

**Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, March 22,
1803, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve
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Leicester Ford.**

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE J. MSS. (JAMES MADISON.)

Monticello, Mar. 22, 1803.

Dear Sir, —Yours of the 17th is received. I concur in your ideas that the request from the Bey of Tunis of a frigate of 36. guns should be complacently refused. I think the greatest dispatch should be used in sending either the gun carriages or money to Simpson for the Emperor of Marocco, and the stores to Algiers; & if you approve it, the powder *on account*: or perhaps it would be better to authorize the purchase of it in Europe on the Dey's agreeing to receive it on account. We must keep these two powers friendly by a steady course of justice aided occasionally with liberality. Mr. Smith has suggested the sending another frigate. But no new fact justifies a change of plan. Our misfortune has been that our vessels have been employed in particular convoys, instead of a close blockade equivalent to universal convoy. I suppose Murray may be for sending more ships there. Every officer in the navy, & every merchant in the U. S. would be for that: because they see but one object, themselves. I see the federalists find one paper in Kentucky into which they can get what they write either here or there. Bradford's *Guardian of freedom* of Mar. 4 has a piece recommending immediate separation. A cool calculation of interest however would show that Eastern America would not be the greatest sufferer by that folly. Accept my affectionate salutations.