. They first resolved on Ticonderoga, the Southern States however contrived to get a vote that they